

AG-8/1

11 December 1952

Mrs. Charlotte Evans Isherwood  
Villa Letizia  
Via Bolognese 178  
Trespiano (Firenze), Italy

Dear Mrs. Isherwood,

Your letter was a thoughtful and welcome surprise. I am grateful to Mrs. Taylor Evans for writing you and appreciate your interest.

What we have in mind is a personalized story of your father - probably just a segment of his life, and that as a relatively junior officer. I have read A Sailor's Log, An Admiral's Log, and Fighting Bob Evans, by Edwin Falk. From them I have a fairly clear and totally sympathetic view of your father's professional career. He was indeed a controversial figure, but I think history shows that he was right.

The gaps in our story exist principally in the lives of your mother and your uncle who fought for the Confederacy. I can understand why Admiral Evans, in writing, did not want to place his family life before the eyes of the public. It was just none of their business. But now, in our story we want to describe Robley Evans, the man, rather than the naval officer. We want to portray his wife and delineate her influence on him. We want to trace the career of the Confederate brother right down to his post-war reunion with his Union Navy brother. We need to know something of your grandmother on the Evans' side - she seems a wonderful person from what little I can learn. We are also interested in the girlhood of your mother. Specifically, we are writing a romantic story.

So anything you would care to tell me about your mother will be helpful - anecdotes, childhood, courtship, etc. The same for your Confederate uncle. We only have fragmentary knowledge of his life and that mostly the military portion.

As for your father, your statement that "many of the nice things about him have never been told" intrigues me. Do you have any character-revealing anecdotes - particularly about his youth - that would be helpful?

Lieutenant Commander Frank Manson, an officer on Admiral Carney's staff in Naples, is in the Navy's Public Information organization. Would you mind if I asked him to call on you some time for a chat about your family? I would so enjoy making such a call myself.

Sincerely,

James G. Shaw,  
Commander, U.S. Navy

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