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Jim Balloch
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Dear Mr. Massey:

I located Rev. Erickson. He is only 67 years old, remembers Osborne quite well, and has confirmed the contents of the copy of the note you sent me.

I would still like to have the original copy, for better reproduction in my newspaper. Additionally, my research has since made me equally interested in obtaining a copy of what you described to me as your internal statistical information sheet, which you indicated to me reflects that Mr. Osborne had no surviving relatives, only Rev. Erickson as a friend.

This could be extremely valuable to me in obtaining some records I am seeking that are normally released only to the individual subject of the records or to his survivors. For instance, documentation that there were no known kin survivors may help me obtain Osborne's British military service records; certain U.S. Internal Revenue Service records that are not normally obtainable under the Freedom of Information Act; and perhaps even some other records down the road as well.

Even if my recollection is in error and there is a blood relative listed, the stat sheet could still help me in the same way if I could independently document the death of listed surviving relative.

Though I am not working on an immediate deadline, it often takes a long time for record requests to be processed; so the sooner I have the necessary documentation required to obtain a particular set of records, the sooner I can launch the process. So I hope you can send me the stat sheet pretty soon.

Thanks again for all your help so far, and I hope I am not wearing out my welcome by calling on you this one more time.

Sincerely,



Jim Balloch



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