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5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

P. O. Box 103
Sandpoint, Idaho
June 13, 1957

Dear Popenoe Cousins,

Thank you so much for the postal announcing the new status of "Director Emeritus" and the new address of Antigua. Though the card was directed to me at my old address in Geneva, N.Y., it was forwarded to me here fairly promptly.

It was good to hear at Christmas time that the Paul Popenoe's and you were to have such good vacation trips together. We enjoyed the account as outlined on the Christmas pamphlet.

Once early in the Fall, once at New Year's, and once again this Spring I have been able to drive over to Sultan, Wash., to visit briefly with Aunt Abbie and John K.E. and his Mother with whom Aunt Abbie has been making her home since the closing out of the Redwood City home last Aug.-Sept. My father (Ned) who is now past 85 went on the fall and spring trip^s, but the winter trip was too rugged to risk taking him on. We had wonderful weather for the Spring trip, and it did the brother and sister worlds of good for each to see personally that the other was in fairly good health, considering the number of their years.

Recently father had an upset which necessitated a day in the hospital, but he seems to be quite on the mend again. If Aunt Abbie is still in Sultan at the time of her 86th birthday (Aug.7th) I shall try to drive father over there again on that occasion. However, she may decide to go to her daughter, Mary Electa, in North Carolina for the period of late summer. (Little does she realize how beastly hot and humid Chapel Hill can be from June to Oct.!).

I'm sure you must have the Sultan address. If not, it is simply: Mrs.C.E.Kelsey,P.O.Box 162, Sultan Wash. It's 24 mi. east of Everett, not a great distance northeast of Seattle.

With kindest regards and best wishes to you and all your family,

Allan W B
Sincerely, Allan Willard Burleson

P.O.Box 103, Sandpoint, Idaho
July 6, 1959

F. Wilson Popenoe's
Paul Popenoe's
Oliver Popenoe's and
All Other Interested P's

Dear Cousins,

It had been my hope to acknowledge the Christmas card and write individual messages to you, but Oliver knows of yore my reputation for procrastination. In the meantime, Paul and Betty have learned of the message that I would have conveyed to you all: viz., that Aunt Abbie (Mrs. C.E.Kelsey) has been having a 6 weeks' visit (will be 6 weeks at time of termination) with her brother (my father) at "his rest home":
Rev. Edw. W. Bursleson, Blue Mountain Infirmary, Rtel 1, Walla Walla, Wash.

Last mid-November father became much weaker and was hospitalized for a time and went from there to a rest home -- not fancy but very well run. The doctors said it would be unwise for me to plan on taking father on our usual summer jaunt to the Coast (uncertain heart action might not react favorably to the heights in crossing the Cascades). When Aunt Abbie heard of that, she suggested perhaps it could be arranged for her to come over to visit him and even stay in the same building so that there would not be complications of transportation, hospitality, etc.

At long last, the arrangements were completed, though Aunt Abbie had to classify herself as "a patient" in order to make the arrangement for her and father to share adjoining rooms and have their meals served to them privately. She arrived at Blue Mountain Infirmary by air from Seattle June 1st and settled right down to a schedule of visiting, taking walks on the greensward and among the flower beds, writing letters, resting, and then some more of the same. I took my oldest brother Edward down to spend June 18th with Father and Aunt Abbie (Edward's 58th birthday), and last Thursday I spent 8 hours with them. Meanwhile we've had numerous notes from them, and they seem very well and nappy. However, Aunt Abbie wants to return to Sultan, Wash. (P.O. Box 276) to help Gwen take care of young Hugh L.B. III who is spending the rest of the summer with his grandmother. I hope to accompany her and have a day's visit there before returning here. We'd like to go to Sultan for Aunt Abbie's 90th birthday on August 7th, but we know that to be impossible for us.

Last August Aunt Abbie received quite a stifling amount of birthday mail. This year some of us were trying to get her mail to her earlier so she'd have more time to enjoy it before beginning to write her Christmas notes. You know what a stickler she is for acknowledging everything that's written to her, and for sharing her communications with her brother -- they two being the only remaining siblings of their generation! It occurred to us that notes reaching Aunt Abbie at Walla Walla would give her more leisure time to enjoy them herself and share them with her brother.

