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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.

a dozen times. The boys are knocking down walnuts at the church yard tree or
 while perhaps have some message. Mamma was here this morning for a prescription
 as your Father was gone. I
 presented a train, built.
 I suppose Aunt Mabel is
 busy visiting the plantation
 house. In order, she was
 expected Tuesday morning
 Dinner will soon be
 ready, I must for the
 table a good bye-
 Grand Mother is up.
 Wave made her arrival
 this morning.
 With much love
 Yours devoted
 Mother.

September 6th 1898.

We were very glad to hear from
 you yesterday. I intended writing yesterday evening
 but your Father was going to see Mrs Smith's
 baby as I went with him. The little fellow has
 had a hard time with the whooping cough
 but is better now, your Father thought he
 could leave him, to start this morning for
 Montgomery, as he will have to be so long in
 Alabama he said he would try to get the check
 cashed & send you the money by Dr Brown
 or Col Armstrong. He said he was afraid
 some thing might prevent Wave's getting it, or
 that he might lose it. I hope the meeting
 will result in good for the College, your
 Father seems much interested in College
 matters. I will send you the sheets by Wave,
 did not I give you a pr of pillow cases? I

am so sorry Ben that I have not been able
to make some extra flannel drawers to send
you but steadily as I work I fail to accomplish
all I want to do, no one knows how little things
take up ones time, & makes no show.

Lewis & Waver spent night before last at
Uncle John's, saw Mary only a short time,
she was going to Danvers to a dance, went
with one of the Johnsons, spent the night at
the hotel. The boys dined at Fanny's, called
to see the Beltham girls & cousin Margaret,
returning home late yesterday evening. Cousin
Margaret will stay with Mingo this winter
to take care of his children. I have not been
to see her since Belle died, must go soon.
Ben, I had a long letter from Mary Jackson
not long ago telling why she had not written
for so long, she sent love to all the boys &
said, "tell Ben I will give him Lucy for a
sweet heart", she is seventeen, how time
flies, not long ago she was a little girl,
at least it seemed not long. Joe Collins

says the young man ~~who~~ was engaged to
died this summer, she mentioned having
lost a dear friend, I suppose he was the one.
You can hardly imagine how dry & dusty it
is here, all the pools are drying up & cattle
have to be driven off for water. The boys took
the pump out of the dairy well, put on more
tubing & fixed it in the big stable well that
the nine acre stock & milk cows, might be
watered there, we have twelve head not
counting the calves. John never used a pump
before & delights in working it. All the stock
have to be fed on hay, no grass. It is very
cloudy today & I do hope we will have some
rain.

Finding the new pool was nearly dry the
boys caught 5 large carp & we thought we
would celebrate your birth day by having them
but of all the fish I ever tasted they were the

meanest, tacted like mud itself, you can
imagine how disappointed we all were when
we tacted them & the boys had a good laugh
on me because I said "how I wish Ben was
here to enjoy the nice fish on his birth day,"
of course that remark was made before they
were cooked. Reuben went to Lameville Saturday
Chirin had returned & was talking of accepting
a place as teacher in a school at Willis, Texas,
the same place Fanny taught. Maybel left
this morning to organize her music class in
Newbern.

Mr Ward sent for the dog day before yesterday
he says she is a fine looking dog but he thinks
her much older than 10 months, says she is
very timid but by good management may be
made a good hunting dog, Mr Tom Mc
Fadden would like to have had her.

Wave & Lewis intended going to Greensboro
this evening but will put off the trip it
looks so cloudy. I feel as if this letter is not
worth sending I have been interrupted almost

U.S. Marine Hospital,
Mobile, Ala.

Sept. 6, 1898.

My dear mother,

I have just returned from the office down town where it has been very close and oppressive, and where to-day there was not much to do. There we are expected to treat seamen and boatmen between the hours of 10 and 12 a.m. and to 3 P.M.; those who cannot be relieved as out-door patients are directed to the Hospital. When there are two medical men on duty, one takes the morning and the other the evening hours, but when there is only one to stay in a hot office four hours it gets a little monotonous. However I am not regretting the work for the pay is a surety. I received my official appointment from Wash-

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2. No. 17. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

ington yesterday, which secures my position for three months, the time of appointment of all "actings" in the service. At the end of that time if I am needed, will get another three months. My quarters in the building are fixed up very nicely, and at present am taking two meals a day with Dr. Murray's family and lunch down town. My soldier patients are all getting along nicely, all except five have joined their commands, and these will be out in a few days. Link-Ool Coffey of Montgomery returned to duty more than a week ago.

