Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Series:  I. Correspondence

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Folder label:  ESH and LLH to/from siblings of LLH

Dates:  1916-1923

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Dear George,

Am I at last going to write this long-delayed letter to you? I hope so, for I have long wanted to, but it is almost too good to be true.

Your last letter contained a letter from John—a good one—and a picture of吕家, both of which I was very glad to receive.

Nov 17. Sun. Well, I did not get very far that day, did I? Now Sunday has come. Ellison has gone off to Phang Khoai to baptize a boy or young man, and soon I must be starting across the river for church. I have just been trying to picture what the ocean and sky at home look like to day, and whether all the leaves are off the trees yet. There is one tree near here whose leaves have turned reddish. I look at it very often with joy. It is the first tree in China whose leaves have turned color (reddish) in the fall. And I have been thinking how nice ... cranberry sauce is!!! How it used to be good!

Our coolie is still sick. When Dr. Lohner looked at him last week he found that he was suffering with malaria, and so now we have hope of his recovery. His son pretends to do his work, but he doesn't succeed very well. His son had the nerve to call a Chinese doctor to see the old man this week. Think of that! Chinese doctors!!! You would be interested to know about them—but there may turn
I was the year the Summit House burned and the head of the house, after the fire, went down to New York. It was only to say that the medical knowledge is nil.

You have succeeded in using the scar we gave you better than anyone else we have given them to. I wonder if it is because you remember to use it each time of using.

Your letter of Oct. 3 - in which you spoke of your starting for China arrived on the day when we had been here just three years. I think you planned well. I am so glad that you boys can get down to see Ruth so easily. Hope you will see her often.

Sorry you have had trouble with your teeth again. I shall look forward to a letter about the hunt of Octobers.

Your trip up the White Mts. Washington must have been wonderful. I never have been there.

I don't know that I ever acknowledged the stamps that you sent me in the letter written Aug 8. Thank you very much. I am sorry that it was so much bother that you don't want to try it again, for I would gladly buy for you. If your boys wanted to make out a list of people to whom you wanted to make presents for Xmas 1917 - for instance, with a general idea of what each name showing about how much you wanted to spend, then I should be very glad to pick out things for you. I can get cheap or expensive things.

I can't realize that you are 27 either. Thank you so much for those two pretty little
yellow birds. Everybody admires them, and we enjoy them very much. And I thank you boys very much for the present which Mother bought and let you send—the nice dress. You know I opened it because we have so much hot weather here that I thought I had better get some use out of it this fall. I certainly was very much pleased and am very grateful. There is nothing like having a dress "from America" in this land. It does look so nice, and feel so nice, and smell so nice—nothing oriental about it.

I am sorry to write any more about Carol's tuition, but I must confess I want to know a little more. You write,

"About Carol's tuition—don't worry anymore as it is all paid now."

Do you think that is very full information? I am led to think that you paid it, but a letter from Mother about that time says; "We have got to pay C's tuition now sure. I am glad Pa has the money, even tho' he changed mortgage on Poplar Court House to get it—must be paid before June 1st?"

Private now, dear, will you write me promptly and answer these questions directly:

1. Did you promise me to pay C's tuition for any definite period of time? In case you did not promise what did you say?
2. Have you paid one year's tuition?

3. Did I ever pay any tuition for you, when I was under a debt of $9.30. And not allowing myself to buy even 50 cents worth of candy a year, because I thought I must save every penny toward the debt and yours and Ruth's educations?

4. Have you saved any money in any bank except the Co-operative since you have been working, and if so, how much?

Please do answer these definitely and tell me of your affairs and hopes, so that I may sympathize with you and advise you, too, if you are willing to take any advice.

You see I have not mentioned the $125.00 which I had hoped you would raise toward the $350. mortgage on our house—the mortgage which makes my end of $600 for mother's support almost worthless! It is enough to make me worry a little.

I paid a big price for saving that money, George. My baby might have lived if I had been younger married. My grief and loneliness you have realized. I knew.

And, dear, are you doing all you at for father and mother? I keep thinking and thinking. What
can I do to make Mother and Father more comfortable and happy?" I haven't succeeded in doing anything yet, but I have talked my brains to think of something I could do at this distance and with the limited amount of money I can use. I know I shall wake up some day and think, "Oh, I might have done this or done that," and perhaps I shall have no chance. They have done so much for us! We cannot be too grateful. Mother has only old clothes to wear, hasn't she? When did she have her last new silk dress or suit? I have wondered if she needs that back cement porch that we spoke of so often before I left. Does she need the blinds painted and put on the house? Is there some comfort in the way of electricity or kitchen improvements or anything in your power to do?

