Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Dear Ones,

I have written a letter to Ruth and one to George on this rainy Sunday morning, and now I begin these pages. I wish the lines were not quite so close together. It must be difficult to read.

I have told Ruth and George that we are having the fifth day of rain, and it is raining harder today than any day since the start!

Mrs. James was to have started for Thaigom on Tuesday last, but she was not very well and had to wait a day. In the afternoon of that day the rain began. It has not been a very easy trip for her. I do believe—and she is going into a new house, too, which is always harder.

Well, that day she was ill. I went over and cared for baby, preparing his food, feeding him, and giving him his bath the next day. It was a real pleasure. Her old nurse's eyes are not very good and Mrs. James does not dare trust her to prepare food for baby.

By the way, that reminds me you still buy those (magnifying glass) spectacles at the 05 a.m. stop. Did you send me two pairs? I would give one pair to my cousin and days he can't have so do some of the work. Etc. And after gave the other pair until I get another half-dollar servant or give them to Mrs. James's cousin.

Is Aunt Celi coming out to see us next winter? I keep thinking how nice it would be!!!

Ellie is at church in the rain, but I decided not to go out as the service was a union one across the river. She had expected Miss Solomon yesterday, but she will wait until next week on account of the rain.

I do not yet know definitely when I leave for the north, but it is probably late in June.
Last Monday just after I had sent my letter came a big home mail and we devoured it greedily. It was so good to hear.

On Monday Ellers found the white ants all over the logs on our north porch. It is just a shame! They really ruin a house. We had to warn the servants not to see the tiny porch and stairs at the back of the house.

I spend the whole day on Saturday mending clothes and making a new night gown - think of that! The nightie is a pretty embroidered one that I bought out here, and I want to see if it is a good pattern and wears well.

Isn't it wonderful! Three-fourths at least of the mosquitoes have just disappeared from my house. We no longer brush against them in the room; they don't rise like a cloud from the clothes that are suddenly disturbed; they don't sing as loud that you think they here swallowed a large dose of quinine. It is a great relief, I can tell you.

We have had some very poor corn twice and some will ripen twice several times. Lettuce has been a boon, and we have had some tomatoes. My pumpkin squashes, however, rot and fall off before they are more than a week or ten days. White borers get into them. It is a shame.

We hope to have a few peaches too, but our fig tree is nearly killed by borers and we found the white ants may in the heart of our plum tree the other day. One has to keep a constant watch against insect pests these days.

I went to Sunday school this afternoon and although there were only fourteen kids, but they enjoyed the service very much, I think.

I had to make nearly when I arrived at school house. What is ordinarily dry land was streaming water.
Dear Ones, Elliam and I are sitting out on the porch, I at the table writing and she by the lamp house reading a Mission Book — a very helpful and interesting one by Dr. Gideon of Sutrob. It is about 8:30 a.m. Cool breeze is blowing but I sit here in the thin white dress that Ruth sent you last summer. Such a long rainy spell as we had nine days straight until the river was raging so that they let the pontoon bridge go in order to save the boats. (The pontoon bridge is the middle part made of boats with little flat-bottomed boats connecting them.) So now if I want to cross the river it must go by ferry which means a small boat.

The river is probably ten or fifteen feet deeper than usual and you can imagine what that means. The houses below us are flooded several feet and have been for two days now. The people out on their roofs yesterday and it did look queer to see bicycles on roofs where we usually see only low dark roofs. Many of the people put up little grass mats to protect them but luckily it did not rain yesterday and was cloudy so that the sun was not too hot. But today it had rain again not very hard. I should not think there would be to dry, left in the heavens.

Yesterday morning we heard great excitement in the rice fields at the first four hill (you can see them in the panoramic picture which Elliam took.) He is sending the film home. He looked down (by the bay all three rice fields are flooded now) and saw some wild animals swimming for his life. He had her driven from his haunt by the floods and now man had chased him so hard that he ran to the pond to save himself. People gathered all along the side with bamboo poles ready to catch him. A man jumped in and swam after the beast. Usually tired out he decided to land at any rate and was promptly caught. It looked like a gray fox or wild cat and 2
distinctly saw that its tail was ringed
black and white.  A fox.- Ears.

You can imagine how rather monotonous
the days are.  Each Elks\'s teacher cannot come.
He just needs to be here to help me get the
characters for him to read.  I have studied a little
and have spent most of my time getting my dresses
into condition to take down.  It takes a long time
much longer than I thought it would.

By evening time I am wild for some change
or excitement.  But I succeed in making myself
write or play and then sometimes play a game
of too.  Mrs. James and Mr. Ross arrived on
Monday.  Thursday and Mrs. James
stayed over night.

I am afraid there is nothing else to write
about but this weather of ours.

Che- at Kakchik, Mrs. Anderson\'s front
gard has fallen down and there have been
landslides at the Academy.
He had baked beans for supper to-night and
they are good.

Exchange is still very bad so that our salaries
are very low.  Glad I have my \$5000.00 all
bought in the future (of course they are not bought for people
out here yet.).

Sunday PM., the river has gone down considerably.
but the church is still flooded-and the bridge
of boats still gone.  Ellison went by boat to the
City and will stay there all day.

Our peaches are ripening, but the tomatoes have
been attacked by some parasites and the squashies
all have worms inside that make them rot
while they are very small.  I don't know what
to do about it.

We have been able to use a blanket at night
for the last ten days and that is unusual
comfort for June.
Dear Ones,

Well this week we have managed to have a baby typhoon and rain that has kept the temperature down to 78-81° and so we have been very comfortable either we have had to keep the house rather closely shut up to keep out the rain. It would blow stays under the doors (at its worst) even tho' the porch is only ten feet wide and at one place where there is a corner, it would blow in under the window after the porch is 10 1/2 feet wide at that place.

