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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.

Shur
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
ST. LOUIS



A first-rate letter -- Tip Top --

Dr. P. H. Ruggar,

Gallion,
Princeton, P. F. D. Alabama

It makes a father proud to
get such letters & know
it is all fruits - true

4327 Washington Ave.,
St. Louis Mar. 10, '19.

Dear Father,

It is a long time since I have heard from you, and I am anxious to know how you fared during these late days of the winter - which are usually the dampest and most disagreeable, I think. Since I wrote you we have had our turn with influenza. George and Nancy were down at the same time, and while they were in bed only about a week,

they had to be more or less amused
for two or three weeks. Benjamin
had a short attack, and
was out of school only a day
or two. Louise and Marie escaped.
I should have been in bed for
a week but managed to keep my
work going. Unfortunately, it
came just at the time when
I had a case in court, my
part in the proceeding being
that of "expert" in a case brought
by the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry
for the purpose of condemning
a lot of partly decayed tomato
canned products. Several of my
old friends from Washington
were here at the time.

I became very much interested in this case owing to the scientific methods employed for the detection of decay in such products. Of course, it is easy enough with canned tomatoes. It becomes more interesting with soup pulps, and reaches its climax in catsups and the various "paste" preparations.

The early part of the season, with the ban on all kinds of social amusements, was succeeded here by a veritable crush of events, whether in the social world, the artistic, the scientific or what not. We have, however,

gone on in the even tenor of our way, doing what seemed to be the essentials, and leaving undone many things which might make a stronger appeal another season.

Last Tuesday night it was our time to open our house for a meeting of the St. Louis Garden Club. Although it was a very bad night, there were about twenty present. This winter the Garden Club has been giving itself to "plant life" studies, really to phases of plant physiology - so I have been able to assist materially in the preparation

of material for the demonstrations needed by the "leaders" who arrange the programme for the monthly meetings. Perhaps I have told you before that the Garden Club membership is limited very largely to persons owning ^{large} homes and gardens in the suburban districts, persons who are "enthusiastic amateurs". The spring and fall meetings are generally more or less on the order of garden exhibits.

Yesterday Marie and I dined with our good friends Mr. and Mrs. Lewis. He had just returned from an interesting Cuban trip, and was

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full of his experience selling
modern sugar machinery to the
big sugar planters of the island.
They also gave us many valuable
pointers on California, where
they spent last summer. It
seems very probable that we
shall spend next summer at
Carmel, near Monterey, Calif.
I have been invited to work in
the small Carnegie research
laboratory there, and would have
my expenses paid, and ^{would be} given
every opportunity for the work
I wish to do. The difficult thing
is, of course, that it costs no
small amount to take a family

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of six. However, Marie has long hoped for an opportunity to see something of California, and no arrangement for the children other than to take them with us seems practicable. At any rate, we are making plans and will go if we can.

Professor Shaffer returned a few weeks ago and resumed gradually his work at the Medical School, but I was unable to be completely relieved of it until last week. Now I am again devoting all of my attention to my own

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graduate and research laboratory.

I have had little news from Fred and none from Lewis recently. We very much hope that at the beginning of this planting season Reuben has had no more ill-luck with his stock and equipment.

Marie and the children are all in bed, or they would wish to join me in much love to you. Your affectionate son,
Ben.

We are holding on to our cook and maid "medium poor" though they are. The best are at present rather quite beyond our reach. I hope you are adequately provided

"Dumbarton Hall," Haldon, Ha.

April 18th 1879.

My Dear Son:-

I wrote you something of
since, some little things for
the Children's amusement.
In that letter you concurrently
mentioned the fact that you
were then much interested in
a case of the Government as -
some hawthorn factories. I was
puzzled &c. I was waiting
thinking you would let me
into the secrets of results &c.
I suspected some intricate chem-
ical fact would be exposed
or brought out to satisfy
the Public interest.

