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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
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Ginling
Corres.
Whitmer, Harriet
1938 - 1948

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GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA

Excerpts from letter written by Harriet Whitmer
July 4, 1938 at Ginling College, Nanking, China

We just got the last batch of baggage off in the nick of time. A note had come for me in the morning but wasn't delivered until after 11:00. It was from Cooper saying the American Embassy would take our things to the boat at 11:45. I found the carpenter still packing the typewriter. He had it fastened in well and I think it will go through. Blanche Wu packed the microscope; we had delved to the bottom of the basement that morning and located one. I had collected some books and so by 11:45 we sent what we had ready. There are still a half dozen books, perhaps I can send.

One ought not to have taken time to celebrate the 4th, but we did do a little. I had the big flag spread out in the quadrangle - we had to explain that it didn't mean imminent danger that it was into use. At 4:00 we took a picture of our summer staff (some of them) and students with the great flag in the foreground. The faculty then came up for punch and some of the good biscuit you sent. At 5:30 the Americans gave us a good game of baseball down on the athletic field. By roping in Mr. Jeffery from the British Embassy they had two full teams and an umpire. Miss Sims and I kept score.

I am very much pleased with the improvement the girls are making in keeping their rooms orderly and clean. Last week we posted signs to indicate the rooms that had done the best. Yesterday even though it was Sunday there was much scrubbing and all were prepared to show me they now deserve to be recognized too. The girls do much washing and sunning of bedding whenever the weather permits. I hope our heaviest rains are over.

I think of you every day and wonder how you are going to get everything ready in time. Wang hasn't appeared and I am wondering if he is helping you pack. We are getting along nicely. So far I have had only Chinese food. The Forsters of the Episcopal Mission have moved into Eva's house and they would like to have me eat there, and I can if it gets warm and I need a change. I have the kitchen ready here but have so few supplies and without a cook to go out and hunt up some things that can be bought here I haven't tried to do anything. Han Sa-dz comes every day and helps a out. Shun Sz-fu runs a temperature every day even in the hospital and I am afraid he is not going to be able to work this summer. He feels restless and thinks he can come back and work. He must be on a rest cure and diet. They have plenty of milk at the hospital and he likes it. He is such a nice boy.

The Forsters have put away most of Eva's things. They like it there - said they might be in New Hampshire woods. Such a relief from conditions down in the city. The places down there are beginning to be repaired. I must go before long. Have stayed here so closely because I have had these necessary things to do, and then I haven't wished to see it all. I see Miss Brethhoust and Mrs. Gish on Sundays. I take flowers to churches and hospital. I am having the lawn fixed at front of South Hill House; terraced the slope better and think it is going to be satisfactory. I think we are getting the road widened in the quadrangle and I can have the sod to use up here.

We haven't city electric current yet. Mr. _____ said he would go again today and press the matter. The Embassy people have been very helpful in taking care of baggage. I am getting acquainted with people in this way. I am happy and contented - glad to be busy so I don't have to think too much. Planes are busy overhead - I read newspapers more or less regularly - strange life. I know Minnie is more tired than she realizes. I do hope she has a good rest in Peitaiho.

0137

GINLING COLLEGE
NANKING, CHINA

Letter from Harriet Whitmer of the Department of Biology of Ginling College. Miss Whitmer was on the Pacific, returning to China, when the war started. She stopped in Japan and has been teaching in the Women's Christian College in Tokyo. Letter written in Tokyo, January 29, 1938; received in New York, February 19, 1938.

It is difficult being a missionary in Japan these days. . . Not a day goes by but something is upsetting one's faith and leaves one wondering, what next!

Doshisi University has lost its very faithful President; he could not put up with official demands any longer. There was an article in the Kobe Chronicle recently that leads one to wonder how many other Christian leaders are slated for a similar fate. This article says there are 200 Christian schools on the list. I listened to Mrs. (Baroness) Ishimoto since her release from imprisonment which occurred during the Christmas Season. Officers came to her home at six in the morning and, without any reason that she knew, took her books, ransacked her clinic taking valuable records, and carried her off to police quarters for two weeks. During that time she was grilled as to why she persisted in a "foreign" doctrine such as birth control. They considered her unpatriotic. She replied that she felt her work of saving women who were finding life too unbearable was a service for Japan as full of patriotic motives as many of the things her accusers called their patriotism. She had been abroad this past year and that was another handle. We were much interested in her account of the Birth Control program that she and others are carrying on. It seems that the Birth Control League as originally founded in this country had to be altered and all the men, so-called doctors, removed from the work as the government found them using their clinics for illegitimate business. Now they only employ women physicians. . .

I have word from Florence Kirk that they have had more letters from Nanking and she is sending along what she names in a couched language a "birthday present" for me. All that I get is information sometimes so hidden in its meaning that I am not sure that I can understand aright. She tells me that the registration now proceeding in Nanking is sending many "home" and that leaves me cold for I know what it can mean. I am to go to Shanghai as soon as I am through with this job here. I think I shall be going to Nanking as soon as it is possible to reach there and then I shall be where the truth is all too evident. Having been here and not where I could experience as those over there have the terrible things as they have happened I am going to find myself stunned I know. If I can only do something to help I shall be able to stand it but if I find by the time I have reached Nanking all power of assistance is in the hands of our conquerors and we must follow their bidding it will be hard indeed. Even so I feel it is better to go and try. I have a tentative sailing for February 25.

When Matthew Yang (Hwang Li Ming's) nephew went through here on the boat en route for University of Michigan, he told me that there was a feeling that one of our Nanking men who has been over here since summer was proving himself a spy. I am going to write him now that I have discovered Francis Lin has been imprisoned in this country for the last two months for his efforts through the Oxford Groups here to help in the way he felt he could work best. Mr. Subilia from Yenching has been over recently making enquiries about his situation. It seems there have been other arrests in North China of students who were in attendance at the Peitaiho meetings last summer. Some who would have been in Yenching this year were taken as they were passing through Tientsin. Mr. Lin is not suffering ill treatment so they are not making an effort to gain his release for fear they might bring greater misfortune upon him and upon others. He has been a student at the Seminary in Nanking. His family are from Formosa and he has a brother in school here in Tokyo. We really know very little of the sacrifice that is being made here to save the situation. We

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get a great deal of encouragement from what people are really thinking but it is most discouraging, too, when we sense their helplessness. Until the economic pressure compels it I fear there is not much hope for a break from within. I do believe there are many who feel the boycott is a weapon that has power. I think the fear that its use under government direction will react in the wrong way here is perhaps justified. A recently returned propagandist who has been travelling in the States told of his discovery of the anti-Japanese attitude and then said, "Is it not time that we stop to consider why Americans feel this way, There must be a cause." They are all becoming very nationalistic minded and anything that reacts against them as a people is being keenly felt by individuals. Those in power are acquainted with the needs of trade outlets and credit and one can see by the articles that are published that any announcement of a boycott on Japanese goods attracts much attention. . . . We all need to have some bombs dropped over our heads to bring us to a realization of what war is. These people here might have a different attitude, too, were they to suffer a real shock.

We have all been wondering who could have translated the article that was purported to have been written by the Japanese bomber and printed in the January Asia. Some journalist. It is well done for the purpose which it is meant to serve and the article, too, that is written by Pearl Buck with such effect.

You have probably had copies of Minnie's diary later than I have seen. Mine ended the 11th of October. I think that is partly what my birthday present is to be. Dear Old Minnie if her health does not entirely break before I can reach her! I am so anxious, too, for Blanche Wu.

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WLK/

Jan. 14th 1937

Dear Miss Brick

Ack. 1/18/38 - Postal Card.

I rec'd the letters you sent to us and I want to thank you for your kindness. I had intended to write to you before. Have had quite a good many letters to write, and have put off writing to you. Please excuse my negligence. I thank you so much for those cards you sent. You will think I did not appreciate them. They are fine. I don't see how anyone can do such nice work. I sent them down to Minister's for them to see. That is Rev. Woodside's - Her mother, Mrs. Nixon, said she wanted to get some. will see about it. I will put in some stamps to help defray expense of sending the information. I know it must be considerable trouble to you but we would like to have them sent if you can. I would like to send some to Harrick but I have not dared to do it for fear of their being censored. I never mention War in my letters. She can write what she pleases as she mails on the boat We hear quite often.

I would love to send you a letter from her once in awhile but I send on to her Sister & brother - They want them too - Her letters are so interesting I think. Her cousin, Ellen Studley

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was leaving Los Angeles for China.
stopping in Japan with Harriet
about Christmas time and then going
by rail to Peiping where she was
going to help an over-burdened teacher
in school there. Have not heard
since. Expect I will hear soon from
her Mother, Mrs. Edith Studley, ~~Carr~~,
Harriet had been invited by Dr Berry
Pres. of Aoyama College, Tokyo for
Christmas dinner with a group.
She had Thanksgiving dinner with
W.F.M.Sers there were some over 60
there. Had a nice time. I think
she is enjoying her work, teaching
in a Christian College in Tokyo.
I will put in her address, could
not tell it to anyone. I believe her
school lasts through Jan. She took the
place of an English teacher. It is a Biology
teacher.

Carrie Whitham
with love.

We are keeping real well
this winter, but there has been plenty of
sickness & accidents about. Quite an
epidemic of scarlet fever in our town,
one woman died! She was sick only
short time. Had been shut in 3 wks. when
one of her little boys had it & was bound
to get out - soon with a sore throat &
breaking out. Went to school exercises
& to Christmas tree Fri. night at our Church
to Community tree - Sat. when Dr. found
her all broken out & Tues. morn. died
suddenly. Her husband, taking care of her,
gave her a drink at 5 o'k then she seemed
better & he laid down to sleep. When he went
to her at 8 she was dead. They had to
bury in P.M that day. She was such a large
woman. Hard work to get casket through the door.
I have written two cards. Hope your kiddies will.
Having snowstorm. Blizzard passed us by.

JAN 14 1938

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Rec'd N.Y. - 2/18/38
Mimeographed 2/24/38.

Tokyo Joshi Daigaku, Suginami-Ku, Tokyo, Japan
January 29, 1938.

Dear Rebbeca:

I was visiting with Mrs. Bates one day when she had just received a letter from you in which you were reporting that office life did not agree with your disposition but there are things equally as difficult and one, I should say, is being a missionary in Japan these days. [(I am going to mail this on the boat when I go down to meet Eleanor Wright as she passes through here so I can speak as I feel)] Not a day goes by but something is upsetting one's faith and leaves one wondering, what next!

Doshisha University has lost its very faithful President; he could not put up with official demands any longer. There was an article in the Kobe Chronicle recently that leads one to wonder how many other Christian leaders are slated for a similar fate. This article says there are 200 Christian schools on the list. I listened to Mrs. (Baroness) Ishimoto since her release from imprisonment which occurred during the Christmas season. Officers came to her home at six in the morning and, without any reason that she knew, took her books, ransacked her clinic taking valuable records, and carried her off to police quarters for two weeks. During that time she was grilled as to why she persisted in a "foreign" doctrine such as birth control. They considered her unpatriotic. She replied that she felt her work of saving women who were finding life too unbearable was a service for Japan as full of patriotic motives as many of the things her accusers called their patriotism. She had been abroad this past year and that was another handle. We were much interested in her account of the Birth Control program that she and others are carrying on. It seems that the Birth Control League as originally founded in this country had to be altered and all the men, so-called-doctors, removed from the the work as the government found them using their clinics for illigitimate business. Now they only employ women physicians. [The Baroness said that she learned from her prison experience that she needed to expend effort in the future toward educating the official class in this country as to what the needs are that are being met by the League's work. She is a most interesting woman and there is need for many more as brave as she.]