And now, yes, it's almost too late, but since the envelopes are already addressed I'll just send greetings to you all anyway and rather think P&B may have written AMBK.

While AMBK was in Walla Walla Gwen went to Berkeley in mid-June. She meets HLBIII from WashDC at the airport today, visits an old school friend tomorrow, and flies to Seattle with "little Hugh" on Wednesday. At least, that's the last schedule we heard.

Mary Electa's husband is to go on a Pacific Theater tour with a drama group July 14-Sept. 2; so Mary will be in Calif. for a time and probably in August will drive north with Alan Kelsey Brown to visit the Sultan household.

We all are interested to hear the good news of the forthcoming weddings -- Karl Bowman's and David Popenoe's and would want to send our greetings to all the "members of the parties". And rest assured that Aunt Abbie will be with you in thought and memory that day especially.

With best wishes and kindest regards to all, Sincerely,
Allan W. Bursleson

Antigua, Guatemala, 21 July 1959

Mr Allan W Burleson
Box 103, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Dear Allan:

Yours of July 6th, a round robin, has just reached us here in far away Guatemala. I am so encouraged by the fact that my dear Cousin Abbie is rounding out 90 Aprils as we say in Latin America (a girl never celebrates her 18th birthday; she just completes 18 Aprils) that I am enclosing a check covering the numerous Aprils that Cousin Abbie has completed and I put the check in your name, with the request that you cash it and hand her the cash in crisp ten-dollar Williams and just tell her it came from an anonymous admirer. I am a bit emotional about my cousin Abbie, because she always has seemed to me so much like my mother. A bit in physical appearance, and much more so in character.

Paul has just written me about Cousin Abbie's 90th, and has told me that there are just two Burlesons left of her generation, and two more remotely-related members of the Popenoe tribe. En passant, et apropos de rien, we were in Mexico City for a couple of weeks recently, and I often thought of those days I spent at the YMCA - they must have been in 1917 - with Allan Burleson; and how I slipped on the ice as I came out the front door one morning (it was right around Xmas time) and almost broke my bendito pascuezo. Look that up in your Spanish dictionary. And incidentally, one of my former colleagues, Reginald Hamer, who was killed in an airplane accident in Costa Rica some years ago (he was then manager of UFCo's Costa Rica division) told me that when he was a boy (he was born in Mexico City of British parents) he used to sing in the choir at Allan Burleson's church. I believe I am correct, am I not, in recalling that Allan was the one who had the Episcopal church in Mexico City for many years?

All goes well with us here. I am finding "retirement" not very retiring; I keep very busy and must now settle down for a few months to write in Spanish a manual of tropical and subtropical fruits for which I have a contract with the best publishing house in Spain. This will in all probability be my swan song, but if I live as long as Cousin Abbie I intend to write an autobiography which will probably become known as Popenoe's Joke Book. My sense of humor has kept me alive for Lo! these many years, and may it continue to do so.

Ever yours,

P.O.Box 103, Sandpoint, Idaho. 29 July 1960.

Dear Paul and Wilson Popenoe Families:

Here come I with my annual "sound off" about that wonderful little lady Abigail Marion Burleson Kelsey who will be celebrating her 91st birthday on August 7th at a new address:

Mrs. C.E. Kelsey
8 2 4 Clay Street
Port Townsend, Wash.

I take the liberty of sending this information along to you, not knowing whether you may have heard of it from other sources. And I am rudely just making a carbon copy of this - one for each family - on account of lack of time. You know me -- always late and tardy!

In the Spring came the Christmas message from the Paul Popenoes telling of all the family touring in Europe. How glad we all are for you all to have those splendid opportunities. Perhaps you knew that Aunt Abbie's granddaughter - Julia Carolyn Brown Campbell - and husband honeymooned (delayed a year) in Europe December - April and had perfectly wonderful times in their leisurely tours of all the parts they wanted to see.

Aunt Abbie was in North Carolina December-June. Then she went west to San Francisco for a few days and thence north to Sultan. Gwen had been visiting in the East in April; so the two sisters-in-law came west together. When they got to Sultan they found the Methodist Conference had transferred Rev. John K.B. Jr. to a larger and better parish, that at Port Townsend on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. Needless to say, 'twas a task and a half for those ladies to get moved and rested up not only from the moving but from their previous travels. But we now have enthusiastic letters from them, praising their residential facilities and the whole town as being so far superior to the environment of Sultan where they've been for nearly three years (I think).

