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MC073: Folder 48: Thomas Sharp Palmer Palmer to Walter Scott Palmer 1897 September 9

This transcription from the original letter contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record. Please note that this transcription has not been reviewed for final editing. Please contact us with any questions.

Los Angeles

September 9, 1897

Dear Walter,

This is Admission day A holiday all over the State. And is 47 years old. I am not going over Town. Dont feel well enough to galify to any great extent --- Forty eight years ago this month I landid near Placerville, and that ended the longest journey I ever made. The Native Sons are Boss today. Their prograghm takes in Catalina for three days. They did not escort the old pioneers this time. We got your letter same day as the Eagle Came am sorry you have got into that trouble but hope you will get through with but little trouble, or expense.

That Borah affair was a big thin all round. The detectives immortalized themselves.

Am glad to learn you are getting along so well as far are with the history of the Palmer family. Am sorry I cant give you much of my Fathers early history. But it will be nearly the same as Unkle Charles. And if you get items from Cousin Frank Palmer, he will give you a better idea of it than I can. But what I know about it is that Grand Father John E. Palmer was a Merchant of London, not an ordinary merchant as we understand it, but he kept on hand supplies for the English Navy, such as Cordage-Chains-Anchors Sails as well as all heavy provisions. His business was principally with Naval Offices. He married young and died young. At 33 years. Father was born in London and after his Fathers death he was sent to his Grand Father Sharpp in Linconshire. I think Unckle Charles and he went together. How long they remained with his Grand Father, i cant say, but they were brought back to London and Father was appemtoced tp merchandising. I think it was a retail store for I have heard him say how nice they had to be in putting up packages. It must have been quite a fancy store, for he had to shave every morning and change his shirt. And could only wear linin shirts &c.&c. Now as to Unkle Charles, I dont know what he was doing, but in 1819 when Father was 26 Years of Age, he and Unkle Charles came to America. There Father must have been well off as I believe there were 4 or 5 boys all younger and had to be educated which would take a good deal of money. And Fathers and Unkle Charles Share at the time of leaving England was between twelve and fifteen thousand dollars each.

Transcription from Palmer Family Papers, UC Davis Archives and Special Collections

I was told when a young man before I left that Country, by old men that Father brought more money with him than any other ten men in the county.

As to Mary Irvyman and the rings-jewelry &c&c. You are some what mixed. The ring I have says Mary Irvyman died Aug. 19th 1812. And I was told that in that day it was customary that at the death of any person of note they had a number of mourning rings made and sent to their Friends. That is all I know of Mary Irvyman.

The person who died and left to Father so much Linin and jewelry &c&c was Mary Palmer. An Aunt of Fathers. A Maiden Sister of his Father. And I think it was through her that the Paper mentioned and affixed in my little book of the geoneyology of the Palmer Family sent you was sent to Father before her death. All I know about that Paper was that in 1889 I was in Ohio and at Bro Charles Family his wife handed me a Paper and told me to look over it as she thought there was something as would interest me. All she knew about it was that she found among Fathers Papers after his death. It was headed 'Coppo.'" And in Fathers hand writing. Nothing else. That Mary Palmer died many years ago quite old I dont know the date. You ought to get Mary items from Sister Caroline Crabbs. but not much from Charley... The last time I was at home before Father died I think it was in 1873. I tried hard to find out something of his earlier days and about his father & mother but could not get a connected story after several trials I gave it up. He was then over eighty years old. I am having a lively time with C C Thompson he has not paid his rent yet. He claims he sent me ck in July last. he has written twice about it. I told him I had not received it And that seems to be the end of it. I hardly know how to size that man up. I think he has plenty of means...They still keep building all over the City. Some large and fine business blocks are going up. Broadway is getting some of the best Blocks in the City.

Improvements are going on all over they are talking of Paving with asphalt Downy Ave. if they do it will elect me for 12 to 15 hundred dollars. but it will make a nice street. Your mother got a letter from Kate the other day

Hope Jennie has got suficintly rested by this time. We had a nice letter from her, Charly has got back from the Mountains All are well. I am still grunting yet

All send love

Yours T S Palmer