I have word from Florence Kirk that they have had more letters from Nanking and she is sending along what she names in a couched language a "birthday present" for me. All that I get is information sometimes so hidden in its meaning I am not sure that I can understand aright. She tells me that the registration now proceeding in Nanking is sending many "home" and that leaves me cold for I know what it can mean. I am to go to Shanghai as soon as I am through with this job here. I think I shall be going to Nanking as soon as it is possible to reach there and then I shall be where the truth is all too evident. Having been here and not where I could experience as those over there have the terrible things as they have happened I am going to find myself stunned I know. If I can only do something to help I shall be able to stand it but if I find by the time I have reached Nanking all power of assistance is in the hands of our conquorers and we must follow their bidding it will be hard indeed. Even so I feel it is better to go and try.

When Matthew Yang (Hwang Li Ming's) nephew went through here on the boat enroute for Univ. of Michigan he told me that there was a feeling that one of our Nanking who has been over here since summer was proving himself ~~to have been~~ a spy. I am going to write him now that I have discovered

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JAN 29
1938

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Francis Lin has been imprisoned in this country for the last two months for his efforts through the Oxford Groups here to help in the way he felt he could work best. Mr. Subilia from Yenching has been over recently making enquiries about his situation. It seems there have been other arrests in North China of students who were in attendance at the Peitaiho meetings last summer. Some who would have been in Yenching this year were taken as they were passing through Tientsin. Mr. Lin is not suffering ill treatment so they are not making an effort to gain his release for fear they might bring greater misfortune upon him and upon others. He has been a student at the Seminary in Nanking. His family are from Formosa and he has a brother in school here in Tokyo. We really know very little of the sacrifice that is being made here to save the situation. We get a great deal of encouragement from what people are really thinking but it is most discouraging, too, when we sense their helplessness. Until the economic pressure compells it I fear there is not much hope for a break from within. I do believe there are many who feel the boycott is a weapon that has power. I think the fear that its use under government direction will react in the wrong way here is perhaps justified. A recently returned propagandist who has been travelling in the States told of his discovery of the anti-Japanese attitude and then said. " Is it not time that we stop to consider why Americans feel this way? There must be a cause". They are all becoming very nationalistic minded and anything that reacts against them as a people is being keenly felt by individuals. Those in power are acquainted with the needs of trade outlets and credit and one can see by the articles that are published that any announcement of a boycott on Japanese goods attracts much attention. [I would say that the present steps that are being taken by organizations is having some effect and will have the more effect if boycotting can be done without these organizations thinking of the means as something to save themselves. That is the pity that we are not rid of self even when we are supposed to be warding off wars.] We all need to have some bombs dropped over out heads to bring us to a realization of what war is. These people here might have a different attitude, too, were they to suffer a real shock.

We have all been wondering who could have translated the article that was purported to have been written by the Japanese bomber and printed in the January Asia. Some journalist. It is well done for the purpose which ~~which~~ it is meant to serve and the article, too, that is written by Pearl Buck with such effect.

You have probably had copies of Minnie's diary later than I have seen. Mine ended the 11th of Oct. I think that is partly what my birthday present is to be! Dear Old Minnie if her health does not entirely break before I can reach her! I am so anxious, too, for Blanche Yu. [Yet strange to say she may be better than before the trouble started. There is such a thing as a shock needed to correct some nerve cases and we were not too sure what did ail Blanche. In a letter I read written to Lilliath she said she did not feel the pains as often nor were they as hard. I was so glad to learn that. I do not know that Blanche has received a single line from me since I came out. Not that I have not written. I wonder how many of those old letters of last year will be arriving sometime during 1938. They will be most out of date. For what a lot has happened in six months!

I hope life in an office is not taking all the fun out of life. You do and hear some things that we out here are missing and I am sure there is a degree of safety there. Mother has mentioned many items which you have sent and maybe she has forgotten to write and express her appreciation.]

0143

JAN 29 1938

[Some two days later cablegrams came here to Augusta in Tokyo from Mr. Garside inquiring about Miss Fuller who came out under the Am. Bd. to teach in Tsinan at Cheefoo. I knew she had gone on to China with Mary K. Russell and had been at one time in Chefoo. Mary K. was out staying in Tsingtao the last I have heard but I have not known of the movements of Miss Fuller. I feel it strange that the N.Y. office had not known of her being in China & was trying to locate her here when she had stopped enroute.

Eleanor Wright has been up in Changsha since the beginning of fall work. I shall be glad to see her. She is leaving now to get medical attention at home.

I have enjoyed the Guiding calendar so much. Several have asked for extra ones so I am entirely sold out. Mother mentioned the sketches of Guiding she had received from you and found some of her friends who wanted to buy. I am so glad to hear them now.

My work will be lightened from now on and I hope to get all my writing done so friends will know where to find me. Dias mail was awfully scarce. I appreciated your message.

Love,

Harriet]

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File Harriet Whitman (1)

7 Ave. Petain, Shanghai, April 2 1938

Dear Rebecca:

I have copied extracts from letters that have come to the office and will add my bit to let you know what I am doing these days. I am sorry the copy is so poor. I used the wrong carbon at first and then the typewriter down at the office does not run like one's own.

I think I have written so that you know that I arrived the early part of the month. I had to get busy with the girls who were waiting for me to start them off with thesis work. Had I known that they would be here for sure I might have come over a bit earlier. I waited there partly in order to get the British boat that would not make it necessary to travel to Kobe by rail. Dr. Reeves has written that she has girls doing problems but does not say what the problems are or who she has in her charge. I think she has four seniors. Pindji is there with her. Poor Blanche is all alone in Nanking trying hard to keep up her job and I am of no help to her. As you may know we are still a long way off from our city. From what I gather Blanche is taking care of her job and doing it with a vengeance. I am afraid she is not taking life quite as normal as she should. Lack of rest and lack of work that gives her contacts with the rest of the group is leaving her too much by herself. I wish she would not do so. I don't think the chickens are worth it. Maybe I would feel different if I were there. I have not had communication from Blanche since I arrived. Her letter that should have met my boat had I arrived last Aug. was misplaced and I did not see it until after Xmas. I was not acquainted with the needs she had expressed in that letter so that may have upset her. I think it was hard colds that they were having up there. Two were in the hospital.

Dr. Wilson has been having an infected hand but the last word says they are getting it localized. He is the surgeon there at the hospital. The doctor and two nurses they have ready to go to Nanking have not been able to get passes. Miss Sayles and Hyla Waters, who has just returned from India where she took her mother, have passes to go to Wuhu.

The weather here has been very spring-like so we know it has been the kind of weather I should so like for gardening and getting the campus put back in order. That is only one of the many things that I could be doing. Minnie Vautrin has done a little planting in fromt of the Central Building where the shrubs were so broken. As far as I know the gardeners are there and no doubt are at work. I sent seeds.

Ruth Chester and Florence Kyle live out near me. There are other friends close by. I tried this P.M. to look up Lawrence Liu's but have not located them. She has had to give up her kindergarten.

There is so much ruthless tearing up of shrubs out in the residential districts about Shanghai. No thought or care for the owners. This is happening on Foreign property as well as Chinese. It is our "friends" who are seen doing some of it at least. The drunkeness of the J.Soldiers-in the best Chinese restaurants is making such places impossible. They are there with Chinese women and we wonder what is going to happen to all our eating places in the Settlement. I was out one evening and as I was leaving the restaurant there were several so drunk that one fell the length of the stairs just ahead of me. He was armed but fortunately was taking it all as a joke. I have not been out since.

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We are all so glad to have Dr. Wu back with us. She has lo ked tired [but who wouldn't after all the excitement she has had in her travels] Mrs. N. is keeping her quiet as much as she can. [Mrs. New is not very well herslef so Dr. Wu can rest nbetter when she is with her.]

[There was a breakfast out at McTyeire this morning and they came in feeling so fresh. Mrs. New always seems to have good spirits.] The new teachers (Chi-chin and Alice Chang) we have with us are all so fine. I have had little time to get to know them well. We have had meetings together when some one would be address-ing us and so have not had conversation in our gatherings. We meet each Friday and have lunch and then an inspirational talk or report [that will help our intellects. Eva gave the report this week.]

I brought over a supply of clothing with me from friends in Japan who knew some were where thy could not get at their things or had last everything. So many have found things to help out. Especially mothers with children needed many things. I had several koris and a truck full. Mrs. Bates has helped distribute. They also sent money for relief work. I am saving some to help out in starting our industrial work [if that can be done.] I have been out to see some of the industrial work started here. Business men will give work to a camp if there are several thousand workers. A small group does not pay them. They have to send teachers to train the worker in doing the hand work. Some now are making baskets. Others doing embroidery and hemstitching. Girls at the Y.W. camp were taking over some of the making of garments after the embroidery has been done. They all seem so happy in their work. They get money for the work but most of it is being kept for them until time for them to leave. They are given something for pin money. Mrs. Fitch is doing much of the work here and she has many helpers. They are asking that she go to some of the other places later and start similar projects. [This is Robert Fitch's second wife. I had not known her before.]

[I will send a second copy to Mrs. Thurston . Will also include the copies] I have made from the letters so Rebecca need not send on.] I have received Mrs. T's letter and the Alumnae here have extracts from that. Mrs Tsen has done well to pen her own letters in English. [I did not know she could do so well.]

We have just learned that Dr. Brown of Wuhu [illegible] others [illegible] a [illegible], motored [illegible] returned to Wuhu. [illegible] Dr. [illegible] [illegible] this is a sign that [illegible]. There is something [illegible] the name & character of the Japanese [illegible]. [Confucius [illegible] degree. [illegible] "friends" then the degree is carried on [illegible] the very worst atrocities.] [It is hardly fair to tell some of the things we know to be true. To us they are horrible but to the Japanese man they are [illegible] & he does not know how sinful they are. They are only yet in a feudal stage of development.]

Love, Harriet

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Ginling
Nanking
January 24, 1939

Dear Rebecca:

It would just be too bad if I did not get a letter off to you on this mail. Your very thoughtful Christmas gift came and we have decided to let Minnie use it when she goes to Shanghai next week to buy some soap, and other very needful things that we cannot get here and want very much. We go without many things when we cannot go out and buy and now is a good time to lay in a supply of cold creams, and other needful beautifiers. I shall put down tooth powder for my wants, too. Then we will leave it to Minnie to find some of the things we have not thought about. I think soap was about the most welcome thing that reached them after their isolation last year. That and fruits and candies.

Then I wonder if I wrote and thanked you for the gift that came through Miss Tyler from you. She bought a fruit basket in Tsingtao that had apples, oranged (Sunkist) and other fruits that were such a treat at that time. Miss Tyler herself, and Miss Schultz purchased butter, coffee and cheese which we all enjoyed and which we had been doing without much of the time.

The news that Mrs. Thurston will soon be on her way is most exciting. Just what she will decide to do when she gets here I do wonder. Eva's house is all furnished and ready for her to step in if she would like that arrangement. Minnie and I have not thought she would care to climb the hill to live up where I am living and I think if she could be in a house by herself since houses here are plentiful it would be much more to her liking anyway. Living down in Shanghai is not pleasant these days. Everywhere one finds such crowds. It is just almost impossible to live comfortably. I was there for several months and was so glad to get out.

