

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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Series: I. Correspondence

Box / folder: 5 / 64

Folder label: LLH to Carrie and Everett Lane (parents), written in the United States, and from Chaochowfu

Dates: 1919-1921

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1246 Northampton St
June 30, 1911.

Dear ones,

Ellison is off speaking at Gypsum,
and Fannie is at Laurel Park where
she is chaperoning her Camp Fire girls. Baby is
asleep. He is getting to be awake so much
of the day that we do not get much time. Mrs.
H. has the electric washer I have spoken of before.
She is not entirely satisfied, as she has had
several ^{slips} accidents with it (has burned out fuses
and torn one or two clothes). and she says it
takes nearly a half hour to run the water off,
and clear up after it. It costs about \$150
I think. There is an electric wringer too,
and she has an electric iron and her
sewing machine can be run by electricity,
so that one can have all the conveniences.
The electric runner for the machine makes
it very easy to sew. It is very simple to
use, too. Ellison did all the work
last Saturday and has done a lot more for

Baby to-day. He is ^{2.} awfully good. I came
to have a great deal to do even when he helps me so
much. What with ironing and mending and feeding
the baby and tending him some, and feeding my own
face and getting out a little and writing now
now and then, I find no time for anything else.

Baby is not gaining so fast as he ought - only
I found in six weeks!!! He is paler than when
he was at home and more fussy - and is
awake a great deal more. Today he slept
only about 1 1/2 hrs. all day long. From 5:30
until 9:30. He often wakes up crying a
little instead of smiling as he always used to
do.

We are going to New York with him
next week instead of taking that long trip to
the west, and I am relieved that we need
not go so far. I can too I can see the
Bartolomeus which will be a great joy
to me.

Ellison bro't some lovely gifts
for Baby from China. Mrs. Addams
sent him a dear silver bracelet and bangle
Mrs. Latta sent a silver spoon. Dr. Leach
sent a rattle. Mrs. Page sent a bib.

Mary James sent the cutest little white
silk suit (with trousers) that you ever saw!
And she made every stitch of it herself!!

Am enclosing Co-opration
Bank check for 5.00 for
Father. and also \$5. for
Mother - \$3. for Aunt Alice
& \$2 for Mother to spend
on herself

With love

Don't give it
to card, or
use it on
house.

Wed. eve. Nov 9, '20.

Mom, Mother, Daddy, and Nancy, How much we have thought of you all these first days! I wanted to write at once and many times since - but getting settled has stood me in the face at every opportunity. We are well on the way now towards putting things in place.

Thank you, Nancy, for your very dear letter. I knew that first day would be especially hard, and the other days will be hard, too, when you think of dear little John! If he could only stay and not be so much work, it would be more possible to think of, but he winds himself around our hearts pretty because he is so dependent upon us, I suppose.

It is hard for me to express a quarter of what I want to say, and so I shall omit a great deal for lack of time - Such a wonderful feeling as we have had and what lovely memories it is filled with - and how good you all have been to us.

I shall want to hear how Daddy stands it, and what you all decide to do about the winter.

I realized the first night ^{2.} that I had left the
stock sheeting on the two cribs. Could you
please send it ^{by mail} or give it to Ellison? We are
managing very comfortably with what I have now,
and I can get on.

And Mother dear, can you send as a small
box of balm and a few greenings? I will
enclose money for express or parcel post.
Express would be easier on account of
the expressmen calling at the house.

You told me not to send money for the
milk but I should not feel right not to
send it and that is not paying at all
for all the extra electricity and broken
things and coal ^{expenses} etc. etc. that we have
had. So please know that this is not
adequate - nor as much as I should
like to do.

Oh, I found a lovely embroidered short
dress here from Ellison's cousins - the Means.
It is beautiful!

Paith has written you of the trip I think -
it was very comfortable and we were so grateful

for the season with.

Baby Alice has cried a little more than usual, but has been very good, and John, too, has been good, altho Ruth has attended him constantly. He was wide awake last evening and did not get to sleep until 9:00 P.M. To-night we have put him ^{in bed} up earlier and hope that it will be better.

Ellison took his mother & Ruth to Westfield this P.M. Ruth could have seen Uncle David's picture, but she had forgotten it was there.

I am so sorry, Aunt Lela, that we did not help you more to get your teeth in order. It seems to me that that was the best we could do.

We did not see Cora - It was impossible for her to come over on a Monday - and with no certainty of meeting us. And for some reason we did not make connection with Uncle George altho we waited more than fifteen minutes and it was 3:15 when we arrived. Too bad!

Ruth told you, ^{Stephens} ^{is} of the very sweet thing Maria did for us.

As you suppose, Aunt Lela, you could get some Green to sew for you!

