

December 16"/52

EVANS

VILLA LETIZIA
VIA BOLOGNESE 178
TRESPIANO
(FIRENZE)

Dear Mr Shaw

Your very friendly letter came yesterday, and before I thank you for it let me say that if Lt. Comdr. Manson can find time to come up here for a few days, we would be delighted to put him up. And if he has a wife, her too. Depending on his car, it should be about a five hour drive — No! I thought he was coming from Genoa; Naples is of course much further but the invitation still holds good —

Your letter has made me realise how little I know of my Father's life as a young Officer, and of course what a very little young life he had, as we mean it now. I think he was not sixteen when he had to make the terrible decision as to staying in the Service or going South, I asked him once how he could have made up his mind at that age, and he said, "I don't know, I just knew that if the Country split, it was the end of the Nation. Life was pretty grim from then on, separated from his family, often with no idea if his Brother Sam of whom he was very fond, was alive or dead. Then his serious wounds, and the fear of losing his leg, then the fear that he would be retired, made his early life pretty serious I think. As to his meeting my Mother, when she was Miss

Charlotte Taylor, he, my Father, went to the same to (2)
the same school in Washington as my Uncle the late
Harry (not Henry) Clay Laylor, they were
classmates at Annapolis and I am sure that
Uncle Harry took Papa to his Father's house: They were
devoted friends all their lives.

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My Grandmother (Papa's Mother) was Sally Ann Jackson
and if you can get into touch with my Cousin
Colonel Henry Eglin U.S.A., whose address can be had
from the War Dept. He can tell you all about the
Jacksons. My Grandmother was a very fiery and
imperious old lady, whom I never knew well, but
her children loved her very much.

I never saw either of my Evans Uncles, Uncle
Sam, who was I believe on General Lee's staff, was
a Doctor in Texas till his death, he had three sons
the eldest of whom, Sam, was a charming lad
but who died many years ago, the other two I
never saw, but I fancy one was named Robley.

My Mother, Charlotte Taylor, was the Daughter of
Frank Taylor (born in England and brought to the
U.S.A. when he was two years old) and of Virginia Neville
Simms his wife. My Mother was very beautiful and
a really wonderful woman in ~~every~~ way. As for her
influence on Papa's life, I can only tell you that when
he died my Husband said to me, "your Mother was
half of the Admirals career" - The Daughters of the
American Revolution Magazine, Jan. 1911. has

short article by her, called "Youthful Memoirs of an
Dorogeneration," which might be of use to you. 13
Published by J. B. Lippincott. Philadelphia.

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As both my Parents would now be well
over a hundred years old, you will understand
that I have no anecdotes of "courtships". Theirs was
not the day of "slap and tickle". I seldom if ever
saw them Kiss; When they said good bye even
at home, Papa Kissed Mamma's hand.

They were deeply in love, always, and whenever Papa
went away, the last thing he said was "and take
care of Mamma".

At the beginning of this screed, I said I was going to
thank you for your letter, and I do; I am very glad
you are going to write something about my Father, and
when it is printed I hope you will send me a copy -

To me he has always been a romantic figure, as well
as an adored Father - - I often quote to myself, and
now to you, Kipling's lines to his Brother-in-law -

"Even as he trod that day, to God
So walked he from his birth.
In fearlessness and gentleness,
And honour, and clean mirth -"

Sincerely yours

Charlotte Evans Isherwood

(Mrs Harold Isherwood)

P. J. D.

I have just remembered that during the last war
an Evans cousin Miss Mabel L. Evans was in
Washington, at 337 6th St. S. W. in some war or social
work, she knew all about the family. C. E. J.

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went away, the last thing he said was "and take
care of Mamma."

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thank you for your letter, and I do; I am very glad
you are going to write something about my father, and
when it is printed I hope you will send me a copy -
to me he has always been a romantic figure, as well
as an admired father - I often quote to myself, and
now to you, "thinking him to his brother - in law."

"I was to be that day, to be
so much to him his brother
in fact, and one of his
best friends, and close friends."

Sincerely yours
Charlotte Evans Johnson

P. S. J.

(How thankable Johnson)