Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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My dear Ellinor:

Really I've got quite a pain as I take up this pen to write you alive, for your birthday as I see the date is July 17th, 1923, on Calendar. Now, I've got it—I must have developed some semblance of a conscience that is what's hurting me! Truth is, with this delightful sanatorium climate at Changning, temperature 88 to 91°F. in shade in daytime, I'm developing the same trouble got had, only wishing tonight I'd get the patience he had, instead of which I go round feeling like a bear with a sore head most of the time! I've had one good boil under my arm lanced by the Chinese Doctor, but can't think I leaving here till it is better. What a delightful time you must be having at Shaiyung now! I have been wondering how you came out from Shanghai—missed Dr. Thomas-Trips, so take it that I no
news is good news - Just now politically militarily speaking things are quiet but they have been pretty lively at times & I had every exciting time setting up here, didn’t reach here till May 28 anyway, waiting 15 days at Kalining.

I have visited several outstations at one had 8 Baptisms at the Central Station 28 making 34 in this field to date.

School is now out & the teachers departed happily with 2 mos. salary each. Restarted an epidemic of Mumps but it stopped after 8 Boys had it.

I have helped in 11 operations at the hospital under Chloroform - it was my job to put on the iodine. I have had to be my own family doctor so long at hops that I find something about things at least didn’t run away from the operations.

They are short handed here with both field away & one assistant gone to Hang Chows to take medical course.
Recently 1000, left left from a point near this, but others have come to take their place. The soldiers patronize the hospital here freely but rather spoil things for other people. These Northern soldiers have some fine fellows among the officers but the rank of some of them are a dirty lot. Being Northerners they are not used to bathing so they dislike doing so yet this warmer climate makes it imperative — you never had such skin troubles sweatersness as some y them exhibit —

Have you heard from your home folks recently? I expect they will be at Laurel Park by noon or soon. I hope my wife will be able to see them when I return Mountain Rest.

I wonder if you or anyone at Shal Fong want to buy a leopards skin? I bought a good one recently as the chum let it go cheaply. It is a full pamm
Leopards' skin measures 3 feet all but one inch from tip of nose to tip of tail - of course it is tanned yet. It was killed in the 11\textsuperscript{th} month last year so is a winter skin - I am wondering if Mr. Sollman is at Shari Yong next this year. The price is $8.50 - usual price is much more than that, especially since the U.S. Board has been buying skins from Bonsfeld & having them sent here. A hunting trip somehow helps put prices up. I hear that Spieker is sailing Oct. 3rd for Mayence & Asia. That will release you people in the City again. I suppose I don't know yet when my wife is sailing. She's going to find it frightfully hard to leave the children - also she sees a great deal in the home papers about the happenings in China which rather worry her - There seem quite a few with animals in the hills in these parts. I saw a fine big dead tiger awhile back, weighed 200 catties. Remember me to the folks especially to you, good lady, & Alice. John. Your friend, Adams.
December 16th Dear

Had a night in the city this week & saw your two lovely children. They are now so happy & full of fun. Arthur thinks they have grown tremendously since he saw them both on that coming back from Spring.

We first went one day & looked at the rest of the city & the wonderful view from the house there. Ellison came up after us & is at Pan Cho for Sunday. He has bought some of his stories from him from Smith's Coast Slaves.

It is getting so close to Xmas. We are going to spend it at Hope with the Bishop & the Leckners who are going. You'll like it but it will seem good to be there once again, alas! it is not to be though - we are to go up to Changning immediately after until the Bishop goes on furlough probably, which they wish to do in 1925. Conference has been pretty good on the whole, but nothing very striking about it. I'm wondering where you will be for that time. I fear you will be disappointed not to come down here for Xmas, but I hope you see really better than come soon.

Lots of love & cheer to you on.

Truly, [Signature]

[Note: The signature is not legible.]
House of Representatives U.S.
Washington, D.C.

Boston Dec 5, 1904

My dear Lottie:

I was up to Lave's Inn last night and had a very pleasant time talking over the great questions of the day, more particularly the revival meetings which are now going on in Rockport. Hattie seems as well now as I ever knew her to & she is very much interested & enthusiastic over this services. Ruth and George were with us most of the time we were talking and took some part in it. I like the man, Mr. Shaver, who is conducting the meetings especially well. He seems to use more tact than most evangelists and does not go at those who need his preaching heart, in a way which would scare them off. I have heard most of his sermons & talks, of some of them have been exceptionally good both from the point of view of style and subject matter.

