

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Emily Miller is very nice & a little bit of a single mother type - is our mission & a little bit of humor.

Peking. Feb 14, 1929

Thank you, dear Rahvie, for the nice snap shot of you in the gingham dress. I was so glad to see it, and it is so nice to have it in a background that I know. It was dear of you to write a record letter right away on Jan 7. when you heard of our Xmas disappointment. You see, as soon as I began to think about it, after I had sent the letter South, I realized that the Southern doctors knew more about conditions down there than Dr Mc did, and I felt almost certain that they would make objection - and I knew, down deep in my heart, that they had good reason for it, and that is why I did not rebel.

Now - I honestly thought I had written very fully of details in hospital - but perhaps I didn't satisfy you all, even then! (P) (P)

my hips, or ^{two} without it hurting - or having to be careful.

After I got out, I felt wonderfully well, and progressed steadily and rapidly except for a slight attack of diarrhoea which kept me quiet for a day or two. I felt very little nervous effect from the operation - except that tightening at the back of the neck when I wanted to go to sleep. now and then.

I had almost entirely disappeared, too, as I selected and got out.

After I heard of Daddy B's death, I felt miserable for a week or ten days. I had a little backache, and a little headache. and got tired easily - Even now I have the tightening connection in the back of the neck, but

It is a merciful arrangement, that allows us to forget. I am sure I had an easier time than most. The pain was not awful, except when I had gas pains - and even then I was babyish about it. I was also babyish about having the dressing changed the first time - or else I was tired and nervous, for I shouted like a good one. I did not have very much gas pain - probably three or four rather decent attacks and more or less discomfort for a week or ten days. The

I remember that the first five days were interminable, and it seemed as if they would never pass. It seemed as if I'd never be able to move my legs freely again, and I looked forward to the day when I could move

it is fast going.

Stronger more than I have for two years.
My life are actually red. I feel better
able to exercise and do things than
I did before the operation, and as I hope
your hope is very well founded.

Now - I have told you things about
myself - won't you do the same
about yourself, for I feel very much
concerned.

I spend nearly all my time writing
letters if find, unless I plan to
do some other specific piece of work.

I have had a lovely week with little
Rosa and Irene. This has been
vacation time for China's school but
they begin again next week.

I am going to Tanyhain (12 miles away)
next Sunday, for a few days and then
come back to ^{your} regular schedule for

much love
Lois

I should have told you that I had had a letter from you last night. I should have told you that I had had a letter from you last night. I should have told you that I had had a letter from you last night.

Tungchien (near Peking).
Wed. March 16 1924.

Dear Marion, I have had this envelope waiting for you since before the children come. How are you getting thro the winter? Has March been cold? It has not been too cold here. Some days have not even been freezing, but although the children do not seem to mind it, I notice that their ears and fingers get pretty red, and their hands would be badly chapped if I did not have a good hand lotion for them to use.

I don't know what kind of reputation the children will have - One of them (probably John) put sand down Bobby Hunter's back, and when John went to the party the other day, he and Taffy Fisher had a fight and both of them cried - Oh. But you know all such experiences probably. John came running home with a piece of cookie for me, and in the morning the children are insistent that I should have rice fruit to eat. It is a new feeling to have, to think that they are old enough to be thoughtful of me.

On a Sunday when we were in Peking I took them to a children's S.S. where there were 15 small boys and girls. They surely were pleased

And I heard John saying -

"I have two things, ^{you want} ~~against~~ egotism
except those two."

I write these little things that strike ^{me} just
because they are funny, but because
they give an idea of their childish con-
versation and help you ^{all} to picture them.
I am so glad to hear that Marion is better, and
hope it will continue.

How about those rich headaches you
were having? I hope they don't continue.
And to think of Dick being twenty-one!
I had no idea he was so grown-up! And I
hope you'll all forgive me for not writing -
maybe I did tho. now that I remember.

When did he give up the work in Lowell? Or
didn't he ever get there? The work with Patch
seems to be a splendid opportunity and I
am very glad for him. The surely must
be busy with the drug store work too. That
is right in line with the work with at Patch's.

Must go out with kiddies now.