If you want real true happiness now and in the future, I know that you will agree with me, that it comes from denying self to give to others. I can't tell you how much joy it has given me to think of the bathroom and furnace in which I had a share. Do write me fully about these things and frankly and talk the matter over with Ruth. She has a big burden and has shouldered it and is shouldering it so nobly!

Now very much love to you.

[Signature]
My dear Carol:—

Your good letter written on the 29th arrived the other day along with one from George and a card by from Marion Seer—having had the very best family that ever was.

So you didn't receive my letter telling of getting a warrant. I'm a corporal now. I've been for over two months now. In that letter I copied off the warrant I received. I'll show it to you when I get home. Of course being a corp in this outfit is nothing wonderfull, it's not because I am any good as a soldier, but only that...
and theater in her letters she is always staying in helping her mother. In all this, she is very written her, once in the last two months but numbered my letter from 2 to 5 or six so she can think some went down.

In her last she said Doris the kid wrote asked me to send her a silk handkerchief. Some new last night I was down town and bought a couple and enclosing one for you and one for mother and one for Ena if she wants one. They ain't much good. Just a little suchness. And also making one of those two frame rings for you. Carol haven't finished yet so may not be able to put in this envelope but will send it soon some time before July 11th. I wish I was with Daley as much that I wish I could stay for you and my whole months stay in July 11th.

I was a little letter motorcycle-farman then the printer. That's what its supposed to mean, but most of the fellows say it isn't what you know but who you know. They get on the warrant. To accold that some of the birds that have sergeants are more gotten to being good friends. I've taught how then one sergeant a thing or two since I've been working regular Bill that hard. ain't?

Carol your letter kind of puzzled me when you told of how last for played you dirt? If he has any luck some one is going to get it when we get back. Don't worry about him. Carol wait till you go to that college next fall. I'll you'll meet some one that really comes some where near your level. Sin wasn't kind of part good enough for you. Think glad you enclosed that letter from girl that sure shows she's going out every night to dances
and after paying my bills for last month to Rich and Guy only about 15 francs left it eats into the little roll. They cook us for everything too those damn little doge cost 50 cts apiece. Last night I wanted something to eat and saw some apples and as we throw away at home little tiny things half-bitten asked how much, picked out four little ones and wanted a franc, think 50 cts a piece. I bought a couple of small oranges for a franc a dime a piece. It's the same way with every thing. They think we are all millionaries, you see their soldiers get 5 cents a day and we get a dollar ten or more. I get 10.60 a month now.

We had our pictures taken a couple weeks ago by a Frenchman. He was funny the way he tried to pose us Rick and Guy and I we finally got one taken. Then going down this afternoon to see if they are fine.
On Active Service
WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

-rshed. That was for you to send, slow good night, your love wants 15 days.
To develop a dozen pictures I guess
So guys are getting their more work then the enemy had before
The other night the borrowed bike
and rode way out in the country
I told you in an old letter of walking
To a town north of here.
Today I rode and rode to the next village
It's great to be able to get out on the road and see the real French country, with the little farm houses with the mule or cows and chickens looking out of one clog of the one and the pretty French girls or the old women or men looking out of the next. Barn and notice all the chicken, ducks, pigs etc. wait there...
leaving a funny looking foot
standing where once was a nice
tree but its good in a way kind
of "not killing the grove that lays
the golden egg" you know for
it wont long before the tree sprouts
out and grows once more along
the road and passes hundreds of
Willows turned down to their stems
and others all branched out like
this

And the gate you'd have to laugh
at too! so old fashioned
you see the docks adjoin it so
that turns easier
Told you in the last letter we
were to have Sundays off didn't
I well today is the first. I slept
th' breakfast every morning
as we got up we used to tell of
how long we were going to sleep
when we got home today we had

To the back yard or to this part
of the house, and then there's
always that pool of dishwater
out in front, it wouldn't feel any
if it wasn't dirty slow a hundred
years behind the times, a big city
as big as Gloucester with no drags
except the gutters of the streets for
the dish water and swell and an
old iron barrel under the boiler
some place this France but
Some place the French feel
I believe me its going to be a
different place after the old US
colden and engines are hard
along, they put the snap in a ton
in this time
One thing you would notice if you
came to France you'd wonder
what kind of trees it was that
grew so funny along the road
you see they took all the fire
wood they can get so they trim
down the trees to the very trunk
a chance to try it out. There was one fellow slept till about 8.30.
I got up a bit after breakfast about 6.30 I guess.

Rick and Carl are down playing tennis. Does that sound like being soldiers? You see the General issued a court and gave those two permission to use it this morning.