It is remarkable that we should have such comfortable weather for June and 8° and I am both very thankful indeed.

Ellie went to Swatow on Friday, and on Saturday AM he took his final exam in those two parts of the exam that he omitted last December (parts he omitted and one part he didn't have an adequate exam in). We are both glad that it is over and successfully over. Now he is free to put full time into the work.

Last week was our nine anniversary! During the week we received a check from the Hillwoods and Aunt Jan, telling us to buy what we want but something that he would hardly feel we could spend our own money for. Twelve dollars isn't that lovely! We have gotten a habit of putting all our foreign money checks into the bank to save to help us out on furlough time when we have to buy so many things. Everybody says furlough is awfully expensive! Then if we decide to use that money here to buy something with, we count that in have saved that much for the furlough account. Isn't that a nice scheme? I guess it is the only way we could save enough to buy our clothes when we get home, for we shall have to be vaccinated from head to foot! I can't wait it be nice to have. Real good looking clothes again! The sentiment of a missionary isn't!

The sun is out a little now all the the clouds.
are heavy on the hill. The storm began last Wednesday I think.

The typhoon is supposed to be in the Yangze valley, but the wind was pretty strong here. I had all the typhoon bars put on the shutters.

I was glad to have the cook return on Wednesday after a week's vacation and sent him to work very fast making cookies, bread, and salad dressing immediately upon his return.

Then studied some this week, and have retired and done those jobs that one must do before leaving one's house, putting away all soaking, extra supplies of linen, and cleaning out closets, listing supplies etc., putting away linen, baskets etc.

Mr. James was here for supper, Wednesdays and Thursdays Miss Bell and Miss Cheetham from the other side called. I have invited them for tea and supper next Tuesday except Miss Sullivan and Miss Cally on Wednesday and so I shall have a busy week such.

Ellison and I leave next Saturday for Swatow. The steamer will leave at Swatow on Sunday. Then my steamer is scheduled to go on Monday 11 P.M. but may be early or late and as I cannot tell definitely, just when I must leave Swatow. I will join me about a month later. I hate to leave him alone here in the heat as well not except that it seems most from many points of view.

After Ellison went on Friday there came a nice letter from Mother and one from George also some other miscellaneous mail. I was very glad.

Kend has sent me an order for about $250 U.S. to draw more to sell for the Fellowship fund. It is very popular.
I think that High Street will be so different when I return that I shall hardly know it. It certainly will be improved, too! Is there any hope of the big McNeil being going?

Father speaks of a great deal of rain in May; we have certainly had a very rainy June—barrels of water! Glad to get your letter, Dad.

Mother dear! Think of your washing all the clothes! I am afraid you do too much!
I am wondering if Brown is at the Bungalow now, and if she is feeling a great deal better. Your cherries made the night very nice.

It is quite a compliment to have Carol picked out for the work of substituting isn't it? Sorry she couldn't try, but perhaps it would have been too hard with the extra work.

It must be nice for Mother to get the motor cycle rides to So End and Picer, Cole.

Mosquitoes do not trouble us now—just a few; perhaps forty or so in the house.

I was interested to hear about the new house for Herman Sherburne Jr. Great where is the lot?

What is Light's, York's business?

Vaccination, and typhoid inoculation did not make us sick.

How is Angie Jane and Emma? Hop they are well.

I should think that the church could afford to pay Mr. Stoddard a little more if he gets in so much money!

Tell I hope you will all have a delightful summer. Now don't try to get a great big birthday box for me! !!!!
Mon. AM. JUNE 26.

The sun is out new, but we have had one shower. The boys is washing. The cow is gone into the city to buy baskets for Geo Behrens. The cow is probably laying around somewhere in hopes to dismiss him at the end of this month.

Ellie is working with her father and I am at my desk. Instead of writing last evening I looked at some beautiful magazines which Ellie brought home. They are called "American Photography" and are full of very lovely pictures.

I rather dread to go away alone, but suppose it is for the best. I shall take up several hundred dollars worth of brown work to sell. I shall charge a 5 or 10% profit to get money for the work here.

Now love to you all, each one, wherever you may be. Sottie.
Dearest Dad,

This is the glorious Fourth and I am celebrating by taking my trip to Shanghai. The sea is beautiful and the breezes make it cool and comfortable although the temperature is at least 80. We are going along the coast north of course.

The boat is a big freighter, but has only two cabins for passengers. I came on the boat about 3:00 P.M. expecting it to start by six surely but the loading was not finished until after dark and the captain will not leave the bay after dark. So we are certain not to arrive in Shanghai before Friday 4:00, and the boats are often late.

After it was fairly comfortable on land yesterday, my stateroom was just like an oven with a temperature above 90 and no air. When I found we had to stay over night at the dock, I hardly knew what to do. I spoke of the heat, when he jumped and so the captain offered me his canvas bed on deck. Wasn't that good of him! It is the only way I could have slept. We finally began to get ready to start about 4:10 this morning but did not get outside the harbor until 6:30.

The captain has sent out some books for me and all the same the only foreign passenger I think that I shall enjoy the trip. Dr. Ellison has gone back to Chefoo for the course. He preached Sunday at 6:00 in English.

To go back a bit - have been busy all the week of course - with packing and company. On Tuesday Miss Chisholm and Miss Helke came up for tea, and stayed to have supper with us. Miss Chisholm and I played a few duets and we enjoyed ourselves musically when we were not eating or sitting on the porch.

There is a little song called "The Sandman" by Drabko that is perfectly beautiful. Do you know it, Maria?
On Wednesday Miss Sellman and Miss Gilley came to examine schools. They were at our house over night but started off by boat on Tuesday morning for Kaula. It is hot and hard work.

