

21 Griffing Boulevard  
Asheville, N. C.  
May 31, 1945

The Hon. D. H. Mudge  
Illinois Circuit Court  
Edwardsville, Illinois

Dear Dick:

I have your recent letter and first my congratulations on the escape and the homeward return of your eldest son.

I have delayed answering your letter for I have had no little opposition from my wife on the idea of disposing of the portraits. She feels that I only hold them in trust for the daughter, as my father held them for me. Then, too, she is more personally attached to them than I realized, and is proud of the admiration they have received.

My position is that I have three other old Hall portraits from the farm and though they do not compare with the two Mudge portraits in question, my thought was since the old place has been brought back to life, and the Mudge clan is going to make it their permanent home, the place for these portraits is where those two grand people lie buried.

Now, the difficult problem of evaluating these portraits. My wife has acquiesced to their sale if I have replicas made of them by an excellent artist here now from New York making portraits of former North Carolina statesmen for the State. The artist, a Mr. Lee, was called in to appraise them, and declaring them beautiful, expressed the belief that they were painted by Audubon. He thinks that with the sentimental value added to their other values, they are worth \$5,000. This, of course, is rubbish, and one cannot appraise sentimental value, let alone between blood relations.

However, to get down to cases, he has quoted Mrs. Hall a price of \$1,000 each to duplicate the pictures. This, I think, can be shaded, should it really get down to cases.

So after the many complications, I think I will want \$2500 for the pair, for I have already spent several hundred dollars on them. If you would like to see what they look like and are interested, I will have them photographed for you.

With kindest regards to you and yours,

*As always.*

*Clinton Mudge Hall*