

Outline of the Series

This transcript and its bibliography, footnotes, and explanatory material was prepared as a final assessment in ENG 618: Research Methods in English, a compulsory gateway course for the M.A. in English at Western Carolina University. This project is the culmination of the work done in ENG 618, deferring to our judgment regarding the viability of our editorial decisions, revolving around the following learning objectives:

1. By the end of the semester, students will be able to conduct appropriate, effective, and ethical scholarship.
 - a. Effectively locate, assess, and use *advanced research tools* (handbooks, databases, guides, bibliographies, etc.) appropriate to a subject.
 - Students will be able to use a wide variety of such tools and evaluate those tools.
 - b. Locate and assess appropriate *advanced scholarship* (print and electronic scholarship) and apply that research to specific disciplinary questions or issues.
 - Students will be able to find a variety of scholarship, assess both the appropriateness and rigor of that scholarship, and incorporate that scholarship correctly and effectively to the scholarly work at hand.
 - c. Construct accurate bibliographic citations and incorporate reference citations according to standard styles for the discipline.
 - Students will be able to annotate, abstract, and cite materials following standard MLA format as well as other citation styles common to their area of study (APA, CMS).
2. By the end of the semester, students will be able to conduct basic editorial work and evaluate the editorial work of others.
 - Students will be able to understand the process by which the texts we use are available.

The following transcription project is presented as submitted by the student editor. While great care was taken in conducting research and assembling the text and annotations, errors are always possible. Good scholarship requires checking of sources and corroboration by authoritative sources. It is hoped that the annotation and transcription of these materials will be useful to the institution, students, scholars, faculty members, and other patrons and users of WCU's Special Collections resources.

Jared Combs

Dr. Wright

ENG 618.80

28 November 2020

Introduction

This letter annotation assignment concerns itself with the letter from Laura White Mack (Wife of Horace Kephart), to her son, Leonard Kephart. The letter was written on January 24th, 1946. Laura was living in Ithaca, New York, and sent the letter to her son in Takoma Park, D.C.

In this letter, Laura is catching Leonard up to speed on their various family affairs and the current events on numerous family friends. Laura mentions that the subsequent information in the letter was all included in the previous *Ithaca Journal*. The Kephart family keeps a tight record of all quotidian events as well as the extraordinary occurrences that befall them and their contemporaries. Laura appears delighted at the prospect of more incoming letters from Barbara Anne (Leonard's daughter) while feeling dismayed at all of her unrequited letters. Manton and Susie (unidentified family friends) visited for dinner but Roger (unidentifiable) could not be roused into attending. Meanwhile, Dorothy (unidentifiable) will be relocating to Rochester. Manton has insured Laura of Sam Bird's (Leonard's nephew) return. In which he will finally complete his undergraduate degree within two terms. Roy Ferris (Leonard's nephew) is enlisting into the armed forces but wants to attend Cornell afterward. Syd Bird (unidentifiable) has assured George (Leonard's brother) of Sam's prestige priority at nearby colleges based on his military service. Laura assures her son that the last of the bovine will be sold soon enough. However, the Palmers (unidentified family friends) will be moving in early February. The

helpful farmhand Alfred (family friend who works on the farm) has yet to be replaced but luckily Andy (great uncle-in-law of Horace) remains. Laura conveys to her son that she will move into her country home when the weather becomes more agreeable. The Riley's (Laura's sister marries into the Riley's) have set up a city and country home for Laura. She concludes her letter by stating that she will hardly move more than a toothbrush, which eludes to the privileged life she maintains between homes. She sends all of her love for Leonard and his brood.

Leonard Kephart, the letter's recipient, was born in Ithaca, New York on January 10th, 1892. Leonard was the oldest of six siblings. Like his parents, Leonard was a Cornell alumnus. Leonard's pedigree was in agriculture, which also showing their penchant for the land. He married Francis Frazer. The two of them had three children, Barbara Anne, George, and Jane. Leonard died in Maryland on the 10th of February, 1988.

The letter's curator, Laura, was born on February 14th, 1862. She passed away in 1954 in her birthplace of Ithaca, New York. She married Horace Kephart in 1887. Horace is often lauded as the "father" of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. The couple had six children. Despite being estranged, upon their deaths, Laura's ashes were interred with Horace's grave at Mount Kephart in the Great Smokey Mountain Parkway.

Editor's Note

This manuscript will incorporate a diplomatic format, in an attempt to recreate the original letter in its written and intended display. Any grammatical errors, misspellings, and mark throughs will be included in this manuscript in order to preserve the integrity of the originally written letter. Annotations will be provided through various footnotes, which will serve to provide context to the many family members named, but not extrapolated on, within this

particular letter. Hopefully, this will serve to paint a vivid picture of the Kephart family and their associates. All annotation information is from Ancestry.com.

