Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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From: Charlton Bolles, Lillie Boresfield, C. W. Brinstad

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Recommends to Lottie, via Aunt Ale. Ellison is truly kind and thoughtful to write thus.

Dear Charleston,

Lottie's letter today says that your name has evidently been handed in for assistant to Dr. Barbour. This may be premature and uncalled for, but it may not. I'm going to tell you what I know about the church. Dr. Barbour went there immediately on graduating from the Sem. and has been there ever since. He was once mentioned as candidate for Tremont Temple, but some of it. I emp. didn't want him. He has also been mentioned for the positions which were taken by Cornelius W. B. and John Strong, and also for president of the Sem. afterwards. Strong goes. Hope he doesn't get it. But it shows that he is considered a big man. He was grand chairman of the Chapman meetings organization.
and is head of the Baptist organization in Rochester which plans such movements as consolidating two churches, helping smaller ones, etc. In such work I think he is considered excellent. As a pastor—my roommate became engaged to a girl in his church and told me that B., took this girl when she came of age of accountability and persuaded her to be baptized. Gave her a private baptismal (I think he made committee formalities easy too, but I'm not sure of this) and let it go at that. The girl is now over 20 and my roommate this last year taught her the very first elements of the Christian life. Apparently Dr. B. was not interested in that. His boarding house keeper has been a member of his church for years has brought up 8 children with great difficulty. But since her husband died Dr. B. has never called on her. I can't give the number of years. I'm sure it's more than 2. My impression is some 8 or 9. But he used to spend many of his
Sunday afternoon calling on a woman directly across the street. As for the church, it's the biggest Baptist church in R. I think and is located in a fairly well-to-do section.
I can't say much as to its spirituality. My impression is that the reason would be that there's not much to say. I know that the S.B. Society was in a desperate way all this last year. and it was the special charge of the assistant pastor. He is Rev. [Redacted]. Chamberlain age [Redacted] and has been called to Morgantown, W. Va. head of the state university. He was tall, homely and unmarried which hasn't been a great disadvantage to him. Sometimes he was thrown on the tender mercies of the 'Semiary widows who didn't take him. and various things of this kind didn't help him. I never thought much of him. Mr. [Redacted] served on jury last year. and takes considerable interest in civic matters. Those are all the facts I can think of now. I have carefully tried.
to keep from expressing an opinion of the position. If you care to have me do so, I'll try to tell you what I think.

Now if this isn't called for, please forgive me for "putting in" and also for taking time to read this letter. If it is of any use to you, you can take it for what it's worth. Please don't feel obliged to answer it till it becomes convenient for you to write, but if I can tell you anything don't hesitate to give me the opportunity.

When I have more time I'll write and tell you about the Seminary.

Yours, as ever.

Ellison

700 Park Ave.
New York.
Oct. 9, 1907.
Wednesday Jan 6 09

Dear Lottie:

Your nice note, and Ellison's received duly, and much and truly appreciated. Perhaps some time I can get time to write a good letter. First of the year finds me very busy clearing up the business of past year, making out bills, etc. George's visit was a real pleasure, and a help both at home and at office. He looks splendidly, and is growing so mature. Guess he had a good time. Need not return his postals, etc.

God bless you -

[Signature]

C. Helen
Dear, good Grandma Lane:

When we got back from the islands Monday noon, having driven right up upon landing from the little mail boat, and when I got to the office and my mail, I found your good letter, with all the news about Ma Tid. I was glad to hear from the precious little chap, and glad you all are so happy over him, and that he is so happy and so good. I know he is having the best of care, and so much love, and I feel sure he must specially enjoy so many happy young people, and some of the little people. Dr Van Dyke said that one of the birthrights of children was a happy fellowship with other children. And this Ma Booful Tid did not have here. You are taking such good care of him. So glad he gets his afternoon nap. The best authorities say that a child should have it until four, and as much longer than that as possible. Dear Tiddie, I want him to grow up with such strong, tranquil nerves, and such a magnificent body that he will be as strong as Roosevelt to fight and endure.

Whenever he wants or approaches the need of shoes or anything you will be sure and let me know, wont you, and I will send money at once. I must send money for his milk bill too. To lessen the BULK for his tummy Dr Wakefield told us to pour off the top two-thirds of a quart of milk after it had stood a good while, and then that extra creamy milk could be divided into three parts for his three meals.

Has the blessed Little Feller developed a taste for green cherries or green apples yet? I hope the little playmates of his will be cautioned NEVER to give him anything to eat. He never ate between meals here, and never seemed to care for anything, and his little tummy was apparently perfect, and strong.