Carl is a peach of a fellow from California. Hopkins Lin hemat is Rick and I are planning to cross the country on motors after this war to see him.

You say you are reading this at evening post. go, watch for Irving Cobb's stories. He is a colonel in the navy and went through our ships the other day. He may write a story on it.

They're great the way you illustrate your letters. I saw Bill in town at an old one at the 'Y.' The other night Patricia and I met a couple of your girls. It was great to see again.

Oceans of love to you Kay.

John
Dear Marion,

Please excuse the abruptness of my note the other day, but there was no more time. And I guess there is not much more to-day, but I want to send lots of love, and mention my appreciation of my time with you. It was a rare opportunity and I am glad for every minute of it. Wish I could have finished Polly's deco and done more. It was so nice to be with the children. Dick was so especially nice to me that I want him to know that I appreciate it. Wish I and Frank could have seen Baby, but their day will come later. So glad they are earning.

Baby has been good. Thank you so much for taking me to the station.

Now Missie loves to you all.

Because you the money in one of these two ways, don't you.

Much love to each of the children and big hugs to yourself.

Sottie

Sunday Dec. 22 1916
Dear John,

I am nearly standing on my head because it is so rough, but I am going to write you a little note.

It is Friday or Saturday. I don't know which, but I know that we ought to be close to Yokohama and instead we are 1100 miles away on account of rough weather. Such big waves and seas as he has had! I have not been at all sick since the first few hours, but Ellis has felt fairly miserable all the time and has been quite sick at the roughest times. One woman fell down this AM on her head and a woman was unconscious from the fall. Another woman fell out of her chair in the dining room. You can imagine a number of days ago. That we are rather careful of the children under the circumstances.
The boat is very comfortable. At the front part of the upper deck there is a protecting frame with lots of removable glass windows. At the back end of the upper deck, is a smoking porch, partly enclosed, but wide open in both so that one can sit much as in an observation car, and enjoy the waves without the wind.

John dear, you shouldn't have sent us such a wonderful present. It was altogether too much for you to do. I surely appreciate too much for you to do your thoughtfulness, and your willingness to do this when you need so much for yourself. I shall be interested to hear your plans.

I suppose that you missed the last train away the motorcycle by now. I hope that the winter will not be too hard for Daddy. It is hard for us to realize how cold and stormy it may be at home. For when the atmosphere is so girlfriend, one has quit and on until today, except the three or four days after leaving San Francisco.

Jan. 1, 1921. I know the date today, you see.

We are having it a little less rough, and a little cooler today. John is asleep, and so is Alice. Ellinor is figuring, but says he can't think, can just work mechanically on this boat.

Well they had a gay time last evening with matching the old year out. One so sleepy that I went to bed and did not hear the whistling and tooting at midnight.

There was lots of champagne drinking too, no liquor seems to be allowed on the high seas. Well, thank you again John, for your nice presents for us all.
Love to Gertrude and to yourself.

Lottie.
Oct. 8, 1922

Dear, dear Nahnia, 

It was so good of you to write me from Shinghen. And I have not yet thanked you for the very pretty hanky you sent me. It goes adorably with my suit and I like it immensely. It was nice, too, to have it on my birthday in Peking. I have been wondering whether the weather was unbearably hot as you stayed on in Shinghen. I do so hope not, for it does make one feel so lifeless and good for nothing.

I am so very glad that you got help from Mrs. French and I do hope that you will be permanently
to it at first except as I looked more lovingly at Ellien and the children, and thought more longingly of you folks at home. I mentioned to Ellien, but I did not speak of it more than once altho it kept recurring and I kept wondering about it, and then when I found I had to come to Peking, I was quite certain that that might be the fulfillment — you can imagine how doubly hard it was to leave the children with that fear in my heart. Yet I found myself getting into such a nervous state and so fearful of everything and always looking for possible help. I can't tell you how concerned I have been that you have been there so much. How gladly anyone of us would have saved you from it if we could have! But it is like your own brave self to keep on fighting and struggling until you gained the victory — at least the upper hand which will insure victory in the end.

I am had a little mental battle with myself which ended in an unexpected victory, and which I will mention merely because it may be of little use to you. Ever since going I have had more or less persistently a premonition that I should soon die. I did not pay much attention...
accident, that I began to realize that the nervous fear was not preparing me for the dreaded separation, but merely unfilling me for any courageous meeting of events. So finally one night I faced it and I questioned with myself what were these nervous fears and I faced them finally and with tears streaming down my face (for it was very real). I finally admitted that I could care for the children and loved ones if it was God's will. Well, the actual fight was almost as difficult as the real thing might have been, but having once faced it and fought with the unreasoning fear, I felt as if a great burden had been lifted from my soul. I knew I could meet what would come, but the very ability destroyed the fear. It was a most interesting psychological phenomenon.