No illness from and trembling now that yellow fever is reported from several quarters in the south, well, I hope for the good of the place, that we will not have it, however should

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3. No. 17. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

income, there will not be such a stamp as last year.

Dr. Murray telegraphed me that he would reach here to-morrow morning, but has since been called to New Orleans, so I may see him enroute to N.O. They will evidently keep him on the run until the winter, the diagnosis of one of the suspicious cases in N.O. awaits his arrival.

I was indeed very much surprised to learn thro' your letter of the death of David Mingo in Texas. Mary Mingo called me up the same day and told me of it. It is certainly a shock to Aunt Bessie to lose both father and son in so short a time.

I will see what I can do for them in the S. & N. and M. & O. R.R. shops here but I don't know many in that connection, Am quite well, Love to all,
Your devoted son,
Llewellyn



Office of Medical Officer in Command,
Marine-Hospital Service,

Mobile, Ala.,
Sept. 19, 1898.

My dear Mother,

I think your last letter was received early in the week and perhaps I am in receipt of one more than is my usual portion. It is raining again today and from the looks of the clouds a little while ago one might have thought that we were in for an equinoctial storm, but so far we have escaped except for a pretty good shower.

Miss Bessie Stewart telephoned me the day they arrived on the boat, and I called to see her yesterday afternoon, when she gave me some news of the Cambridge happenings. She was a little indisposed but I presumed it, ^{was} from the change, on the whole it seemed that the girls all enjoyed their visit very much, tho' from what I gathered they were not made the recipients of any great "how-ants".

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Dr. Murray was ordered to New Orleans a few days ago to investigate the fever situation there, as I am again reigning character in this house of Uncle Sam. The fever there has probably been concealed for some time and it may be days before we know the exact situation. However, we don't expect any serious developments. Uncle Sam is granted special permission to come thro' the quarantine lines, it may be many days before he can return. The number of hospital patients is dwindling down since the soldiers are all about gone - only one of the 30 Ala. remains.

I am thinking seriously of going up for examination before the M. & S. Board which convenes in Washington on the 9th of November and from which eligibles will be selected for the service. Just at this time men are wanted in this service owing to the recent extension in the new possessions and the extra vigilance maintained against yellow fever in the South, and perhaps many will be called who could not get in under ordinary circumstances. I am not particularly in love with the service for life, but it is certainly a sure paying job for a young man. And that is what I am looking for. This is a hard exam - medical, physical, & general so if I qualify upon this course, will have to brush up a great deal. Love to all, Your devoted son, Llewellyn.

Sept 14th 1898.

My dear Sara

I am glad to have your letter today before beginning rains. There is a letter going now I fear my letter will be very uninteresting. We too are having a little cooler weather mornings & evenings, but the middle of the day is hot as this year, we have had many cloudy days but only sprinkles of rain. It was unfortunate that some should have demolished your tent just as you were fixing it but well you had a day before the Fair began to repair damages, were you too busy to see the Fair?

While I think of it, you need not return the specimen, your Father sent it because we had a discussion about it. I said it looked like kink, he thought it was a layer of bark perhaps, thought the little lines were wood fiber. It was dug up under an old log at Van Dorn, no telling how it got there, that was not the only piece.

The girls left us Monday, took the freight to Demopolis, hoping to meet the boat, we have ^{not}

heard whether they did or not, they were the greatest chatterboxes I ever heard. I think the soldiers, & the nothing to do boys in Greensboro, turned their heads. Their movement at night carries away everything off all the drummers from the hotel, they complained of it, then the girls attacked them, at last Green had to lock the door to keep them off the gallery on which the drummers rooms were, he also told them he would begin work on the Hotel Monday but good Father was there Thursday & he had not begun, he will pull down 5 rooms to fix the east wall which is crumbling.

It seems there is no fever in N. O. or Mobile yet but it holds on in Miss. Lewis said Dr. Murray had returned to Mobile said that was not yellow fever in Key West. Lewis is getting on very well.

Rushworth spent Sunday with us & the day had a very bad cold was looking better than when I last saw him. Mrs. Barnes is sick with a cold.