Much love,

Sister

Mum's foot is not very good for walking
yet. Love both Jennie. Hope Tom is well
but wishes for his birthday. It won't be long now, will it?

having quite a struggle with John and Alice to get them to mind promptly.

When Elbert next home I wrote him to find one of my books "The Baby's First Two Years" by Dr. Richard Smith, and send it to you, but I don't know whether he found it or not. It was very helpful to me.

I have books on training children, but I got impatient and disgusted with them, ^{when they were light.} Now I can see, that if I could have kept at it, I should have entirely avoided a lot of struggles, and it would have been much easier.

(My nurse is in Peking to-day and I am glad to be alone with the children.)

Look! I have found a spanking worse than useless. ^{very} Training the child to do right - teaching him - how is far easier and more logical. i.e. If he closes a door after you tell him not to, Don't spank.

Teach him how to shut it; - take him to the door and show him how he can shut it softly two or three times with pleasant words and smiles - before ever you tell him not to. and then instead of saying, Don't, you can give him a positive command, "Shut

R

RUTH

May 13, 1925.

Dear John and Gladys,

I was mightily pleased - to see John Howard Lane to-day, and so I am writing immediately to tell you so. If I don't write at once, I never shall get to it. He looks well and healthy and very large. Myrman cannot believe that he is only three months old with such a large face.

May 25.

I surely have enjoyed looking at your dear baby, and he looks like one to be proud of. Thank you very much. It seems good to show it to the children, and to tell them that there is their newest little cousin John Lane. It brings their relationship even nearer to hear the same name. I think it really startled my John when he first heard it.

I was much pleased, John, too, to receive your letter of January 10 while I was still in Peking. I surely have enjoyed this

Yes, John, it means a lot to have the children and I count like an old hand in comparison with them. It is a wonderful privilege to be able ourselves to bring them into the world. I am thankful every day for it, and wish much that I had my force.

No, I do not notice so many mistakes in your letters as formerly. You have improved wonderfully. I think that your handwriting is becoming a little bit like Dad's. The last letter said that he had grip - and I am anxious to get some word that he is better.

My John never held his breath, but Alice choked once or twice and frightened me. I expect that your Jack is all over that now. But I want to warn you to try to teach him obedience fairly early, for I am

winter and spring. To see lovely birds and flowers and small sweet smells again is a great joy.

When the kiddies noded at 8:30 yesterday I decided to take them down to the moat - to see birds. Doesn't it sound like medieval castles to say "moat"? There is a really truly one ^{with an inlet} flowing around the city walls which are a full forty feet high, it should imagine. Foreigners have ~~planted~~ ^{planted} willow trees each side of the moat and so there is a beautiful shady walk on either side. The place I am living in is a little foreign settlement outside the wall. The Chinese here do not like foreigners very well because of the wrong acts of Austrian and Japanese soldiers at the time of the Boxer uprising about 1900. I heard of a house yesterday which was rented to Chinese in the city on condition that they would not allow foreigners to call in it.

having quite a struggle with John and Alice to get them to mind promptly.

When Elison next home I wrote him to find one of my books "The Baby's First Two Years" by Dr. Richard Smith, and send it to you, but I don't know whether he found it or not. It was very helpful to me.

I have books on training children, but I got impatient and disgusted with them ^{when they were little.} Now I can see, that if I could have kept at it, I should have entirely avoided a lot of struggles, and it would have been much easier.

(My nurse is in Peking to-day and I am glad to be alone with the children.)

Could I have found a spanking worse than useless. ^{with a whip} Training the child to do right - teaching him how is far easier and more logical. U.S. If he closes a door after you tell him not to, don't spank.

Teach him how to shut it; - take him to the door and show him how he can shut it softly two or three times with pleasant words and smiles - before ever you tell him not to. and then instead of saying, "don't" you can give him a positive command, "Shut

R
REV
May 13, 1902
Dear John and Gladys, I was mightily pleased - to see John Howard Lane to-day, and so I am writing immediately to tell you so. If I don't write at once, I never shall get to it. He looks well and husky and very large. Myrnes cannot believe that he is only three months old with such a large face.
May 25.

