

Mrs. Cyrus T. Rankin

Greeneville / Tennessee

Dr. C. A. Schenck
Lindenfels im Odenwald,
Heiden, Germany

Dear Mrs. Rankin:

A letter just received from Mr. Van Winkle, attorney in Asheville N.C., speaks of you but leaves me in doubt concerning your family and notably your husband.

This husband of yours was the most loyal gentleman whom I have ever met in the U.S.A., be it at Biltmore or elsewhere: Very industrious, unfailing in his attachment, alert to the most difficult tasks and a friend of friends: That was Cyrus T. Rankin.

The enclosure tells you that I have lost my beloved wife recently after 18 years of real~~ly~~ heavenly happiness.

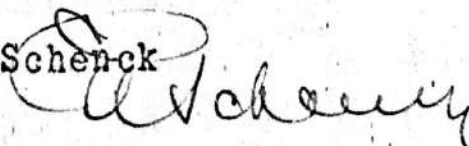
And now, dear Mrs. Rankin, do drop me a line and give me all the news possible about your entire family. I am afraid that your family was not represented at the Biltmore Reunion in May last when a number of the old forestry students were assembled in the Pinkbeds and when a monument was erected at the place of the old school house in the Pinkbeds. I suppose you have received before this a brochure "Flowers for the Living" descriptive of the whole affair. If that is not so I am sure that you can obtain it from the following address: J. Harold Peterson, P.O. Box 152, Coronado/Calif.

With kind regards and in lasting gratitude connected

with the name Rankin

very sincerely yours

Dr. C. A. Schenck



A letter concerning a visit by Tom and Florence Rankin

DR. PHIL. CARL ALWIN SCHENCK
TELEFON 188

® LINDENFELS im Odenwald
(Hessen)

to see Dr. Schenck.

January 22nd, 1951

Mrs. C. T. Rankin

A f t o n / Tennessee

My dear Mrs. Rankin:

What joy have I had, yesterday, when your Tom with his sweet spouse came to me to spend a few hours with me! Naturally, there was more in this meeting for me than for him. For me it was a resurrection of those glorious days in which your good husband was my right handman and my left handman, too.

Tom had with him those splendid family photographs showing you in the ~~xxx~~ center of your 10 children and in the center of your great-grandchildren. Remarkable is it that you have remained so young in old age, and what a reward is it for you that you have found in your children and in your grandchildren so much love and attachment and actual achievement. Let me confess that I have vainly tried to find in the faces of your children and grandchildren an identity with your Cyrus. There is just one of your daughters which seems to favor him, but all of them having your own sweet and charming looks.

For me it is hard to realize that you have had in 1909 when I was banished from Biltmore just three children; and that the other seven arrived in the next years. As I understand it you came to Afton in 1909 and I fail to understand ~~xxx~~ what Cyrus was doing between 1909 and 1919. Of course, there was the war intervening, but how was it possible that I did not contact him in the years preceding the war when I was an annual visitor (at Kanton N.C.) in the land of the sky?

And your Tom! What a type of the best is he that America has produced, a real he-man, and impressive indeed. They came in a wonderful car, the best that ever landed at this hut of mine in Lindenfels: and the road leading to my house was much too narrow and actually, by its narrowness, dangerous for the fine Old's mobil.

And, imagine, I have had another Christmas through Tom's kindness! They have brought me a huge box filled with the very choicest things which ^{money} you can secure (if you are an American!) in this crestfallen country. Naturally, I am sorry to hear that Tom is returning to the U.S.A. in the near future and I merely hope that he will not be compelled to go to Korea. If it were not sacrilegious I would damn Korea and the Koreans and all of China and indeed all of Russia to the deepest bottom of hell! Why was it that the U.S.A. have been drawn into this terrible conflict? To me it looks as if the United Nations had been at fault since they are forcing your country to be the policemen of the world. And thus it is that the U.S.A. will be involved in wars as long as this institution of the devil, as long as these ~~the~~ "United Nations" will exist. United Nations, what a nonsense! It is impossible for two nations to be united and to form one; and much less possible is it for 56 nations to abandon their sovereignty! If that is so why stick to an impossibility causing an endless ^{series} serious of wars?

What am I doing, dear Mrs. Rankin? This letter was meant to be a loveletter and here I am drawn into politics against my will. If the war were over I would attempt to come to the U.S.A. in late spring or in early summer upon urgent invitations

of my friends; and if I do come, you are sure to see me on a visit at Afton. I had it on my program anyhow to see the grand work of the T.V.A.

And now, dear and beloved Mrs. Rankin, God bless you and all of yours.

Very sincerely yours .

C. A. Schenck

Dr. C. A. Schenck

(ask with Branchial attack, today and in bed)

27. November 1950

Mrs. C. T. Rankin

A f t o n Tennessee

Dear Mrs. Rankin:

Your good letter is here and, in spite of some sad news contained in it, I am jubilant and elated for the reason that it brings back to me the halcyon days of my long life and notably my deep attachment and gratitude to your beloved husband. I had not heard from him ~~a~~ for so long a time and I did not know that he had been blind for the six years preceding his death. I realize the discomfort which his forced inability must have had for him and yet I know from experience with friends that the blind may have the eyes open particularly wide for things unseen in ^{the} heavens; and that he obtains, from these visions, an immense measure of inner hilarity.

Of all the ^{with} men whom I have co-operated during my 20 American years, your husband was the most reliable, the most loyal and the most trust-worthy friend. And how ~~a~~ well do I remember the years when I was so frequently a guest at your house on the English farm on Davidsons River! In this connection let me confess that I do not remember the large size of your family -- 8 daughters and two sons! How fine is it that most of your family are living close to Afton! I shall try at once to contact your son Tom at Bad-Nauheim.

Nauheim is just two-hours ride, by railroad, from my hamlet.

The Biltmore Reunion, last May, seems to have been a grand affair and it has been much more than that for me: It has been my joy and my comfort notably during the trying weeks preceding Mrs. Schenck's death. Have you seen the brochure "Flowers for the Living" written by Harold Peterson? If you have not seen it, do drop a line to Mrs. Peterson, P. O. Box 152, Coronado / California, and I am sure he will ~~see~~ send you a copy. He was one of my Pet-students and, no doubt, he knew your good husband and he is sure to remember him.

I had lost all contact with the Daniel Marshalls since they left for the Philippines in 1908. Mr. Marshall, apparently, anticipated the collapse of my forestry at Biltmore when he deserted me, seemingly. If I knew Mrs. Marshall's address I would drop her a line in a desire to reestablish our contacts and to learn what has happened to her in the last 40 years. Also if you will give me the address I shall write to George Gillespie. I am sorry to hear that he has had a stroke, a few years ago, and that he lost his wife.

And now, dear Mrs. Rankin, since I have had the real joy of contacting you again after so many years I shall try and hold tight on to you as long as I live.

With kind regards to all of your family

Very sincerely yours

Always with a smile

Dr. C. A. Schenck