I am staying here this vacation. Partly a plan I made in order to get more planting and campus work done. And then I have some overseeing in the Homecraft and they go on with their work without a holiday. Minnie can go and do what she wants to in Shanghai and feel that there are people here looking after the work. We have been able to persuade Mrs. Tsen that she might have a holiday. She has no desire to go to the trouble of travelling. So many have urged her but she has an excuse each time the plan has been made. I can see her point of view and would not urge her to go. She has her daughter-in-law with the children living in 400 and no one else living or eating there. When we want Chinese food for guests Mrs. Tsen arranges it there.

We put a stove in the living room up here on the hill. A hole through the ceiling and a drum in the hall above. That makes out four bedrooms and bath very comfortable up there. Hot water in the drum is convenient. Mrs. Tsen says we are really living more comfortably with the stove than they did with the furnace that was not satisfactory and gave so little heat. With south exposure we get almost enough heat from the sun during parts of the day even in Jan. But we are having a very mild winter. A perfectly lovely winter. One sprinkling of snow. No muddy weather.

You might gather from what I have written that it is all lovely here and there is nothing of which to complain. That is practically true if one were to stay on this campus. It is not so everywhere. We hear distressing accounts. Our cook bought a pheasant the other day. I asked about the market. He said it was brought in in a bundle of grass. Otherwise no way for the country people to get them in. They would be snatched from them at the gate.

0147

1-24-39

Our rice straw we bought for the refugees' beds could not be secured until we found that when it was made up into mattresses it was allowed to be brought in. Otherwise it would be taken for horse feed. Everybit of wood will soon be cut over the hills to the west of us. They are bringing in the pine now from the mountain. It is things of that sort that seem so distressing. Wood is being made more plentiful than ever before. No apparent control over the forests that people have worked so hard to establish. You have been gone so long you have never seen the mountain green with trees. But even trees can be grown again and we should think of things more important. We will be having to begin all over again.

We are all keeping well. I am looking forward to vacation to get more letters written. I shall try to send you one with more news about folks and what we are all doing.

Much love,

Harriet

February 10, 1939

This missed the last boat. We have word of Mrs. Thurston's arrival March 7. Minnie is down in Shanghai. I am going down later and think I shall be able to make it in time to meet the boat March 7.

All goes the same here. Letters from Eva enroute back from Madras. No word from Chengtu recently.

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Burr Oak Michigan
Oct. 18th 1939

Mr. C. A. Evans

Dear Sir

I am certainly interested in the work being done for China Relief. Especialy for Jinling College & Chungtu as I had a daughter there in Nanking helping with the work, Harriet Whitmer. I recd 2 letters from her last evening in which she told of conditions there. She said Provisions were high and the grass which the poor people usualy cut for fuel had been eaten by the horses when the armies came in — So they were selling what they could on the hill-sides. This will make it hard in winter for the poor. They were getting a fund on the Campus, to help out. I am sorry to say I will not be able to send any money. My husband, W. W. Whitmer passed away Sept. 17 — 2 months after his 84th birthday.

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He had been under the ~~Drs~~ Doctor's care for over a year and our expenses were high- I was 82 Oct. 8th. I am staying here alone so far but I'm going to Maple Rapids with my daughter for the winter, I am keeping the material and if I can I will try to secure some money to send later.

Sincerely

Mrs. Carrie Whitman

10-18-39

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24 October 1939

Dear Mrs. Whitmer:

It is very good of you to write us of your continued interest in the work of Ginling in China. We have frequent evidence of the value of what your daughter is doing, and I hope that it may be possible for us to show you, sometime within the next few months, the slides which we have made from pictures recently received from Nanking. If you are willing to lend us Harriet's letters when you have read them, we shall be deeply grateful, and I have no doubt that certain quotations, not of a personal nature, may be helpful in getting out our news bulletins.

We are so very sorry to know of your husband's death, and can realize how much this has brought to you of added loneliness. It happens that my own birthday is the same as yours, and I am therefore specially happy to reach you in this way as a senior in experience of this journey along the road of life. I am glad to know that you are to go to your daughter's home for the winter, and send very best wishes for your comfort and joy in the weeks that lie ahead.

Very truly yours,

EBM:am

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

Mrs. Carrie Whitmer
Burr Oak
Michigan

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0151

Mrs

(17)
5r

[illegible] Hanover Road
Dec. 7.

Dear Miss Tyler:

Blanche had such a letter to
write and I knew I could do so at
once. Your very acceptable present
each blessed one minute. You may
be wondering what each one is.
You will find out in due time.
Of that rest assured. Enough
further explanation. Suffice it
to say I am very thankful
indeed. Mrs. Hartley was up
the other day. She has been keeping
the Sunday supplies on hand. We make
a good team. I wish you could

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out for her Chickens, ducks, geese & eggs are much appreciated when small costs run high. We have so far been getting full value from our $. It is very fortunate we do not all have the same spills - or vicissitudes. We are so fortunate to have Irene & Ah-Keep over 8 yrs of servants almost in fact. We never once have Irene added and very few have left said have left opportunities.

The latest word we have had regarding Minnie V. is from Dr. Wilson who has sent us word of his call in Marfa. Minnie was suspicious that he had come to take her back to the hospital. That a world of years she was away. She has so dreaded again leaving here that the work would have to S.Tp. as a matter of fact Mrs Swen Bao-ren here Mr. has carried on very well and now & then years were well grounded. We have come to believe Minnie was in a state of mind that allowed unnecessary worrying before she actually broke down. No one watches over the girls as closely as she thought she must and yet there is less morality conduct than each year. The dormitory supervision is much more easily handled by the Chinese teachers. I wish Minnie had

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trusted them and tried it out.

I am feeling immensely better especially than last year. Sometimes I hope me feeling at my best but this fall I can regain weight and am enjoying more work — even teaching English is not the task I might have objected it to be.

I had a nice letter from Rebecca J. recently. We don't know exactly what task she is taking in the Lansing Community. Whether she is up or down at the hosp. You will know what I mean. With Phinie in her present situ we are wondering what thought is being given to her future use at Lansing. But I suppose there is not much use to "rush" such appointments as hers or however they can remain. Dr. Mc has not written any time. We are very glad Mr and Mrs Williams settlement happily on to Oswego. See M. as asked the question; mother is getting.

We are missing coal for board next term and under what speed it may last our inmates & pupils. All know it costs more & hits at home as well.

Lots very real wishes to you all

Warren M. Whitmer

Ed.

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OVER

Dec. 15th 1941.
Lucerne Michigan

Ginling College, N.Y. Office

Dear Friends:

I am writing to know if you have had any information lately about my daughter Harriet M. Whitmer at Ginling College, Nanking China. She was at Shanghai during the month of Aug. & I rec'd 2 letters from her then & I rec'd 2 letters written in Sept and that was the last I have heard from her. She has always been so prompt writing to me, and I am sure she has kept writing to me.

I have kept sending my weekly letters until lately when I thought she had probably left there & was perhaps on the way home. I wrote once to Miss Rebecca Frisch - She wrote a nice letter to me, telling me not to worry as there had been boats taken off the Pacific - Now since conditions are worse I feel very anxious about her as well as do many others - In one of her Sept. letters she wrote me she had sent a Bank draft of $800 to me but it never came to me at Burr Oak Michigan, my home. I came here last Wed. to spend the winter with my daughter & family, Florence Bridient.

My husband died 2 yrs. ago in Oct. Sept. I am 84 yrs. old. Had planned to stay alone but they wouldn't let me.

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Harriet said she had her money (or some of it) changed into Chinese currency as she wanted to help the college all she could. & the rest she sent home. The others who didn't do that, had it frozen - (whatever that means) and if this she sent was n't released, that might be frozen too;

I guess I am writing too long a letter, I am hoping to hear from you soon. Harriet sent her letters usually by some one taking a boat to come home, She had planned to come home next year, if all was well. Many thanks to you.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs. Carrie Whitmer

Leoring

Michigan

To Rev. H. A. Bedient

12-15-41

RECEIVED
DEC 17 1941
GINLING OFFICE
By E.T.

0156

December 17, 1941

Mr. Evans:

You will probably wish to answer this letter from Mrs. Whitmer, inquiring about Harriet Whitmer. Since Mrs. Whitmer has been in Levering, Michigan, since Dec. 10th, she probably did not receive your letter regarding the safety of missionaries which I sent to her on Dec. 15th. Another copy is attached hereto.

E. Foster

home in Burr Oak, Mich.

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Lewering Michigan
Jan 12th 1942

Mr. C. A. Evans:

Dear Sir.

I was very glad to receive your letter. I read a letter written by Barbara Lewis. Sec. to Miss McKinnon who was attending the Methodist Student Conf. in Urbana Ill. The letter was written Dec. 29th telling of a Cable coming through the State Dpt. from Chungking West China.

To Sec. of State Washington D.C. (Dec 20 1941) It was sent to Dr. Frank Carlwright Waters, Morgan. Whitmer Walcott, Stephens, Hallocks. Gale, Hawk, Stewart, McCain, Ward, Safe Wuhu", Mrs Gale Chungking. Have sent Ward funds. (Signed) Rappe

Wuhu is in Central China Conf. most of this Conf. is occupied. but since this Cable came from Chungking which is unoccupied China, then Missionaries are obviously in touch set with the group in unoccupied China -

Harriet did not give me the details about the draft. She said she had sent it once before she sent $200.00 draft. I think that came from N.Y. I rec'd 2 letters from her, sent from Shanghai in Aug. when she was taking a vacation. and none since. I kept writing to her until after Dec. 7th — I have'nt written to Wuhu as I have'nt heard from it. Sincerely Mrs. Whitmer

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
JAN 14 1942
JOINT OFFICE

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Oct 7 1942

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or

Burr Oak, Mich.
Sept. 30, 1942.

Dear Cordelia:

I am thinking of you these days as rumors of another trip of the Driftholme comes to my attention. I shall watch to know if the boat carries messages to those we treasure may be returning on it. I have a cousin Ellen Studley whose name I shall look for. She was in Peking.

And do you think Plummer may be coming? I do so wonder about those dear Hankiang folks we left behind.

I was sorry not to have seen you but seeing Harriet was almost as good. How she resembles her Mother! She has the same interests too in wanting to hear about every-

thing. Plummer again and again gave us instructions about small details saying, "Cornelia will be wanting to know." I am afraid I have not done my part but I felt sure you would be seeing & hearing from Mrs. Thurston. I have just had a letter from her reporting on what she has been doing.

I am grateful to you for your letters of information to Mother. She felt certain I was all right and did not worry. When I asked about her health through the past months she said "Why, I course I was well." I don't know that it had occurred to her that I might be concerned about her. No word had come of her for ten months. She will be 85 on the 8th of Oct. Is about as I left her five ago. Has no ailments that cause any health problems. I am staying here at home until I know what I can and should do. So far I have done

little else than visit among my relatives. I had Mother with me part of the time. A trip to northern Mich. to be with my sister has just been completed & now she is moving to Evansville, Ind. — a distance equally as far south.

You may know my vacationing is doing me good. I have gained 10 lbs this first month. My medical exam. called for increase in weight. I was just 100 lbs then. But not feeling at all tired out. I think that everlasting uncertainty took us all down. I wasn't the only one.