By the way one time when Miss Travers and I was coming up the train a woman talking to Miss Travers (who has curly light hair) said, "Do you comb your hair once a year?"

Miss Gilley Travers says she has had them ask many questions about her hair but none so bad as that! You see they oil their hair perfectly so that it shines like glossy satin and lies down perfectly flat - with plus a stray lock. They think that curly hair is the height of disorder and brownish hair much to be despised.

On Thursday (all this time I was expecting to leave Chao Chou on Friday) I found word that the boat would leave on Saturday we had a Monday and we must go down on Friday. Mr. James heard that a friend would go Monday.

He had already invited guests for Thursday, Mr. James and A Chinaman.

This Chinese man is a Cantonese who wrote telling asking if he might call to ask a few questions about the Bible. He proved to have several other interests than the Bible when he arrived - as so many of them do.

I didn't prepare anything extra as we were going away the next day. We had found tea biscuits, 4 large cakes, and plenty of milk, jam, butter and tea and cream so that I guess they survived.

But the Chinaman was so funny. After the first cup of tea he asked if his might pray for it himself. And so instead of letting him pour it, he mixed it to suit himself taking a very little tea and a great deal of milk and sugar, a grey bit of milk and cream was on the table and I was asked to add two more so that would not be enough for Mr. James's 3rd cup.
Dear One,

I wish you could see how comfortable and lovely it is here, and if I could only import some of you, or be doing some of your work for you, it would be quite ideal. I am so thankful that I have the warm work to take up my attention and time.

I am not making Xmas presents but I haven't planned about the things for people out here, and that is all I have to get now. Besides there is not much material to make Xmas presents out of here. One can buy pretty little things so cheap that it hardly pays to spend one's time.

Let me tell you what people are like. They are very informal and American. Mrs. McKenzie told me that she was invited one day to Mrs. Keens' for tea and to take our sewing. For 3:45 I made up from the only day's work. I have succeeded in having since my arrival and have sold over.

Mrs. McKenzie opened the door of Mrs. Keens' house, and I saw Mr. Day (the border) looking out the window still. The table was set, Mr. Day said he thought they were eating so, it proved to be. But Mrs. McKenzie called to Mrs. Ken and asked her. She evidently dressed in a hurry and came down and sat down to talk to us thinking that we were feeding her about the tea. She evidently had given a general invitation and didn't know that Mrs. McKenzie had accepted Nellie. She said they had nothing to eat in the house, but she got her alcohol there - going and set the table - (the servants were out) and the kitchen was closed. She said the bread was poor, but she had some crackers and cherry jam full of stones, and three cookies left from a whole basketful that Mrs. Moss had eaten last night. All the time she was preparing everybody was joking. Mrs. McKenzie said Kenneth was just home for a cake and we had a fine tea.
There is an invitation of some kind almost everyday. Thursday I had tea in the house that belongs to Trieck Woods (Mr.) She is home on "furlough" now. Do you remember her? She is married to Dollie for 19 1/2 years ago. The workers range from my age and younger to over 50 but a large number of them are anywhere from 30 to 40 yrs. old and so I enjoy them very much.

The houses are much better than those in New York, not only because they are larger but also because the workmen know how to introduce modern ideas. At Thaigong our houses are all of one story; here they are at least two and sometimes three. The verandas are broad and roomy like at home.

Inside most of the houses are a large room like a combined dining and living room down stairs and bedrooms the up stairs. For the first time I see some built in closets and window seats.

I begin to realize that I have been in an English community instead of an American, for all the little differences I recognize them in a minute now that I am back in them again.

I am so thankful that I am an American. The Germans think women are of no account, at home they are not so nice as Americans are to their wives. Really you can hardly believe it.

I really should have given my impressions in the first few days, for one gets dulled to them after awhile.

The tiny baby who had whooping cough is still alive, although it is a very sick baby. They all hoping it's father will come any day now.

The three little children in the house are very dear, and I enjoy Mr. Smart's singing and Mr. Smart's kithing. Also melodies with guitar accompaniment, too.

They have a nice organ here too.
July 22, 1916

My dear Ones,

Since I came here, I have been writing letters via Ellerson, but as a letter dated July 14 came from him yesterday saying he had not received any of my letters, I am afraid you have not had written mail from me in the last two weeks. Isn’t it a shame! It is honestly hard to be in Chicago and all alone in the first place, and then not to have any letters for two weeks is awful! The first two letters had to be given to people to be mailed, and that is never safe!

Well, it is between six and seven, and I have just come home from a swim in the pool. The water was cool but dirty. Our Saturday they let the water run out, and the bottom and sides are scrubbed clean; then on Sunday the water is allowed to flow back again, and on Monday it is fresh and nice again.

Well, my big sale is over. On Wednesday P.M. I took the lot up to Mrs. Keens or Sklutter and I had a cookie and doughnuts and a big basket as well as a big cake, truffles, full of things. Bright and early on Thursday six salesmen and nine arranging things. At 9:30 p.m. I had sold our $1,200 worth. That was rather good, wasn’t it? In the afternoon I sold some more to make about $2,700. I think—perhaps more—and I took some orders. I think that was very good indeed.

Now ten presents. Of all I will send the educational work at Cho Cho-Chowee. Isn’t that nice?


By now I have sold nearly $1,000 worth. I believe the exact figure is about $720. Isn’t that fine?

I have been so thankful to have it to do since you all have been here, for it has been lonely in spite of the fact that people are so nice and I am invited somewhere nearly every day. I am now looking forward to hearing the definite date when...
Ellies will arrive.

Last week we had very warm weather, but this yesterday and today have been delightfully cool. This week a general conference is going on during the mornings and so I have a chance to find out about other missions.

