

GRANDFATHER'S CONCLUDING NOTE TO VOLUME I

We have now come to an event of supreme importance in Grandfather's life and, incidentally in your life as well - Grandfather and Grandmother were soon to be married. Does not that sound exciting and is it not provoking that at that very point this volume should come to an end? You can easily imagine how impatient Grandfather is to go ahead and tell you all about it, but, alas, he cannot, for you see Volume I is to carry the lives of Grandfather and Grandmother up to the time of their marriage, and now we have bumped right up against that time and must stop writing.

Grandmother taught in the same high school with Grandfather the last year he was in DePere. The year following that they became engaged and now as summer approached, they were soon to be married.

"But, Grandfather, you will at least tell us all about your courtship." No, dearies, Grandfather and Grandmother when they started to write this book thought they ought to keep something to themselves and decided that their courtship would be that very thing. Besides, it is wholly unnecessary to tell you anything about it. You know Grandmother and hence you know how easy it was for Grandfather to fall in love with her and how fortunate he considered himself when she said "Yes". Would it not have been terrible if she had said "No". You would not have had either of us for a grandparent and what a terrible plight you would be in.

Lean over so I can whisper something to you. We do not want to say anything about it out loud as yet, but Grandfather will whisper to you what our plans are. We plan to surprise you with this book on Christmas 1931.

If the secret does not leak out, my! will you not be surprised! At that time we have it in mind to suggest a plan for writing Volume II. We will suggest that your parents help write the book. No one is to know what anyone else writes. Just to be literally correct, Grandfather has a habit of telling his secrets to Grandmother and like as not he will spill all the information to her, but you won't mind that, will you?

The second volume will be all about your parents and school politics and Grandfather's and Grandmother's first trip abroad and taking parties to Europe and lecturing and doing research work and raising roses and maybe - say this part is going to be good - there may be some mention of you. Oh, no, not much, just a mention. Your parents will want to write a whole volume about each of you and you each deserve one, but Grandfather is going to be hard-hearted and hold your parents down to just a paragraph or two because, do you not see, you are Volume III and we must not anticipate that volume. Or perhaps if your parents write a lot, it may take Volume II and Volume III to cover this part and perhaps you will be Volume IV. But no matter what the number of your volume, you will be entitled to have one.

Perhaps it will seem best to defer writing your volume until you are old enough to help write it and then perhaps Grandfather and Grandmother will not be here to help, but you will write it anyway, will you not? Surely you will. Won't it be a lot of fun?