Altho I had been so nervous during the operation on my nose that my hands shook all the time and I was cold all over, I went to the second operation without a quiver, and convinced I have felt a new courage. I began to realize that I had had no strange experience, but an experience that comes to almost everyone who is to
for your wonderful life of generous giving and sacrifice. Don’t let down humanity, give and comfort from the resources which the family and community can see such an individual as you are in trouble and never can be such another dear. Ambition and pride will not drive him from his peaceful and quiet life. Try to get back to that calmness and quiet. And so I have told you this hoping that Mrs. French and your new attitude of peace and calm can take hold of your soul, and if by any chance you fall back for a time, remember that I am daily praying God that He will enfold you in His peace and calm, and give you only a measure of the blessings you deserve.
and trust us for using the same judgment in trying to care for you which we expect you to use for yourself. Home must not overdo—no one must worry. Do keep us in touch with your feelings. It is a safety valve to let them out and express them. And please do keep me in touch with Marion's affairs. I do very little about her—fear her burden is sometimes too heavy to bear. How Sarah is getting on? How is Dick getting on? Do you planning for further education? 

Now very very much for you,

Lottie.
Dear Mahnie, 

I have been meaning to write you especially, but have found it hard to get time with so much confusion around the house.

The workmen are inside now working on ceiling and walls and we have to take all the furniture from one room and pack it in the other two.

How are you sleeping now? And just how are you feeling? Do tell me in detail.

The letter you sent Oct. 6, instead of arriving at Thanksgiving time arrived Nov. 6. Wasn't that good? I hope you all will be with Ruth at Thanksgiving.

John insists on sending flowers by the moon for so long some nights, that I can't watch him. He loves to see you don't buy on Alice's suggestions. She can still wear her white conundry coat this winter, but next winter this will be even more a necessity. Oh, it will be so nice and surely is a gift for two Christmases.

What do you want to say? Dear Mahnie, John said just now and he quickly replied, "Thank you for making our Christmas!"
I was so grateful for Della's good letter and yours with it. It surely was a pleasure to receive it. And the nice toy came yesterday P.M. I am saving it for John's birthday next week. He will be awfully pleased.

Thank you for the copy of Della's letter to you. I was also glad to get that and see the letters from Mary, Ruth, and Edith.

It was too bad that you should lose any of Jennie's visit. I am glad you got back in time to get a glimpse of the kittens. It was too bad that the talk with Mr. French was not satisfactory, but it is not strange. I have had lots of new ideas within the last few months, but when I try to express them in words tocliffe for instance, they sound very ordinary. However, it is the new meaning to the old words that counts.

Mosk, I have always insisted— are very poor mediums of expression, although the I recognize that they are very very clear, and I have no better suggestion. Still

the content of our minds cannot be fully ex-
come at the crucial time to help another in his time of crisis. Your whole life, it seems to me, has been a succession of putting yourself in to help someone else along, or out of a difficulty.

Please always tell me when there is duty on a parcel and how much it is. I need to know than not spend your Kshs. with yet. I am very slow at carrying out orders. Have it on a list to be done however.

I shall be sending a birthday present before very long—much less full of love because it comes from U.S.A. I thought a long time before deciding and I do hope that it will give you pleasure. I enjoy it so very much.

I hope the cold you mentioned in the letter of Sept. 20 did not last long. They do make you feel so miserable.

I hope you will not be ashamed of the few things I sent Della. I did not know whether they were too poor to send a note and would like to tell me frankly if you see them. I know you to tell me frankly if you see them. I know that you to tell me frankly if you see them. I know that some of them are dull, but I mean force about the dress. I hope to start some kindergarten work with John after Pm, 

Fri., July 11, 1927.
Allen Marion;

Your check book was one of the presents that pleased me most of all. The necktie was nice too, and with all the other things you gave us I feel entirely unworthy. But that check book has permanent value, and long after the other things are worn out, I expect to treasure that and perhaps imitate it in gifts to some of my friends.

If my memory serves me you were present at the send-off that the Rockport church gave us (at the cost of considerable time and trouble to both you and Tom). The send-off given us by the churches at Holyoke and Oakland were in no way inferior to it in any respect. But I really think that I shall remember longer the little reception you arranged for
It seems as though I have written this before, but if so, maybe it will stand the repetition for it is still true. That of course is one of the advantages of telling the truth — that you don’t have to keep a card index of the various fibs told to various people in order to make future ones agree with them.