I am receiving invitations and dinner all the time. I suppose the people of East China want to entertain the Southern guest. It is strange to me to meet so many Southerners and Northerners. There are really very few New Englders.

Dr. Neuman has announced his engagement to Miss Smith who came out last year to help Miss Culley open the girls school. It will be quite a blow for the school, but nice for Dr. N. and Miss Smith. Perhaps you remember that Miss Smith was visiting me a few days this spring.

I am sending a letter via Ruth and will try to write more faithfully from now on. In spite of a new place and new surroundings, it has been hard to write fully enough to make you see it. There is a laundry here where they do every thing large or small for 03 for pieces, but they put acids on something in the water and the clothes go 50 pieces later. So I hire the servant women here to do all my small pieces.

The chief forms of amusement here are swimming, tennis, short walks, and teas and singings.

All new people are invited out to dinner by all the members of the mission at least.

One thing that seems nicest to me is to drop my hat, hat and walk in the sun with just a light weight hat and umbrella and sit in sunbathing 01 1/2 hour the other day with only a towel on my head. Must go to tea. Bye Lottie.
Tuesday:— I am going to write to you what I do each day for a while, hoping that I can help you to realize where we are and how we are situated a little better. This morning I slept until 7:30 for the first time since reaching the mountain— no the second time. And so I had time to make both coffee breakfast. Meals at the Mackenzies are rather elastic and so I'm never quite sure whether I shall have to wait awhile or be on time. We usually have a rather tasteless meal, smaller than our breakfast— cereal, hot muffins, eggs and coffee. Then I go back to my room. Yesterday I wanted to iron some dresses which Mrs. Shand, dear lady, had sprinkled for me the night before. She sprinkled things so that they are perfect for ironing. I had not quite finished those before Esther came in and asked me to go out on a walk. It was a beautiful day and all the trees were hot time to a nice bridge. They have put the three or four feet wide laid over the mountain so that there is no balancing oneself on a nice path here. The soil is very rich and it is a pleasure to look at it. When the men are digging it is probably absolutely fresh soil which cultivated. There is a quantity of shrubbery around and in the evenings of if one is near trees, the cicadas make so much noise that one can scarcely be heard.

It is carry a stout walking stick when we go around but the walks here compared to Trairyam, are like Fifth Avenue compared to Reacons Ledgy walk. I haven't had my long walk. When I came back from the walk in sky down a few minutes to rest and then I took a hot walk to the PO. to get a letter from Ellens which rinsed my anxious to get. Poor man! My first two letters did not reach him at all and it was the day after his birthday when he received my third one. I am nearly sick to think of it. Good in that last letter I think I had my weekly letter to bring. Sam was about one and then I had a short rest before dressing and preparing my dress work for a
small after-sale.

Then at 3:15 I moved up for tea at Mrs. Mack's.
I had already been invited to Mrs. Potter's, but I did not
want to go out and hurry right back, and so I declined.

The people have some cold water with tea. That is, there
is a glass of cold water at every place. Did you ever
hear of anything so queer? But I have often wanted
a drink at tea time. We have little things (toast-
long and narrow, and jam, and cake
and tea).

After I came back to my room, I waited several minutes
for people to come to see the draw. They but then
was very dull. Until 6:50 it was only about 501 north. So that wasn't so bad.
I had scarcely time to tidy my hair to go out for
dinner at the Kylberts.

Now the Kylberts consist of Mr. & Mrs. and
Elizabeth (age 12). They live in the house that
Mrs. Leach boarded in last year and they
are boarding Gus and Esther Hasmith this
year. There is also one single lady in the house.

Mr. Kylbert is a big, burly, a deep footed, red cheeked
and blue eyed. He used to be a lumberman. He is
full of fun and laughing all the time. He looks
like a big college hank-ball man. This girl is
quite stout, but good looking and she is very jolly
and sensible too. These little girls are desirables.

Esther Hasmith is one of the mean people that
are in China. She is lovely and plump and turned
over, but she is perfectly beautiful at times on
account of most wonderful auburn hair and
a most interesting personality. She is like a
child and a good fellow all advanced full of
fire and glee. This just illustrates her.

Mrs. Kylbert asked me if I would have some
chicken and I declined but complimented her
on its tenderness.

About 10 minutes later, Esther with a
perfectly solemn face and using my exact
words, nearly as said: " Of the
hot rates which she had compelled to eat (she had a
severe attack of indisposition and should not been in it).
"Let me compliment you on your hot rates, it is perfectly
cooked." Of course, we all roared.

After supper we played Pook for awhile and I went home in a thick mist at 10:30. The day had been clean and beautiful.

Wednesday, July 26.

After breakfast, I hurriedly wrote three or four business letters, and then went down to the general conference which is going on during the mornings of this week. A man from our mission told of how we were investigating the numbers of Chinese and making a plan of campaign by which we could do the most efficient work, and then there was open discussion in the Pim-After next and tea. I had three sets of tennis which took until 4:30. You see there are only 7 courts and that means that after one has played one set the next must wait until her turn comes before playing another. I was tired and had when adjourned time came so that in the evening I just wrote a little and went to bed.

Thursday July 27.

Aided by conference this morning and heard Dr. Smart (the man of this house) give a very good paper on the relation of educational work to missions. I am being besieged for money these days. It is difficult to get enough small money on the mountain, and people know that I have taken in a lot from the sale and so they bring me checks to cash, so am glad to get rid of it too.

This afternoon after a good lunch topping off with a fruit ice-cream cake I rested and then went to Dr. Potter's house. By our mission he is called the Bishop of this mission. He is not an old man, but is a very forceful one. Well, then I played two sets of tennis and now I am going to supper at 9:35. Rather like lanes down here isn't it?
There, July 27, 1914.

