

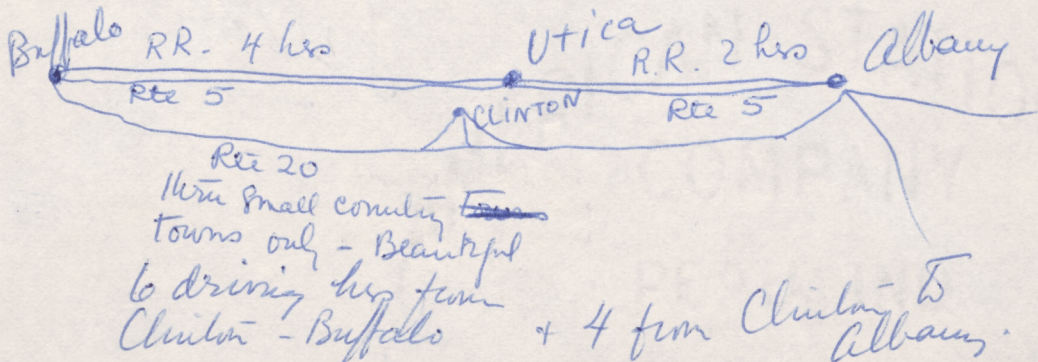
MISS SILVIA SAUNDERS
A. P. SAUNDERS HYBRID PEONIES
CLINTON, NEW YORK

April 22, 1954

Darling Laura: I am so deeply distressed to hear from Ellie of all that you and the dear Betsey have had to go through. What a terrible moment of decision for you - I know that you did absolutely the right thing - the only thing; but that it will have seemed to you many times in the night that perhaps something else, some other decision, should have been made.

I hope that you will not have to succumb to tortures such as that, very often. We do the best we can at the time, often ~~wixx~~ the "materials" and conditions are not what they might be, for us. But we must not prick ourselves with bad consciences afterwards.

Are you decid~~ding~~ against, or in favor, of a trip to New York now? I presume nothing immediate at any rate. Remember when you do, or if you do, that you can stop off here. Oh yes I was going to send you a map wasn't I?



Well there it is. Utica is a big junction and all the fast East-West trains stop there. It is 10 miles from us. Route 20, if you are motoring is the nicest way to come - beautiful, and goes through no cities - only Geneva and Auburn and such like. So really we are excessively central.

The nursery is going apace. It was cold cold cold until yesterday - not a leaflet, not a bud - just like all winter; but yesterday and today have been 80, and a good lazy muggy 80 to boot, so things are popping out, and popping up, like mad. It is lovely to watch. I think daffodils must come out during the night - I pick all the buds each afternoon and next morning there is a host of new bloom.

Dearest Laura it was so lovely to be with you again; that day going up to Fort Garland was sheer heaven - the beautiful landscape and mountains, and the driving all day with you; and Betsey. So gay, so dear. I love you both with all my heart, and the hours are lovelier for having known you both.

Ever devotedly
Silvia