I did not get off the boat until the end of the third day so I missed the luncheons and had I been earlier I should have seen some who came to meet friends & relatives. Miss Wixon stuck by until all the Methodists were off. I had no trouble only being in the W line I came late.

The office in N. Y. had had more news of Pinling in the West than

10-30-42 (47)

we had had. I shall be interested to have whatever comes & anything you may have that was not included in the Bulletins you sent Mother. Mrs. T. gave me what Ruth had said about Dr. Vos etc.

I have not written yet to the folks in Chugtu nor to Nanking. Ill try sending an airmail (10c). For the Red Cross procedure I understand or need forms and I have no such blanks. Any information you can give that will help keep me in touch I shall be grateful for.

I hear from others that this one and that one has spoken on the radio but I have missed all Grisphstms reports given in that way.

Florence Kirk came to Ann Arbor but I did not have notice in time to see her there. I have not as yet seen Dr. Reeves at 1343 So. 5th ave Ann Arbor I expected but here about this time but she is now waiting on doctors examinations. With love Yernick Whitmer

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Evansville, Ind. April 8 1943

Dear Cornelia:

I was away from home and Mother did not get my mail off early so the invitation has just reached me. I am going to accept & be most happy for this opportunity to be present at such a gathering. It will be the first time I have been at one of our college meetings in New York.

Mr. Reisner may have reported that I was with the group in Alabama. I haven't made my report yet but intend to do so. It was a grand experience. I am still travelling toward home. Here at Evansville I am spending a week with my sister.

I am wondering if Mrs. Thurston will be in New York when I am there.

I am planning to get home to make garden & hope it is going to be warm enough to plant in April. If not Mother can plant if the beds are ready. Everybody is gardening around here.

With best wishes.

Harriet

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Burr Oak, Michigan ,October 2,1943.

Ginling College
150 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Mills:

Does the office there have my credentials from the various schools I have attended? I do not remember whether they were asked for when I went to Ginling. Nor do I remember whether the Mission collected them. There should be credits not only from Albion and Uni. of Mich. where I have taken degrees but from Cornell Uni., Uni.,of ILL., Uni. of Wash.,and Mich. State College.

The school here where I am teaching needs to have my record and has asked me for it. I have never Collected them myself. I joined the American College Bureau, Chicago, since coming home and I am writing them to see if it is possible to have a transcript sent to the Superintendent here. I do not know the ways of these bureaus. I am hoping to find an easy way and not have to write to all these colleges and Uni . where I have studied.

School has been in session just one month. I am very sure my contribution will not be what I would like to have it. In the first place I am teaching subjects way out of my line. I am getting a good review that will be very helpful to me and I shall not regret having had this chance to do it. History from beginning of all time. Then the Geography work is valuable. The Biol. is so elementary there is nothing gained for me. But I shall feel that making a home here for Mother is the biggest job I am doing and she appreciates that.

I have enjoyed reading another letter from Stella Graves. I do not know what Dr. Wu is doing. Florence Kirk is about finished and I am hoping to have her come and see me before she gets away. I did not see Lillian as I intended to do. Her doctoring program and my plans just could not let us get together. I feel very sorry about that. When she could have had me come I was in the first week of school.

I saw Dr. Reeves just before she was about to leave Ann Arbor. I suppose she is in the South but I have had no word from her. She was stopping at Berea enroute to Gainesville, Fla.

Mother & I are both well.

Love
Harriet Wittmer

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October 4, 1943

Miss HarrietWWhitmer
Burr Oak
Michigan

Dear Harriet:

I was glad to hear from you this morning and to know some of your plans.

I wish that I could help you with your credentials, but we do not seem to have any official record here in the office. The only thing I can find is an extract taken from Miss Elizabeth Bender's letter of November 7, 1923. She says: "..... She (Harriet Whitmer) has her A.B. degree in Zoology from Albion in 1912 and her M.A. from the University of Michigan in 1917. She has done summer school work in Cornell University and the University of Washington". Perhaps, at that time, you had not yet done the work that you speak of at the University of Illinois or Michigan State College.

We have no other record at all about your academic accomplishments and so I am afraid can do nothing more for you.

I am glad that you are able to be at home with your mother as I know this is a satisfaction to both of you.

With all best wishes to you both,

Cordially yours,

CSM:ef

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Burr Oak, Mich. Nov. 30, 1943.

Dear Mrs. Mills:

I hope that Miss Russell has given you the inforamtion about Dr. Reeves that I hurried off to her. I had known that Dr. Reeves was feeling very sure she would be having an opearation and was thinking that she would be coming to ~~to~~ the hospital in Ann Arbor for it. She went to Florida and that trip had shown her that she was not fit to travel. It brought on too much pain. She had settled down with Adelaide Gundlach for a time and I suppose that it was from there (Berea) she went to Lexington. I do not know whether she had a sudden attach or whether she had made up her mind she would have it near by so she would not have to travel so far. Anyway now that it is over I hope she is going to be more comfortable.

I know how very excited you are these days. I am too. I shall have news through my cousin who is a gossiper. (Ellen Studley) I am busy as can be and so you do not hear much from me.

Mother and I keep well. We were home for Thanksgiving but I think we may have a little time with relatives during Xmas.

I have heard nothing about Dr. Wu. Anytime there is a news letter going out do not miss me.

I do not get the United Colleges Bulletin. I do not know just whom to write. The Post and Mercury keeps me up a bit. I have not heard from Mrs. Thurston in so long. I wrote her what I knew about Dr. Reeves.

I guess you know my business is teaching here at home. I have history and English classes and some other work beside.

With love,

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Burr Oak, Mich.
July 25, 1945.

Dear Dr. Van:

I have purposely not written so you could rest but now that you are soon to be leaving I do want you to know I have you in mind. If I could have been free I think I should have made some excuse to have gone East when you were meeting Pittsfield in N. Y. I never get to N.Y. except when I am on some such trip. My work and study has always been out this way.

I don't know whether you are going to be here when the Griffiths arrive. I know those who have come from Chengtu will hope to see you. I am so glad Grace Ind is coming. She and Katie must have had a good visit in India.

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7-25-45 (27

Dr. Reeves writes me that Mrs Neal is staying on. I shall be seeing Dr. Reeve's new shack when I get back South.

I have had a "big birthday" celebrated my 60th last week.

Among my letters was one from Katherine Schutze telling me she has fully recovered. For two years she has been ill and feels the joy to be free. She is in one of their mountain schools in Ky. I may be able to visit her as it is not far off my route to Montreat. I am so glad to have this good news from Katherine. I have missed my correspondence with her.

When you get back to China and find any way to connect with Blanche Thu & Mrs. Tsen to let them know I think of them so often.

I had a medical examination & thanks sent in to Dr Vaughan recently. All points except Hood

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(which needs building up) 7-25-45 (3) were marked excellent. I am taking medicine for building haemoglobin. Am getting a good summer rest so I expect to be feeling my best to go back to work this fall. I look forward to returning to Montreal but more to returning to Hankin and Quibing. I wonder if I shall be permitted to conclude my last term in China? You will know that I am keeping in trim for that service if I am needed.

I am hoping your holiday has proved restful. England and especially London will not be the place I saw some years ago. I suppose some of Eva's family will be seeing you.

A good voyage & trip home.

Best wishes to all you meet on the way. With love, Harriet

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July 30, 1945

Miss Harriet Whitmer
Burr Oak
Michigan

Dear Harriet:

Dr. Wu returned to New York from San Francisco about the end of June. She put herself in the hands of the doctors immediately for tests and checking. They strongly recommended an operation, which she had July 12th. She has made satisfactory progress and hopes to leave the hospital about the end of this week.

She has asked me to write to you in reply to your letter of July 25th, which came in this morning. She appreciates your writing to her and your concern for her well-being, and wishes me to say that she would like very much to see you if you are in this part of the country. Because of this stay in the hoppital, she has had to change her plans rather radically. The trip to England has been canceled, and she now does not expect to start back to China before the middle of September. The doctor is most emphatic about the necessity of a month of complete rest before she undertakes this trip. Since she is still in the hospital, I see no possibility of her leaving America before the middle of September. If, therefore, you come through New York on your way to Montreat, you might very possibly find her here.

Dr. Wu asked me to say that the last word she had from Nanking told of Blanche Wu teaching in a middle school opened by former professors of the University of Nanking in Kan Ho Yuen Compound. They have not exchanged letters for some time because it did not seem the wisest thing to do. Mrs. Tsen is living with a friend in the South City, near Hu Bu Giai. Ellen

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Koo is still in Nanking, living with Mrs. Gee. She has some private pxivate piano students. That seems to be about all the news that Dr. Wu has of our Nanking group.

I heard through one of the people in the Methodist Board that Wu Mao-i had a good visit with her sister, Grace, in India. Mao-i got to India about the first of June, and of course, Grace did not start before the middle of June. I hear that the Gripsholm is to arrive some time this week. The Andy Roys are aboard and a number of other friends from West China. It will be exciting to see them all.

My congratulations on your "big birthday". I don't know where you hide all your years, as no one would ever imagine that you had as many as you claim to your credit.

Whether Dr. Wu is here or not, we would be delighted to see you if you ever find New York in your path.

Cordially yours,

CSM:ef

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Harriet Whitmer

Burr Oak, Mich.
Aug. 26 1945

Dear Yi-fang:

It was thrilling to get your telegram. Just to think that places can begin again for going to Nanking. I think of all other Nanking folks with thoughts going in the same direction. And now there should be furloughs for some but will they be thinking that a return to Nanking is sufficient to recuperate post energy?

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8/26/45

I have written Mr. Evans that I am going to Montreat leaving Tki. Aug. 31st. The first Semester there closes with the ~~finish~~ Semester Christmas recess -and in my own thinking I wonder if travel will be permitted before that. One never knows what to expect these days -and I shall be putting things in order so as to be ready to leave when the time comes that I can sail.

My sister is still with Sis -and her daughter is here to stay with Mother after I leave -and until the Bedients return to Evansville, Ind. after a trip north.

Mr Bedient has been delayed as the college fell heir to some 2,000 worth of broken chemical stock with the closing of some piece of war work in Evansville -and he is taking care of it. This should be a good time for Pinling to procure needed Equipment. The Gov't may be having sales and we could get it. I shall try to keep a watch on.

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0174

8/26/45

There are plants there
in the Carolina's where teach-
ing has been going on.
The big hospital near
us will go on.

This may be some-
thing for Dr. Reeves
to investigate for
Biol. I shall be
seeing her soon.

With best wishes,

Harriet

I hope you are recovering
normally.

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0175

August 27, 1945

Dr. Wu Yi-fang
Gould Farm
Great Barrington, Mass.

Dear Dr. Wu:

In the absence of Mr. Evans I am answering your letter in regard to Miss Harriet Whitmer. It is tantalizing not to be able to know exactly what is happening, but it seemx to be about as follows. We know that Searle Bates was about to start for Nanking some days ago and cabled to that effect to his wife. We also know from Professor Ma Chien that the Ministry of Education has advised Yenching to stay in Chengtu until next summer. We do not know whether this applies also to Ginling, but rather imagine that it does. We also know that transportation is very difficult and there are no immediate prospects of ships going across the Pacific being open to civilians.

After consultation with Miss Louise Robinson of the Methodist Board, I have sent the following telegram to Miss Whitmer:

"TRANSPORTATION ACROSS PACIFIC LIKELY DIFFICULT FOR SOME MONTHS SO WOULD NOT ADVISE YOU LEAVE MONTREAT DURING FIRST SEMESTER AT LEAST. LETTER FOLLOWS."