John's tongue was much better on Tuesday and still better to-day.

Ruth is wonderful. I only hope she will not get too tired, and have her lovely
Shawn: fit alive yet and it is really 8:00 P.M. so I cannot stop with much longer letters.

Nov 23rd 1920

Dear Daddy,

Thanking you so much
for letter and ailer (not yet arrived) -
enclose check for \$2.00 - which
will cover rest of bill.

It is late and I haven't time to say
anything before mail closes.

Raining day - Hope you didn't
get wet.

Happy Thanksgivings to you
and Mother.

John had a wonderful birthday -
Squeals of delight - and lots of

~~present~~ much love

John
Lola

Journal

of
the
Museum

Wednesday March 8.

Alice is asleep. John is playing with Bessie and Howard for a few minutes - and I am waiting for the cook to come up and take accounts. It is cooler to-day and not quite so damp and moist as it has been, but there is no sun and has been none since I can remember almost. This morning I have looked out for the children, washed a few stockings, mended a few stockings, sewed some lace on Alice's parties and that is all I think. How time seems to fly with me, and before one knows it one grows old - with all ~~the~~ little accomplished.

This last week has not been very eventful. The children take most of my time, and I am very much happy being with them.

Last week Wednesday, Mary James and her two children spent the day with us. Allison cut William's hair which was long and lony. Then by Saturday he had that William was sick in bed with a cold, and I have just put the two together, and wonder if he caught the cold from having his hair cut! ~~Maybe not!~~

We have had a few Chinese callers four or five different days. They take only a short time. Carefully close all doors into bedroom and invite them up stairs, take them to the veranda to admire the view, and let John show off on the swing and Alice on the rocking horse, which they both love to do. The Chinese admire this country and diving and wonder at their white skin and John's long hair. They say usually, that the children

are white because they drink the buffalo cows milk. I see
then I take them inside, invite them to sit down, and let them listen to
the Victrola, and the piano. John and Alice usually are prominent in
this, too; for when the Victrola plays, they want to stand on the table
and laugh and jump, and when the piano plays, they like to sit one on
each side and add their notes before and after!

On Thursday one of our workers, Miss Winn, came up to spend the
night on her way out into the country where she is trying to learn
the language.

She cut out a dress out of Muscovade silk to wear with that pretty
metal & blue girdle that Aunt Sam gave you for Xmas.

Ellison went to Swanton on Saturday for a language exam. (Upgraded
favoring), but came home Sunday, as I was alone with the
children.

While I am watching the children I get time to practice
piano some, and I enjoy it immensely. I am working on exercises

and on the lower part of the Beethoven
Symphony suite. I find the exercises ^{very} ~~most~~
helpful!

I have also read 'The Swimming Cup' (by
Dorothy Canfield) which they say is an
answer to 'Main Street' which I have not read.

Please tell Uncle Charlie that the
boy whom his money is helping to be a preacher
is very sick in the hospital with pneumonia
and malaria. He has improved and we all
hope that he will recover, but he was a
rather sick boy when Allison saw him on
Sunday. Lucky he has a hospital to go to.
He surely would have died without.

I am reading Gloria 'The Years of
Fiction' and if any of you want an
inspiration, do read it. It seems
very wonderful to me.

Howard Baker has been sick with
malaria & swollen glands

Mrs. Wright has been sick. Miss
Boze, Mrs. James and I have had a miserable

cold that seems to be running around.

I managed to keep mine pretty well down and it hasn't got the better of me at any time, but I had on cold compresses for three nights and used glycerol, and had menthol ^{Santon} and Boric acid ^{London} in my nostrils - a very great help in a nose cold, by the way.

Now I must say Good Night without reading over again the good letters that have come this week - some nice envelopes from Jennie with cute Valentines which the children appreciated, and good letters from Marion, Henry, Mother, Aunt Leo, Daddy, Emma, Gene - etc. They were all so good, and I was so glad to get them after the long hold up of mail by the Siamois strike. Hong Kong is having a disastrous time & Europeans are manning the factories and the slaughterhouses and doing the labor. Trains have stopped running and the port is closed not here by paper.

Have very much love to you all,

Love

Sent letters all around place, to all brother
and sisters and then you, of course it

is all over now

Was having a good night without
padding in again the good letters that have
come this week some in a envelope for
from your wife and children which
the children appreciated and got letters
from Maria, Mary, Mother, and all
and you and your wife. This was
all very nice and I was glad to see
the letters by word of mouth by the women
and they were very happy and kind
from the women the morning the
children and the slaughterhouse and they
the letter. I have had a good morning
and the post is closed at five by paper.