I surely have enjoyed looking at your dear baby, and he looks like one to be proud of. Thank you very much. It seems good to show it to the children, and to tell them that there is their nearest little cousin John Lane. It brings their relationship even nearer to hear the same name. I think it really startled my John when he first heard it.

I was much pleased, John, too, to receive your letter of January 10, while I was still in Peking. I surely have enjoyed this

the door softly."

I am living in the house with a woman who has done this with her children and the results are almost beyond belief.

To make ~~them~~^{children} obedient, illustrate to them how to run quickly, when the mother says "Come here," and they make a game of it, and love to do it. Teach them how they must drop their toys (or their play, right in the middle of it when they hear the "Come here." You run yourself, and they play Ma-ma and do the calling and they will learn far more quickly.

Will this advice is all too old for your baby, but maybe it will help some day if I have written it clearly enough.

I am so glad that you are again out in the country. I don't know whether this address is correct or not. Mother had written it on the back of a letter that came a day or two ago.

The children want me to go to the
moat, and so I'll say Good by.

With very much love to you
three.

Lottie.

We are going to the seashore
in about two weeks. Wish you
could go, too. L.

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Tungshien

May 17 1924.
and June 21st

Dear Marion, I have decided to send the home letter via you this week. It seems so hard to get time to write to all - (why should I spend of time when you are so occupied and I am so comparatively free?). And I want to get all the rappings to you by earliest if possible.

The week has been full and interesting. I feel as if I am doing my bit by teaching the English class and mean the correcting of quills, lot of papers, and the business of making up work when pupils are absent. We also have conversation period (when we go walking on Tuesday afternoons. This is all enjoyable, for the boys are mighty interesting fellows and have been well taught. Well - that keeps me satisfied in a way. Then the interesting times outside which I thought might stop when I came to Tungshien, seem only to increase.

On Saturday I went to Peking. (How I wished I didn't have to go again! for I hate to lead the children to bother two weeks, and Peking is very very dusty! It is enveloped in a cloud of dust, and everyone in rich-hans protect his mouth, nose, and eyes as that he can. I hold a handkerchief over my nose - I let my eyes go, but it is a day or two before one gets the dirt all out.

Mary Beard and I had early lunch 11:30^{am}, the children walked to the compound gate with us. It surely was hot in the sun. Oliver said "I don't like to walk fast, I am burning hot." But she wanted to go - and part of the road was shady.

✓ We went 3rd class on the train as we usually do, as it is only 30 mi (50 k) that way. We ride for about 40 or 50 minutes. The trains are not at all like ours. They are possibly the same size but they have wooden seats the length of the car and one better bench in the middle. The racks above are ^{so} crowded as a Pullman after lunch, and sometimes people sleep on them altho how they ^{can} climb so high, I cannot see. The Chinese always carry a lot of baggage - often in their beds - a thin mattress in a canvas cover - and many baskets and bundles. They do not need to fear rain as it rarely rains here. May is the time when the rains should begin to come, but you could almost count the drops that have fallen to date.

After we arrived in Peking, we bought a few things in the shops, and then dined at the American Board before going to the wedding ^{of} a Mt. Solopha girl "Grace Miller" - with Dr Stanley Hoyle in the home of one of the Professors of Yenching Univ.

Shuna May 22.

Well, we had rain last night which broke the drought which has already almost destroyed the crops. Oh, everyone was so grateful to have it come. The grass was just baked and the vegetation all dried up, and that in May! Think of it. It is the first real rain since I arrived last November, altho there were several light snow falls.

Some scientific magazines say that this part of China will doubtless become desert land thousands of years from now, and it certainly looks that way.

The peas are almost ready to eat and a few strawberries are already tinged with red to John's great delight, and mine, too, for I feared that he might miss them by going early to Peitah.

Mr. McLaren, the Swatow postmaster, now transferred to Mukden, came to Peking to see his brother, and spent a day with us. The children were very glad to see someone from Swatow and I was, too. He brought us some delicious candy which went right to the spot!