Several of our friends have been in Washington recently, pressing their own requests for transportation to China. They have had very little encouragement, and that is why we feel that the prospects are not bright during the next few months. Miss Louise Robinson tells me that she is advising her missionaries to keep their contracts if they are engaged for the ensuing year.

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A message has come from Professor Lucius Porter, of Yenching University, to his wife by way of Chungking. He says he expects to report from Peking next.

With very kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

CHC:ef

Montreal College
Montreal N.C. Sept 10
1945

Dear Mrs. Mills:

I think instead of answering Dr. Wu's letter I shall report to you & my whereabouts - and you may know how necessary it is to write her. She is trying to reach I know.

There seemed to be no reason for not coming to Montreal and making plans for the first Semester here. The Semester closes - with the beginning of the Xmas holidays. Perhaps we may be knowing earlier of the possibilities of getting to Hankow - and in such case I am ready to go - and arrangements for that can be set up for me and for someone to take my place here.

My sister has taken Mother to be

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SEP 10 1945

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with her - and she is happy with that - arrangement. I shall have little to do but pack my trunk - and be off.

I am so anxious to know when it will be possible to communicate with those who may have - already returned to Pitting. I note the intimees are to reach Manila before our letters can reach them.

Dr. Mw I believe is hoping that I can return to the Pitting campus regardless of whether the college has - arrived or not. Mr. Ernst wrote me on Aug. 29 - and Mr. Corbett, - at the request of Dr Mw, sent a telegram and a follow - up letter on Aug. 27th. These letters have guided me in my planning for Montreat.

I am feeling fine after my restful summer in Michigan. I have had a recent medical check

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SEP 10 1945

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which cleared everything for my return to China. I hope there will be no obstacles in the way when it is time to go.

I suppose you and Plummer are doing some planning, too. When shall we meet again in Nanking?

I was over to see Dr. Reeves yesterday. She has a small house that will be ready for occupancy soon. That has been her summer's job. She has grand views of the mountains from all windows. She test will come this winter to see how warm she has made it. She looks very well.

With love,

Harriet Whitmer

P.S. I wrote Dr. Wu after the surrender of Japan and before I came to Montreat.

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September 17, 1945

Miss Harriet Whitmer
Montreat College
Montreat, N. C.

Dear Harriet:

Thank you for your letter of September 10th. I think you were very wise to plan to go back to Montreat for at least the first semester. Perhaps by the beginning of 1946, travel restrictions will be eased and it will be possible for you to make your plans to go directly to Nanking. At present, however, there seems no hope of getting passports or passage for women, so we will have to be patient for a while longer. This also means that Stella is not getting off as promptly as we had hoped.

I am afraid I cannot give you any information about when it will be possible to communicate with those in Nanking. As far as I know, none of the Chengtu Ginling group has returned to Nanking. Those who have stayed in the city through the whole time can presumably be reached by ordinary mail. I don't know how long it will take. A letter that Plumer wrote me from Shanghai on November 1, 1942, was delivered to me on September 15, 1945.

I am very much interested in your statement that Dr. Reeves' house is almost ready for occupancy. I should be glad to know what sort of miracle she worked to get building done in a summer of wartime restrictions and priorities. I do know she is a little lady who has never accepted the impossible and has always gone ahead and accomplished what she intended to do. I do hope that it is going to be a warm little house if she expects to live in it in the winter.

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Dr. Wu reports that she is gaining steadily and that she hopes to be quite well when she returns to New York at the end of this month.

We will keep you posted on any information that comes to the office.

Cordially yours,

CSM:ef

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0 182

Harriet Whitman
CT

1421 Lincoln Ave.
Evansville, Ind Jan. 16
1946

Dear Mrs. Mills:

I hardly written you - and I wonder if you people at Isio are in touch so that you know how the plans are working out for my sailing.

I had a letter from Dr. Vaughan threatening to hold me up - because of a record of low haemoglobin. I hastily made a trip to a doctor he has on his approved list and found instead of low I stand 100+ Now that he has this corrected medical report I hope there is not going to be anything to prevent my leaving as soon as a sailing can be procured.

Are you in N.Y. making the plans for such things as should accompany me in the way of home supplies.[2] I understand Ruth Charles has such a report and I suppose you have knowledge of what is needed first.

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JAN 16 1946 [27]

I am packing a few things with my clothing & bedding but have no list to go by.
I had sent out 9 tw campers

Sheets — Dishes 12 piece set
bedding
Linens for table (No cooking utensils
Silver no rugs
Curtains

Some mattresses were out & it was I do not know that there will be springs.
Can I to have space for some freight?
I have written Faye Robinson the same questions. I have had no information as to how much I am allowed to take.

You may have heard that I had the misfortune of having my trunk (packed for China) burn with the dormitory at Montreat. We all feel so thankful that it happened during the Xmas Recess and no one was in the building to be hurt. Now I am filling another trunk and with the kind help of friends I am making good headway.

I was at Starkville this last week-end and saw Miss Butler who is looking forward to her work with us at Gulfport. I met quite a group of China folk there.

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JAN 16 1946

"Here is a list I have for Guiling

Aluminum —

Coffee pot
Teakettle
Covered Cooker
Cake tins
Dish towels & clothes

Strainer
Cullender

I hardly planned for any of the heavier things but will fill in all the cracks with things that will help out.

I am taking materials to have made up in China and in this way save expense and do a piece of relief work. It is such a poor time to purchase many of the things one would like. I have secured sheets & pillow slips.

I think of our people there who need more than what I can possibly hope to take but there must be some things for Mrs. Tsen, Blanche and others.

I hardly located woolen hose or underwear. I should be farther north for these. If you or anyone else knows where 16 size suits (knee length & 9½ hose (woolen or part wool) can be had I should like to know. I had a good supply of kids stockings but they are now

gone & more to be knit here.
With love, Hastings M. Wilson

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517

January 26, 1946

Miss Harriet Whitmer
1421 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, Ind.

Dear Harriet:

Since your letter of January 16th came, I have talked with Miss Faye Robinson and learned that there is a chance of your leaving about the middle of February from the West Coast. Since that date is not very far off, and you were in Indiana on January 16th, I am wondering if you plan to be in New York at all before you sail. I certainly hope that we will have some opportunity to see you.

I am glad to know that the blood count came up so satisfactorily, and that you are in good health. You will need all your strength for the strenuous tasks ahead.

By now you should have received Ruth's report of her visit to Nanking. However, I am enclosing another copy. She makes no attempt to list what is needed first - or indeed at all - beyond her statement that practically all furniture is gone. I take this to include all kinds of household equipment. It would seem therefore that everything is needed, and that as always, first requisites are beds and bedding, cooking utensils and dishes, and a few chairs and tables. Of these, you know as well or better than I what should be taken from America. Anything that gets there will be welcome as there seems to be very little available on the local market, and that little extravagantly high in price.

In your letter you say that you "had sent out of the campus sheets, bedding, linens for table, silver, curtains, dishes (12 piece set). Some mattresses were out and in use. I do not know that there will be springs." Do you mean that you had loaned these things out to people in Nanking, and expect to have them returned? Of course, a number of things may be re-

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covered in this way, but it may be wise not to count too definitely on them.

Miss Robinson said that she was writing to you about the amount of shipping space you would be allowed. She has all this information and is making your travel arrangements, so I will not go into that subject. I have also talked with Miss MacKinnon about provision for the purchase of equipment to take back with you. Doubtless you are in communication with the China office of the Methodist Board on this matter.

I wish I could help you get stockings and woolen underwear. They are dearer than rubies and scarcer than hen's teeth at any price. I have heard others who have combed the city for these articles say that there just aren't any. In fact, it is practically impossible to buy stockings of any kind here, even ordinary rayon, and when a store has a few pairs, a line a block long forms to get them. I am extremely sorry to hear of the loss of your trunk, especially when it contained such precious things as stockings.

Dr. Wu has asked that you take a package of pictures out for her. They are ones that were made at the Conference in San Francisco, but that Dr. Wu could not get into her limited air baggage. I am therefore sending them to your Indiana address, hoping they will reach you before you leave.

Sept 1/26/46

We are most happy to know that you are going back to Nanking. What a help you will be to them in getting ready for the opening of college in the fall.

All best wishes for a comfortable and pleasant trip.

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

Enclosure: "Impressions of Ginling in Nanking"

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Harriet Whitmell

Baltimore Feb. 5
1946

Dear Mrs. Mills:

There was no time earlier to get a letter to you. I reached Evansville by air from Detroit where I had gone to visit my mother when word came of my sailing date. The stockings were there on my arrival. They are exactly like one pair I found so now I can protect myself in the lower extremities when needed. Just one pair are hardly useable as one does not want to change to lighter weight in cold weather. I don't know what you paid for them but I shall leave it to you to draw from my society there for reimbursement. They do these things for us.

So here I am with Ortha Jane ready to go. I do wish I could recall the name of the Hawaiian sisters who live here and give them a ring. Dr. Agnes — ? Maybe it will come to mind. We traveled home together on the Gripsholm.

I am getting a bed springs & a mattress here & taking as excess baggage (no freight allowance) but we figured express at 6¢ a pound might be cheaper anyway.

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When I was told to take but one trunk I limited myself as stuff to bring. One this boat we can put whatever we want to in the hold. I wish my two bags were here instead of N.Y.

There will be 12 passengers. The Kathleen Holmes is a new freighter making its first trip to China. I has had one run to Honolulu.

We will receive mail at Honolulu

Address

Kathleen Holmes
Isthmian Line
C/o Castle Cooke Ltd.
Castle Cooke Bldg.
Honolulu, H.T.

} Probably about Feb. 24

From Honolulu we reach Shai in 8 days so you see we are no tramp ~~freighter~~. Makes 18 knots an hour. That is better than some steamships I have travelled on.

I wish know yet who our other passengers are. We are all to be called to the boat together for customs clearage & then I shall know ~~much~~ luck.

I have lots of soap with me. Tucked it into all the corners.

Love,
Harriet

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February 15, 1946

Miss Harriet Whitmer
c/o Kathleen Holmes
Isthmian House
c/o Castle Cooke Ltd.
Castle Cooke Building
Honolulu, T. H.

Dear Harriet:

I was delighted to get your letter of February 5th, telling me about your plans to sail. You did not give me the exact date of leaving Baltimore, but I gather that it was about the 6th or 7th. I hope that you have had a pleasant voyage and reach Honolulu and Shanghai on schedule.

I am delighted to know that the stockings reached you safely and were what you wanted. There is no charge on them; they are just a little present from the office. It is good news that you are taking a bed and mattress with you, as I know it will add greatly to your comfort upon arrival. You will be interested to know that we are making a bid on 400 iron beds and mattresses for the students. These are offered by the U.S. Government, some of their surplus supplies, and the price is very attractive. We have not yet gotten them, but we feel very hopeful that they will be available.

You did not mention a package of pictures which I sent you at Evansville. They were Dr. Wu's Conference pictures and she had asked that you bring them with you. Since they have not been returned to us, I am assuming they reached you and that you are taking them along.

I hope you have a good trip and a safe landing. I know that plenty of hard work awaits you upon arrival, but it will be satisfying work in that you will know that you are helping Ginling to get started again. Do write me all about everything in Nanking. I am not only interested personally, but I need all the information I can get for Ginling publicity.

