

DON WHARTON

24 GRAMERCY PARK

NEW YORK

October 10, 1953

Dear Dr. Rankin:

I should like to be among the many who are congratulating you on your election to the presidency of the American College of Surgeons.

Doubtless you have forgotten, but I remember very well the day during the war when I was taken into your office in Washington and you immediately asked "Are you in the book?" Referring, of course, to the Wharton-Rankin book written by my uncle, Sam Rankin. His widow, Mary Wharton Rankin, my father's sister, is still living in Greensboro, bright and cheerful despite disease and failing eye-sight.

I have just looked it up in "the book" and found that our mutual ancestor was Watson Wharton. That is pretty long ago and makes our kinship rather distant, but however distant I am glad to be your cousin.

Please do not feel called upon to answer this letter---I know that you are probably swamped by a flood of messages of congratulations.

Sincerely,

*Don Wharton*

Dr. Fred Wharton Rankin,  
Lexington, Ky.