Only think, he is three years old today, this very day. Sunday on the islands I wanted to write him a birthday letter, but perhaps this
will do if arriving a day late. Tell him it is from Papa, and tell him that I love him, and kiss him and hug him for me, and tell him he is to come back to me just the moment you want a rest from him. I trust he is not too great an addition to all your many cares and burdens, tho I know you are happy to have him with you and that he will do you all good. Was he taller than Everett. While not weighing any more, if as much as that blessed solid little chap I had an idea that Tid was a wee bit taller, not much, but a bit. Was he? You know I have never seen them together. And did you mean that Tid would strike Everett, when you spoke of "digs" ?? Did'nt they seem to take to each other kindly? Should have thought they would have liked each other much. Wish they could play together the year round, each would be just what the other would most enjoy, I should think.

Wish I could get down for the graduation, for I am still interested in Rachel, and of course George concerns me a whole lot, while Ruth is still the girl after my own heart. Bless her dear spirit, she is such a dear girl. Nothing must keep her from going to college. It will open the whole world to her, - and Amherst is so near £££

I take it the tent came o k. I had never heard.

My love to every one, but very specially to Ma Tid. Kiss him for me. I shall have some pics from the photographers soon, those of the proofs and will send you a set, and Aunt Cele a set, and mother a set. I had three of each pose ¥¥ printed. Hope some of the amateur camera owners will snap Tid in the midst of his little playmates.

Weather here is very COLD for the most part, but growing clearer, with less fog. Elizabeth sends her love to you and Tid, and Mr Lane, and all.
Dear Lottie:

Thank you for your full and news-filled letter, written when in the midst of stress and the need for every minute.

I have written Grandma, and will remind her now and again that our thoughts and wishes and affection are hers. Junior will do so too. Poor lad, his heart is heavy that his brother-in-law John Galloway, who he truly loves, is so weak and distressed. John is in the Buffalo hospital again. Marion, his wife, has T B, and goes to Mount Morris, N Y hospital tomorrow. Junior's Betty went to John last Tuesday, but will probably return to Rochester about the day you start to Florida. I trust your stay in the sunny climate will work wonders both for you and Russell. I'll ask Marion or Carol to send me items of cheer from your Bulletin you send. It seemed to me, after reading your letter four times, that perhaps you were minimizing Grandma's condition. But if so serious an accident is not as bad as it usually is, how rejoice we all will be. My father's brother George has a widow ½ over 80, who has long been in a Boston hospital with a broken hip. About a week ago, when it looked as if she could soon leave the hospital, she left her bed against strictest orders, fell, and now the hip is badly broken again, and her condition is pitiful. Poor soul, she has had a sorrowful and laborious life. How impossible for us to rightly appreciate health when we have it perennially. Myself: I feel as well as ever I did, and should be glad for such a hint that I am not quite as vigorous as decades ago. Seventy one last August, and NOT liking it.

I'll probably return to Long Island March 15, to get a brisk start on the spring work.

Admiring regards to Elison, John, and Alice,

[Signature]
Dear E. A.,

Lovely letters from John came today and I am hurrying them on to you. It was so good to hear.

It has been raining since late morning and the roof has leaked over my bed. Luckily there is a twin.

Charlie & Ruth were here this a.m. and Charlie is coming back for supper as Jimmie goes to Brotherhood supper.

I told John to see if there were still places in the summer tour and to get an option on one until we could consider it.

It would be very hot, but stimulating in many ways. Tell me what you think of it.

Much love to you both.

Trouble wi' memory.
Housework & carpenter work.
Newspaper clipping art but 870/1 now.
Help Dan in kitchen. Seems will.
Hard to be away from family.
But best.
Della will not come here. It.

Brecht Narr

Sent to Carol

MIA

North

Fla.
North Miami 1-16-44

Dear Lotte and all—

I am having so much trouble with my memory, that I am not sure if I wrote you thanking you for remembering me at X'mas but I certainly always have the best of intentions anyway. Have quite a lot to do this season, as I am doing all my own work (being here alone) and really I am busy, along with repair work, I am trying to do for people near by. Just here the season has been very nice and I have seen no frost at all, though in the low grounds to the North there has been a little I am told. I hope everything is going nicely with you all and wish I could see all the folks again but age is catching up with me I guess in spite of all my efforts.

