

MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND

40 WALL STREET · NEW YORK 5

July 21, 1950

Dear Doctor Szilard:

I have gone over the family records to select those which you wish to have reproduced for your study. Certain families have to be excluded because they will not be suitable for your use. They are as follows:

1. One-child families.
2. Families where date of birth of mother is missing. (We could use these families if we had age of mother at death but they will not be useful to you.)
3. Families where there are many offspring still living at the time the records were collected.
4. Families where only one of the offspring survived to become an adult. (We have many families where a number of the offspring died of acute infectious diseases in childhood or infancy; for example, as many as five children died of diphtheria in one month.)

After going over all of the records I find only about 220 which may be useful to you. In only 20 families are all of the offspring dead. There are a considerable number, however, where all are dead except one. As I mentioned to you, the factor of survivorship may disqualify some records for your use.

It has been so many years since I have worked with these records that I had forgotten about how great an effect diseases such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, etc. had upon the families in the middle of the 19th century. Otherwise, I certainly should have mentioned the matter to you.

There is another cause of death which was quite important; that is, accidents. Such deaths will affect your use of the material.

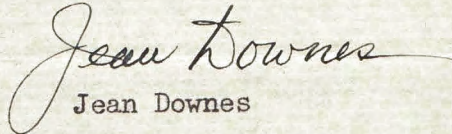
In considering the families with offspring born in 1860-1869, that classification means none were born earlier; however, the offspring in these families were born also in the 1870's and 1880's since the child-bearing period is more than a decade. Most of these families will not be useful to you because there are too many offspring who were living at the time the records were collected.

Am I correct in assuming that the records which I have described as not being useful to you will actually not suit your purposes? If so, do you wish me to send you the 220, which is a rather small number?

Will you please send me a telegram Monday (collect) giving me your opinion.

I do hope that you can use the records because your ideas are most interesting.

Sincerely yours,


Jean Downes

Dr. Leo Szilard
c/o Professor Puck
Department of Biophysics
Medical School
University of Colorado
Denver, Colorado

JD.gm

MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND

40 WALL STREET · NEW YORK 5

July 27, 1950

Dear Doctor Szilard:

I am sending you by American Express the photostatic copies of 363 records of families obtained in our special study made in Cattaraugus County, New York.

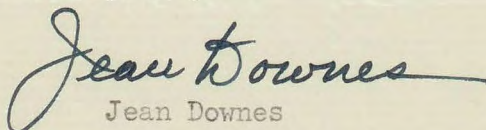
Some explanation of the records may be helpful to you. In filling out the family roster, the father is listed first, and the mother second. The offspring of these parents are listed by order of birth according to information given by the informant. In some instances you will note that a check with some other source of information, such as the family Bible, has changed the order of birth as given by the first informant. The dates of birth will reveal these instances.

All marriages of either the father or the mother are indicated on the records. To illustrate this point, I am sending you a copy of an incomplete record. We obtained the record of the family of Henry Gebauer and his wife, Hulda Green Gebauer. Mrs. Gebauer had had a previous marriage to Amenzo Cornell (No. 7 on the record). She had five children by that marriage and they are listed as Nos. 8-12 on the record. I believe that you will be able to identify all such instances on the records which I sent you.

If you have any questions about the records, please write me about them.

I hope you have a pleasant summer. I have always enjoyed working with these records and I hope they will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,


Jean Downes

Dr. Leo Szilard
c/o Professor Puck
Medical School
University of Colorado
Denver, Colorado.

JD.mcg

The University of Chicago

CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS

Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois
7 August 1950

Miss Jean Downes
Milbank Memorial Fund
40 Wall Street
New York 5, N.Y.

Dear Miss Downes:

I am writing to thank you for your very kind letter of July 27th and for all the trouble which you took in this matter. The photostats arrived in good order and I am just beginning to look at them. I certainly appreciate, very much, your help in this matter.

If I may, I shall communicate with you again, when I am a little further.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

LS/p