Mr. Senart, who has this house gave a paper on Thursday morning and so the household turned out to hear it; all enjoyed it. I had tea with the Peeters in the afternoon and then went to the courts for a little tennis. I can't play a decent game unless I play so hard that I get pretty tired. And from this, I play very poorly compared to what I am. I came home and wrote in the little time that was left in the evening. It surely isn't much when one is not there eating until 6:30.

June, July 28.

Conference again in hall with two outside men speaking and they were both fine. One spoke on the evolution of missions in China and showed how he must be merely directors in helping the Chinese to produce and direct their Christianity. The other spoke on personal work in a most interesting way and is taken to other courses which I shall try to attend.

Had tennis again in the afternoon and choir in the evening. So you see how my lazy time is filled up.

Saturday. Mr. Brokman's section of conference met you 8:30 - 9:30 in the church. He has to go down the hill quite a distance to get to church and it is often rather hot coming back in the sunlight but I haven't worn much salt since the day I arrived. Mr. Brokman met us again 2:30 - 4:10 P.M.

Mrs. Smart was to entertain three men and their wives Saturday morning and she was sick so I helped her gather greens and ferns and decorate in P.M.

Her tenants had gathered beautiful Easter lilies which grow wild in the woods here and two gorgeous orange colored amarillies. I don't think I have ever seen anything more gloriously beautiful than they were.

Mr. Smart, who is a U.K.E. fraternity man (the other three men were, too) made a child
out of flowers. As a centerpiece—really quilt a work of art. They had bamboo all around the room too—and it was very pretty. I guess they had a good time, for they got at table from 7:45 until nearly 11:00 I think.

San. Au.

Thursday came word from Ellison that he expected to leave Swatow on July 28—and 26 I hope he is on the way South. The weather has been rather threatening for several days, but there has been no storm here and I hope he will arrive safely. It really is quite a long trip, and he has evidently been pretty sick with diarrhoea for a week. 1st and 2nd he got tomentin—those dysentery out here. because they are so prevalent and so dangerous in a way. I am glad to hear that in the station was in the station to give him good treatment. As soon as he will feel fairly strong by the time he reaches here.

I must try to clear this letter, but it was not quite so good as usual.

My early letters finally reached Ellison, but I have no idea what made them so late. They arrived Sun. the 23rd, and I won't them from there in going from Shanghai.

Next month is likely to be a full month.

I am anxious to hear of the home summer.

Hope it will not be too hard for mother, you mind remember, mother, that you are but in such a good training for a big household as you were when you had a big family all the year.

Sorry Gele had measles.

I don't understand, mother, what you say about.
Pa's books. What does it mean?
Solly. Pa had such a bad cold.

If Cousin David came, did he bring Ethel Rickard? How long did they stay? He must be very lonely now.

I hope you did not try to take any boarders. It is altogether too much for you.

Did you mean that Beth Little was visiting somebody in Chicago and called on you? Mother and I couldn't make out from the postcard.

Glad to hear. Thank you for wishes to get Father's letter of June 4 too. They have been especially nice since I have been alone here.

Who is Mary Greene that Carol was with Decoration Day?

Sun, June 7th, 1915
Just home from church and writing for the after hours. I think of you now as a big household and shall be so glad to hear. I send messages of love to each deanone and each one is very dear.

Rビル a barrel of love
Letter.
Dear Ones Bell, I am happy as can be again, for Ellion has arrived safe and sound. I have been sending messages by this little new moon. We have been having some beautiful days this week.

As you know Ellion was sick for nearly a week in Shaowen, and as my letter urged him to come, and the doctor twice said that he could travel by the 28th, he planned to go then. But word came to him that the steamer would go on July 22, and so I was pleased enough to receive a postcard from Mrs. Aug., saying that he had started the 27th, and that he could look for him possibly on Tuesday night. I could hardly wait for him to come, but everybody was so kind and helped me out. I'll tell you how I spent the day. In the morning there was a sale of tatting linens, brass and wool, made at an industrial school in Shanghai. I picked up a few things pretty for presents, including a brass double inkwell, pen-footed stand, and paper cutter, probably for E-- Three who were Spanish, but he does use his desk so much that I wanted it to be nice.

After early tea Mrs. Aug. and I went to play Rock. She had invited the Smart's for tee, and it began to rain very hard, so that there was nothing to do. She, they said, that my mind was at the foot of the mountain, so I left forgetting to play. At noon Mrs. Smart had good luck to the telephone office and had telephoned to us if Mr. E had come but no word. By 7:20 no word had come, also we had left word for them to telephone if Ellion came and I was so disappointed that I walked over again, in the dark. Also I felt that it was too late to do anything. In my grand piano box, I found that a message had just been received, and E was on the way from the Plain up here.

When I got back I found Mrs. Smart sent a note, ready to start off to telephone again, for fear that he would be unwell. Wasn't he good? They heard myLV a long time they did in the evening. They knew that the time would be long, and so they invited...
several people in for games. We played 'Up Jenkins' and then Mr. Smart sang and played card when the party broke up at nearly 11.30. They played golf with me until I heard Ellison's call. It was 11.55. Before he reached the house and then someone came along to show the cowboys the way, 32 people came up the hill that evening, and so the men were unfamiliar with the hill and the house.

It was this way, the roads are perfectly easy until we reach houses; then the separate and scatter all over the place and one could spend hours going from one place to another. The cowboys did not understand the district as he did not understand Texas. It is called the California cattle valley, and I heard it also he was a long way off. Then he said the cowboys talked and went another until old S. Davis in July got up, dressed, and showed them the way.

The Smarts (althea redo not board here) had prepared a lock net bunch for me. This certainly made the desert people.

