

John Long's letter about his boyhood and friendship with Dwight
[Eisenhower]
Dated March 21, 1966

“My Mother had no husband to help us, as he was injured in a cyclone that killed the twins in 1883 and at the time my Father was in the State Hospital at Topeka, Kansas and my Mothers income from the farm (14 miles north of Abilene) was only \$200.00 a year. My Mother had 6 children at home when we came to Abilene for the benefit of a good business college (which brick building caved in when the 1903 flood hit Abilene.) Then when the good business college failed Mother moved to Lawrence for better schools.

Sunday morning was [a] fast day so my Mother could get all her children off to Church (The Brothers Church*) where Dwight and I had the same teacher (Mr. John H. Engle)

My Mother never went to Church Sunday morning as she had her hands full getting the 5 children off to the Brothers Church so on Sunday afternoon several of the Decans [sic] of the Church would come to our home to read the Bible and have prayer with Mother.

The Church generally had Wednesday prayer meetings at the homes of the older families who were too old to come out to the Church on Sundays.”

*A reference to the Church of the Brethren in Christ