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef
Via Air Mail

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Nanking, April 5, 1946, Tsing Ming

Dear Mrs. Thurston:

It is difficult to know where to begin. The twelve o'clock siren is going so that may be a good beginning. We start off with that much of the old. I was quite aware, too, of being back in Nanking when the planes in formations circled overhead this morning and the sound of bombing of some kind was plainly audible. No doubt some of the happy celebration.

I was at the station at seven to take the nine o'clock train from Shanghai day before yesterday. When I finally got aboard I found Mao Yen-wen (Mrs. Hsiung) who was on a bit earlier, 7:30, and found the seats all taken. She through a friend found a compartment and so made me as well as herself comfortable for the trip. We arrived at 4:30 when she was met by two sisters with cars and I was brought to the campus in style. Yen-wen's husband died, as you may know in 1941. She is in charge of an orphanage in the Western Hills.

Had you had word that David Hsiung is here managing the work that is going on? Something like thirty carpenters are being kept busy. Other men are digging out the timbers from the many dugouts from which chairs and tables are being made. Tung Laopan is dead but his son is here in charge of that work. Chen Yu-hwa has the contract for repairs in the buildings. 600 is getting attention first. The bricks for replacing the missing walls come from the numerous toilets. As many as three consecutive walls joining four rooms on the east side had been removed. We have had nothing but rain for a month, so little is dry yet. Had they been at this work during the dry winter, they had, it would have been easier and much less expensive as labor has gone up so. The grounds everywhere have dugouts and holes for dumping left by the J's. I think the back hill must have tunnels running clear through, judged by the huge bank of dirt at the back of my garden. It shuts off all view of laundryman's plaqe. The front campus is getting attention and the place does not look so disturbed. I can see by the fresh dirt that much filling in has been done. Tung and Shu are on the job there through their time is taken up with helping here and there as well. Fortunately I am here to see the place in lilac time. The Mei is in full bloom and the Chinese magnolias have grown to huge size. I am glad to have gotten here in time for the beauties of the place for it would be much more drab in winter. I find that most of the decorative things are here and when the grounds are put in order again they will make as great a showing as ever. Shrubs have had attention from the J's so that they have not grown out of bounds. Most of the Albizzia are about finished and some plantings will have to take their place.

You will be interested to know that the things planted about Eva's house are there. The trees are all standing and of course much larger. In building the servants quarters to the east they took account of the space for the saving of the trees. There is the redbud, the spireas, the flowering peach, of full size now, and many more things in bloom. The Ginkgo south of the house is making good growth. The court is as it was. Also the steps leading down to the path. All the paths are still there.

I think the new road leading due south from the line on the east of the central quad will make a good running track for students. It still leaves a good athletic field that has been fenced in for the horses. The two field houses at the north end of this field are being left for the P.E. Department. I have not seen the inside of them. In making the roads they have removed the cement platforms between pillars in the covered ways.

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I have been asked to get the South hill in some shape so that Blanche and I can live there. I have an amah by the name of Ching who was here when Dr. Hackett had her in the infirmary.

The wash bowls have been going one by one and it is necessary to keep someone around there all the time. Some extra ones from your "infirmary" can be used to replace them. There is nothing in the newest house to be taken.

I walked down to the Practice School and found the girls living there quite comfortably. That house seems to have been built to their (the J's) satisfaction. They have added some raised sleeping platforms which the girls are using in lieu of beds of their own. They do not eat there, so they use the dining room as well for sleeping. There is little left of Minnie's garden. The willows about the ponds are about grown and there has been much encroachment on all sides. The space between that building and East Court has been badly spoiled and that was such a pretty part of the yard.

You asked about the roads. They are surfaced with crushed stone so they take the rains without washing. The road up the hill to South Hill is in good shape. They have made a good grade by making turns to reach the top from the gate where we had placed it. The road also runs north from this point, and I can see that they did not use that gate as much as the main entrance. They had built a gatehouse which has now been torn down. The gatehouse at the main entrance is quite spacious. Tu Sz-fu and his five children are housed there. They lost the one next to the youngest baby.

There have been some deaths. Han Sao-sz died last year from t.b. She was ill for two and a half years. He came with the children to see me. Such a nice-looking family. His mother is still living and able to help. Mei-mei is slender and a nice-looking girl. I am going to give her some of the vitamins I brought for she may have t.b. tendencies. She says she is well. She is in the fifth grade. The oldest boy has graduated from high school. At present he has no work. I am afraid he is spoiled for labor. I am sending Mei-mei's picture.

Lao Shao's wife has died. The son is living with him. Lao Shao looks well and was glad for all the seeds I brought him. He is anxious to get a strawberry bed started so that we can have fruit next year. If we keep a garden I think it will have to be in the same locality as there is no water elsewhere. The pond below the S. Hill house is gone. I am going to have him plant something for this year and then we shall have to see what we do later. Even a garden would improve the looks of that section now. There is plenty of manure on the place for gardening. Beans have been planted and now in flower in many corners.

Miss Koo is living upstairs in the second half of Mr. Hsiung's house. He has a renter downstairs and he is living in his half. He came back, arriving in Nanking Xmas eve. Miss Koo's amah serves them both. He is reequipped even to a waffle iron and we were served waffles at his house-warming the other afternoon. He is the same David Hsiung. He looks very well. His daughter is in Ginling. Graduating I think this spring. The son is to be sent to school for higher training in electrical engineering. You just can't keep Mr. Hsiung down. He is as energetic and jolly as ever.

Ellen says she is taking a rest now as it has been a long pull for her. Students demanded so much of her time and because they could not find other time, she taught Sundays as well in order to help deserving ones. She looks thin but seems very happy in her living quarters. She has fixed it up very nice. You may remember the Birds Nest as she calls it has a door leading to an open veranda. She has her piano in Mr. Hsiung's livingroom as she was not able to get it upstairs. She still has some pupils.

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Miss Loh came today. She has had a hard time. Has been ill for months at a time and was reduced to almost nothing to live on. Her sister in Shanghai was having a bad time, too, so she could not help her. She is back in the day school again.

April 6th. I am awake before the sun has shone his face from behind the mt. which is as Purple as ever. We have had so little sun since I landed in Shanghai three weeks ago that I am appreciating every sunny day. As you see, I was held up in Shanghai. The trunks were stored in a hold over which some very heavy cargo was placed on deck. The ship not being able to make progress in either getting lighters or getting to dock was unable to get at the baggage. I do not know whether the traveller with all his things in his car and going to Manila was in the same predicament or not. He would have been furious, being a business man and his living depending on speed to make his place in Manila first.

Here is Mrs. Tsen's amah with my hot water. I get more here than in S'hai where the shortage of gas made it necessary to ration the hot water, just a "bit" once a day. Here I can cover my feet in the basin. There is the sun at exactly six o'clock far to the east of the Mt. I am correcting my directions. You remember the Mt. has always been south to me. Yesterday promised to be a warm day, but it grew cold in the P.M. No garden seeds would have sprouted earlier, so though I am late in arriving I have the seeds here in time.

As you may rightly guess I am writing this letter by piecemeal. I have two people cleaning up at the S.H. house. Mrs. Tsen had had some digging out before I came. The stairs and hall upstairs had been covered with hall carpeting and you can imagine the dirt beneath when we took it up. However, it has saved wear on the floors. In fact the ningpo has held up remarkably well. One has to scrape mud of long standing from surfaces. Nails were used to lay the carpet. I had brought out a good claw hammer fortunately. With the thickest layers out, we will begin to wash.

Mrs. Tsen and I are going over furniture to locate our own. She has done this before but there are pieces I have identified. Furniture from all over the city is here. Some so marked that we can report to the owners. The same is true of books. There are about three hundred of yours here. Our books were largely stored in a department bureau where they were recatalogued and old numbers removed. Our interior stamps identify. Many books are here that are not with signatures or if so have only initials. They have been kept in good shape. Not moldied. Our science books too seem plentiful. I have not gone through the library. A girl trained at Boone is here working. Only one of the double shelves remains and those that were attached to walls. They are short shelf room for something like 10,000 books she told me. I am sending for cataloging cards. In Shanghai they wanted 25 gold dollars a thousand and we need a hundred and twenty-five thousand for all needs. Our original cataloguing will not be found of any value.

Mrs. Tsen and I plan to go to see Mrs. Ho tomorrow. She is back again in her old home. Many of the things Mr. Steward gave her she was not allowed by the Japanese to take from Hwei Wen. I have not been anywhere yet. So many old servants have been in. Lao Wu (Dr. Reeves' man) has taken another woman by common law and is acting as Mr. Hsiung's gatekeeper. He does not want him and Mrs. Tsen does not want him on this place. He has grown too old to do much. It is so difficult to keep order when everyone has gained the habit of taking what they can lay hands on. Even some of our former trusties are not immune. Wages are not as much as they should be and that makes it hard for everyone here. There are places they could earn much more, but they seem to want the protection of Ginling for the future.

I did not tell you that the approach to your house is sea of blue. The wild mustard has taken upon itself to cover the wast places. All through the woods below the path it is blue. On the left I see the bunches of the red spider lillies (crab lillies) are there to bloom later. Dugouts have destroyed the lily of the valley

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patch. No roses are left except the one in the brokendown arbor toward the practice school. None of the walk arbors are left there. Mrs. Tsen tells me I am not to answer the questions you have asked and she is answering in her letter. I know there will be some duplicating, but we may give different slants.

You should know that I have Bootie. He has stayed with the Hans all these years. I was at Mr. Hsiung's when he brought Bootie and the dog heard my voice inside and knew it. He tore in and greeted me as though I had only left him yesterday. I thought he might stay a day or two longer at Han Sz-fu's, but he comes every day to be here with me. I don't think he has changed much in looks and is certainly as sprightly as ever. I tried the stunt of hiding from him and he tore all over the house until he found me, barking with joy when he located me. He rolls over at the word and begs as he used to. He looks plump but not fat as some of these dogs do when they get old. I must pay his keeper something for his care as he is going to make a very good watch dog. I can depend upon him as I would not be sure of a strange dog. He still has the reputation of not being afraid of anyone of any dog. He never learned to like the J's but was not given to running from them. I suppose that is how he has saved his life. They would have shot a coward.

I have not been to look up your things. I shall get my place ready for them first. The amah will be there in the daytime and two men will sleep there at night too. They keep a watchman on the hill all the time now.

I have letters from Ruth and Florence. You may have all that Ruth tells, but will send it on.

I have your money, but since Blanche and Li-ming are still in Shanghai attending the East China Educational meeting I have waited to do whatever I can work out. Mr. Wang has not been here yet. I did not purchase things in Shanghai as everything was so very expensive. Many times our U.S. prices. Everything I bought at home seems cheap after a few weeks in China.

Dr.(Mrs.) Sommerfreund is keeping the house at 7 Ave. Petain. She told me the Hirchburgs have stayed on in Peking and are all right. No special news of them. I saw the Drauses. They are in the Jewish quarters alloted them by theJ's and as he is still busy at their hospital there he has not found a place elsewhere. He hopes to be able to get another location. I understand it will not be in Nanking for which I am sorry. They have the one child. Mrs. Paxton is not here. She was a nurse in France but is home now. He had expected to go home much earlier but must stay until someone comes to relieve him. I called him by long distance to notify Ginling of my arrival in Nanking. Telegrams are too slow. I have not seen him. You see we have to put in every moment getting a place to live and have no place to entertain even if we took time off. The living room in 400 is quite passable and Mrs. Tsen, her nephew and I eat in the room to the left of her office. We have a brazier for heat. That is all she has had all winter.