My Father is still resident in a rest home at Walla Walla. I was with him a week ago Sunday. Outside temp. was 108, but the air conditioning kept the inside temp below 90 for the comfort of the 58 patients. Father had had a second "tapping" of the thoracic cavity the preceding Friday and was feeling much better, but he's not well enough to think of our trying to take him to The Coast for the August 7th fete. Furthermore, I think we shall be there only in spirit, for I think they still need more time to get rested before we impose on their kind hospitality.

I know all would join me in sending much love to you all. Next year, I shall try to start earlier to write this note and do a better job of it.

Sincerely,

Allan Willard
Allan Willard Burleson

P.O.B x 103, Sandpoint, Idaho
29th March 1961

Dear Cousins:

Paul Popenoe, Karl Bowman, Wilson Popenoe, and Families

Let us hope these are in proper order of seniority!

It occurs to me that I should report to you as a matter of record the fact that my Father - your Cousin - EDWARD WELLES BURLERSON died 10 February 1961. He had had a pleasant New Year's celebration and a lively eighty-ninth birthday party on January 15th and had entertained friends at luncheon and in the afternoon on the day of his death. His mind seemed to keep clear, but the body was too weary to wait until Spring and enjoy some of the warm sunshine.

Aunt Abbie was so very good to volunteer to "write the proper notes to the relatives" but thinkably her energy could have run short; so I run the risk of repeating rather than that of your not being informed at all.

Father had happy memories of your Family, and the flow of news about you was kept at a steady pace from his devoted Sister Abbie; so you had contributed to his peace of mind in his declining years more than you would have imagined. He was so very glad that Aunt Abbie was able to spend a month with him a year ago last summer. His two and a quarter years in the rest home and the two years at Redwood City were certainly his happiest in the past thirty-six years. He enjoyed the other residents, and the staff were so very kind and thoughtful. I only wish we had found that place for him five years ago.

If plans work out, perhaps I shall take Father's ashes to Onocida, Wis., for interment sometime this summer -- but that's a long way ahead.

My oldest Brother Edward (here with me) joins me in good wishes of HAPPY EASTERTIDE to you all.

With kindest regards -

Sincerely,

Allan Willard
Allan Willard BurlerSON

P.S.

Please excuse my "laziness"
in doing this the "carbon copy" way,
But I just can't begin to catch up
to the procession any other way!

P.P.S.

Not until I checked the records did I realize that you are just
"the young kid brother" of that remarkable close-knit trio
of the descendants of Dr. Caleb Nicholas BurlerSON.

That remarkable lady, Mrs. Myra W. Sloper, only surviving sibling of my Mother, now almost eighty-five continues to talk of the wonderful time she and her friends had at Antigua. She has spent the winter at Phoenix, Ariz., but soon will return to cooler Connecticut for the summer -- a wonderful girl!

OBITUARY INFORMATION

Rev. EDWARD WELLES BURLESON, 1872-1961 (Spok)

Born 15 Jan 1872, Blue Earth City, Minn., son of Rev. Solomon Stevens Burleson and Abigail (Pomeroy), pioneers who came to Minn. from Vermont in 1856.

Died 10 Feb 1961 at Blue Mountain Infirmary, Walla Walla, Wash. Funeral conducted 11 Feb at St. Paul's Church, Walla Walla, by the Rector, the Rev. Dr. David S. Alkins, and the Priest-Asso., Rev. Richard C. French. Private Funeral. Cremation followed.

Prepared for college at Racine (Wis.) Grammar School.
Student at Hobart College, Geneva, N.Y., 1891-1895; A.B. Degree 1895; M.A. 1898.
Student at General Theological Seminary, New York City, 1895-1898.

Ordained Deacon 1898; Priest 12 February 1899.

Summer 1898; Locum Tenens, Green Island, N.Y.

1898-9; Instructor at West Texas Mil. Acad., San Antonio, Texas, where one of his students was the Douglas MacArthur who later became the famous general.

1898-9; Asst. Rector, St. Paul's Church, San Antonio, Texas.

