Letter from Ralph B. LeCocq to Nelson Nieuwenhuis, February 27, 1971

Ralph B. LeCocq
Feb. 27, 1971.

Mr. Nelson Nieuwenhuis, Curator,
Ramaker Library,
Northwestern College,
Orange City, Iowa 51041.

Dear Mr. Nieuwenhuis:

At last I have all the stuff packed and ready to ship. It was quite a physical task for an eighty-year-old, but I think it is all well packed and I expect it to arrive in good condition, provided the truckers handle it with care and no theory of violence has yet entered their ranks. Many pleasant memories of the happenings in the years which have passed so quickly came back to me and I am so happy that you gave me an opportunity to get these relics and materials in a place where it is safe and where some folks can perhaps arrive some benefit from it all.

There is just one thing left which worries me a little. I have already heard about remarks made by some of the in-laws who have survived my brothers. I should pay no attention to this, but just the same, one does. It occurs to me that we could alleviate or eliminate this trouble. Perhaps your local paper will have a little article about this. If so, the publisher, or you, could send a copy to the Lynden Tribune, Lynden, Wash. and I am sure they would publish such copy and in this way these relatives can read it and understand better why I gave these materials to the museum. I would also appreciate a copy. If this is not feasible or if you can think of something better, then write me a letter about it and I could publish this or send copies to the relatives. Do as you think best.

The Peter Tyler Van der Hulst file may interest the members of the BRINKS family who reside in Sioux County. I sent this for this reason. I am sure some of them (like myself) will feel family pride to know they are descendants of a PIRATE(?). At least I do not mind it at all. I visited in Orange City when I was at the University of Iowa and I looked up some of the deed recordings in your court house. My grandfather was recorded. What beautiful writing! One cannot find today scriveners like that.

Trusting that everything will arrive in good order, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. B. Le Cocq