I am enclosing a clipping from today's paper (I have it by the week) that I thought might be of a little passing interest and perhaps you would like to
send it along to someone. Expect to help Dana a little this coming week as there are some little changes needed in the kitchen I believe, as he hopes for a customer soon. I think. He seems very well again and certainly should be able to sell the place if he really decides to let it go. Places and lots are selling quite easily now from what I hear, and bringing high prices also. Very few of Dana’s friends from the North are here this winter, in fact I know of only one Charlie Wood whom I meet at the P.O. nearly every day. Very pleasant people Mr. & Mrs. It is hard for me to be here away from my family but as far as I can determine it is best all around as I cannot seem to stand the cold (and work) but here get along nicely and feel fine. Della keeps the place and will not come (of her own accord) and can be with Mary, as well as not—will not write, unless someone insists strongly. I must close for this time with very best wishes to all. & ever, Charlie
My Dear Mrs Hildreth;

very many thanks for the dolls which came to me a few days ago. I am much pleased with them, they will make such interesting greetings for next Christmas, to send to America, to the friends, and so unusual and different from the regular Christmas cards.
I will send you a check for them, and also include postage, will take a look at the wrapper and see how much it cost.
I should think that this woman might be able to earn lots of money, as thesethings are so unusual, and are probably in great demand.
I have thought at times of starting some of the women here on some things, for in-stance, they do very beautiful applique work, on their shoes and hats, and money bags, and I wonder if some of these latter would not have a good sale? I am tempt-ed to try it, any way, it can do no harm. They ought also to be able to do some very pretty work on other things, as well, and different from anything we have in Swatow.
If I could only get perfectly well, there are so many things I would so like to do, but more important than anything else, I want to have a Bible Study Class, com-posed of as many of our helpers who can come, just as soon as I am strong enough for such an undertaking, for I am more and more convinced that the greatest con-tribution we missionaries can make to the work, is in a spiritual way, and they do so need to have a better understanding of the Book of all books, and to know more about Jesus Christ, in a real, personal way.
I do sympathize with your aunt, in her heart trouble, I know how it is to be trou-bled in this way, and am obliged to be very careful all the time. But I am so very glad to be so much better, and well enough to look after our home here and the gar-den, and to show my sympathy and love for the Chinese, in their struggles.
These are very difficult times, especially in the educational work, and the prob-lems are very great. The anti-Christian students have carried on such a campaign that our own schoo.
is quite demoralized. It is run entirely by the Chinese, with foreign help, but
our good man Mr Kw Hau-Nyi has been utterly unable to stem the current, and the
boys who are left, who did not leave and go to the anti-Christian school, are so
disobedient and willful that he cannot do anything with them. They utterly refuse
to attend worship, and study the Bible, and ridicule such things, and it has seemed
as though it was doing more harm than good.
The deacons of the church here had a meeting and decided that it must be suspended
and not re-opened in the fall, but we hope to have a small school for just Christian
boys and those whose people are Christians, who will obey the rules of the
school.
It seems to me that this is far better than to try to conduct a large school of
anti-Christian boys, who corrupt the whole school. I do not agree with some in
not insisting upon worship in the school, and in taking the Bible from the cur-
riculum altogether, for we are just compromising with them and lose vastly more
than is gained. I am so glad that the Shanghai Baptist College takes the stand
it does about these things.
I am so very thankful that, so far, our people here have remained most friendly,
notwithstanding the propaganda which has been so vigorously carried on by these
boys, even getting so bold as to openly criticize our officials here, and city elde-
rs, in their posters which they have pasted up everywhere, and circulated in other
ways.
I wonder how you are getting along in your city? I hope that all is well, and
will keep right on quieting down.
We are hoping to have one of the China Inland missionaries come to us for a month,
after a while, for a big evangelistic campaign. They have had a wonderful revival
at Kan-Chow-Fu, and over 850 have taken a stand for Christ, and the outpouring of
the Holy Spirit has been marvellous.
It was all brought about just through prayer, and in order to accommodate their
busy people, they have held prayer meetings in the early mornings, as early as
5.15, until 6 o'clock.
One maniac of over four years, whom everybody knew, has been restored to his right mind, and is a follower of Christ. A poor idiot boy, who has been in bed for over two years, has been healed, and now walks about four li every morning to these early prayer meetings, and leads in prayer. Before this, he could not talk intelligently, but is now all right. Other wonderful things have been done.

We felt that if Mr Jamieson could come to us, it would be such a blessing, and our people here are all enthusiastic over it. I notice that they are praying more than they have done before, and make a lot of it in their meetings.

Please give my love to your aunt, and my sympathy, as well. Tell her, that with heart trouble, it is a great thing to keep cheerful, and try to forget it. Take plenty of rest, and eat very simply. 

Well, I must close now, how I wish that I could talk with you face to face, there are so many things I would like to talk over.

