

August 20, 1940

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I'm writing this immediately and sending it by airmail also because Edward Allen has just called me from the station. He was on his way home to Ames by train from Alexandria where he and [Hagel?] went on their [vacation?]. Aunt Julia is passing away and he was called home. He asked me to use my own discretion about breaking the news to Grandma so I just told her that Aunt Julia is very very ill and Edward has been called home to handle things.

Edward said that he doesn't know whether she may still be living or not but he'll write Grandma and break the news to her that way.

He also asked me to drop you this letter and tell you about it. But he said that on no account are you to do what you did last year ----- interrupt your vacation to attend the funeral because your vacation is important.

I don't know what you'll want to do but I think Edward is right. Daddy and you need the vacation and you're pretty far from Ames now, anyhow.

Edward was going there by train and called me from the station. He explained that Aunt Julia never recovered from her operation and now she's sinking pretty rapidly from what I gathered. So I wanted to tell you about it right away. I'll help Grandma [wire?] flowers or send some money for them to one of the cousins and if there's anything else I can do please tell me.

Everything is smooth here and stay away just as long as you want to 'cause we can get along perfectly.

Lots of love,

Virginia