Have you seen the Review lately, i.e. since the change in the management. Personally, I think the paper has improved a good deal. What do you think of the building operations now going on in Rockport. The foundation of the library is now about all laid and last Saturday the corner stone was laid with some little formality. Also you know we
are to have a new school house built out of the machine shop of the Old Mill. They had several town meetings before they decided to take the building, but at last with the information we had it seemed a wise proceeding. I think Geo. J. Pam was very generous to give the town the rest of the lot but I do not just fancy calling the schoolhouse the Geo. J. Pam schoolhouse and holding up a man as a great philanthropist who runs a brewery in Gloucester and a cider mill in Rockport within a mile of the schoolhouse which bears his name. But then I do not know as that makes very much difference. In a generation or two nobody will know for whom the name stands. No more than the majority of people in Gloucester know what the Collins was, for whom the Collins school was named, or the Belson for whom the Belson school was named, etc.

The mill ruins are nearly all down now and it will not be long before the place will be all cleared up. Tell Clara not to worry about the spring my room being looking up resolutions, etc. I don’t know how I worded it in the last letter, but I did not mean that I had not been out to lunch. The part of my room I need for that purpose was the part I usually spend walking around the streets for exercise or down to the wharf after I got through lunch. So you can
see that I did not give up much. The only reason why I said anything about "you" was that I wanted to give my best excuse for some of the mistakes I made in the letter.

You had quite a campaign at Mt. Holyoke didn’t you. All you would have needed to make it complete would have been the beer and smoke. I enjoyed reading your description of it even so much.

Mr. Finkle left Saturday for Congress and now I have but one to lobs. I suppose the result of that will be that my work from now on to the 4th of March will be much easier, but on the other hand it will be more monotonous. I was just beginning to get into the work of trying cases and I enjoyed it ever so much. I think I am going to like that branch of the law much better than title work, although yet I have don’t suppose I have done enough of the former to really know which I shall eventually prefer.

Last week I was responsible for beginning proceedings to arrest a man who had cheated a poor woman by giving her a warranty deed wandering the premises.
free from all circumstances when he knew there was a mortgage on it. The penalty for doing that is a fine of not less than $100 or not more than 1 year imprisonment. Knowing the circumstances, I hope he gets the full extent. He will also have to pay any loss the woman suffered. What makes the matter worse is that the woman paid a lawyer at the time she bought the property $7.00 to look up the title & he took the money but never went near the Registry. That shows what kind of people there are in the world. How come into the matter was that the woman had applied to the Wilday Savings Bank for a mortgage on the property and with her deed although everybody concerned believed it was all right, as a matter of form I was sent over to Cambridge to look it up & found a mortgage on it. Of course anybody who looked at the Registry would have soon found it, yet I was built of glad to be able to get a chance to get after a man like the one who got the warranty deed.

You have taken your lot now in my boat. The pieces of her are over in Mrs. Smith's yard near the wharf. In that storm we had several Sunday nights ago she broke adrift. I have not seen her since. I was told where the pieces are but have not seen them yet. I don't think it was much of a loss as I doubt if she would
have been good for anything another summer. As it is nearly time for my train to leave I guess I will close now. Wishing you and Clara the best of luck in everything I am