The girl and her husband-to-be had been at
Tangraion the day before, attending a Mrs. Holyoke picnic given
by Mary Scott and me, and so we had gotten to know them a
little. It was a pretty wedding. I played the march and another
Holyoke girl was bridesmaid. It made it much easier for me
to visualize Carol's wedding and I was glad I went, altho I
hesitated a long while before accepting.

The picnic we had the day before was a nice one - we were
twelve in all including two husbands, Sidney Gamble & Ivory
soap fave who ^{has written} ~~wrote~~ a very fine Survey of Peking, and Henry
Scott, whose father, the present gov. of Colorado, is likely to
be Democratic nominee for president.

His bid time - and I'll try to write more to-morrow.

Thurs Eve.
Lori.

On the train to Sinton
May 6, 1925.

Dear Marion, I did not at all
realize that I was holding this
letter to Polly - I had put it in
the big envelope and forgotten
all about it. Polly must have
wondered why John and Alice
were so ungrateful for her
constant interest in them.

I am so glad that you
and Ruth and Carol and
George are where you
can get home fairly easily.
We have been out here
this second time not
quite so long as I stayed
the first time and it is
about three years

I am expecting two guests to-morrow to stay until Saturday, and Mrs Baker is expecting one or two, so that the next days will be fuller than usual probably. Time simply flies away-

It was nice to be at Swatow three days last week, although I hated to be leaving.

I saw everybody at Ketchikie and quite a lot of folk at Swatow and got a change of food and surroundings that is always welcome.

Howard Baker who is now studying in Shanghai, is expecting to be at home next winter,

before we can expect to come home. I certainly hope that we shall bring Aunt Cele safely with us. She seems very well & far better than when she arrived, except that the heat bothers her. The flies trouble also but they are temporary. I fear mosquitoes dreadfully, but we are doing everything possible.

When we go to Taiyong there will be a small gnat that is very annoying, but I'll have citronella on hand.

The Chinese man opposite me is spitting on the floor every other minute or two! I wish he would stop!

I am on the way to the dentist, for the last time I hope.

which is the year before they
start on furlough.

William James has been
away studying since March
and everyone will be
glad to see him when
summer comes.

I am afraid this
train is more jiggly
than a good many trolley
cars.

Hope you can read
this scrawl.

With much love
Lottie

Chaochowfu
Jan. 29. 1925.

Dear George,

Your letter with enclosed check arrived safely and I thank you very much for it. The check (I think) will verify later covers all your obligations and a few dimes to spare.

I did not answer immediately as Aunt Ale was sick and it was hard to find time to do anything beyond the every day routine. She is better now but far from strong, and it seems to be up. hill work getting back. Better for a few days and then a miserable day - with only perhaps a bit of extra food - to account for it. She has not yet been down stairs this year!! But we hope to have her down in about a week now. after her doctor returns from Swatow & Hong Kong and Canton. She has felt rather miserable yesterday and to-day but before that for three days she was getting out on the verandah both morning and afternoon, and looked

It has rained hard for two days, but is clearing now.

as I was a bit tired, and had not been able to get to bed early for a long time.

We have a big affair in house and on veranda for the kiddies to play in, and I wonder how folk with small houses stand it on rainy days.

Mr. H. Bone next door started for U.S.A. this week, and in about two weeks I take just the bare skeleton of his work. She used to go in to the city every day. I shall go in part of two afternoons, but it is the best I can do, and I do hope that Aunt Celia will be enough better so that it will not mean any extra strain for her.

What do you know! We had a lobster salad yesterday - the first since I left Swatow nearly a year and a half ago. It tasted good. Wish I had as good a garden as you can produce

leaves better. It is lucky we live in a land where one can buy port wine and sherry, for her heart needs a stimulant, and she finds that a tablespoonful or so helps her.

Aunt Celia says she hopes to answer your steamer letter sometime, but that she hasn't worried because she knows you see the home letters.

Ellice is off in the country preaching, but I don't see how they can do much with things as set as they have been this week. Kiddies haven't been out for a day or two except to go to Bakus, and so they need to have a vent for their energies. They are very good tho. John was weaving a doll's paper mat for a long time this morning, and then assorting wooden beads. I tried to teach him to write too, for half an hour, and gave him ten minutes of arithmetic, but I have not buckled down to my job in earnest yet. I must get to it for it is high time. I have been rather lazy, not getting up until 7:20 if the kiddies were asleep,

I'm not a very good farmer.
He got about 1/2 small butts out of a
whole envelope - and about 12 strings
beans ^{out of} about half a plot of land!

