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DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

July 27, 1953

Dear Mr. Castor:

Your letter of the 23rd is here and very welcome. I still haven't yet the services of my Ediphone dictating secretary so I haven't yet dictated the long letter I promised you. I wish you could drop in on me here and let me tell it to you -- it would take much less of your time than to read it.

I was twelve years old when my father went to Nebraska University, and I went into the eighth grade. But of course I got through with the eighth grade at the end of that year. Then instead of going into the high school which was a long way from our house, I went into the University preparatory school which my father had established to help Nebraska country students who lived too far away from a high school to get proper preparation for the University. A few other youngsters from our part of the city attended the preparatory school instead of the high school, but all the rest of the students were serious minded young men, desperately anxious to make up for deficiencies which might hamper them in their University work. Pershing taught a first year geometry course in which I was a student along with a formidable number of formidably tall, very earnest young men intending to be engineers. I couldn't have been what you quote Pershing as saying that I was his "star" math student. He must have written that when he got to the age that blurs details.

As to his social graces, which you say my father spoke about, my father was one of the most magnetic and genial of men who always brought out the best in people around him, and he was socially gifted to a high degree. He did regard Pershing, in a way, as "one of his students" and did give him a great deal of good advice about the way to manage his life, which I think the rather stiff West Pointer needed. But anyhow, his years in Lincoln seemed to have been happy ones for him, for he always spoke of them with affection, and my brother who was in his student battalion said that every one in that battalion was devoted to Pershing, very much as football players are devoted to their coach. I don't think that in any other period of his life Pershing showed qualities to bring out this enthusiastic personal feeling about him, which my brother says was prevalent in the battalion. But, when he told me about this and I asked him "Can you remember anything in detail which would account for his popularity with the battalion?" my brother said after some thought, "No, I can't", they just were." But my brother is in his ~~XXXXXXX~~ eightyeth year and maybe he's got some details blurred.

What an interesting piece of news about my Sally at Swarthmore. I don't think she has the slightest idea that she was the only A's in English ever given by Mr. Baxter. I'll have to tell her about it. She's now happily married to a biologist, head of the laboratory of animal behavior, (Rockefeller Foundation) at Bar Harbor, Maine., where some very interesting experimental work is being done. They have four noisy, vital, happy, and very intelligent children, and Sally has written eleven children's books (little ones) in the last eleven years. So I think you can say she's all right.

Ever yours *Dorothy Campbell Fisher*