Shay had a very bad cold beginning Monday, but Dr. MacKenzie gave me some very good medicine that broke it up immediately. It seemed marvelous.

There is snow, trek over since this week and could nearly 80. 50 recently. That is pretty good I think.

I told you, I guess, that E and I talked nearly until daylight the night he came. I certainly was glad to see him and he stayed here too. We was very well and had lost 10 or 15 lbs. I think but still the doctor about to give him medicine he hadn't seen him since before he went to California. He looked much better by Thursday and will begin to gain flesh right away, I am sure, if he had not lost so already. We met an old man on the long trip up the coast but stayed in bed most of the time because it was most comfortable there - no good chairs.
We played tennis yesterday and just escaped a heavy shower. We were thankful to get the game in, for several people did not get to play at all, although they had been waiting for a chance at the courts. That shower has brought in a heavy mist which is not very pleasant. And the weather has been very uncomfortable indeed since the peak of my tale when it was so very hot. We have lived a blanket every night since then.

We had tea with the Hilons (we came out same year with us and whom I had met at district yesterday). Friday evening and the Pears' and the Peck's had dinner with the Blacks who came out on the Tennyson Maure with us in 1913.

It is very pleasant for Ellission (and permet) to meet all these people. They are a very interesting and unconventional and it will do us good.

Along with me including Dr. Mackenzie and Henrietta are on a week's hunting trip, and their wives are having a party of some kind every day. Tomorrow Mr. Mackenzie entertains and Mrs. Jane guest of honor. Each one is to bring a covered dish and know what it contains until the thing is opened on the table. Mrs. Mackenzie serves dessert, butter, salt, pepper, water...

Must go to dinner - goodbye.

Flora

We had a lovely musical lesson, and this week is to be full of good times. Ellission is so enjoying talking to the men about their work.

Nice letter from Mother and Carol came Saturday. So glad to hear.

Hope all are well.

With love love love,

Lottie.
Dear Ruth,

You don’t know what a God-send that belt and necktie are. I am sure you ridiculed yourself, but I put them on the day they came. The belt just makes a couple dresses that needed a final touch to take off the country look, and the short one necktie. Thank you so very much.

Congratulations on new position! Fine!

Love to all—Lottie.
Rockport
Budapest
Kolozsvar
Moldova


Well, these missionaries are jolly people. While eight of the men are out hunting the women are having a gay time each day, and it was the day for Mrs. MacKenzie to entertain. Each guest was to bring a covered dish, and Mrs. MacKenzie was to furnish the dessert and ices. The guests invited Elyon and me and so we decided to dress him as " Widow Riddle." He had on a primrose combination of Mrs. MacKenzie's and a white dress she has the gap in the back covered with a black ribbon bow. I put a pair of white stockings on the tie, so that he could wear them with his big black ground griffins. A white napkin encircled his ankles and small ruffles of lace on the stocking. He tied a beautiful blue ribbon around his head and had a lovely braid and false hair in front. Really it was a good make-up — nearly good enough for a college play. When he came to the door with his covered dish Mrs. Kim was really deceived for a moment and wondered who it was.

On the pie was cotton wool, but underneath that was a nice layer of brownies and you can imagine what fun we had cutting it and finally discovering something good after all! It was real fun!

The dishes proved to be the following:

- Scalloped salmon
- Tomato
- Hot biscuit
- Scalloped salmon (a little differently, however)
- Creamed asparagus (browned)
- It rather leaves me to buy things when we are paying 75c or each in France.
- Olive jelly salad
- Nuts
- Crackers or cheese
- Ice cream-cake
- Brownies.
Of course nobody knew that anybody else would bring except that I and I had to
confide in Mrs. MacKenzie about ours.

There has been heavy rain to-day, so that we
played North after the luncheon.

Now it is clear and beautiful, and the beautiful
white clouds lie in layers like billows over the
plain. It is very lovely to look at.


I meant to write a little every day but you
are from Monday to Thursday. I am not stumped

You see, Tuesday and Wednesday were
Sunday School Days.


Again you get proof your jolly life here. The
time just flies away.

Well East Tuesday being S.S. day, we had
yacht sports and they were well worth watching.
There were races and dives, and a clever dressed in
red and yellow helped to encourage things and
amuse the kiddies. He would jump into the
water at most unexpected times. Almost always
pretending he was pushed in; it was usually
funny when his open umbrella went in, too.

They had blindfold races, and girls carried on
their backs carrying umbrellas, and men had to swim
under water, and beside him seeing how long they
could stay under.

That afternoon we played tennis with the MacKintoshes,

and then had supper with the Wessels. Mrs. Wessell
is a lovely 19 year girl and knows MacKintosh Allyn.

Wednesday Am. I ironed a dress and had
callers then in the afternoon they had the
rest of the S.S. picnic consisting of tea and
sports on the tennis courts.

They are here several very tall men

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Mrs. Nylbent

Mr. Tidblom: The people got them in the center of a three-legged race.

Elliss and Mrs. Nylbent went into it together, and fell down and made fun for the crowd.

On Thursday we played doubles and had tennis with the blacks in the afternoon. All our spare time this week has been spent helping the S.S. teachers

and Tidblom's Sunday evening. They decided to have field and track sports. The sports were divided into three teams: the red, green, and blue

sox. Each one had the appropriate colored sock turned up for them in the camp, and a pennant given them. These sox and pennants were

made. Then they had the separate events.

The back yard dash.

The men had to hang clothing on a clothes line

with neatness and dispatch.


2. The high jump. At one time

four people had to jump, and this added

the longest and highest notes they could reach.

3. Hammer throw.

Four men had to drive nails in order to

make a hatchet out of two pieces of wood

drum in this and came back third.

4. 220 yard dash.

They had to eat a long string the other end of which was held by ladies.

