
Leila Gogy Geggie Letters

1869-1948

Transcribed by:
Judith F. Geggie
Wakefield QC May 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1869	15
September 1 1869 Leila Guky Fragment of diary written at age 15	15
1876	16
January 26 1876 Leila Guky application for position as lady's companion.....	16
January 30 1876 Letter from Rev C Chiniquy to B.C.A. Guky re reference	17
1885	17
October 17 1885 Dr. William Marsden to Leila Guky Geggie.....	17
1892	18
c 1892 Fragment of letter from Leila Guky Geggie probably to James Geggie from St. Leon	18
August 29 1892 Edward Marshall Sr to Leila Guky Geggie	19
November 1 1892 Edward and Maria Marshall to Leila Guky Geggie.....	19
1897	21
May 22 1897 Leila Guky Geggie to Honorable Wilfrid Laurier	21
1899	22
October 22, 1899 - Leila Guky Geggie to her husband, James Geggie	22
1900	24
May 19 1900 Leila Guky Geggie to Wilfrid Laurier.....	24
May 24 1900 Wilfrid Laurier.....	25
June 8 1900 Hon J K Ward to Leila Geggie	26
December 5 1900 Leila Guky Geggie to Mrs. Sarah Lovell.....	26
December 18 1900 Sarah Lovell to Leila Guky Geggie	27
1903	28
Receipt handwritten by Leila Guky signed by C.M. Genest October 23 1903	28
1908	29
April 7 1908 Leila Guky Geggie to Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier	29
1913	30
August 13, 1913 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	30
August 19, 1913 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	30

August 23, 1913 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	32
August 27, 1913 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	34
September 4, 1913 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	35
October 11, 1913 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	37
Montreal, Oct. 9 th , 1913 - Cameron Stewart to Mrs. Geggie.....	38
December 5, 1913 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	39
December 21, 1913 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	41
1914	42
January 6, 1914 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	42
January 13, 1914 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	44
February 19, 1914 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	45
March 3, 1914 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	47
March 20, 1914 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	48
April 8, 1914 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	50
September 7, 1914 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	52
September 19, 1914 - Leila Guky Geggie to her son, Harold Geggie.....	54
September 19, 1914 Leila Guky Geggie to her new daughter-in-law, Ella	56
October 16, 1914 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	57
October 19, 1914 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	57
November 20, 2014 Leila Guky Geggie to Ella	58
1915	60
January 4, 1915 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	60
May 7, 1915 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	61
August 1, 1915 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	62
August 12, 1915 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	65
November 1, 1915 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	66
1916	68
July 30, 1916 - Leila Guky Geggie.....	68
August 8, 1916 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	69
October 26, 1916 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	71
1924	72

January 5 1924 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	72
1925	73
February 5 1925 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	73
February 27 1925 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	75
Fragment undated Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	76
March 2, 1925 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	76
March 30 1925 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	77
May 21, 1925 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	78
June 2 1925 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	80
June 12 1925 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie	80
June 26 1925 unfinished Leila Guky Geggie to Ella Geggie.....	82
July 13, 1925 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	83
August 20 1925 Leila Guky Geggie to Conrad and Harold Geggie	84
August 21, 1925 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	87
September 12, 1925 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	88
November 2, 1925 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	90
1926	93
March 4 1926 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	93
July 15 1926 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	94
August 19 1926 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold and Ella Geggie	95
September 7 1926 Postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	98
September 17 1926 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	98
1927	99
June 23 1927 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	99
July 12 1927 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	100
July 19 1927 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	101
July 27, 1927 - Harold to Leila Guky Geggie (with comments added by Leila later).....	102
August 7 1927 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	103
September 25 1927 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	104
October 2 1927 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	105
November 17 1927 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	106

November 29 1927 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	108
1928	110
January 25, 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	110
February 5, 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	112
February 13 1928 Deputy Minister of Labor to Leila Guky Geggie	113
Feb 15 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	114
June 6 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	116
June 16 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	117
July 19 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	118
August 3 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	119
August 8 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	120
August 17 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Ella Stevenson Geggie	121
September 4 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	123
September 7 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	124
September 13 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	124
November 3 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	126
November 6 1928 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	127
November 14 1928 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	128
November 21 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	128
November 28 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	129
December 1 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	130
December 3 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	131
December 22 1928 Joseph Barnard avocat to Madame Leila Guky Geggie	132
1929	135
Feb 4 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	135
February 16 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	137
February 17 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	139
Feb 19 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	140
March 14 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	141
March 21 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	142
April 4 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	142