Sincerely yours,
Benj. F. Allen 2nd

P.S. Please give one of these cards to Clara

B.F.A.
My dear Lottie:—

I hope you will pardon me for being so long in answering your last letter. We have been very busy in the office all winter and lately my head has been so full of politics and town meeting I have hardly had time for anything else evenings. I have just arrived at the office this morning and I thought I should spend the time until I can stop in writing to you. The first thing I want to tell you about is in regard to the schools. Last evening at the Town Meeting §550 was appropriated for a new teacher in the High School in Rockport. I believe last Christmas, you said you would like to have me let you know about any positions that might happen to come within my notice, so I write this letter telling you about it. Mr. Easton also said the other day that you might like to consider the place in the schools here. At that time I knew of no vacancy. I could not give him any encouragement. Since then however I have...
learned of the project for a new teacher. I do not know if you want to spend a year in Rockport. Personally I have my doubts, knowing the state of things in the town, especially the school affairs, whether it would be for your best interest to do so. If you have followed the Cape Ann Papers lately, you know of some of the things which have happened there and as far as the Mrs. Wheeler & Miss Lincoln and other affairs you know more than I do. I was advised by many of my best friends to leave the school committee to their politics alone at this time. I however have risked my comfort, ease & reputation, and intend now I am into it to do the best possible for the town. Every school, & in fact every other committee for ten years or so back have been insulted & illused in the town meeting, & last evening the old committee, who to my mind have done excellent work, got a pretty hard dig. I see I am getting away from my subject, but that may show you the state of things in Rockport, and, if you want to take the risk I have, I will advise you to do all that I possibly can to get the place for you. What that means is somewhat uncertain; you know I am only one of three & if Mr. Herne & Henry Mason happen to want to put in some one else I shall be unable to
to prevent them. If you want to be considered a candidate for the place I should advise you, as soon as possible, to make an informal application to Mr. Woodward, the Superintendent of Schools in Rockport. When the time comes to elect the teacher, I think all of the candidates will be taken up to getter of the one with the best qualifications in the opinion of the majority of the committee will get the place. If you see fit to apply you can depend upon me to do the best I can for you and as far as possible I shall try to keep you posted, that is provided you want me to.

This has been a great winter on Cape Ann as it has been every where else. One or two days it was so cold that ice formed off the front beach and extended from nearly out to the Rockport Granite Company docks across to the White Wharf. Nor'easters have been quite a number of heavy storms and in one of them the tripod and salves was washed away.

I have been given some work to do at the office is now full, but I am going to try to finish the other side of this paper with some of the things which have happened.
since the last time I wrote to you.

One day last week I had my first experience
in a criminal case. A young fellow had
been arrested for stealing money which
had been given him to buy stock with
by his employer. He was put in the city
prison and from there he sent a note down
to the office on a piece of a paper wrapper
telling of his misfortune. I went up there
to the prison & with him on one side of the
bar and myself on the other heard his
story. I asked him all the questions I
could to with the officers around, and he
referred me to his brother-in-law whom
he thought might be able to raise the
necessary $500 to bail him out. That some
night the mother of the fellow came in
and from her I found out that there
was no doubt about his guilt and the
best thing to be done seemed to be to try
to raise money enough to pay back what
he stole & get the case stopped. She left
with the intention of doing that. What
success she had I do not know, but
as we have heard nothing in regard to it
since I trust she succeeded!

Hattie seems to be very happy now.
Of course you know the reason why.
Tonight a Missionary Tea is to be held at
Mrs. Dobson's. All the men are promised
seats at the front table so as to be able to
get to town meeting in time. Sincerely yours,

Benj. H. Allen 2/2/11
My dear Lottie:

This has been a strenuous week for me with somewhere to go every evening. Tonight I have been to Gloucester to a committee meeting but by good fortune got home on the 8:30 P.M. train, and so I think I will employ my unexpected vacation by writing to you. In the first place in regard to the position in the High School. Since I saw you matters have changed but little as for as that goes. The meeting at which the teachers are to be elected has not come yet and probably will not take place until the first of June. One member of the Committee hopes early. One member of the Committee hopes to give the position to one of the teachers we know is. I know of two others on the Committee who think that it would be a mistake to put any one in the High School as a teacher who is not a College graduate. What I want to do, if I can, is to improve the High School as much as possible and make it as fine as it goes as good as the Gloucester High. That is to arrange it so
that perhaps for 2 years the standard and
the quality of the work will be such that
scholars can pass from our High School
to Gloucester High without any tutoring
or extra work. If we can get it so three
years will equal three in Gloucester
then so much the better and so on.

