

WALTER H. MCELROY

ATTORNEY AT LAW

LOANS AND INVESTMENTS

ENTIRE FLOOR OVER CITIZENS SAVINGS BANK

COR SECOND AND MARKET STS

ABTRACTOR OF TITLES
TO ALL LANDS AND TOWN LOTS
OUR RECORDS ARE COMPLETE
FOUR ABTRACTORS AND THREE NOTARIES
IN OFFICE

MEMBER IOWA ABTRACTORS ASSOCIATION AND
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TITLE MEN

OTTUMWA, IOWA. May 12, 1927.

Chas. M. Davis,
525 Center Ave.,
City.

Dear Sir:-

Yesterday, I furnished you with a copy of a letter that I had written to A. G. Clark, Grand Master of your local lodge, as per his request to me of May 9th.

Now Charles I want to be reasonable in this matter but the steps that your lodge took in asking for those funds, was quite a slam at Charlie and under the circumstances, I do not feel it was warranted.

Back in 1918, I think it was, just before Charlie went to South America, he gave me a Power of Attorney which is a general power of attorney authorizing me to look after all of his matters, and Zack Taylor has never asked a favor of this office that he did not get. Mrs. Grear knows that he has always come to this office for anything that he wanted in the way of aid in making his loans and looking after his affairs. I have done just as Charlie has asked me to do, and I have done far more for him than if Charlie had been here personally because the old man had all of the funds he needed and Charlie's personal services have never been needed. Charlie's particular line of work as a marine cook has taken him all over the world and very naturally he hasn't been in close touch with his father. But his action in appointing me attorney-in-fact with power to look after his matters needing attention here, and my services to Zack in compliance therewith, has filled every requirement that could be expected of him. I realize the fact that Zack was disappointed that he could not have his boy with him more, but Charlie's business as a marine cook where he had established his reputation, required him to stay there, and if he had moved here, he would have had to start all over again, and there was no requirement of his father that needed his personal help. He knew I could do more for him than he could, so did his father.

As explained in my letter to Mr. Clark, Charlie has been a patient in and out of John Hopkin's Hospital in the east, for at least a year. He was practically blind and is just getting now to where they will let him write letters and in fact, most of his correspondence with me is written for him. He hasn't asked me for a cent of money but I wrote him the other day that if good strong glasses of anykind would be beneficial to him, we would help him get fixed out.

Another thing, as stated in my letter to Mr. Clark, Mrs. Grear and members of your organization at the time of his death, expressed to me the desire that the Lodge bury him. They went to Lester Jay, the undertaker and picked out funeral supplies running over \$500 and when the matter was taken up with me, I asked the court if it would be alright and he said, No, that he would not permit an expense of to exceed \$350.00 but I explained to him that I felt that we should try and satisfy the lodge people, especially if Charlie was willing to agree to it, and especially in view of the fact that several hundreds of dollars would be coming back to us from the Lodge. He then agreed that I could use that amount of money, providing Charlie agreed to it but he suggested that I advise him not to agree to it. I did not give

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C.M.D.#2.

him this advice however, but put it square up to him by telegram, and I received an answer back immediately by telegram telling me that if I thought it was alright, to go right ahead. He had me get flowers for the funeral and he advised me that in his condition, it would be impossible for him to come to the funeral and he also wrote Mrs. Grear to that effect.

I have been in close touch with Charlie and under his direction, we expect to clean up all debts and expenses that are just and right, and it is rather an embarrassing situation I have been put in, by your organization and very naturally, I cannot stand by and see the Taylor name dragged in the dust.

I hope you will take this matter up in the proper spirit.

Zack Taylor has paid into your organization for a great many years, was a respected member thereof, and your organization should not now hold up the funds that we are now entitled to. I assure you it is not as much a matter of dollars and cents, as it is the stigma that the situation created as placed on the Taylor name.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Grand Master also. Kindly give it your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Walter H. McElroy

WHMc/GWV