There are many pieces of furniture of sorts about but so few of our own. We are planning now what can be used up on the hill. We have to plan too for the teachers who will be in the two houses across the way and in East Court. There is nothing to match and so it will never look like a Ginling arrangement when we are done. Then someone will find a piece that belongs to them and we will be out of that. Where are ours? We believe some to be in other schools but as yet it is a delicate business to inquire around. Mrs. Tsen knows that some is in Meng Teh but has not been given permission to locate it. I shall talk with Plumer and maybe we can arrange a way. The numbers on our pieces help to prove our ownership. All labels have been removed. We have some pieces with numbers not our own.

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April 5, 1946

I shall certainly be glad for the things you have here. I am so thankful for dishes and linens saved. Mrs. Tsen had some with her. Han Sz-fu has some of our things. I have not brought them in yet.

I am feeling fine. Had an excellent voyage.

Love,

Harriet (Whitmer)

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Nanking, April 13, 1946

Dear Friends:

I am hearing stories every day that ought to be written down and perhaps a good way to get it done is to sit down and repeat. I did not get to see either Searle Bates' or Ruth Chester's report so I may be repeating what has already been written and if so please delete.

Yesterday was a memorable day. At noon I had luncheon with Miss Tien, secretary of the Nurses Ass.. The occassion was to have us meet the president who has come to Nanking. She is here also in connection with the Nursing Depart. of the Nat'l Institute of Health. Miss Hsü Ai-chu. There were other interesting women. Miss Hu Ten-wu who has the nursing education under the Ministry of Educ., Kathleen Yu, Midwifery director, now with a school opened here. Three were Ginling graduates, Dr. Tang Han-chih, Djang Baochiu and Li Shun-seng. The last two of the class of '36 now in nursing work. Here we were in the Nat'l Ass. Bldg. which has come through marvelously well. Miss Tien having stayed in her quarters on the second floor ~~and~~ while she rented the first floor to the J's. She insisted she must stay there to look after the building and could not let them use the rest of the building because of the danger of fire. It had not been easy and she has suffered much but her spirit is still jubalant.

At seven in the evening there was the family reunion for themselves and friends of the Chen's and the Hwangs'. And what a gathering! Fifty were seated at five tables. The opening was a service of praise. We sang No.24 in the hymnal, My Soul, Rejoice thou in the Lord. Prayer was offered by David Yang and a talk given by Chen Yü-Hwa and one other. Then Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing and the benediction by Pastor Bao. Father Chen looks old but is the same age as Pastor Luh (Lun Sheying's father) who is as spritly as ever. One table was seated with the "old folks", four over 80 and three past 70. The children were all there with us. Han Li-wu's two girls, Hwang Li-ming's three (Two girls and a boy) an older sister's daughter and her husband who is now a doctor at Kulo, and one or two more. The two old mothers are both looking very well.

You may know of the death of Mrs. Luh which occurred last year. She was crossing a street when she was thrown down by carriage. The examination later did not reveal any injury so it is thought the death was from shock. Her body was being kept at Kulo Hosp. when found there by Pastor Luh, the day following the accident. He had hunted on a snowy day to find trace of her. Four deaths in that family in the ~~four last~~ war years.

The Chens' flew by plane to Nanking. Mary is still in the West looking after the goods there.

I was out in the neighborhood today. Called at the Hu('laundryman's) home. There are now fifteen in that family. All the little folks are as attractive as those who have grown up. It is truly a remarkably able family. They were forced to house some of the J's but kept a part for themselves. The J's put down a cement floor in the east end where they lived. Mr. Hu has gone to visit in Kiukiang and Kuling where he is seeing his family and friends for the first time since he came to Nanking 18 years ago. The fence no longer extends around that part of our property but they tell me that it does not matter as they are protected by the police. They asked to be remembered to Mrs. Thurston. Two of the girls are studying here.

I then climbed the hill to see Lao Shao's family. They, too, have three little ones. The boy was having some difficulty with his kite and his father straightened it out and soon had it sailing high. The little fellow danced all over the cabbage patch with the greatest of glee. I do wish I could show you that picture. The son lives there with this young family and they all seem happy and well. Lao Shao comes every day to get our faculty garden going. He has the grandest looking strawberries which should be ready in three weeks.

Lao Shao's wife has died.

It is a real education for Thurs. The Lo Tomins waited for every foreign letter. We must stand by for the kiddies' sake. It

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I find the dampness of China has robbed that other ribbon of all its pep. This may be an improvement. My cleaning fluid has not arrived so this is the best I can do.

They told me at Shaos that it took the J's 45 days to put the holes through our back hill. They had to blast all the way through. They struck conglomerate (red formation) and it is possible we shall not have to make dugouts again but have these permanant underground rooms. All this digging was done the last months before the close of the war, after the bombing began on Nanking. Our freinds sat on the hill feeling themselves in perfect safety. The bombs were falling largely in Hsia Kuan and along the railroad. They came at night. *The underground passages & rooms had electric lights & furnishings*

In Shanghai they told me the Americans had a schedule that allowed them to get home for meals and if they came in the afternoon it was never after two o'clock so that they could be back in time for tea. I shall have to check on that with my nephew who was a bombadeer over here. It at least gave people time to get out for their shopping trips. When we were here we thought only the J's worked on such a schedule.

Not only are the hillsides everywhere filled with holes but out in the open we have the pits everywhere to the depth of a standing person, these dug quite regularly at ten foot intervals. I noted the number 37 in the region of our old chicken yard alone which gives one some idea of the number of such diggings we have to fill. A very large heap was left in fromt of the Chapel which has been used to fill the holes in front. We have the front campus looking quite respectable again . I wonder if you have been told of the front entrance that was added to 300. The portico covers a drive that is built of cement and of very good lines. The plantings also are very good . They used the deodar(tree) that I had in the back garden and I grant it looks more majestic now .

Office is in the room next to the street.

The Peace is proclaimed every Sunday morning by the siren at 9:00 A.M. all over China. That , too, is useful in telling the people the day of the week so we no longer have to spend time going about telling our neighbors it is time for church. I attended the service at the day school the first Sunday I was here. The Episcopal church has its furnishings there in the community center and it all looks so very nice. Pastor Chiang has his family living there. It was communion Sunday which I felt was very appropriate for my first Sunday. The next Sunday I was at Kuilan and they were having a reception for those who had returned and for Miss Brethorst who is to be the worker in that church. I found many familiar faces at both services. Old Mr. Chiang was singing with the choir and Luther played the piano.

I had luncheon today at the Embassy. Hilda was there, now in the capacity of vice-consul. Four Catholic fathers were present. Father O'Brian is a fifth member of the group. Hall Paxton was leaving by plane for Shanghai and U.S.A. We shall miss him. Mr. Clough has come in his place. Hilda says there will be about 36 here in the embassy. Our Irish mechanic Lucas is back. They took him along with Hall to the States but he was on his way back to China in three weeks and has been in Fukien during this period.

Some changes here do to the"foreign invasion". A bootblack on every corner,. Much nonsense talk about foreigners which they think I cannot understand either. I surprise them sometimes. The two-wheeled wagons drawn by donkey, mules or horses. Pedicabs in some sections of the city. Japanese begging for vegetables. The Chinese say they are Ku ti hen (very poor). They are left here to work on the roads but many apparently have to provide their own food. I note the civil salute they give the Chinese now. None are living in the new section near us. The Shinto Shrine on the American School hill is now a public park for the pleasure of everyone. The trees are growing well and it makes a very attractive hilltop. Aside from the two shrine buildings there is a good looking grey brick built much in Chinese style that should afford some practical use. The main entrance is beside the Am. Sch. to the south. A broad paved road passes under a great pilou, making a gradual climb. On the whole it is a place of real beauty. The cement blocks marking the line fence

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bearing the characters ta er pen (Great Japan) are some moneys out of date.

CNRRA people are living in the Steward-Forster compound. I have met some of them. I believe it is the Wheeler-Forster house they are occupying. They have an imported English speaking cook. I must call there.

I stopped to see the Galatzers' yesterday. She was washing the curtains I had loaned her for safe keeping and for her use when she had nothing. It looks as though there are enough for our general use. Individuals should try to supply their own needs. The Galatzers are living in the Am. Sch. and are fixed up very well. They have charge of the Hershberg property and have been helping out some of the Missionary men with beds when there were none to be had. We may have to call on her for some if ours do not arrive on time. Mrs. G. is speaking English very well. She had only the French here to visit with and as they knew English and she no French they used the common language. Dr. G. was busy so I did not have much time to visit with him but gathered that they had been able to stay through largely by using great patience and hours and hours of time sitting through the visits of the Gendarmes who payed calls that would last half a day. Occasionaly asking a question as to what they thought of the J's etc. Mrs. Sommerfreund told the same story so I guess it was a planned proceedure to drive them out in this way if possible. The Krauses could not put up with as much. Dr. G. is playing his violin for the Ginling concert . He had finally found someone to accompany him. He said it had only been the last few months that he had been playing.

A concert under the auspacies of the Ginling Alumnae will take place April 27 at Nanking Uni. Tickets are selling well so we should reap something in a financial way and at the same time reveal our present talent which has been collecting with returning artists. I run across Ginling students every time I am out but we are so busy we do not go just to see folks. I am looking forward to the concert as a place to meet amny I have not seen.

Che Er chang's family have arrived and we are putting them into one of the houses across the way. This is now April 27

The program for Easter took up some of our time. The Y.M.C.A. man, Mr. Minard and Chaplain Wood worked out a series of meetings. One on Sunday morning at six A.M. was at Purple Mt. I wish I might have been there but it is too far with the present costs of travel. I think some of our mission group were taken out. The large union service at Han Chung Tan was well attended as usual. Twinem Chapel was opened for the Friday and Sunday services and will continue to be used each Sunday P.M. at 4:30. The place has not been too badly used. Some windows and door repairs will be necessary. Some of the furnishings are gone. The communion table is still there.

The chapel at the Uni. is used for assembly. I noted the platform held a ping pong table. The Uni. is a busy place. Many girls are a tending there. The grounds are in good shape. They have suffered, too, as has the Embassy. The Japanese who were in the Embassy for a time may be responsible for some of the losses there. One cannot place the blame on any one group. The present difficulties are largely with governemet and military officials. A piano was being moved from the Fenn house the other day in broad daylight apparently under the guise of an official who was no doubt a fake. He was caught in time to prevent a loss. One has to be constantly on the watch. Our front gate is closed to unkown visitors. Our workmen knowing this will be less likely to lay any loss on others.

Lao Shao is busily at work as I write putting in a garden that will help to supply our table later. I have not "swaned" a wage with him. Mrs. Tsen thinks he should have at least 25,000 CN a month. (12½ dollars gold). Then there are buckets and other equipment at exhorbitant prices. Yet we cannot afford to be without Lao Shao.

Add address - Love to all, Harriet M. Whitmer

A letter from Dr. Hackett 3rd. copy received via Shanghai 3 Mar. 1946

A letter addressed to Lin Ching Fang & Hsu Kuei Tsen that can't go as we have started from the East.

GINLING COLLEGE
150 Fifth Ave.
New York 11, N. Y.