With this object in view I have succeeded
in getting Ralph Parsons to agree to take
a day off to visit the Rockport High
and see just what we need to accomplish
this object. Perhaps you had better
not say anything about this last statement
as I am doing it as an individual and not
as the Committee, simply to see what can
be done, and later I hope to get the Committee
to act on his suggestions. You know what
I want to do, is to keep the salary of the
position up to $550 and to get it for you
provided you think it is the best thing to
be done. As there has been so much talk
about the position and so many right here in
town have been looking for it, you can easily
understand that the successful candidate
will be the target at which all sorts of jealous
and unjust criticism will be hurled by the
unsuccesful candidates and their friends. If anything else equally good turns up I should advise you to take it, but if nothing good comes along and things come about so that you can get the position, I think with your experience and training you would have no trouble holding your end up. As I said before, until I hear to the contrary I shall keep you posted and trust that the best will be done. I guess that is enough for school affairs.

Yesterday you know we had the Sunday School convention with us and everything passed off in fine style. I was unable to beat any of the services during the day, but I enjoyed the evening service immensely. It seemed great to see the church full at a meeting. The Gloucester Baptist had quite a delegation down and it seemed almost like home to me to be with them.

I understand that Marion is going away Monday. Everyone in the church will be sorry for that, for she is such a great help to us. I do not know what we will do for music after she is gone. She played about all day yesterday.
Every Town Meeting this year has been more exciting. Last Monday evening we had the liveliest one within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, the spirit of it consisting very largely in the personalities which George Rufus & Judge York hurled at each other. In the minds of about everyone there each one by indulging in such remarks hurt himself more than he did the other.

I think we both fared well in our work the day you went away. I never had much better luck in my life than I did with the title which I was to finish in about an hour from the time I left you. I finished it up easily in that time.

Now for a true story before I close.

First Rustic, cutting a pie into 2 unequal pieces and taking the larger and giving the smaller piece to his friend the 2nd Rustic. 

"Here Si, there's your pie."

and Rustic, in an aggrieved tone, "Jones, if I had been cutting that pie I should have done things different and given you the bigger piece."

1st Rustic. "Well Si, what you kickin' about, cunt I got it?"

Sincerely Yours,

Benj. F. Allen 240
Boston, June 6, 1805.

My Dear Lottie:

Allow me to extend to you congratulations for your good fortune in securing the position in Troy. My personal opinion is you have made no mistake, and I think you will enjoy a year or more in New York State. If you should want to come back to Mass in a year or so, I think you may have a chance. I was told in good authority that they are hoping to add another teacher in the Gloucester High in a year or more, and after you had obtained a year's experience you would stand a good show for it.

What I am writing this for is to tell you, if you know of anyone who might like to be considered a candidate for the vacancy in the Rockport High School under existing conditions, to send me their name before tomorrow morning when we meet to elect the teachers. I am going to try to keep the salary at $550 and hope we may get a good teacher to take the position. As I have said before, more or less trouble may occur whoever takes the position, and it would be just as well to have that understood beforehand.

Sincerely yours,

Benj. F. Allen 2nd.
Miss Lottie P. Lane
Rockport, Mass.
Dear Lottie:

Tonight I thought I would write you a letter telling of a few of the experiences we have been through with since July 9th when I saw you last. I am writing this at a place which in my opinion is one of the strongest influences for good among the soldiers and at the different army posts of our country. At this camp, as in most camps, there is a canteen, but it is an exception to the ordinary rule in that nothing stronger than soda and ginger ale is sold in it. You see from that, that it is not necessary for the Y.M.C.A. to compete with the canteen, in the way until recently it had to. Tonight here in a rough room with bare wooden tables are seated nearly a hundred fellows either writing or reading. There is also a piano here which is open for anyone to use who wishes, and when I tell you that although it is constantly going there are times only when there is very much music, you will not
be surprised.

As I told you I was going to, I left Rockport July 5th at about 6 A.M. All day we waited around Boston getting the luggage from the Steamboat Wharf to the Boston and Albany freight station. On the same car which had no springs was loaded all the company's baggage in one end, a horse in the other and three of us in the middle. When they started to shift the car onto the train which was made of of cars going out this way then the fun began. You probably have seen freight cars shifted around and may know that they do not put them together any too easy. Every time a new car was put on it if the shock did not knock one of us over, it very nearly did so. After the shifting was over we started and then when the train began to go fast then the fact that there was no spring on the car became more evident than ever. The sensation was similar to riding horse back on an old 'plow' only worse so, and if there had not been a cot with a spring
on it which we were able to use. I do not know what would have become of us.