April 11 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	143
May 1 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	145
May 10 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	146
May 26 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	147
June 7 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	149
June 24 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	150
July 7 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	151
July 17 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	152
August 5 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	154
August 13 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold and Ella Geggie	156
September 29 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	157
October 19 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	158
November 10 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	160
December 6 1929	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	161
1930		161
January 1 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	161
January 19 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	162
February 4 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	164
February 7 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	166
February 27 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	168
March 2 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	168
March 7 1930 postcard	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	170
March 11 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	170
March 16 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	171
March 27 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	172
May 1 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Stuart Geggie	173
May 11 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	174
May 14 1930 postcard	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	175
May 26 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	176
June 8 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	177
June 25 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	178

July 7 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	179
September 8 1930	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	180
January 20 1932	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	181
1933	.....	183
January 18 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	183
	Leila Guky Geggie to Conrad Geggie January 30 1933.....	183
February 2 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	185
Feb 10 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	186
February 18, 1933 -	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	188
March 2, 1933	- Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	190
March 3 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Rev Supérieure du Sacré-Coeur	192
March 10, 1933 -	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	193
March 25, 1933 -	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	194
April 7 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	195
April 19 1933 postcard	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	198
April 26, 1933	- Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	198
May 7, 1933	- Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	200
May 20, 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	201
June 9, 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	202
9 June 1933	.....	202
June 25 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	203
July 6, 1933	- Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	205
July 15, 1933	- Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	206
August 8 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	207
September 1, 1933	- Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	209
Sept 3 1933 postcard	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	210
September 6 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie Darnoc.....	210
September 26, 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	211
October 1, 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	213
October 3 1933	Elsa to Harold	214
October 11, 1933	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	216

November 24, 1933, Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	217
December 1 1933, Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	218
December 12, 1933 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	219
December 12, 1933 Aunt May (Leila's sister) to Harold	221
December 18, 1933 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	222
December 28, 1933 Leila Guky Geggie to Ella and Harold.....	223
December 31, 1933 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	224
Undated - Leila Guky Geggie to David	225
1934	226
January 12 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	226
January 12 1934 Elsa Guky Geggie to Ella Geggie.....	227
January 30, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold and Conrad	228
March 5 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	230
March 13 1934 incomplete Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	231
March 16 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	232
May 2 1934 card Leila Guky Geggie to little Stuart.....	232
May 23, 1934 - Leila Guky Geggie Notes Written on an Envelope	233
May 28 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	234
May 28 1934 card Leila Guky Geggie to David Geggie.....	235
June 3 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	236
June 15 1934, Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	237
June 26 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	237
June 28 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	238
September 3, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Page missing.....	239
September 6, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	240
September 8 Elsa Guky Geggie to Harold	241
September 10, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	242
September 28, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	243
September 30, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	244
October 11, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	245
October 16, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold postcard.....	246

November 28, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold postcard	247
December 6, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	248
December 12, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	249
1935	252
January 1 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Lois Guky Geggie Chaplin	252
January 29 1935 postcard Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	254
January 30 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	254
February 6 1935 Aunty May Guky Hunt to Harold Geggie	255
April 7 1935 Aunty May Guky Hunt to Harold Geggie	256
April 5 1935 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	257
April 23 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie St Georges Day.....	257
April 30 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	259
May 3 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	261
May 12 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	262
May 16 1935 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Mrs RCG Geggie.....	264
May 24 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold and Conrad Geggie	264
May 25 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to David and Stuart Geggie	266
May 31 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	267
June 1 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	268
June 4 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	270
June 6 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	271
June 25 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	274
July 8 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	275
August 22 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	275
August 28 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	277
September 3 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Ella Geggie	277
September 6 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Ella Geggie postcard	278
September 12 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie Thursday	279
Sept 17 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie postcard.....	280
September 24 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	280
September 30 1935 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie	281

