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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.

Sept. 24. 49 —

from Oliver

Dear Miss Curtis,
Herewith formal notice
of imminent change of address.
The fact keeps me here is
the final settlement of the dis-
posal of this house. For 8 mths.
they dithered over negotiations
(i.e. to take it over as a secret
treasure store, attached to the fac. of
science of Univ. of Alexandria). It is
now in the hands of the Treasury
— although I have assurances galore
I hardly expect a settlement before
Christmas — but I have finally I am
expected home by end October —
therefore, I have to hang on — as a
return to Egypt at a later date
to wind things up in a lot of the chaotic
these days of shattered finances. More-
over the removal of capital is com-
plicated. Only an established resident
of recognized status (which I am)
can export capital — other only on
the occasion of final departure. Against
the Government of Egypt you will
appreciate what all this means!

Probably I told you that Salisbury
is on a 4 mos. visit to
Australia; know you will
know all about that.

And now I come to the heaviest
blow that has befallen the Oliver
family in the 3 centuries of which
we have knowledge. It may, for
all I know, have found its way into
the press - or even passed into the air
- private grief is no bar to publicity
by journalists hungry for a "story" -
Based in 1907 (Sept.) following the Eury
visit of that year I joined the family
at Sheringham. On a push-bike I
explored the neighbourhood & reaching
Moston (all ferns introduced at the time)
turned down the lane to the grey pine
cliff. I found an old man in a boat.
It was high water of neap tides, &
hailing him asked if he could sail
me "over there" - i.e. to the Point -
how long into the tide R/L?
Yes, he said, 2 1/2 or 3 hrs. This
allowed me to explore the "pelvetia
marsh" up to "the Bend" & rejoin
the boat after a stroll along the dunes.

His efforts for a decision, in 1910 I got an agreement with the head of the Manor to do what he called "marine horticulture" - when he died - i.e. Lord Salisbury - took mastery of the manor i.e. B.P. came on the market. Then with the help & generosity of the late Charles Rothschild, to secure the property - which eventually we decided to hand over to the Nat. Trust. With the rest you are familiar.

In process of time, when B.P. was not in occupation by our student parties, my family - with some others became an established routine with my sons & their families - subject, of course, to the interruptions of the late wars. This year, as usual, the 2 families sailed in towards the end of July. Then on 21st Aug. came the sad news about a Patience (Gf's daughter, aet. 12½) somewhat was drowned. I say "somewhat" because Gf's first letter, recounting the circumstances, went astray & never reached me - this second letter dealt with the subsequent matters - the funeral & the universal sympathy & kindness shown towards them ~~by~~ on all hands. Can now

I am unaware whether a boat
captured or a treacherous current
drew Patience into deep waters.

With the run-off of the tide it
was intended to recover the boat.

Bar. had expected to lodge some-
where on that vast waste of sand
below the Point Wells - Now
it happened that Herbert Blount,
(whom you may remember as a boy
belonging to Clay Mill, who some-
times stayed at the "Bishop's Palace")
was in the neighborhood - There is
now a telephone, & Teddy Baker
got in touch, so Blount came out
in his "knoth" & located the boat -
it was then retrieved before the
tide rose again. However it was
unblemished - but a scratch.

To this tragedy must be added
the sudden death last Jan. of

Jonathan (act. 9), Ted's younger son
& a universal favorite - His father
has here only the eldest son, Francis,
a schoolboy of 15. Ted as a sailor
is insured to sudden disaster, whilst
Barbara is a woman of strong character
- pure gold - & can this cumulative
tragedy with rest break her.

The spot was $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of that
wreck of Philip Harmon's, wh. can well
be remembered as conspicuous object on the
far side of the channel.

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to Curtis 4-18-1949

Such is the richest story -
Both children have the brightest
prospects, & Patience was an
absolute darling -

Perhaps I may be seeing
you next year when you
visit England. I am so
J. W. Childs