Did Martha Brooks become mayor?
I am afraid you are having a cold
winter. We worry a little about
Mother and Dad for fear they will
not keep warm or not eat enough.

Glad to hear of Bob's corduroy breeches!
Try! he must be grown up!

So glad to hear that Geo Jr. is at school
again. Hope he'll grow stronger and stronger.

I felt mean not to send the kiddies
Jones presents. It is such fun to do it and
such a disappointment not to.

I have a recollection that you mentioned paying
duty on that lunchbox and something to more
than its cost - but I can't find it in this letter.
It discourages me about sending things home.

I'm awfully sorry! Please find for me
where duty is assessed. Is it at Gloucester or
Boston or in the West?

Travels love to you & Olga
- The J. -
Latter.

Choctawfue
Swanton
Oct. 9, 1925.

Carol, please send to Marion.

Oct. 6, 1925.

Dear Carol, I am sending you a lunch cloth and 4 napkins as you asked. You will owe me a small sum of money. I will enclose bill.

I was delighted with your letter of Aug. 1. I am so glad that you can be at Rockport for the summer. We haven't heard your whole list of guests - but expect they kept you busy.

I can't "for the life of me" remember what sauce I used with Blueberry pudding. I think it must have been either that ordinary (beinger sauce) - (sugar, water & little vinegar) or beaten eggs with sugar.

Either would be good, I think.

I loved the recipe for your Swiss Steak, but have never had all the ingredients to use. Hope to come day. Thank much for recipe. Has you some good simple desserts.

I am afraid your lunch cloth is a little more than 36 x 28. Will that spoil it if it is?

Hope not. Much love to you both. I am very busy - and happy but very much alone.

Marion dear.

I never feel that my general letters can be quite satisfying to each member of the family and yet if I tried to write to each individual there would be so much repetition it would be tiresome. But - I must congratulate you on your trip to N.H. and ask a lot of questions. If they are unpertinent ignore them (as usual).

Did Dick get out of his trip to Niagara all he hoped to? If conditions were favorable I must have been a wonderful trip. Has he really broken with the Patents, and

Aunt Ale has gone with J. and is to stay in New York. I am going to visit them. Love.

Nothing is all right
I love you all
and am all right

now is looking for some-
thing more agreeable
and more profitable?
I do hope he will find
it soon, but if he does
not he must not lose
courage. Many a young
man has been there
before and come out all
right in the end.

Of course Everett is the
puzzle now. Did he fail
to pass the ~~maths~~ exams?
I know that sounds im-
pertinent, but if I were
there I would know.
and I am just as much
interested here in China.
It may be just as well
in the end. Some other
school - or work itself
may be better for him.

Polly will write
me one of her good
letters some day. and

tell me just what she
and Gene are doing in
school this year. And,
Gillie, don't grow up too
fast - there is lots of
time for you to be a
young lady - and only
a little while now
to be "Mama's baby"!!

We are awfully in-
terested, Maivor dear, in
your delvings into
family history. I hope
you will have some
other chance to go still
further. I think Anna
Golding has a history
of the Westerbe family
perhaps she would
loan it to you.

Love to all -
A. C.
Aug. 29.



To John,

With best wishes
for
a happy voyage,
from Auntie Anne.



To Anne,

With love, a best
wishes for a happy
voyage, from Auntie Anne.

E. P. Finnigan

London.

Jan. 9. 27.

Dear Mrs. Aldrich,

I had hoped to come to
the steamer to say good-bye, but as I know
we cannot get a companion I am sending
this to give you my very best
wishes for a very happy
journey back to America.
I do hope Miss Sutherland
too, will keep fit and be
able to enjoy the voyage.
I hope too, that you will
all have a splendid
trip, and pass much
pleasant and health, and
that it won't be so
very long before you are
back among us again.

With best wishes
Yours affectionately,
E. P. Finnigan