Lament in our section of ag-
ricultural development -
I would dare say this was
the one most unfortunate
seasons for our farmers.
Every thing was late - double
plowing was only half done -
when corn planting time
intervened - so 'half work'
will be the starting point
for a crop - and I will have to
be a splendid spring to get
our people into the merit of
the new crop - whether of Castor
or Corn - as to oats - we have
been but a small patch of
only a few acres for grazing to

3rd November 1914. - very early
this date.

The long expected movement of my tenants in common - i.e. Housekeeper & her schoolmistress daughter have vanished from Bourne booth all. - One the teacher resigned the school - although all the children desired her so much to remain. - At any rate last Friday they "up" & told me they would leave that day & when I was out of the house - by some magical means they managed to get two big travelling trunks & two boxes of books got out on the front

porch, without any noise or commotion. - Then a big drone up & they got in and disappeared. all very quietly - not even saying thankyou. They have disappointed the entire neighborhood. Yet I imagine the up & down reason is that a young soldier boy has been coming here on a visit to the Immersion party!! - My check here is to pay for some "stere tubes" or Boulton tubes - as you think best. I tried some of those tubes you sent - & they were so good I want more. I am kind the book here may be sent hence. So many have been after him? 12.30 P.M. Love to all, Yr. Father, affectionately.



The Bellevue-Stratford

Philadelphia

Thursday evening Apr. 24, 1919

Dearest Penica,

As you will infer, I am here in "Lady Stratford's rooming house", and a right good place it is - as of yore, and brings back old memories galore. It is almost the hour, too, when we celebrated the incoming year, but I have been busy, and you'll forgive me dear if I have not obeyed the custom.

It was terribly crowded on the New Yorker, and this morning there was no opportunity to write - nor a postal to be had. I spent much of the time lining up to get meals. However, weather conditions were ideal and the country beautiful all the way. Prof. Nipher's was the only familiar face on the horizon, and he told me all his past and future at least twice over.

We reached Phila. and were at the hotel by 2 P. M. just in time to see the tail

end - that is, the cavalry end - of the big Victory Loan Parade. I reached independence Hall during the first paper, so was just in time to take in the whole Ann. Phil. Soc. show. The first faces I saw were Bradley, M. Davis and Professor Bailey, so I felt at home. Later several friends and acquaintances loomed up in addition. After the meeting MacDougal and I had a chat in his room, and he showed me a telegram clinching for us a house in Carmel for the summer. So we are on the way, and by the way we are to be next door to a tea room and not far from a hotel, - in which case it won't be necessary to pick the goose at home except when the golden eggs may be few, or setting!

Then I went in to supper (Dutch) with McD. and Dr. and Mrs. Wheeler of Harvard, and we sat talking until half past nine. Since that time I have been warming over my paper, for I knew that if I did not get this



The Bellevue-Stratford

Philadelphia

done before I started my letter to you there would be no fuel left. As it is, I am through and ready for the morrow.

I have missed you every minute and loved you more than ever. It is getting cold outside, though, and I am just a little alarmed lest it is cold with you and I made no arrangements for a furnace man.

Here is hoping that everything continues to go nicely with the tablet. More especially, though, may all of you in our little "living" be as snug and comfortable as the most happy, and may you not feel too glad over this respite from your Hubbaus. Kiss all the children for me and don't forget to love.
Your Benj.

P.M. Apr 24/91

Sent to Mrs. D. in St. Louis



The Bellevue-Stratford

Philadelphia
Saturday.

My own sweet heart,

I was certainly "pretty happy" to have your fine letter this morning, and what do you think! The very courtly and aged Secretary of the Am. Phil. Soc. opened it "by mistake". There were several business letters and a telegram from Moore, but your letter was the one opened. "Well" he admitted, "I soon saw that it was not intended for me." Then he re-read the address. Everything is set for the big dinner tonight, which closes the proceedings. The scientific program today consisted of physics and papers in the morning and chemical warfare papers this after-

noon. Both were good, the latter particularly so. By the way Col. Bogert, when I was introduced to him, said "You bet, I know you, or at least I could" not very well forget Mrs. Duggar, so you see how it pays for you to attend the scientific meetings.

