

3/14/80

Dear Vi -

If I don't do this now I may  
get it buried and forget -

There never was anyone who could  
forget dates faster than I. But a few  
I thought I knew for sure - my own  
birthday 8/7/06 - born Cheneyville,  
Rapides parish - married 3/23/25 - OK  
and Leo 6/17/08 also born Cheneyville,  
Rapides parish - <sup>William between Leo & Bill</sup> Bill's & knew was  
July 27 but wasn't sure what year -  
and I was sure Myrtle's was 5/12/14  
but you have her to ask so you may  
be right - Vera's was Nov 15/13 and I  
knew she was always teasing Myrtle  
about being younger than she - 4/19/13  
is right then Myrtle is older - which  
would suit Vera fine now! - Oh, and  
yes, I am sure Papa's was right. He  
was almost 30 when he was married  
and he was 12 years older than mamma  
which checks out -  
Myrtle was born in Cameron La. Cameron  
parish - Bill was born in Cheneyville, Rapides  
parish also all the others - Myrtle was the

only Cajun in the bunch - We lived down in Cameron parish for almost a year <sup>or over</sup> - Papa was trapping and we lived in a tent for a long time following him around - But when Mammy got to where it was dangerous to live so far from town we moved into Cameron into a house - I'll never forget the afternoon Myrtle was born - The lady next door Mrs Granger (pronounced Granga) was going to help her so she put her son Alex (13) in charge of Les, Bill and me - She gave him 5¢ to buy something for us - He got the first Crackerjacks I ever saw and remained my favorite snack for years - and can you imagine 5¢ a box!

I never realized your middle name is the same as Ruth's - same as my grand mother's - only I think she went by Elizabeth or whatever her middle name was - She was always Grandma Martin to me - I also thought Holmes was between Myrtle and Johnie - What makes me think that was that mamma was making baby clothes for Johnie and I said "why are you making baby clothes, Holmes is dead?" She cried and I couldn't understand

it-then - Did you have records for it.  
Holmes is so vivid in my mind - I don't  
think I could be wrong on that because  
we were back in the place papa bought  
with the money he saved from trappings -  
Before we went to Cameron Parish we lived  
in the store next to Grandpa Powell's  
ranch house in Old Cheneyville - means  
nothing to anyone but Leo & me - and  
Leo was only 3 or less when we left there -  
Holmes was sick for several months  
with a blood disease that made his  
blood turn to pus which came out in  
boils - He cried almost all the time -  
The night he died was a Wednesday -  
We had all been cooped up so long so  
mamma insisted Papa take all the  
kids to prayer meeting - when we got  
back Holmes was dead - Papa was so  
upset because he had left mamma  
alone but I think she knew and wanted  
us kids away - myrtle was about 3 then -  
Of course if you have records my  
memory is wrong - and the 3 last ones  
were one year apart - the last one the  
year I was married - 1925 - not that

posterity would care one way or another - since they were nobodies ancestors - Ruth lived 10 days I believe - Simon about an hour or 2 and Leroy was still born - I think there were records - Robert I think was the first one recorded - I remember that because he had the same name as the recorder Robert Allen Parrott - and it was a novelty having one recorded -

I have no idea how they did that bond business - I noticed that on Alney's Grandfather's license - I thought it was only in Miss. He had to have a Co signer also and a \$10.00 bond - That was in 1875 - Al's Dad did not have that or Al's + mine - As you say it only cost Al \$2.00 and how he paid + paid! Poor Guys -

Oh, mamma was raised in Evangeline Parish but Opelousis probably was the closest County seat where they could get license - Chicot is not on my map but Ville Platte is and I know that was near - and Pine Prairie is where Uncle Holmes lived and Leonard Martin also I can't

