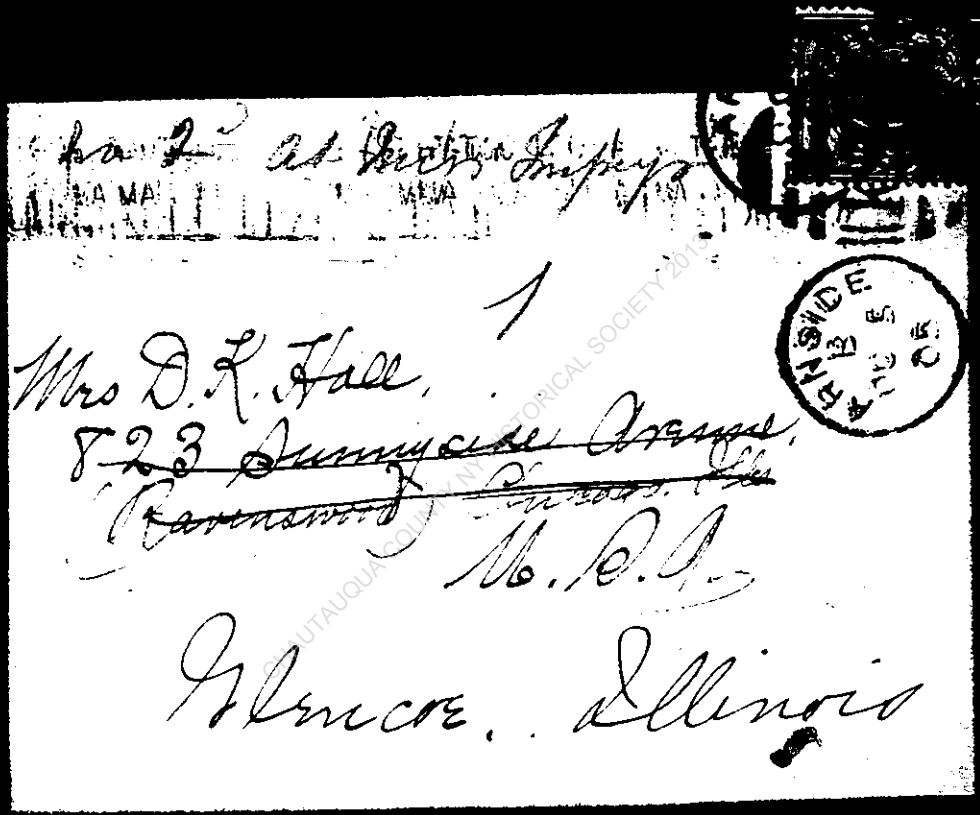
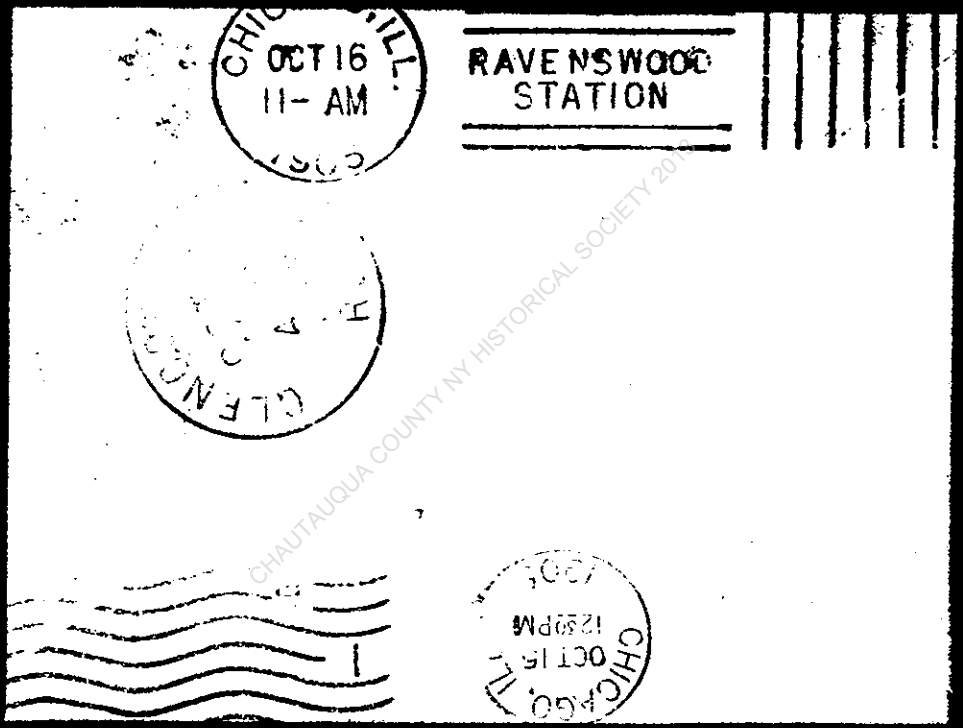


CHAUTAUQUA SOCIETY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2019



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 20

Street, Somerset, England.
Sept. 29th, 1905-
Friday p.m.

