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**Title:** Letter from Zatae Longsdorff Straw to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Selby

**Date:** April 20, 1951

**Location:** I-Original-1951-1

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ZATAE L. STRAW, M. D.  
297 ORANGE STREET  
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

April 20, 1951

APR 26 1951

Mr. & Mrs. Howard W. Selby  
219 Chestnut Street  
West Newton 65, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Selby:

Some days ago I received your kind invitation for May 6, at 6:00 p. m. I thank you and shall do my best to come, for my family is a truly Dickinson family.

My father was a student there although he left before graduation to enter Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, where he graduated both in Medicine and Dentistry.

My eldest brother, Harold, was a member of the class of 1879. He also studied medicine and practiced in Cumberland County until his death a few years ago.

In September of the year the trustees passed the resolution admitting women, I entered the Sophomore class, much to the chagrin of the boys of that class, for they hoped to get through without any petticoats (they wore such garments then, long and wide ones too), but I worked hard, passed the entrance examination and made it, thence becoming the first woman to graduate from Dickinson, class of 1887.

Three other women entered when I did, but as freshmen. One, Elizabeth Bender, one, after graduation married President Harry Morgan and the third was my sister, Hildegarde, who also studied medicine and practiced in Carlisle until her death some years ago.

Another younger sister graduated in 1889. She too studied dentistry and is still practicing in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

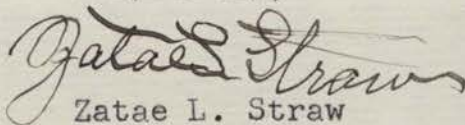
My husband, A. Gale Straw, deceased, was a Harvard Medical School graduate.

ZATAE L. STRAW, M. D.  
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I hope to be able to see you May 6, and  
again thank you.

Very truly,

  
Zatae L. Straw