I have just been looking at a list that was written in a Rolodex-type notebook and I found in it a note from your thank you letter thanking me to thank another for her invitation to come to 4 to say goodbye to us, etc., etc.

I suspect that your mother must have brought this notebook along and given it to Lottie; that Lottie that you had just sent her another small present and tucked it into the baggage somewhere; that later when she wanted to make a list she found the book and put the list on the first blank page; and that if I hadn’t consulted the list it might have been yet some time before I realized your note.

Just before I told me on her arrival at Halyoke that your mother was coming to see us off and also that you and Tom were planning to do so. I was glad
And you escaped that worry by not coming to it to see no.I will send mother your thanks.

But while I am speaking of that I want to mention that I have never adequately thanked you for all you did for us this summer, including (among other things) the privilege of using your house in August. The privilege of stopping there 1 or 2 or 3 times (as well as at meal #) and the privilege of running in to spend the night even after the family had gone to bed. I haven't any way, now, of thanking you adequately but do want to tell you again that I appreciated it.

Please tell Tom that I wish I could talk with that man in the office again for I wouldn't admit that the example of Japan proved so much. I have learned more about Japan since that conversation.

Please give my love to Tom and also to D. J. and P. If you ever get down to Angeles ask her to let you see "The Real Mother Goose" and look up "Tommy Smokes" in about the middle of the book. Every time Johnson sees the picture he says "Cowboy & Jane."

Lovingly yours
Allison
May 16, 1923

Dear Marion,

I am ashamed not to have written you often. I don’t know how long this letter has been addressed with Alix and John’s thank you for the lovely things you sent. And I hope when written Polly about that beautiful handkerchief. I think it is pretty and I appreciate it.

By overlooking this letter, I have been able to add two snapshots which I think are very decent. One is too amiable of me, but I was thinking of
Ellison is in Shanghai.

I haven't been relieved of correcting English essays and so have had a holiday this week at school, and so have had a little more time than usual.

Mrs. Leech comes and Main Bossy and I go at a tea party to-morrow P.M. and gives luncheon party the next day. I am glad, for because the people whom I was having it especially...
it must have been very hard for you.
Children are well and both send love.

Had some very interesting calls among the people on Tuesday AM. I also visited a temple where the folks were so crowded I could scarcely push my way in. The smoke from burning joss sticks was like a cloud outside. Whole table was covered with food brought to the gods, and fire crackers were going off incessantly.

I am so glad that am better.

Comes back on Sundays.
What an interesting call you had on Madge Haskell Perhaps she sent me the booklet from Basin Montana. It was most helpful and interesting.
American Board Compound

Mrs. Marion,

This is a beautiful Sunday morning. The sun is streaming into my little room and at 10:40 I am beginning to write. When I should have begun an hour ago, if I had not stopped for some Victrola music, then read in the paper an account of the Tokyo earthquake by Dr. M. Cole of Columbia University, and quite a few pages in Glover’s book, “Jesus in the Experience of Men.” It is a helpful book. I do enjoy the holidays of these convalescent days very much, for they give me this time to browse around and get some of the reading I always long to get when I am abroad. These books are. I always go down early for meals and read some in J. Arthur Thomson’s “Outlines of Science.”
It just about wrote on a card as a blank case - I mean my idea was to write once every other day but sometimes I just didn’t have any time. I know you always feel you have to write as much as possible. I don’t know how to do it. I try to do it and I always feel I am writing too much. I have not found the right way to do it.

I am going to write more letters now that I am getting used to it. I find it hard to keep the flow of words going. I tried it in 1912. Maybe I will try it again.

I am enjoying meeting nice people now. I am thinking of going to the city soon.

I am writing a lot of short stories and the selection will be quite short. I am writing a novel.

I am feeling stronger and able to do more. And I get a lot of sleep which is itself the best restorative.

I have two letters from you - I’m sure they are better than I deserve. I think I’ll try to write better! I have been wondering about the sale of water colors. I fear not many people come to see. Was that so? It probably should be in a more central place, or else very widely advertised.

I just saw an opening in the 2nd letter that you wanted to do. Close the letter with a lot of love.
girl is rather cool and very professional. She is a specialist in eye, ear, and throat.

I have heard this week that the children are getting on fine—getting fatter and gaining color. I knew they would with Mrs. Baker and I am delighted.

Ellie is out in the country a good deal. I have not yet heard of John's birthday.

You perhaps have not yet heard that Dr. Maxwell advises my going home for the winter, and so I am hoping that about two weeks more will as me on the way.

Hope so.

Very much love to you all. And thank you for good letters. Don't kill yourself with work. Love.