September 30 1935	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	281
October 15 1935	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	282
October 22 1935	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	285
October 29 1935	postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	285
Oct 31 1935	unfinished Geggie aunt to Harold Geggie.....	286
November 3 1935	Leila Guky Geggie to Stuart Geggie	287
November 5 1935	Leila Guky Geggie to Ella Geggie	288
November 6 1935	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	289
November 11 1935	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	291
November 22 1935	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	292
1936	.....	293
January 10 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	293
January 13 1936	postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	295
January 21 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	295
January 31 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	296
February 3 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	298
February 9 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	300
April 5 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	301
April 9 1936	postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	301
May 8 1936	postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	302
May 15 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	303
May 29 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	305
June 5 1936	postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	305
June 11 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Conrad Geggie.....	306
June 15 1936	Leila Guky Geggie and Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie	308
September 8 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	310
October 1 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	311
October 13 1936	postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	313
October 29 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Ella Geggie	313
November 4 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	315
December 28 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	316

December 31 1936	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	317
1937	.....	319
January 6 1937	Leila Guky Geggie to Stuart Geggie.....	319
January 8 1937	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	319
January 14 1937	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	321
January 19 1937	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	323
January 26 1937	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	324
January 28 1937	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	325
February 1937	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	326
February 8 1937	Postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	326
February 11 1937	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold and Ella Geggie	327
February 12 1937	Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	328
February 13 1937	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold and Ella Geggie	328
October 3 1937	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	329
1938	.....	331
March 28 1938	Elsa Guky Geggie to Harold.....	331
March 30, 1938	Elsa and Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	332
April 5 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	333
April 20 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold postcard	333
April 21, 1938	Elsa Guky Geggie to Harold	334
April 29, 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	335
May 5 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold	336
May 9 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	337
May 18 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	338
May 19 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	339
June 17 1938	Elsa Guky Geggie to Harold.....	340
June 23 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	341
July 1 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	342
July 5 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	344
July 5, 1938	Elsa to Harold Clarendon Hotel	345
July 11, 1938	Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	346

July 18 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	348
July 19, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	349
July 20, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	349
July 22, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	350
July 26, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	351
July 29, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Conrad.....	352
July 30 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Conrad Front page missing.....	353
July 31, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	354
August 2 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	356
August 15, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	357
August 18, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	358
August 18, 1938 Elsa Guky Geggie to Harold.....	359
August 24, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold postcard.....	359
August 24 1938 (Undated approximately) Elsa Guky Geggie to Harold.....	360
August 25, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	360
August 28, 1938 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	361
Sept 4 1938 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	362
September 8, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	362
September 12 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	363
September 23, 1938 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	364
October 8, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	364
October 17, 1938 on scrap of paper Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	365
October 20, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold [letter 1].....	365
20 October, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold [letter 2].....	366
November 8, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	367
November 13, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Ella Geggie.....	368
November 13, 1938 Elsa Guky Geggie to Harold.....	368
November 24, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold St. Roch's Hotel Quebec.....	369
November 25, 1938 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold.....	370
November 27, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Ella.....	371
December 22, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold and Ella.....	372

December 22, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Hans, David and Stuart	373
1941	373
February 14 1941 Leila Guky to Harold Geggie	373
February 21 1941 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	374
Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie February 23 1941.....	375
Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie undated on a piece of brown paper bag c 1941.....	377
April 21 1941 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	377
April 24 1941 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	378
April 28, 1941 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie	379
May 2 1941 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie	380
May 16 1941 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	381
May 23 1941 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	382
May 28 1941 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie.....	383
1948	385
March 19 1948 Lois Geggie Chaplin to Harold Geggie with page from Leila 1892.....	385
Appendix 1. An Honourable Gentleman: The Remarkable Life of B.C.A. Guky	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Rebellion Losses Bill	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Montreal Riots	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Index.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