Could not use hands.

etc. etc.
Signs were up all over the room to represent it as a park called Killcary Park. Elliston was the policeman in khaki suit all whipped out to make him fat, and with a belt and pistol. They had signs up like this:

"Tell your troubles to the policeman, we have enough of your own,"

Park and Sanitation Committee.

"Don't feed the animals or the park policeman."

"Don't tickle the rhinoceros."

"Ban in the rear" (at back door).

"Check room" over our door.

"No betting allowed" — etc. etc.

These were funny and clever and caused a lot of fun.

One of this was one:

"See the movies 5 night — 4 each —

Alice in Wonderland

The Chambermaid's Revenge

Diamond Dick

The Enchanted Beer Bottle"

Really, they were killing and you can imagine what a good time we had. This took about all of Saturday — making delicious lemonade flavored with pineapple and peaches — and sandwiches — and decorating etc.

On Friday — we had tennis with the Clearys, and then supper with the Bromleys — other choir rehearsal.
Even after choir, we talked with Braslaws some more, and finally took a beautiful walk with the almost full moon streaming down over the valley and mountains— one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen.

Well we were late to bed that night.

We are feeling fine, and getting lots of inspiration as well as fun and good health.

Immediately now—our letters are being forwarded, but I have not received many of them yet. So I'll not stop to comment.

Hugs of love to you all.

Sottie.

Three things you sent me (Ruthe) have been just a God-send. - Lou
Rockport:

Mokanshan
August 15, 1916

Dear Ones, 

Well, has Marion had a nice birthday this week? I certainly hope so and I both thought of you and were glad that there was still a good-looking moon to help out.

A nice lot of mail came this week and brought us cheer. Dr. Newman remailed it from Swatson but wasn't sure enough to put on extra postage to the amount of 50 cents. Entirely unnecessary.

I was so glad to hear from Ruth. How you all looked. How nice it is to have the kitchen cabinet and such a lovely one at that! I certainly must save a lot of stove.

Aug. 19, 1916

A rainy day— the rainiest of the season, Win and I are in the church practicing for a concert next week. Really in this place one scarcely realizes one is in China. There are over 3000 Americans here and the houses are very American—also once again we see real American stores & kitchen arrangements.

The summer, however, is drawing to a close— and soon we shall be starting back refreshed by the change. People say that August (altho' it has been very nice and cool here) has been very hot on the plain.

Do you realize that it is only three years from next spring when we are due to come home. There has come talk of having shorter furloughs come more frequently, and ahh! I don't think there is much hope that it will go into effect very soon. It might possibly— so we'll keep well and happy to our coming.

This week has been quite full. Elliston has told of the rather big reception the McKenzie's
gave us on Thursday evening. Yesterday was a rather free day after the festivities. Mrs. Smart and I visited the little kindergarten class that Mrs. Bromley had been holding. Four or five little children played such cute games. You see, Mrs. Bromley is a genius at kindergarten work. She has no children, but had adopted a little Chinese girl, and is training her in model fashion. All the furniture in the child's room suit her size and is arranged so that it can be changed as the child grows older and bigger.

Her good training sometimes shows out at peculiar times. This little Chinese child was invited out to a little party at Mrs. McKenzie's. When Miss Mack put something on the table, a little liquid dropped on her finger, and she licked it in fun. Pearl said, "It isn't polite to lick your finger." She has a delicious lock and the very pretty temples.

I strained so hard that I stayed awhile and listened to Mrs. Bromley and heard her sing some very pretty songs. Later Ellerson and I went over the house which Mrs. Bromley planned. It is very clever in every way. One thing I liked very much was Mrs. Bromley's bed, which has a drawer beneath it and a place for shoes, which you know are always getting in the way.
Tues. Aug. 22. Cool and comfortable. At lady's confinement. Such lovely letter from Nellie Cile and the family came Sunday. And I set right down and read it out loud to Ellison—all this me getting late for tea. It was so nice to hear word from all, and much for several days in succession. I was glad that Geneva arrived safely and Etta and family. I was glad to have Clarence note.

Joe had it was as hot about July 16. I think it is very hot here at the same time.

How I should like to see Carol's dances and the pretty things she made at school.

You are all so very good to write. Hope John will get my vacation. It seems fine for George to have his Saturdays.

He wrote how happy Father is with all the music that you must be having.

The Smuts had the Mamitha, the Browns and us in to supper last night, and we had a lovely supper and nice music.

Fried chicken
Creamed potatoes
Rice
Spiced potatoes Southern style
Creamed mmm with cheese
Gnawed peas
Pumpkin pie, cheese, straw
Kisses—coffee

Sunday eve, they had the regular evenings, with violin showed, and other songs. It is very nice.

Saturday night, they had a big New England dinner about 70 there.

Broiled beef and brown bread, pickles, olives, Pumpkin, pie and cheese, Coffee and doughnuts.
Afterward they had games—etc. There was a contest in Mother Goose Rhymes—like a spelling match which was a lot of fun.

Well, I feel as if I have given you a very jumbled idea of what we are enjoying.

My plan is to start down the magwan by Sept. 1. I will make a week or ten days by B. the stations and then land at Shanghai with a few days to see dentists and buy supplies before I start south.

Ethen and Gus have taken a house for next year and want us to come buy again. I shall think it over, but I think it will be too expensive. It would like awfully much to do it.

I am not finding the pretty little mansions here that I found at Canton.

How much love to you each one individually.

I am so glad that Ruth has joined the church and I made that Carol would come at the same time and George and John too. All the more joining was not by important as losing—And it helps.

Love again.

Letter.

I haven't answered the letters yet. I'll try to on our trip home if not before.