Manuscript Description

Laura Kephart's letter consists of two pages and the envelope that held it. The letter's dimensions are 7 ¼" x 10 ½". The envelope is 7 ½" x 3 7/8". The letter was written on two sides of that same page. There is a large brown stain on the top center of the first page which may be due to the letter having been folded up to fit inside the envelope. Both the paper and envelope have taken a yellowish hue over time. There is one word crossed out in the center of the first page. The marked through word is "cows" and the word "cars" follows it. Laura often uses a plus sign (+) in place of the word "and". In the center of the second page the words "in school" are written above the sentence, apparently added as an afterthought. These types of additions will be represented by superscript within this manuscript.

111 Ferris Pl
Ithaca NY

Ithaca, NY
Jan 24
3~PM
1946

United
States
Postage
3 Cents 3

Mr. Leonard W. Kephart
222 Maple Ave
Lida Irvie Takoma Park D.C.

(MS Page One)

Dear Leonard¹

January 24, 1946

The enclosed was in last nights journal. It may interest you, even if you don't feel the urge to put on on.

Barbara Ann's² announcement card arrived at about the time I had begun to give up hope of any news. I owe Jane³ a letter + will answer ? – The way my un-answered life has grown, is sad to contemplate.

Manton⁴ + Susie⁵ were here for dinner Sun. Manton came to show off his new ~~ears~~ car + Susie just came along. She said it was not possible to rouse Roger⁶ sufficiently for him to come. Dorothy⁷ is coming to Rochester to live.

Marnie⁸ says Sam Bird⁹ is coming back to finish college. he has two terms to go. This mean he will have one

¹ Leonard Wheeler Kephart (1892-1988), Horace and Laura Kephart's eldest son. Aged 54 at the time of the letter. ("Find a Grave").

² Barbara Ann Kephart (1923-), Daughter of Leonard and Frances ("Ancestry").

³ Jane Kephart (1918-2014), Daughter of Leonard and Frances. Barbara's older sister ("Ancestry").

⁴ Manton Riley (1911-2011), Julia and Howard Riley's son ("Ancestry").

⁵ Susie- Unidentified

⁶ Roger – Unidentified

⁷ Dorothy Riley- Manton's wife ("Ancestry").

⁸ Marnie- Presumably Sam Bird's sister

⁹ Sam Bird- Leonard's nephew, Barbara's son ("Ancestry").

(MS Page 2)

this spring + one next fall.

Roy Ferris¹⁰ is now-or was when he wrote last week-at Camp Pickett¹¹ v. all the equipment has been insured for going across to Germany¹². He expected to go to Camp Shaules¹³ for debarkation every day. He plans to enlist for one year + then come to Cornell¹⁴. His entrance is all o.k. + Syd Guy¹⁵ told George¹⁶, that the boy would probably be given priority in those colleges that were obliged to limit their number. This on account of his high rating ^{in school} + service. He now has four medals on his string. Both boys won the hearts of all the relatives here.

The last of the cows will be sold next week + the Palmers¹⁷ will move Feb. 11. No one has yet been found to take Alfred's¹⁸ place, but Andy¹⁹ is to stay on + I will move to my country home as soon as weather permits. The Riley's²⁰ have decided that I am, from now on, to have a country and city apt. It won't be necessary to move much more than a toothbrush. Lots of love to you all

Mama²

¹⁰ Roy Ferris (1927-2006)- Son of George Kephart & his wife Pauline ("Ancestry").

¹¹ Camp Pickett- A military base in Blackstone Virginia, now called Fort Pickett ("Fort Pickett History").

¹² Germany- This was at the conclusion of WWII (1939-1945).

¹³ Camp Shaules- Unidentified, presumably where Roy Ferris left for Germany.

¹⁴ Cornell University- Horace & Laura met at Cornell, and both graduated from there.

¹⁵ Syd Guy- Unidentified

¹⁶ George Kephart (1894-1961)- Son of Horace & Laura, Leonard's brother ("Ancestry").

¹⁷ Palmers- Unidentified

¹⁸ Alfred- Family friend.

¹⁹ Andy Nearhoff- Great-uncle-in-law to Horace Kephart and Mary Kephart's husband ("Ancestry").

²⁰ Riley's- Laura's sister Julia married into the Riley's ("Ancestry").

²¹ Mama- Laura White Mack Kephart (1862-1954) ("Ithaca Journal").

Works Cited

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