Take Lucy to such school on Monday as he intended. I hope he will soon be up. The small pox is at the Drake place where Rushworth once lived. The County commissioners said the county was too poor to pay a sum to vaccinate every one, but would furnish vaccine to all who would use it on their families & on the hands on their places. I don't think many will do that.

Have went last night to a "Progressive Liberty party" at Mrs. Eppes, it must have been right amusing, those folks will not allow dancing or cards so the girls have to hunt up some way to entertain their guests.

The Gallins young men are trying to get up a dance for tomorrow night at Mrs. Hatch's. Waver thinks there will be so few girls there will be no fun in it so he declines to take any stock in it, says he is going the other neighborhood tomorrow. Walter Collins will get Ben Bent's place as far as practical work

goes Reuben I think would fill it much better, Walter has had no experience; no experience are made there now. I wish Reuben could have gotten it, but we can't get all the good fellows. I told your Father when he was lamenting Walter was just in.

I have a house girl at last, a kind of wild rabbit, she will save my muscles some at the expense of my patience.

Oty was here yesterday, will leave for Auburn tomorrow, Gladwick has gone. Please excuse this paper, our white is out & I see this month we have a chance to get some. Mrs. Poore invited us on tonight to be at some amateur performance for the benefit of the church but of course we can't go. Uncle Waver was here a short time Sunday evening, the only visit he made the girls, he is in town a good deal now.

Please overlook mistakes & a scattering letter I have been interrupted so often, can't keep any ideas together, with much love from us all.

Yours devoted Mother.

Sept 21st 1898

My dear Son

I should have written to you this morning but was working hard in the office all day, your Father decided to leave it up & of course my services were needed, in fact I do most of the work. I have been at it two days & scarcely see what has been done, he will not put with anything scarcely & it is a hard matter to find room enough to put everything. The day has been a good one for such work, no intense exposures, a steady rain began last night & has continued pretty well ever since & still it is coming down, bad on the plants but good for our prairie lots which were getting quite short. The grass was looking quite brown again but will come out after this.

We were glad to have your letter this morning,

that was a long wheel ride, your Father says
it is dangerous to be riding as far as at
about time as your had better be careful
you may feel the effects when your least
expect it. I hope you will find a good board-
ing house near your room.

Mr Benton wrote Waver his would leave the
Station on the 20th of Dec, hoped to be at
Cornell by the 1st of January.

Last night the Church club was to have
met but I think the rain prevented,
tonight "brother Dickinson" was to have
given his people a talk on missions but
I am sure no one would attempt to go
out. Fanny Allen hurried back to Shropshire
yesterday fearing quarantines might cut
her off from home, 4 cases of fever were
reported in N. O. yesterday, Lewis thinks
it has been there some time but was
concealed.

Sunday we had the pleasure of having
Aunt Melville, Rich, & Remond to spend
the day with us, Uncle H- had not

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returned from Terehalosa, took Lucy to school, Ruben stayed at night with aunt Melville. I expect he feels rather "blue" as he listens to this rain pattering on his roof. Mrs. Moffet has not yet been heard from, as Ruben has no idea what he will do, whether he can rent the place another year or not. He would like to get Waverly if Uncle Waverly would vacate, he spends much of his time in Denopolis now. I was as sorry we did not go in Wednesday to see "Patience" it was played by amateurs but was very good as every one said, Waverly enjoyed it; the house was crowded. We were afraid of the drive home after the Opera, could not spend the night tho we had ~~an~~ invitation to do so from Mrs. Forester. Uncle Waverly was with us Sunday & Mr. & Mrs. Cobb called on their way home, we

do not attend St Andrews now but Mr
Lobbs stops to see us every trip he makes.
Miss Hatch was to see me Monday evening, I
think she is very kind to come often, I seldom
have a chance to go to see her.

Annie has a ring on her shoulder so Warr
will not get about much, Jackson cant
take him far.

Fred writes the childrens had all had bad
colds, Frederic & Margaret were sick about a
week, had fever but were up when he writes.
He was to have spoken in Eastern Monday
at one of Major Carlens Institutes. Auburn
is over run with students I reckon by this
time, at the end of the second day there
were 242 entered.

There is no news with us, your Father is
reading the "Lancet", Warr has retired
& I must follow his example as my eyes
feel the need of rest as well as my body,
pleasant dreams for you, good night, with
much love

Your devoted
Mother.