The program Friday was also good and well attended. My paper went off just as well as could be expected, and one old lawyer said to me in effect that my paper would please any member of his profession, inasmuch as - whether understanding it or not - there were neither unnecessary words nor words that could not be heard.

I have gotten some information



The Bellevue-Stratford

Philadelphia

about now, and Morris' telegram says
Burdington will not accept, so that
it is unnecessary to go ^{home} via Cleveland.

I shall run down to New York
in the early morning, though neither
by letter nor telegram have I yet been
able to get into touch with the most
important man.

So you are to run the Garden
Club meeting & give! No indeed I
shall not do it for you. Hermann
is the man, you remember you
told me, who ought to assist.
But, Deane, any man on earth

with good sense, and your husband
whether or no, would assist you; so
that you can imagine us lined
up in a row waiting.

I do miss you every minute
Benica, and I would give much
if you could take the New York-
Ithaca jaunt with me.

It is really cold here, but
the predicted freeze-up did not
arrive. I do hope you are all com-
fortable. I am desolite about the
tablet for you. Some men are unre-
liable. Do kiss all the children -
including our dear Mary Instillite
daughter - and with lots and lots of
love. Your ever-devoted, Benj.





7 M. May 29, 1919
to D. at Shaw's Garden
"Dumboo Hall".

May 26th: Hale Co - Gallin R 15.
Ala.

Dear Ben:— The last time
I heard from you was, when
you were on your Phil^a trip.
I hope it was a successful one
as you usually turn things up
your own way. I was glad to
find your box at my gate
inside the yard when I re-
turned from Turk^a City. I say
City for it's no longer townlike
— but Progress with a Capital
P— only— denotes its present
appearance. The contents of your
box has been daily enjoyed by
me — The Crocker & Church (all I

opened are delightful & surprising. I
shall get into others as needed. —
I must tell you in this letter how
pleased I was with my various en-
tertainments & entertainers in Wash.^{D.C.}
Most of my time was spent at
Robert Buchanan's Home — He & Elvina
occupy the "old Jones Home" — being
nearly a square of ground nicely
laid off — a ten room house — full
of conveniences — Two story on the plan
somewhat of the old Butte Bellevue
Citizens — big large pillars on the front
Portico, — running up to top of one
story — five large windows & three
folding doors — & large Hall & stairs —
Parlor — sitting room & dining room down
stairs back of sitting room — & 3rd set of
folding doors between D.R. & sitting
room — very roomy & cool & just as
cool in winter — as "Harwood" with its
high pitched ceiling & wide space of doors —
at rear tho are additions with modern
improvements &c. — Race for Auto or
two — large gardens & most lovely Oaks
in the City — grass plots &c. I certainly
enjoyed every day I spent there. One
day dined with Worshipful Mary & Ada — and
another with "Louise" (R.H.'s widow) also
I had a nice lunch with Mrs. Payson
my old honored friend, Elvina's son Robt
about 12 yrs old was a good driver & Robt is.
Often took us out riding in a new fine car.

improved 'Student-baker' -
We visited at the University Grds
two or three occasions - once
out to Holt a manufacturing
Suburban Town quite 3 miles
away East. - and then another
Suburban extension - a real
Lumber Town or (will be City)
beyond Newtown (where the
old Capitol building with its
many additions as a Baptist
Female School now flourishes.
Whilst across the River (there is a
magnificent structure - an iron
bridge) then we come to Washport
pretty good village & Lumber - mill
etc etc. - beyond this 3 miles in
the Country I owned 40 acres of
pine land which I sold on this
trip for \$400.00 cash - too far out to
be valuable to me as an investment
I took it for debt of a router. (\$120.00)
I still own my three late new the Camp

