

July 25, 1921

Mr. W. J. Gross, C.C.F.C.,
Keokuk, Iowa.

Dear Bro. Gross:

I delayed replying to your very kind letter of the 14th because I was sure another would follow in a few days, which proved true, but I was in Des Moines when the letter came. I was called to Ottumwa last Sunday to attend the funeral of Bro. W. D. Downey, father of Russell Downey, Master of Galley Star Lodge, who died in Chicago last week. He had for years been a member of Golden Star but had recently transferred his membership to Tyre Lodge No. 70, Chicago. The Master of his lodge, Bro. J. P. Buford, was present in full regalia and conducted the funeral according to Illinois service. I do not fancy their service, but they did it well and I confess his appearance made the rest of us look a bit shabby. I had 100 members of Tyre Lodge and Golden Star treated as guests, and you can see the rest. Bro. Buford aint a bit slow himself. He has a lodge of over 300 members and they will enter the Grand Lodge this year. I expected to have him as a guest at that time--if.

While in Ottumwa I met the Senior Warden of a new lodge and learned they had secured a place to meet and would be ready by the first of the month to receive their warrant.

I think I made it plain in my letter that the C.C.F.C. was to be included in the announcement card. It was more for his benefit than I wanted it than for any of the other officers. I have received a sample card and am satisfied, and hope it will be the means of facilitating the work of your office.

I will offer no serious objections to the plan you refer to and in enclosing the principal facts in my life's history around which you can build such a sketch as you see proper. Use what you wish and discard whatever is required. As the Grand Secretary has made a similar request I will in him a copy of the same, hoping you and him will collaborate in the work without collision or misunderstanding.

I am pleased to know you do not disapprove of the plan for handling the new Burial Service. While in Des Moines I suggested the plan to Bros. Thompson, Brown and Johnson and they all expressed themselves as in favor of it. But I know where to exert diplomacy while I have learned to regard your opinions as far forward and sincere and shall always be glad to give ear to your counsel and suggestion. In the conduct of your office I desire that you shall exercise perfect freedom of thought and expression and be accountable to no one but