By the way, we hope to have Mr Leland Wang from Foo-Chow, later on, perhaps next winter if he can come then.

With much love.

Most sincerely,

[Signature]

Lillie S. Breufield.
Covelo, Mendocino Co., Calif.,

January 3, 1911.

Rev. C. W. C. McCright.
Covelo, Calif.,

Dear Brother;

I went over to Laytonville last week, to look over the situation, and am now ready to make my report on it. The township, (Long Valley township) has 76 inhabitants. Voters. It is located at the junctions of the roads to Sherwood (the main line to the City), to Westport, to Covelo and Eastward, and to Humboldt County and the north. All the traffic from the north, with few exception passes through there and stops there over night. The geography of the place corresponds to that of ancient Corinth and modern Port Said, on a small scale, and the moral conditions also corresponds on a similar scale.

Practically all the town is owned by one or the other of the hotel landladies. Mrs. Davison, the smaller owner, is a degraded victim of the drink and morphine habits. She is a holy scandal to all the country round, and is considered beyond hope of reclamation. She corresponds to the publican in the parable, and Mrs. Helm, the other landlady, is the Pharisee. She is a holy terror, in many ways, and yet lives a more or less decent life, and is absolutely proof against any suggestion that she is open to improvement.

Long Valley went wet last June by 11 majority; the previous election, the majority was 4. I am told that the valley would have gone dry this time, but Mrs. Helm gave a big "wet" dinner, and swung the tide. Her husband led her an awful life through drink, but she owns one or two saloons in the valley, so she took the wet side. The men who are building the railroad are half way between Laytonville and Covelo, but we are dry so they all go to Laytonville, and they certainly do raise a time. They
are a bad lot.

But even apart from the railroad men, Laytonville is a bad place. The perfume of its reputation spreads all over the county. It is a great place for drink but a still greater place for profanity, and Sunday isn't any account at all. If a man has hogs to kill, he always arranges to do it on Sunday. If a lot of drovers are coming, they always arrange to get there on the same day. And so it goes.

Church attendance is at the lowest possible ebb. When "Brother and Sister Stump" were there last summer, only about two or three men (if I remember rightly) came out to hear them at all; and in Round Valley there was great interest in their meetings.

Another feature that makes the field difficult is that most of the people who make any pretense of being Christians at all are Seventh Day, and they have a supreme contempt for Sunday. One cannot count on them for any co-operation at all in Christian work.

If I remember correctly, the village consists of three saloons, two hotels, two livery stables, one pretty good store, and one no account, a blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse, and a church and a post-office.

So much for the difficulties of the field. As for the resources, there is not much to be said. I was directed to go to the Furness's, and was very well treated. Mrs. Furness is a middle-aged woman, a Swede, brought up in Finland. She is what you would expect, a hearty, stout, woman, able to do all the farm work whenever necessary. She talks English with poor pronunciation, and a very Swedish idiom, but is very pleasant, and very much interested. She told me of how she had labored with Mrs. Davison, and as she said "The spirit of the Lord came upon me, and I said to her, 'Mrs. Davison, I have warned you before again and again; I call you again to repentance; beware lest you reject the call; something tells me that if you reject it this time, the Lord will depart from you, and you will never have another opportunity to repent; you will die suddenly,
and you will die in your sins"; it gave a new vividness to such passages as "The spirit of the Lord came upon Elijah".

Mr. Furness is considerably older, about sixty-five. He has just been elected justice of the peace on an independent (dry) ticket. He has had a very varied career, in several states, as farmer, rancher, miner, street railway man, etc. Up till fifteen years ago, he was a "moral man". Now he is an active Christian, and is the superintendent of the Sunday School. He is not a member of any church, but inclines toward the "Holy Rollers"; his wife is a Lutheran. I talked quite at length with Mr. Furness, and he told me many of his views. I must say that they are many of them peculiar, not to say remarkable, but I didn't see anything objectionable at all in them. I think he would be an easy man to work with. Altho he would hold his own views, he would be tolerant of others.

Mrs. Furness was very enthusiastic when I told her I was a minister. She wanted me to hold meetings, to go at once and talk with Mrs. Davison, and the like. Mr. Furness, on the other hand, told me that he considered it the most difficult field for Christian work that he had ever seen. They both told me about Mrs. Landrum, and when I inquired particularly whether anyone else was interested in the Sunday School, he told me that he didn't know of anyone except Mrs. Landrum and "Hazel".