7th May 2, 1919
House which is in same block as
was the Dunov's big House - and in
one block of the Large Hotel -
"McClister Hotel" on Broad Street.
Tuskaloosa is 3 times as large as
it was when you & Bishop
were at the University. All
along from the Post Office out
to the University grounds -
on both sides of University
Avenue are beautiful Parks
& Circles full of fine residences
Each single Circle having a
Park in the Centre - & fancy
Colleges & rich Houses on the
outer edge of the Circle.
Making the Drives along the
Avenue very interesting and
fashionable. People driving
home from Church services - take
a pleasure drive out this way. -

On our Greensboro Road - where
Mr Lyon bought (a new man from
Kentucky) & which was the old
Harry Johnson Place. They have
sold out to another new man,
Don't know terms. A man called
on me yesterday & wanted to know
if I would sell the 100 acres where
John Lawson lives - at \$60⁰⁰ per
acre. —

Some land you know has sold
near \$100.00 per acre. —

I could get the same for my
"Frederickton Place" next to Gallatin.

A poor place between the two
Bridges on Road to Dunsmuir
was sold for \$85.00 per acre. That
white rock hill has 3 1/2 miles
this side of Dunsmuir. John Walter
Gallatin Jr who was Mr Lyon's daughter
has a store at Gallatin & wants to

buy a home near Gallatin - part
of "Frederickton". — They all
want to buy near the Pike
Road to Dunsmuir —

On this visit to Fuscalonga
I was so pleased that I think
it a really good place to live
in - if a man had cash
or a good income. —

Now tell me what of your trip
to California - to Los Angeles? —
I might wish to take a trip there
myself. —

Hope Marie & the children
are getting on well - would
like to see them all before
I am forgotten by them.
With best love to all. I am
affectionately —

Your Father — Frederickton

Will the boy shoot the squirrel or the birds — ?



Box 64, Auburn, Ala.

June 1, 1918

Dear Ben;

I received your letter while in the midst of the preparation of a belated report. In reply I am glad to be able to say that father's health and spirits seem to be good.

Not hearing from him for about two weeks, I phoned last Sunday to Mrs. Pavell. I learned from her that he had returned only a day or two before from a trip of a week or two to Tuscaloosa, spending most of the time with Elvira Cochrane.

I have since had a letter from him, written I think about Tuesday. He wrote chiefly of his Tuscaloosa trip and said very little about conditions at Praxenille.

As to your inquiry about his financial condition, I ask him

occasionally about this. He wrote not long before his Tuscaloosa trip of having bank balance and cash ample for the needs of the remainder of the year, - something over four hundred dollars I think. Expenses of the Tuscaloosa property have probably depleted this to a small extent. He also spoke of spending in Tuscaloosa a day "in looking up old deeds," and in connection with his 40 acres 3 miles from Northport he said in about the same sentence "this property has now brought me in about \$90." I hope he meant that he had just made a sale of the timber on it, about which he had previously had inquiry and a recent offer, which I think was about a hundred dollars. It may mean the sale of the land.

On my spending the night with him April 30th, after Lucy's wedding he had consented to my advertising for a housekeeper, who could also prepare their meals on the oil stove

I received about ten replies, several of which seemed promising, worthy of being followed up. So on sending them to him I offered to make the rounds with him to get acquainted with those that seemed most satisfactory. However, his reply ^{to me} seemed to dismiss the matter very lightly. He wrote as if they wanted to impose on him, especially as ~~most~~ ^{some} of the middle-aged widows had each one child. I have today reminded him that the best chance of keeping anybody permanently would be in the case of someone having a companion in another of her own family. I have renewed my offer but with little hope of his seeing that the matter comes to a choice between getting a housekeeper or closing up the old home.