Our cook wants to leave when we go back. It also have to start in with a new boy.
Mokena, Aug. 25, 1916

Dear Ones,

It was so nice to get the Robin letter straight from the Sunday dinner when you had fifteen at the table. That sure was adorable times! And it was nice to have the letter come by way of Shanghai instead of by sweater. How nice that you could all be together and how nice that Etta can give as much pleasure with her car. I do hope that you will all be benefited by the change and good times.

Now to-morrow is Ruth's birthday and we shall be thinking of her, and hope that she will have as good a time as Carol did.

It was so nice to have Blair's and Esther's notes in the letter and also Ruth Benson, for she added a little at Bridgewater.

Yesterday began the conference of East China missionaries and as we received an invitation yesterday, I attended this morning. As they had four-minute reports from each group of workers, it was intensely interesting and helpful to us. Our stations in South China are very much undemanded compared to East China. They have very many more single workers, very many more doctors, and more families. They have no stations with only one family in it, as we have. Really it is amazing to compare them.

Later, we are going out for supper to-night with the stars and to-morrow night at the Nyberts.

Last evening, the "Spooks" had a good time. They sent out black band notices telling the boarding mistresses to have some food hidden around their premises. At 7:30 we all came around and hunted for it. In one place we found it in the oven of the stove. In another place there were tenders in four packages hidden in the porch screen, the same beside a hat, a corner of the floor, under a frosted door. We finally gathered together a
nice dinner and went to the house of
Dr. Leach to eat it and play games.
It is so nice to be in a gay going crowd
again. I tell you it is fun! And it is a
little substitute for not being home. Nothing
of course in the world could compare with
the good times we have together in Cape Ann.

On Wednesday evening came the big annual
concert, and we all enjoyed that very much.
The violin music was especially lovely.
There was one obligato to "Mighty Like a Bee"
that entranced us. (It is Melba's Elephants-
taken from a Victrola record).

There were several parodies with local
kits that caused much enjoyment.

Sunday.

Last week was unusually cool so that we
needed two blankets at night, and a sweater
sometimes in the day-time; although the sun was
shining brightly. It was like summer at
home and we surely did enjoy it!
Yesterday it began to be warm again and 8-day
also.

The cultures who came up from Canton
like the place so much that they have taken
a cottage for next summer and hope to
persuade Mr. and Mrs. Allen and Dr. Marvin
to come up.
The Reeds have also taken a house
and they want us to have a room in it.
I should like to do it, but it is so
expensive! However, we are going to
make a careful estimate and consider it, for
it is worth a good deal to see so many
people and get the help from exchange of
ideas about work.

There are more flowers and more birds here than
in the South.
It was fine to hear of Gene and the red suit. I pray I may see you!

Darling dear, have the rheumatism aches gone or are they hanging on? Hope that they have left you surely!

I saw of Mrs. Cushman had trouble with Mrs. Shaw. It is a shame.

Was Carol at camp while Ruth was on vacation?

Who is Mr. Reinhold Speck? I don't like his name and I don't like his business and I don't want him to have anything to do with Carol.

Please do call on the Wildwoods this summer when they come to Rocky Neck if you possibly can.

How nice it must be to have that McNeil fence down.

Good Papa has sold the apples.

Mother dear, you keep that muslin waist; for I don't wear blouses and skirts very much. I'd like to have you send it.

Hope Uncle George is feeling better.

Father dear, I remember John Lelly and was glad to hear of him.

You are good for letter-writing. This letter of mine is no good. There is not anything to write about at present.

The letters of Ruth that Jennie sent are good.

They are enuf mosquitoes left to bite my feet now and I have to keep my feet snuggling all the time.

Good Night and Much for all.

Sallie.
Dear Ruth,

These daily letters from Lola's clerk mean so much to me. I follow them along with the calendar and my diary. How lovely to have the auto rides! I was so glad Charlie could be done, too.

I am so sorry that the Wildcats went away when you called. Hope you will be able to try again.

Of course we did not see the eclipse of July. There just was beautiful moonlight.

Jennie is a peach to take the pictures. There couldn't be a nicer Christmas present.

Carol's menu and sketches of center pieces helped me to picture the big dinner. The little boy, Ben, was fascinated. I am sending you a little duch corduroy bag now to go with it. Did you ever see that shoulder cloak?

It was so nice, Ruth, to hear of the old friends whom you and Marian met.

Yes, Elizabeth Colby Adams any more children?

Muriel, Elta could see Blanche's mother when she is near Wolfboro.

Thank you, Marian, dear, for nice letter of July 7. Yes, we took citronella and it helps except when flies get too thick. Our can't rove an extraallow. This song "Mother" I heard the Kenneth McKenzie. It must be lovely!

I didn't realize that Hingham was so near Boston. When will Papa take his vacation? Hope it will be a mine one.

Yes, the children are very happy to get the toy cards. They always try for them on the store.

Undoubtedly Chester Butman is at home? I've blinds yet on our house yet?

Was Miss Carpenter of Bakersfield, the teacher of Eng.
Who helped Ruth so much, or often need to be?  
Did my letter written in the yachting on the way to Shanghai reach you safely?  
Who is Mary Jenney? Is she a new girl?  
Shall be glad to hear of hospital fate and Ruth's baptism. Wish Carol had gone with her.

Hope Lucile has not had a bad attack of measles or after effects. Should like to see the new ring.

Had a lovely letter from Charleston and another from England innerland in July. 
Wish I could make myself write more.

Glad to hear of Ruth B's good record, and her music lessons. Her note of June 29 much appreciated.

Wish I could have seen Ruth's exhibit.

Very much love to all letter.

I expect to loan mountain Sept 4, as conference is late, and I cannot ill loan before. We shall make short tours of stations, and hope to reach Shanghai by Sept 16. Very much love.