Letter from Ralph B. LeCocq to Rev. B. D. Dykstra, January 2, 1948

Ralph B. LeCocq

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Rev. B. D. Dykstra,
Orange City,
Iowa.

Dear Rev. Dykstra:

It was a pleasant voice of the past when I got your letter. How the years have flown by. And now you want some information on the family. I will answer your questions as you ask them:

(1) Frank Le Cocq, our father, was born in Pella, Iowa, June 19, 1853, and died in Lyden, Washington April 5, 1930. Rhoda Le Cocq, born Brinks, our mother, was born in Zeeland, Michigan on February 7, 1865, and died in Lyden, Washington on Sept. 30, 1936.

(2) There were 9 sons. One died a few days after birth. Eight grew to manhood.

1. Frank- educated in Purdue University, as Civil Engineer, City Engineer of Aberdeen, S.Dak., for some years. Now a salesman residing at Everett, Washington.

2. Ralph Brinks, graduate of University of Iowa, B.A. degree; of University of Michigan Law School, B. LL. degree. Practiced with E.P. Wanzer, Armour, So. Dak., for two years then came to Lyden, Washington, where he has practiced his profession ever since.

3. Gideon Moody, educated in University of South Dakota graduate with B. LL. Bachelor of Law. Practiced his profession ever since in Everett, Washington.

4. Irwin I. - graduate Xx Xx Civil Engineer from University of South Dakota. City Engineer of Aberdeen, So. Dak., for some years. Then came to Pacific Coast and was in Auto business, and then in banking. Now Banker in Lyden, Wash.

5. Marion- (DECEASED) Graduate of Oregon Medical School. Practiced as physician and surgeon in Lyden, Washington; then in Portland, Oregon, where he died on Sept. 18, 1941.


8. Edward Anthony- graduate Oregon Medical School- practiced ever since with his brother John- specialist also in bones- residing at Seattle, Wash.

3. Father held the following political offices: County Commissioner Douglas County, South Dakota for over 25 years. Member of the first Legislature of South Dakota- 1890. State Railway Commissioner.
of South Dakota for 6 years. 1917 moved with his family to Lynien, Washington, where he was City Police Judge and Justice of the Peace for 8 years and up to the time of his death.

4. When we were all on the farm we had a cattle ranch, with some cultivation of wheat, corn and oats, of about 1900 acres. As cattle raising decreased and cereal crops increased we decreased the size of the farm.

Note: the most outstanding event was perhaps the early settling of Douglas County, So. Dak. Father was the founder of this Holland Colony and did the work in connection with re-locating the government corners of the homesteads and other land the early settlers could acquire from the government. At that time one could file on a homestead, take a pre-emption and by planting some trees, a tree-claim. Hence each settler could get 3 quarters, or 480 acres. In the first days father was in the fight with the BROWN GANG. The fraudulent organization of Douglas County is set forth in articles written by father while in Dakota and were published in the Harrison Globe, later the Corsica Globe.

I have a scrap book of father in which you will find some interested clippings of early days. I also kept a scrap book when I first came here and still do. But the later ones you would not be interested in. I take the liberty in sending the two books to you under separate cover. Much of it you will not care about, but it is difficult to tear them apart, so am sending them both. Read and use as you like but would appreciate having them returned some time at your convenience. Much of it is worthless stuff, merely pasted in as it appeared of interest at the time, but now worthless. However, with your rare smell for the historic you might find some things of interest which would not appear so to me; hence I send them for whatever you can find in them.

The years are slipping away. Soon we will be taking the last journey. I can hardly conceive that Harrison Academy days are so far removed in the past. And how many years again since I cooked dinner for you, Irwin and Van der Stoep, under the big tree on my farm. I still love my farm and cattle, so you see the old blood is still flowing. We got inoculated on the cattle ranch on the prairies.

Well, my good friend, I hope you can find something of interest in the old clippings. And that you may have a very happy and good year in '48, is my sincerest wish. Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph