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Gillian L. Hilmstra to Jim, 11 February 1961

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PINE REST CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

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6850 DIVISION AVENUE S. GRAND RAPIDS 6, MICHIGAN

February 11, 1961

Professor James W. Silver
University, Mississippi

Dear Jim,

It has been a long time since I have seen you - the last was the summer of 1951. I presume you have continued at Ole Miss and that possibly some of the men in the history department are still around.

Since leaving Water Valley in 1948 I spent two years as pastor of the First Reformed Church of Paterson, N.J. after which I was chaplain at the Christian Sanatorium in Wyckoff, N.J. for 6 years. My progress in history at Columbia was of a piece-meal variety because of time and other responsibilities. I managed to garner 30 points, passed German & Dutch language examinations but got bogged down in a dissertation attempt on the early court records of Kingston, N.Y. under the Dutch.

When I started work at the mental hospital I had to study counseling and psychology. I tried to keep up with both history and psychology but this proved too much for me on the fork.

I moved to Grand Rapids, Mich. in January 1957 and serve as one of two chaplains at a 550 bed mental hospital. I have had some additional teaching experience. While at



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So be thankful...

Hyckoff, N.J. I lectured in pastoral psychology at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and in my present location I do the same on a part-time basis at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

I am making an investigation to discover the possibility of getting a Ph.D from Michigan State Univ in Pastoral Counseling in the College of Education. If they don't require too much additional work there is a possibility that I can do it. I took the liberty of giving your name as a reference.

I am sending you a copy of the Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society which contains a part of my Ole Miss thesis. The April 1961 issue of The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society will contain my article "Early Frontier Revivalism in Kentucky"

I want to express my thanks to you for all your kindness and helpfulness to me when I was at Ole Miss (1945-1948). I have often remarked to friends that I received more considerate treatment from you than from any other person - a fact which might seem surprising to some, considering our differences in religious orientation.

My years at Water Valley and Ole Miss were among the best I've had and I have often wished that I had put down my roots there.

Please convey my greetings to Dudley Hitcherson, Allan Cabaniss, as well as to others who may remember me. Drop me a note sometime concerning yourself & the history dept at Ole Miss. - (don't wait until your desk is cleared!)

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Liber, I am
Yours cordially,
Bill
William L. Hiemstra