He dismissed his cook soon after cousin Bell left which must have been by the middle of April - of both of which facts I was ignorant until I dropped in on him. Not a word in his letter about the matter.

Margaret & Lucille Paul are visiting me this week. I hope the family will run its course before the 1st of Dec. I anticipate no extended stay, but attracted by summer. The Legislature will be in session by report of a State Educational Commission. Mrs. Wadsworth is deciding as to whether to accept a position in the State Institution for the Deaf & Blind. I am also going to the State Institution for the Deaf & Blind.

He was living largely on cold food to Demopolis once or twice a week to get his supplies, and warming bread, etc., making tea, on the fireplace in the Chamber. He had two fresh cows ^{also others of the} besides the entire lot that we saw there, and had no idea of setting prices that would sell them. He had no milker. I engaged milk daily from Mrs. Powell, who sends it daily.

I pointed out that if he wished to spend much time at the old home he could board part of the time in Demopolis, and he promised to consider this.

There is no one on the lot & no likelihood of his having the cabin fixed by winter. Benben says father turned back the man that R. sent to repair it.

Father does not seem to realize the insuperable obstacles to his keeping the home open, - unless he is willing to put up with any inconveniences that might accompany having a housekeeper. Probably additional weeks of cold food ~~and~~ may make him willing to consider some other course.

To get a servant to stay there is out of probability both because of scarcity & because he is so suspicious of all negroes & so unable to

"Bumbooed" June 14/79.

Dear Ben -

I presume by this day
you'll be on your way to the
great West. I know you'll
have the time of your life
for its variety & interest.
I spent a longer time in
Frisco - than I intended,
a week at farthest was my
initial effort - but so many
things came about to occupy
my time, that the entire
week was for I spent before
I could get on the real bus-
iness of my trip - then again
Robert Leckrone & Elvira are
such pleasant hosts -
& they had so much planning
ahead that even 10 days didn't
fulfil their expectations -
The Car was almost at the time

young or coming and actually
Turkaloosa is now such an
extensive & attractive City
that I almost wished I was
a resident there. It has
stretched its wings over so much
new ground & there building
such beautiful homes & business
houses that I do not realize
it is the same old Jazzy town,
as formerly. City-like & progressive.
More Citizens come into it every
morning - stay over & spend
their Capital within its limits.
Still it is not at all good yet for
new industries are being con-
tinued - which others are being
doubled. With its suburbs it
is a long drive in a car to en-
davor or attempt to look into
its various enterprises. —

The older business men have
died or capitulated to more
active energetic men, & the

3 June 14, 1919

New men who are strong
 not only to hold their own
 but are busily oppressing
 themselves to beat the band.
 It isn't pleasant to be going
 around inquiring for the
 absent ones - they are out
 of the way entirely - even
 in the Episcopal church
 there - the dearth of gray
 heads is wonderful -
 Heretofore I never hesitated
 to go to Mr. John Hall's
 home - He & his wife both
 are missed very much.
 Cousin Mary Howell now
 72 years old is quite spry
 & as inquisitive as ever.
 New men are Professors &
 the Newer President Dr. Denney
 is just middle aged -

I spent 3 nights & 4 days at Mr. Hall's - This week the new men are the

is entering in a new
of up-to-date studies.
Vocational branches
they tried to get the Legislature
to bring the Auburn
(the Polytechnic Institute) un-
der the wing of the University -
but too much competition &
jealousy on the part of the
Tuskegee school did harm
rather than good. Auburn
is doing a great work &
I don't see how Frost stands
fast with so much before him,
but he is indefatigable, &
the Statesmen (who are not
University Lawyers) are
busy waiting round to - listen
than talk or settling.
I am well & manage all my duties
to duty very well. - Love to Maria
& the Children. Affectionately
or Father. J. J. Garrison



Dear Mr. Suggs
This is our great place. We make
good use of this tower in our
rooms with a paragon.
Our window view is of the
Bay, the Sound, and
all the islands with the most
beautiful views. We stay late
afternoon & so admit most a change
Hurry and come down and
as it is so delightful we
will be out soon to London
Believe me sincerely
Yours

Mr. S. I. Snow
Dedham
Mass.
5 weeks.