1899-1903; Missionary at Larimore and Adj. Parts, N.E. North Dakota

1903-1912; Rector, Grace Church, Jamestown, and Missy. for James River Valley, N. Dakota

1912-1919; Missy. North Idaho; Priest-in-Charge St. Agnes, Sandpoint; St. Mary's, Bonners Ferry; and Episcopal Mission at Spirit Lake, Idaho.

1919-1929; Vicar, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Palouse, Wash.

1929- : Moved to North Idaho, Retired 1930; lived in Inland Empire most of rest of life; brief residences at Redwood City, Calif.; Chehalis, Wash.; and Walla Walla, Wash.

Some of his compositions are printed in North Dakota Sheaf of Missy. Dist. of N. Dakota Sunday School Commissions of North Dakota, 1904-1912

Deputy to General Convention at Richmond, Va., 1907

Married 28 June 1899 at "Highland", near Middletown, Conn., Alice Miriam Wilcox, 1873-1924; she d 26 Apr 1924 at Spokane, Wash., and was bur New Highland Cem., Conn.

Five children: Edward Wilcox, res 1961 at Sandpoint, Idaho

Rev. Theodore Mann, deceased

Harold Welles, deceased

Kenneth Pomeroy, res 1961 at Walla Walla, Wash.

Allen Willard, res 1961 at Sandpoint, Idaho

Five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren living 1961

Older Sister, Mrs. C.E. Kelsey (nee Abigail Marion Burleson) b 7 Aug 1869, living 1961 at 402 Whitehead Circle, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Deceased Brothers : Rev. Allan Lucien

Rt. Rev. Hugh Latimer (Ep.S.Dak., 1916-1931, and Assessor to the Presiding Bishop, 1931-1933)

Rev. Dr. John Keble

Rev. Guy Pomeroy (1878-1916)

Several cousins, numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, etc. living 1961 in Guatemala, Japan, Hawaii, Florida, California, Washington, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, New York, D.C., Connecticut, and Vermont.

P.O.Box 103, Sandpoint, Idaho, 83864
1 October 1963

Dear Cousin Wilson Popenoe,

For fifteen months this envelope has lain here addressed to you, and this must be the day I use it -- no more excuses of delay, always thinking I could bring some up-to-date bit of family information!

It was my intention to write at the time that my Father (Edward W. Burleson, 1872-1961) died shortly after his 89th birthday, but details and complications got piled very high at that time and are not cleared up yet - perhaps never will be. You may recall that my chief reason for being here in the country is to care for my oldest brother (now past 63) who was born a retarded child and is still one, fantastic as that may sound. It is a problem to which I donot know the solution; so we linger on here from month to month -- he never improving enough to be independent -- yet hardly an institutional case. There must be accommodations for such persons, but I've not been able to find a satisfactory one.

In December 1961 we went to the Seattle-Tacoma Airport for an "Airport Breakfast" to see Aunt Abbie off on her flight to Chapel Hill, N.C., to spend a few months with her daughter. Doubtless you know that Mary Electa (Kelsey)(Brown) Patterson and her husband had a ~~Bal~~bright Year in Korea this past year; so it was necessary for Aunt Abbie to spend that year and more out in Port Townsend, Wash. with Aunt Gwen (widow of Rev. John K. Burleson). She returned to Pt. T. approximately in April of 1962 -- all of which you may possibly know through correspondence with her and others.

In early July 1962 we had a most pleasant visit from Walter Bowman and his wife and four daughters. I was saddened to learn from him our first word of your wife's death. Our greatest sympathy goes out to you, and we do admire greatly the strength and courage you can summon to face the losses and sorrows that have come your way.

In August 1962 we hoped to visit Aunt Abbie on her birthday, but she had a tumble at the end of July and was not able to have birthday company. However, she gradually improved and persevered, and I had the pleasure of a visit with her at Pt. T. early in June. When I went over there to meet one of my Father's college friends - a Mr. Walker of Buffalo, N.Y., who, with his wife, was returning from a 3-month cruise to New Zealand and had never been in Seattle. I was their "guide" and saw them onto their plane headed for home; Mr. Walker celebrates his 89th birthday tomorrow and is so hale and hearty and cheerful that one would guess him to be little over 70.