5) imagine why they went so far -  
seems they got married in Cheneyville  
or took the Cheneyville minister along -  
one of the witnesses was mama's mother's  
half brother - Ernest Amos and one was  
the friend of Papa's that they called  
Doc Messer (Theophilus) He was a self  
made Dr and my dad thought he was  
wonderful and mama hated him -  
The other one I don't know - I wonder  
what was on the other side of the  
marriage license - Probably the  
wedding report that was on the other  
sheet - The copies we got were joined -  
taped together - But that was miss -  
If you notice it says if they are married  
and no one objected or they didn't find one  
or the other was already married, etc -  
(last paragraph) So I guess it was the  
Co signer who put up the bail bond - and  
if they got married it was canceled - Only  
way I could figure it -  
I read this over and wonder if you  
can decipher it - if not I'll make a chart  
of it - maybe I better anyway -

6	Name	born Date	where	{ county Parish }
	BESSIE	8/7/06	Cheneyville	Rapides
	Lo	6/17/08	"	"
	<del>Bill</del> Wilbur	4/19 or 10	"	"
	Bill	7/27/11	"	"
	Myrtle	5/12/14(?)	Cameron	Cameron
	Holmes	1915 or 16	Cheneyville	Rapides
	Johnie	9/24/17	"	"
	Robert	10/17/19	"	"
	Ruth	1922	"	"
	Herman	1924	"	"
	Leroy	Jan, 1925	"	"

That's as near as I can remember  
 and that could be wrong on some  
 I am so glad you will be around to  
 help Peg get involved with life again -  
 I know how she feels. When I had that  
 crazy phlebitis it affected me all over  
 and I felt I'd never do anything again -  
 I finally got desperate enough to go get  
 in the car and drive to get a permanent.  
 I think that was one of the hardest

7 things I ever did physically - But once  
I got out I kept at it - wrote to Lil in  
Texas, my birthday twin, who had not  
driven in 3 years and only left the house  
to go to the Dr. She said if I could she  
could so she started going with Bill then  
dared to drive - She still had a year or  
so on her license - It has done so much  
for her morale - She seldom writes one  
of her "sorry-for-myself" letters any more -  
I over did it yesterday and my leg and  
neck most killed me last nite - It's some  
better but I won't let it stop me unless  
I don't recupe at all - It hasn't rained  
today but is cloudy - That's the worst  
time for arthritis - Can't be too long before  
the weather settles down - I hope -  
I cut some big weeds and some big clumps  
of fustails with a shovel (my little ladies  
shovel) but that jarring really did things  
to my neck and shoulders - Then after  
a little rest I pulled half a garbage can  
of wildoats - 15 or 20 minutes work but  
stooping gets my knee so - But pulling  
is easier than shopping - about 3 or 4  
more sessions and I'll have the whole ship  
between the houses done - Jell on Channel 5

88) says its raining in S. F. so it wont be long I guess - Oregon mist he says - Missed Oregon & hit Calif.

Well its time for "Mask" so Ill close for now - Anything else you want me to guess about just let me know - Yes, your deal is really exciting! We just bought our Pastor a stove like yours - I think - Convection oven and top of stove barbecue, etc - Im jealous - mine was just a stove - All I need tho - The Spencers do a lot more entertaining than I do - Ive been playing with the idea of microwave but I really dont need it so it would be foolish -

Better spend the money for new plates to eat what I can cook on the one I have -

Yes, I expect the gumbo might be a shock to unexperienced taste buds - but if you have learned to like bold okra you would like it, I use very little fat in it but it tastes rich - Mamma used more fat than I do in everything - I wrote the company in La. that put out the bottle Darlene sent me.



9) to see if I could buy direct and not have to bother Darlene when I need it - She doesn't mind tho - Very sweet girl -

Oh, do you know whether anyone is doing anything for Leo + De's anniversary? Will has their photograph ready - He said if no one was planning anything he would get it there the weekend before or after it. Don't tell De about the picture -

I have plenty of the history papers I thought you might like the Tahiti wine recipe -

I had a letter today from the friends who visited me in Feb from Arkansas. They got home before our deluge - I was glad of that - I told them before they came that was the worst time to come - They thought I was spoofing - was beautiful weather the whole 6 weeks they were in Calif - (they just came by here for lunch and a couple of hours visit. nice folks. I liked them -

Well, if you haven't thrown this mess out yet have a nice weekend - Love you lots - God bless you -  
Bess -