CARD NO. 1203

26 Dec 1919
MRS. BENJAMIN M. DUGGAR
CORNIO COTTAGE
CASA NOVA AVENUE
CARMEL, CALIFORNIA

Tuesday Morning -

My own Lamb -

Where do you think
I have just been? Over to Point Lobos
with a stranger! It is a fine day
& it was heavenly out there. Yesterday
I had to take Narky & Bennie to Pacific
Union to get shoes & rubbers & a corduroy
suit for Bennie. Coming back the
stage ~~was~~ already filled so the driver
said he would telephone for a machine.
There were two ladies & kids on board

One of these ladies proved to be a
Miss Lane from Mobile who knew
Minnie Hatch & Mrs Goldsby & knew of
Lewis. She is a most enthusiastic
traveller & we had a fine time together.
She came to see me last night &
this morning drove by to say I had to
go to Point Lobos with her. I dashed
over there & now she is off to Monterey
while I am sending you a word before
the boys come back after the lunch basket
for we are going to picnic on the beach.
George Cannon is still with us. Some
night at Mrs Buntous he whispered to me
"I suppose you will be glad to see me go
to-morrow." "Why no, George," I said "no

26 Dec 1917.
MRS. BENJAMIN M. DUGGAR
CORNU COTTAGE
CASA NOVA AVENUE
CARMEL, CALIFORNIA

have enjoyed having you." "Then", said
he, my father says I can stay two
~~or~~ three days longer. This morning
early his father came knocking at the
door to take him to the train. I immediately
George had forgotten he was to go, hadn't told
me, hadn't packed, & we were all still in
bed! To-morrow I am going to see to it
that he really goes.

I long to hear how you spent Xmas
day. Your dear letter reached me just
afternoon. It was so sweet of you to write
it so exactly. You are a precious friend
in the baby. Blessings with their adorableness

Here, and the records are opposite.
Benmie was quite overcome with his
violin. I wish you could have seen the
dear little fellow. We were all delighted
with every thing & only wished for you &
Louise to complete our happiness.
Santa Claus had filled the stockings in
front of the fire place, the Xmas tree
had been cut by Benmie & decorated by George
& Benmie & we had great gaiety & excitement.
The packages & letters & Xmas tree we sent
until Mr & Mrs Cannon arrived at half
past twelve. Then there was great excitement
all over again. George came & cooked our dinner
which was delicious. Then in the evening we went
to the pantomime. It was a gay day. And we
wished for you & spoke of you cordially. It was

26 Dec
1914

MRS. BENJAMIN M. DUGGAR
CORNU COTTAGE
CASA NOVA AVENUE
CARMEL, CALIFORNIA

rare & sunny, & has been ever since.
Our colds are almost over & we all feel
like different beings.

In my next letter I'll tell you about
our gift etc & the children are going
to write a letter. Mrs. Specks writes that D. Specks
is to have her Lab here & they are coming
on in the spring.

Dr. Cannon meantime fears the Lab may
be moved to the Highlands.

Among us to it.

I'll write you as I hear.

Sunday we had a constant stream of visitors
& yesterday as I returned from Camp 4
Mr. Miller walked in, then Mrs. Ovington.
Then Mr. Hilliard & they sat until

after six, I had to hurry & get dinner
& then Mrs Lyms came & stayed until
half past ten.

So goes the time in Carmel.
Do give father a great deal of love
from me and from each of the
children love & kisses. Love also
to Fred & Fannie & all their family.
I do hope you will see Henry & Reuben
& give them both our love.

And God bless you & send you a
happy New Year! May it be filled
with all your heart most desires.

With my love, Darling, I am
Yours ever
Perrine