I took Edward ^(the oldest brother) to Port Townsend for Aunt Abbie's Ninety-Fourth Birthday this past August 7th. It was a delightful day for us all. She was in good spirits, and we had a quiet birthday dinner of five: Aunt Abbie, Aunt Gwen and her son Rev. John K. B., Jr., and Edward and I. In the afternoon some other relatives and friends came over, so that we were a party of ten. Since that time Aunt Abbie has been sorting and packing and planning to go back to N.C. - "surely my last transcontinental trip". At hand are letters from Aunt Abbie and Aunt Gwen telling of delays in their trip. Gwen has just had a bout of the flu, and Aunt Abbie does have her days of vertigo attacks etc. that make for difficulties. The present plan is that some time between now and mid-October Gwen will accompany Aunt Abbie on the plane back East - making sure that there are no mistakes, mixups, confusions etc. of plane changes.

Perhaps our best news of this summer has been word from Walter and Pat Bowman of the birth of their SON on 20th of August. You well know how scarce boys are among Karl Bowman's grandchildren. Wally and Pat and the Girls are a wonderful family for this young man to be born into! I do so hope you can see them all someday.

The final motivating factor that makes me get this word off to you today is the fact that I want to mention to you a young couple from Sandpoint who are taking up residence in your Central America:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Bonar (He will be resident manager)
Empresas Lacteas Foremost, S.A.
P.O.Box 247, San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.

I have, strangely enough, never met the young Mr. Bonar, though I knew his late father rather well. Mrs. Bonar was my godchild when she was Miss Mary Margaret McKinnon. I have known her all my life and her mother many years. Mary Margaret is absolutely one of the sweetest and most capable young ladies ever to go forth from this county. She graduated from Mills College of Oakland, Calif., and had merchandising positions in San Francisco several years. Then she met this chap "from her hometown" and a quick wedding ensued. They were stationed out on Guam where Chas. had charge of his companies' business in that whole territory. They weathered the typhoon satisfactorily but are quite willing to be stationed closer to home for this next tour of duty.

It occurred to me that you may have acquaintance with the organization for which Chas. will be resident manager and that Chas. and Mary Margaret would perhaps travel in Guatemala and that you might willy-nilly encounter them somewhere - or they you. I still haven't met Charles! But if Mary Margaret says he's okay, that's good enough for me. I think you'd find them a very fine American couple whose acquaintance you'd enjoy. Tomorrow afternoon they fly to their post; so it is likely that they'll be in El Salvador ere this rambling notation reaches you.

I think that in the past you have met one of my Hobart College Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers - George Edward Holton of Panajachel, Solola. I believe he and his wife have an attractive residence on Lake Atitlan. George was an interesting chap in college and performed fantastic war service in WW II in the British Ambulance Corps. He has been a freelance photographer in many exciting parts of the world. To say he has "settled down" would be a misnomer, for I think he's so full of eagerness and adventure that he'd be always "on the go."

From time to time I have helped in tutoring and preparing youngsters for competition for entrance to the U.S. Service Academies. At the moment, we have four youngsters from this town at West Point and one at the Air Force Academy in Colo Spgs. The one of whom I'm proudest is a lad who graduated from Annapolis last June and now is a Marine Lt. based on Okinawa but with far-traveling temporary assignments. I am hoping this week or next he will visit in Tokyo with one of Aunt Gwen's sons -- Hugh L.B. II who is now Asst. Cultural Affairs Officer of th USIS at the American Embassy. On the distaff side, we are proud to have girls at Wellesley and Mt. Holyoke; (none at Mills this year); one girl who was a National Merit winner from here is an honor senior at Stanford and will have a fellowship for graduate study there next year. You may well know how gratifying it is to find material of such fine calibre here in the hinterland --- despite the reputation Idaho has of being very low on the national scale, educationwise.

It is pleasant to recall visiting with you at the Bowman's in New York and having the letters from you from other parts of the world. How I wish you might have a visit with Aunt Abbie who so utterly adores the memory of her friendship with your mother; but it may be that her visiting days are more limited than we realize. I shall continue to hope that there'll be other August 7th's when we can see her again.

Always with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Allan W B
Allan Willard Burleson