Richford

Hingham
Ed
Camp

Union

John

James Mather
L. B. Bolles
Charles

I would like for
L. Hallin to see
the case of Lottis

Monday eve
April 25
8:15 P.M.
1921

Dear Mother, Rahmie, Daddy & all the others,

The mosquitoes are so thick inside that I have come out onto the veranda where the wind is strong and am standing up by the glass door so that I see by the light inside, but am not inside. Ellison went to Swanton on Sat. and will not return until ^{to-morrow} Monday. He sent up word to-day that our freight had arrived and I am delighted as there is some prospect of getting screens now. We are going to use the money from Rockport and Oakland to do this and it will be a great blessing. I do not dare go to Alice after I once put her in bed, for fear of mosquitoes - I think it is better for her not to be covered quite so tight than to be eaten up.

When we wanted to write Rockport church or someone in it, but have trusted that you and Aunt Lela would keep them posted as it is so hard to find a minute. I wrote a postal to Sherburne & hope to do that much, frequently. I managed to scribble a note to Oakland church last night between sleeping mosquitoes, and perhaps E will copy for me. I am so shut in, that I do not have much news. I do not like to leave the children with Chinese alone - especially as John does not know... but I do like that man in a while.

The frogs are making an awful racket. We have had beautiful weather, but not enough rain for rice & the water wheels have pumped the fields nearly dry.

Oh - that candy is good! Must look I will stop now for
to-night

RWTB

Randolph - Please let Aunt Cele see some time
Return to Holyoke

May 1 - 1921

Dear Cous,

I simply had to sit down immediately to
write ^{about} the incident of the gold fish. Ellison
bought two tiny ones ^{about 1 inch long} yesterday for John.

I put them in a glass jar and put them down
where he could look at them. He had had them
before and I thought would merely look at
them. ^{But off for a minute and} When I came to him, I found one little gold
fish munched on the floor. I talked to him
seriously about it and told him how God had
made the little fish so that they could see
and eat and swim etc.

I heard nothing more as I went busily about my work
for some time, but when I went back to him, I
heard him saying, "want God make another one",
which gradually changed to, "want God make
another one - want make eyes, mouth."

Lottie says that during the night she
heard him saying the same things

April 1921. Bits of conversation overheard
from Nephew

"I ot to go on a boat. I ot to go far away."

April 23, 1921.

Jarvis - "Who taught you to make nice circles?"
as I saw him make really circles with a pencil.
"Dear Nephew", he answered.

"Too much work, mamma, too much work. Don't
come in."

"Shut that door; mind ^{coming} turn out."

"Please take that. I sharp it" - handing me
a pencil. "I sharp ^{another} another, two, ^{three} three, ^{four} four, ^{five} five."

He saw a blotter on a wooden frame that would
like this  and he said with an exclamation,
"Dat a ducky doo, mamma, home aden!"

He had not mentioned ducky doo very much if
at all - and I was surprised that he should
remember the rocking.

I was playing Victrols to him one day and he
asked for a red record. After he heard he
said with glee. "Aunt Fannie used to play it,
Aunt Fannie used to play it."

Last night I told him all about his short
life, ^{and what it was} where we had been etc. and he wanted
me to tell him twice and then said the second
time, "Read it again, mamma, read it again."

"I want to make a man", he is saying
now.

"Get my ink, mamma."

"The Ciss in Holyoke's in ash and he almost
always answers correctly," Geneva and Geneva
Hildref, as he almost always says it
correctly for Nashport. but not always.

"That does Geneva Hildref make for you? To be
it."

He simply loves the word "mamma" and
about papers. He can't read yet but loves
to make believe.

"I had an envelope with a red spot in
it, but it disappeared and I presume

What does Grandma make? thoties

What does Aunt Fannie do? Yawaby (lullaby)
what else? sewie. What else? auto.

What does grandpa do? it always used to be
"auto", but now it is gee gee gee,
sometimes followed "on the foot"

I showed him Mother's picture, and he
immediately said "Danna"

In the morning. "I must get up" of
if you may get up daddy."

He does a lot of imaginary marketing.

Occasionally he tells me about something
"I buyed it in the city"

Elison took it.

To make sure, I will ask, "Have you received snapshots of nurse and me & John - in a Chinese umbrella?"

Of John and Alice and Teddy Bear in a long steamer chair on the veranda? If I can find out about these two, I think that it will fix the group and its letter and if they have not come, perhaps I will search his papers.

May 2. Alice sat in the jimples (that Aunt Jan and Grandma see John) for the first time today. She loved it at once & had a lovely time in it.

Much love & all. A shame I can't write more, but I am absolutely tied most of time even up to bed time many days. I expect it will not always be so confining and limiting after John gets proper forepaw beams Chinese - Very much love,
Thank you Grandma for little book!
to thank for John. I'll do