The first night here some of the fellows got out a round and let down every tent in the Company street. Some time in the night while I was sound asleep our tent went down and we had to get out and repair damages.

Our time here is pretty well occupied. All of us have to get up and be around by 5:45 every morning. From that time until 12:15 nearly every moment is occupied with drill etc. In the afternoon comes non commissioned officer meeting and then at 4:30 comes dress parade which is a very pretty ceremony, but it is quite a strain, especially in hot weather.

Tonight we lost one who dropped out and some of the companies lost more. Just at present there seems to be quite a number sick here. What is the matter I do not know. So far I have felt great and because the food is so good, such as it is, in spite of the work I believe I am gaining weight. I know I am getting fatter. It looks from as if I would soon go on guard duty tomorrow night. That is much better than to be the care there will be put to me.

So Framingham, Mass.
sleep for me until Thursday night again. I think I will save a few things to tell you when I get home.

Yours Sincerely,

Bry. T. Allen, E.C.
Dear Lottie:—

This is a wild, windy and rainy night and although Mr. Barkeringham has pulled the bell rope at the Baptist and made the bell ring I have assumed that no one will obey the call to night and that there will be no church service. As a result I am here at home and will try to tell you of a few of the things which have happened since the last time I saw you, and which perhaps you have not heard of.
In the first place let me congratulate the state in which you live upon the wise choice it has made for governor at the recent election. The election of Hugler among other things showed that the sentiment and opinions expressed in the Boston American do not as yet rule the country, and although when I look about, it sometimes seems to me as if such radical doctrines may now be in gain control, I do not believe they ever will. In Mass. there was not as much at stake but in spite of that we have just passed through one of the most exciting elections for many years. I was pretty well satisfied with the result. Every man but me, for what I vote got elected.

On Election day I took a day off and visited all the schools in town with the exception of the three classes in the Town Hall which were not in session because of the hall being used for the election. I saw John in his room and came just as near speaking to him as I dared to when I found his seat. Some time I will tell you of some of the impressions I got of the work the schools are doing. Last evening I was in Mr.
McLane's store and Miss Bryant said she had a compliment for me. This is what it was. Mr. Eldredge went with me on my visit and some of the scholars in one of the armies went home and told their parents that "Mr. Eldredge and his son were in the visit today." What do you think of that? Who received the compliment, Mr. Eldredge or me?

On evening last week I made a call on Mr. Loving and his wife at Swamps cott and had a very pleasant time. He has a fine house in a nice location in a very pleasant part of town. He has just opened up an office in Leyd in addition
to his Swampscott office.
Bill Lowe is married and
left us. He secured the
work he took the exami-
 nations for and has gone
to White Plains Newton.
I think he did well to get
a position of that kind.
Getting a good girl has
been the challenge of him.
Annie Haskell was married
Wednesday evening had
a reception at Mrs. Pettingill.
Wednesday evening all
the Baptists were there and
many strangers. I saw
your brother there.
It looks now as if the
stone school house will
be turned over to the town
before very long. The school
committee is to have a great office for it which I trust we will have considerable occasion to use. The New Armory in Lowell is practically finished and the Company is now in it. It would be hard to find a better place now anywhere than what we have there. In it are two bowling alleys, a 50 yard rifle range, pool tables, and the largest swimming pool I have yet seen. In addition we have the Assembly room with a piano and also a room for the special use of the commissioned officers. Only wish that I had more time to spend there. We are now making plans for a well time when we dedicate the building next month. We are going to try to have the Governor and our military staff in uniform present and the 8th Regt. band to furnish music.

Mr. Shelburne is down in Maine for a vacation and today I took his place as Superintendent of the Sunday School. Mrs. Shelburne's class had the highest collection and some of the girls in the class, especially Rachel Weatherbee, wanted me to stay at the close of service when I went out the notice...
"My wife's class has the highest collection." If it had been anywhere except in Sunday School I should have done it.

I am reading at present a translation of Victor Hugo's Les Misérables. I got the book from the Library and have already renewed it once. You probably know that it contains nearly 1000 pages of the finest print, so I guess I will be kept busy for a while.

Ministry tea this week at Mrs. Stevens's. I give you this notice so that you will be here and be there. They are gradually getting the hospital started. There are about 2 patients in it.