My dear Jennie:

I have had to beg something paper from Miss Polly,- or ruin myself with extra postage,- Your letter of the 14th, enclosing the one from Norris Lodge, came this morning,- You need not send me the booklet, but wish until I get on the other side,-

The Wrights spoken of are the daughter the Mr Wright, who was Quartermaster of the 10th, and whose wife was one of the Jacobs girls. They lived in Knoxville after you left, and the girls - there were 5 of them,- all went to school at the Academy. They were all,- Father, mother and girls,- very fond of Albion and friends of mine Jennie,- who went to school with

them. I knew Libbie very well. She and her husband visited us in N.C. Albion got him the architects [illegible] for the N.C. penetentiary. I think you must have had a letter from me soon after mailing yours, as I wrote as usual every week.-

Yes, we intend to have memorial services, when we reach Mayville. We will not stop in New York. Shall go on at once with the precious ashes. (Rec'd) If the passage across is ordinarily good, we should be in Mayville Monday, at 10. a.m. Nov. 13th. I have written Mr Cobb early all my wishes and he has replied that they will be fully carried out. The urn is to be deposited in the center of our plot,- in a bricked enclosure, beneath the monument to be set up later.- The ceremonies will take place im-

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mediately on our arrival. Is it possible for you to be there? Mrs Belknap has asked Louise & I to come to them and stay as long as we like. They are in their new house, she says, and very happy and comfortable. It would be almost too good to think of — to have you there. —

Now I think I have answered your letter, and will proceed to other matters. We are having such an enjoyable time. I send you by same mail a series of post cards, description of Wells Cathedral, which we visited on Thursday. — Wells, is 8 miles from Street & takes its name from springs, called wells, — in the cathedral grounds. — As I hope to mail a description book of the cathedral, I will not take the time to say more about it here, only that it is the most charmingly delightful place in the world. — One seems enthralled by its wonders. It is yet the seat of the archbishop of this section and his residence & everything is kept up in its perfection. I look back upon it all as a dream of loveliness, — something one might dream of, — but never expect to realize.

This forenoon we spent with our antiquarian friend Mr Joseph Clark — going over the ruins and listening to the history of the Abbey at Glastonbury, — of which I will also send you description post cards. — We enjoyed it all so much. We also visited the museum. A few years ago, there was uncovered in the swamp here an ancient village dating back to the Iron Age, — and the wonderfully preserved relics have been collected into a museum, — which we found extremely attractive. —

Last night we dined at Mr Wm Clark's, who is a wealthy Friend, — head of the great shoe establishment which is the principal industry of Street. — His wife was Helen Bright, — the oldest daughter of John Bright. We spent a delightful evening. You have no idea of the charm of these unpretentious people, — so simple and so devoted to all good works. I would not have missed this visit to Somerset for anything. It is such a beautifully green pastoral country, highly cultivated and the Friends we have visited have the loveliest grounds and all are proud of their flower gardens. Each

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one seems to make a Specialty of something to which they devote much time and many I never saw such lovely roses, as are in June & this rose gardens take in the season, though it is. The climate is so moist and usually much milder than other parts of England. They all raise grapes and figs in their green houses or on the walls. - For dinner last night we had calves head & pigeon pie, - neither of which Lodie or I had ever tasted before.

This morning we went into the Negotrades church in Glastonbury as Miss Katy had been summoned as she says she has been every year for six years, - ever since the land which they consider unjustly was seized - because the sisters, with many other Dissenters, refuse to pay their School tax, to

Keep up the Church of England schools where they consider pernicious doctrines are taught. They belong to the class known in England, as "Passive Resisters", who object to this law, refuse to pay their taxes, - or "rates." as it is called here, - are summoned to appear and state why they so refuse, then are fined, - some of their property is seized - and forced to pay costs, fine & rates, - all of which they submit to every year for "Conscience sake."

After Miss Katy was through, we stayed and heard the trial of a poacher who had snared pheasants on an estate, on the complaint of the game keeper, - who was there, clad in the traditional velveteen coat and leather breeches. Our sympathies were entirely with the old man who burst into tears when the sentence was pronounced of a fine of

"10 shillings and costs." — I don't know how to spell it
has given him a couple of shillings, and did not know
until we were at home, that Miss Raby had managed
to slip a silver piece into his hand to help pay his fine. —
The story Miss Raby told us afterwards of the owners of the
estates, did not lessen our sympathies for the poor old poacher.
Their name is Austin. They, or their uncles rather. — were sent
to Australia when it was a penal colony. — For sheep stealing
They went into the business of sheep raising and became
immensely wealthy. — and when they died the present owner, —
inherited a great fortune. — He bought great estates in England
among other property, that of the Abbey at Glastonbury. — and
lives in great pomp and style in one of the restored Abbey
houses. Lodie, said, after we had heard the poachers trial
it was a leaf out of an English novel we had witnessed. —
rather I think, we are living English novel life every day. —
I have managed, since being here to read Besant's "For
Faith & Freedom", which is about the causes and the battle
of Sedgemoor, the consequences, etc. — It is especially
interesting, reading it on the locas of the events. — One of the
direct Ancestors of our hosts. — was hung and quartered for
harboring the Duke of Monmouth after his defeat at Sedgemoor

Tuesday. — 10. a.m. Colston Hotel. Bristol. —

I just could not get time to finish my letter before we left
Street. — There were dinners and teas, every day and so much to see.
and do. I wrote you a line last night after our admiral here. so you will
not miss a letter. We met on Sunday at dinner, a Mr & Mrs Bancroft from
Wilmington Del. One of the younger Clarks, had married a cousin of theirs
and they were visiting them. They said they read in one of the September Maga-
zines. — they thought, from the Contemporary or Nineteenth, an article about
Albion & the Ku Klux, etc. his portrait being in it — I wish you would find
it and keep it for me. — Grace might be able to look it up. —
I think I'll not mail this now but add another sheet after we get to West-
moreland. Lodie was so tired she is not up yet. I do not think we will go out
until afternoon. — It does not seem possible that I am in Bristol. — the old city. — of
which Albion read and wrote so much. — More anon, Em