So I went to see Mrs. Landrum. She is a member of the "Reorganized L.D.S., who accept the Book of Mormon, but reject polygamy and all that goes with it, and disown the Salt Lake City hierarchy as apostate. I had been told that she was a good Christian lady, and my talk with her goes to confirm it. I saw absolutely no trace of what made the convention at Salt Lake City so distressing. She is especially interested in the Indians, a dozen or so, on a small reservation two miles out of the village. But Mr. Landrum, who is a sport (goes to horse races, went to the Reno prize fight, etc.) was jollified about it so much that he put a stop to it at all. He is not religious a little bit. Mrs. L. sings,
teaches the adult class in the Sunday School, and anything else she can. She talked me dead, dumb and blind about the superiority of her brand of Mormonism, and then said that she never talked to a preacher before, and that Brother Disher and I were the only preachers that had ever been kind to her; she gave me a copy of the Book of Mormon, just as she had to Mr. Furness, who is going to read it, and expressed the hope that I might be one of the true Ephraim, so that I would see the light. And as I was leaving, she told me that if I came over to preach, she would do all she could to help matters, for "Christian people always like to hear a sermon". Her verdict about the situation, like that of Mr. Furness, was that it was pretty forlorn.

"Hazel" I did not talk to. But both them told me about her, and I have been able to find about here here in Coveo as well. If I had stayed to see her, I should have had to put in another day, and I did not think it worth while. She is about thirteen or fourteen, and teaches the infant class. She is a very nice girl, and fairly smart, I am told. I don't know whether she is a professing Christian or not; lots of times there is no particular difference in such girls before and after.

There are the human resources. Mrs. L. teaches the adult class, Hazel the other. When the total enrolment is present, which is very seldom, it is fifteen. The total number available for Sunday School material is thirty-two, and that includes the children of Seventh Days, and the like. The Sunday School was closed for a long time, but has opened under Mr. Furness' leadership. I wouldn't want to stake my reputation on the estimate, but I rather think he is a good leader.

The church is set into the side of a hill, right among the manzanita, one minute from the center of the town. It is a well built structure, with a bell, stove, and Estey organ in good condition. It had rather rough wood benches with backs, and would seat between thirty and fifty
Brinstad, 5.

The church is about twenty-five by forty. I took these figures down, but the latest developments have upset my housekeeping, and I cannot locate the paper. The church is well lighted and rather an attractive affair, both inside and outside. I wouldn't want to be quoted here in Round Valley, but I was inclined to think it was better than our church house here. It belongs to "the Baptists", whoever they may be, but was built by public subscription, and is regarded as a sort of public meeting place, just as old cathedrals were. I know of at least one time when it was used for a political meeting.

Two members of our church, a man and wife, live in Laytonville. I called on the wife and children. The children go to Sunday School when it is convenient. There is no special interest in the matter. And I think that completes the roll of the Christian forces.

I might mention three comments on the place, however. By an excellent Christian, who used to live there; "They ain't no Christians at all in Round Long Valley" "Well," I said, "what sort of people are they?" "Oh, just good neighbors" (And that is what the Christians in Laytonville told me too. By the above member of my church, who drove me over in the stage when I came to Covelo; "They is drinking and swearing going on all the time; it is the rottenest ---------------- of a place I ever see". By a man who was telling of a fellow who went to the bad; "It is enough to ruin any fellow, just to live in Laytonville".

Perhaps it is not my place to make recommendations, but I feel that the report would not be complete unless I gave account of what seems to me the only course possible. If anything is to be done beyond casual occasional preaching by the pastors at Covelo, willits, and elsewhere, it would require the work of the best man in the state; he would have to live right in the village, and spend every minute available, getting so thoroughly acquainted with them, helping them, and in other ways getting them to love him, that they would come to hear him preach, just simply as a compliment, or because
they like to be where he was. The financial support he would get would be mighty slim. Mr. Furness has been hard up quite a little lately, and even with his $20.00 a month as J.P. will be in only moderate circumstances. Mr. Landrum is renting a place up there to save money to pay off a mortgage on a 75-acre place in Willits, and when that is done, is going to move back. And there you have the backbone of the "church"; neither one is in the slightest degree Baptist, of course; and neither has much money to spend. The member of our church rarely attends, I guess; anyway, he gets only teamster's wages, and has six or seven children.

If a man was sent to Laytonville, he would have to be either almost entirely supported by the Convention; or else he would have to work for his living, preferably in a blacksmith shop. He could board and room at Furness's all right, but I don't think he could expect much money. I don't think it is a field where a married man could work to such advantage as a single man.

If there is anything that I have omitted or not made clear, please ask me about it, and if I do not know I will try to find out. Hoping that this information will meet your needs, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Brinstad, 6.
[Handwritten text not fully legible due to quality of the image]