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Detroit, Mich., Nov. 1 1893

Hon Alton W. Tompkins

My dear Sir -

Your package of Circulars and your stated
 letter came duly to hand - and found me reading
 a book you may remember "Bettons' Men" as
 I have for forty years known well the local
 referred to in it - there is for me an added
 interest in the story by my knowledge of the
 local references -

I shall be under special obligations to you
 for a sight of the story of the Winegar family -
 and will engage its safe and prompt return

I thank you for the clipping regarding the deaths
 of William and George Winegar - whom they may
 have been - I had already cut from a N.Y. paper
 the coroner's investigation of those singular deaths
 The story is strange enough for preservation as a
 curiosity - and I shall try to identify the men if
 in our family

Since I have completed the Biographical
Catalogue of the Sigma Phi Society (Boston 1895 -
large quarto 614 pp) I have taken to hunting
Ancestors - My daughter was teasing me
about not knowing anything regarding my
own great grand father, and spending years in
hunting biographies of thousands of men
not related to me - Her allegation is found
to be true - of all - and my "Search for a father"
began at once - The Winegar Column is the
only defective one now in my house - I have
the other histories, from before Plymouth Rock -
a generation or more - and by way of the
History of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay - of Rhode
Island - Ct. and N.Y. to the present - The old mill-
wright and mill owner John Winegar - has not
been fully unearthed - I have found his grave and
the inscription on his tombstone - but that is not
a complete description - I now intend to put our
Statistics in tabular form - Yours faithfully F. R. Chase