

66 Perry Street  
New York 14, N. Y.  
December 7, 1963

Mr. Jerry MacMullen, Director  
Junipero Serra Museum  
San Diego 10, California

Dear Mr. MacMullen:

Many thanks for your letters and the information therein. It clears up for me the location of the events of which father told me

I have a picture of father taken a year or two after he left San Diego, and, of course several taken in later life. I'll have them copied and will send you the best.

Several years ago I gave father's California letter-book to The New-York Historical Society (of which I am a member) and will have it microfilmed if I can't take it away from them. I will also look for other pictures of interest.

Fifteen years ago my nephew, Joseph O. Haff of The New York Times, got the idea of writing a history of the Central Railroad of New Jersey of which father was Chief Engineer from 1901 until his death in 1916. This was the period of high school and college for me and I spent more time out on the road and on the railroad's boats than my scholarship justified. I came to know the officials of the Central and other railroads, coal companies and industries quite well and I had a speaking acquaintance with George F. Baer, Engene Grace of Bethlehem Steel and William G. McAdoo. So Joe thought that I could help him. I am an accountant by trade, and in the end I did the research and wrote the book. In the meantime the road's management changed and the new President took no interest in history and actually discouraged the publisher from bringing out the book.

My research gave me a keen interest in the region bounded by the Connecticut, Susquehanna and Mohawk rivers, which I have called the Region of Plenty for want of a better name. Expecting to have ample time for it, I started to write the story and have completed twentytwo chapters bringing the story up to 1750. Then seven years ago I agreed to help a fellow-accountant during the tax season, or three and a half months each year. In the last three years we have become involved in some very important tax cases and I have had to fight to get any time off, so I am way behind schedule on my writing. Now I can look forward to time to finish this book and then put the family records in order. After all, it sounds rather foolish to be working so hard at seventysix, but frankly I enjoy it.