June 25,1946

Miss Harriet Whitmer
Ginling College
Nanking, China.

Dear Harriet,

Your fine news letter was most welcome, and most eagerly read by Board members, former faculty, alumnae, Nanking residents, and any number of other friends to whom we sent mimeographed copies. Your later briefer note about library cards should have been acknowledged long ago, but please don't think that we are just now getting around to the order. It has all been attended to, and I hope you will be receiving the supplies before too long. The additional order that Florence sent for catalogue guide cards, accession book and author marks has also been placed. If possible these will go by Newton Chiang, but if that does not prove feasible they will go in some other way as soon as possible.

It is good to know that Ginling is now safely back in Nanking. I realize fully that it will take long and weary months of hard work to produce a semblance of normal living on the campus, but I rejoice in what you were able to do before the others arrived, and in knowing that you now have much enthusiastic help.

I am afraid Stella has not yet arrived in Shanghai. She had delays and trials enough in getting away from America, and I hope all went smoothly and quickly once they were well on the way. I had a card from her telling of delay in Colon, and saying that she thought they would get to Shanghai about June 30th. We are all waiting eagerly to hear of Ruth's plans. I know she expected to leave in July, but we have not heard anything definite. It will be good to see her. A note from Lui En-lan, mailed at Cristobal, June 21st, said she expected to reach New Orleans by June 25th. I am looking forward to a good visit with her.

I don't imagine many people will be going to Kuling this summer! I wonder if there will be any possibility of getting away for a little rest and change. I hope so.

My best to each one of you.

Cordially yours,

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Kuling,Ki. July 23 1947

Mrs. Mills:

This may not have been one of your old haunts. Back again after 13 years it all looks much the same. I am up here in #70 next to Methodist Valley. Mrs Thurston's house just below. I have not been in there yet. A Chinese family are occupying it. It looks in fairly good shape from the outside. With chikens and gardens of vegetables taking up most of the dooryard it has no such inviting appearance as formerly.

We are glad for the vegetables the caretaker of this place has planted in our back yard. We pay him market prices but we can have them fresh for the table. Food supplies are ample and no more expensive on the whole than in Nanking. Stella Graves had about given up thought of coming here on account of expenses but underpressure from her doctor she is up here with Logan Root's family.Piano in the house so she can do the things she had planned for the summer down in Nanking heat. The department is much on her mind as she does not see where she is going to get the help she needs next year. Miss Duan leaves for America. She is a great help.

A cloud brought a cooling draft and now we are in the sunshine again. The weather is doing its best to keep us comfortable. The heavy rainy season is over. The Daniels are up here in their home. Word had reached them that they would find everything left there. She thought it sounded too good to be true so did not come empty handed. I here they are without most of the things. (Checked later + find she has found many things
The trip up river in China Merchant boats is not bad. We had one of the new boats taken over from Japan and in saloon class the cabins were as nice as on the English boats we once used. I think our experiences will encourage others coming here again.

I left Blanche Wu down in the heat with some 200 chicks on her hands. No one to help her makes it impossible to take any vacations.

We found #70 with practacally all its furniture and some things added by those who had occupied, among them some very new grass rugs. We have no mattresses and that is something of a loss.

I understand Mr, Mills is returning to the States and what a reunion that will be. Dr. Gale has at last met up with her husband in Nanchang where they began mission work 39 years ago. Dr. Gale is thin but mighty active yet. She found many of their things still in Nanking. The Chen family where Mr. G. had offered them for use made this preserve possible. Then books boxed and stored in the Masonic Lodge were there and in good shape. Had been in tin lined boxes& as he had had plenty of time to arrange things before leaving.

Mrs New had been withus before I came away and will be back in Sept. if plans work out. She will have other work to take up part of her time elsewhere. She got into the personnel problems and helped Dr. Wu a lot during the busy days of closing the years work. The cut that has had to come in spite of the board's courage in granting all that was being asked, placed Dr. Wu in some embarrassing positions when having to turn away members of the staff she thought might remain.

I have been housekeeping as usual and looking after vegetable and flowers as well as general campus improvements. We are getting back in fairly good shape. In fact members of the family who went west and did not see the many improvements you saw in the way of a playground, and back garden developments,are not missing all that I miss.

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Late

JUL 23 1947

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Mrs. Thurston's house here on the mountain is occupied by Chinese, squaters or rightful occupation, I have not learned yet. The outside looks very well, except for the chickens and gardens about the door step. The clothes hanging on the front porch would not please Mrs. Thurston. Trees she used to kepp having to cut back on the adjoining lot to keep her views of the mountains have been pretty well thinned out so she would have the view.

Trees no doubt have been cut for fuel But there is no scarcity of trees through this valley. Looking over into Russian valley I could see many delapidated houses. The larger part of those in our property have roofs and considerable furniture.. And I would say all our trees are here.

I have not been to church but I understand the place is in tact with organ. Much praise is due Mr. Rowley who has been taking resposibility in getting workman to fix up the place. He is getting old.

I have had my walking shoes made by the same little fellow across from the language school in Nanking. Maihwa, the tailor made me a coat and a suit. At prices that sound astounding but figured in gold at the rate we are getting for mission exchange not bad. In fact Miss Culley at Wuhu has recently had a cotton dress made for almost the price I paid in the spring for both pieces.

You will be seeing Eva ,I hope, and Mary Truedley in due cource of time. They can fill in the gaps you have failed to be informed about. We are getting so used to Nanking again we do not remember to report what goes on. Mrs.T.s letters are filled with questions she needs to have answered. I wish she might be up here this summer. It is not saddening at all, so much is just the same. The big fire that burned out most of the gap, especially on the side one approaches coming up the mountain, also destroyed goods on hand for summer sales. Much building is replacing stores again July29 I was in Mrs. Daniels' home this morning and she seemed to be pretty well set up. Mrs Rinden and daughter came up with them and are living there.

There are rumours the generals Kiang and Wedemere are coming here. Someone was over at Kangkong Pass and saw the tinza being put in good repair and it was reported there it was in preparation for the arrival. We have still hopes there will not be a retinue of army folk here this summer . That may mean the situation is so serious they do not have the time. Between Kiukiang and Nanchang the robber bands are stopping busses. When Dr. Gale went through the bus just ahead of her was robbed and men carried off to carry the load. They had stopped for lunch and so escaped. None of the Nanchang people are up this summer. Here on the mountain people move about as always.

I am very happy about Edith Haight coming out this summer and hope nothing happens to delay her plans. I have not sent her a letter but should you be seeing her do tell her we are welcoming her. I am not sure just where to reach her--in Ill. or the Carolinas. We have someone from Yenching coming for the English Depart. A letter from my cousin in Peiping says we will like her. They were overloaded is the reason she could not stay on another year. She sounds like a temporary person perhaps. Miss Causer is coming back For Biology. I suppose you know Peggy Lin is going to Smith.

My good wishes to all interested,

Harriet

Harriet M. Whitmer

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My good wishes to all interested.

Harriet M. Whitmer

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
AUG 20 1947
JOINT OFFICE

Whitmer

Ginling College
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N. Y.
September 5, 1947

Miss Harriet Whitmer
Ginling College
Nanking, China

Dear Harriet:

Thank you for your good letter from Kuling, dated July 23rd. I am indeed glad to know about conditions there and the people who have gone back for the summer. It is good to know that it is possible to have a summer there again even though without the comforts and pleasures of prewar days. I had a letter from Eva McCallum, in which she says Kuling is not what it used to be. She writes that they are planning to sell their house as soon as possible.

As I have already written to one or two others on the campus, Eva Spicer was here in New York a few days and I saw her once or twice. I had a little tea party for her one afternoon, to which I invited all the Ginling people I could find. About thirteen or fourteen turned up. I have not yet seen Mary Treudley.

Edith Haight is getting ready to sail next week and is very enthusiastic about her plans. It is good to know that Ginling will have her for a few months at least.

So far I have not heard from any of the Ginling people coming this way - Pan Yao-tsien, Peggy Lin, Djang Hsiang-lan, nor any of the others. I hope that they will let me know when they arrive and keep in touch with the office. Pan Yao-tsien will be up at Columbia, of course, and I expect to see her often.

It is good to know that Mrs.New will be at Ginling at least part of the time, as I know she will bring great strength and help to Dr. Wu. I understand that her arrangement with the College is on a somewhat temporary basis as she may be returning to America. Do you know whether or not she has finally decided on her future plans?

We follow all the news of China with the greatest interest, and while there is not too much ground for optimism, we cannot help hoping that better days are just around the corner. It seems to me that I have spent the last thirty years in such hopes. Maybe it will come true yet!

Best wishes to you and all the Ginling group.

Affectionately yours,

CSM:ef

Via Air Mail

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FEB 2 1948

Nanking, Jan. 1 1948

Dear Mrs. Mills,

I am in Shanghai and do not know how to reach Harriet Rogers. At the same time I am getting a note off to you asking you to send it on. I came for dental work but will have to come again for a bigger job. This makes my visit a real holiday. I find the homes so comfortable as compared with when I arrived two years ago. 7 Ave. Petain is heated by a stove but Esther Tappert in the same compound has a furnace going. She has the little daughter with her. They are playing duets on the grand piano. She has her home nicely furnished. She does all her own work.

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Word came from Mrs. Daniels that Dr. Ino had an operation for appendicitis after I left on Monday P.M. She was taken Sunday evening and when I left no information had been given out as to what it was.

Otherwise we are all O.K. at Hankinson.

Jan. 14. Dear me! I am back in Hankinson before this letter gets off.

I found I also have written Harriet Meyers & don't know where to address it. Will you see that it gets to her? My correspondence gets hung up in this fashion so often. These are the last days of our Semester when one finds note books and tests are on hand.

It is nice to have Mrs. Thompson in town. The Stewards & successors are neighbors again. I'm sure my

FEB 2 1948 B1

letter of Elsie thought she is not
the same house with the Slocums.
Mrs. Twining had some of us
in her home for dinner and
of course we had an old time
chat-fest. She seems to be enjoy-
ing her work with Juvenile
faculty + students. The Williams'
House is head quarters for her
work. They needed a house-
mother.

We still have fair weather.
A bit of cold once before Xmas
but most of the time the weather
has been delightful. I sit
in my room to-day with no
other heat than the sun. Our
living-room is warmed
by our coal stove. We were
fore-handed in laying in a
supply.

Our garden feeds us daily.

Best wishes to you

Harriet Whitcomb

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Whitmer

Ginling College
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N.Y.
March 5, 1948

Miss Harriet Whitmer
Ginling College
Nanking, China

Dear Harriet:

Thank you for your letter begun on January 1st and completed on January 14th. It reached me sometime in February and I was very glad to hear from you.

I do not have an address for Harriet Meyers; in fact, I did not know that she was in America. I have forwarded the letter that you enclosed to the last address I had for her, which I think is that of her sister: c/o Mrs. John Calkin, 87 State Street, Framingham Centre, Mass. Since the letter has not been returned to the office, I assume that it was either delivered or forwarded. I am interested to know that Harriet is in America. The last information I had was that Paul had been appointed to the Consulate in Hankow and I assumed that they were there.

Thank you for giving me news of all the friends in Shanghai. I am glad to hear such good word about Esther Tappert.

I appreciate your writing and hope you will do so again as you have time. We are always keen for every bit of news that we can get from friends in China.

Cordially yours,

CSM:ef
Via Air Mail
c.c. via next mail

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