September 1 1869 Leila Gagy Fragment of diary written at age 15¹

Wednesday 1st September. Annie and I awakened very early this morning. I showed her my workbox before Blanche awakened, and as soon as we were all dressed we began to make breakfast and just as it was ready Papa came home from Montreal. We took a little breakfast and ran off to the church to see Jean Belanger married to a Miss Garant. As we went up Mdme Verret, her sister, daughter Leopoldine, and Lurdivine Nolette joined us making nine in all. The bride was dressed in a brick colored silk trimmed with black, white shawl with blue ribbon, and white bonnet with rose buds and violets, and grey gloves and yellow slippers. The bridegroom had on a bright blue coat with brass buttons, grey pants, bright yellow waistcoat, and green gloves. I think each tried how badly they could dress and I must confess that both succeeded for had it been a bet and I was umpire I could not decide to which the victory belonged, they were both perfect frights. We waited to see "La Bas Mess"...

[page cut] ...the Priest was con-.....[page cut]

[Other side]

Conrad and May (for I took no part in the fun) sung Jolly Dogs, Captain Jinks, Sally, Sally, and Paddle Your own Canoe, but he never noticed us. Blanche, thinking to make him speak, took his pipe out of his mouth and broke it but without success, then she took a bundle of hay and laid it on his head but he never moved, not even to take it off. I would have thought that he was dead had he not sometimes turned the leaves of his book. A great shower came on and we ran home and sometime afterwards from the window we saw the man rise and walk down to the beach where we lost sight of him. The girls have christened him Mr. Silence Look-not-up. At twelve o'clock I drove Annie to the bridge and waited two hours for Mr. Owen but had to return without him. While waiting there Madame Verret, her sister and Leopoldine passed me going into town with their baggage. When Papa was in Montreal he saw Fannie Lanigan's husband... [page cut]

¹ PAC MG 24 I 205 Vol 5 5-93

1876

January 26 1876 Leila Gugy application for position as lady's companion²

Clipping:

Wanted, about March 1st, a Lady (Protestant), as Companion to an invalid Lady, and to take charge of a little girl. References required. Address "Albany", witness office.

Quebec 26th Jan.'76

Madam

Believing myself competent to perform the duties described in your advertisement for a Protestant companion, I hereby offer my services.

I am mistress of English and French, am also a musician and will cheerfully enable you yourself or any Lady whom you may depute to judge in a personal interview of my capacity and acquirements.

You are referred to the Rev. C. Chiniquy, Peel Street, Montreal – and to the Rev. Chas. Hamilton, Quebec.

Should this prove satisfactory, please communicate as to the terms on which you are willing to receive me, addressing:

Miss Gugy

Col. Gugy

Quebec

Awaiting your reply,

I am,

Madam,

Yours respectfully

Leila Gugy

² MG 24 I 205 Vol.5 5-96

January 30 1876 Letter from Rev C Chiniquy to B.C.A. Guky re reference

Montreal Canada

30th Jan. ' 76

Mon cher Colonel Guky

Je viens de mettre à la poste, à l'adresse "Albany" Witness Office" le meilleur certificat possible pour votre chère Enfant pour que je voudrais tout faire car je dois à son Pere une ? reconnaissance qui ne peut se payer sur la terre.

Pardonnez-moi , si je ne peux vous écrire comme je le reoirerais – J'ai, en ce moment plus de 50 lettres sur ma table auxquelles je n'ai pas encore pu répondre. Je suis accablé par l'immensité de l'ouvrage – que le Seigneur vous Benisse au votre belle famille.

M ? C. me prie de vous presente ses saluts respecteuse.

Votre ami

C. Chiniquy

1885

October 17 1885 Dr. William Marsden to Leila Guky Geggie

Quebec 17 October 1885

My Dear Mrs. Geggie,

In reply to your note of yesterday's date, I should say as you have one case of smallpox in Beauport, you may soon have more, and might need in the circumstances to organize a "Local Board of Health". This morning's Chronicle will shew how that is to be done. I have no vaccine crusts (reliable) at present, as I have been using Bovine Vaccine and Haemorized Lymph in glass tubes from the American Kates, and from the London Vac: INs: of the Privy Council. You surely will soon be able to get vaccine crusts or scabs from some of your vaccinated cases? If Mr. Ryland or any of your folks call on me as early as convenient I will try to secure some crusts, will also furnish you with printed forms of instructions on Isolation,

Vaccination, Disinfection etc etc etc and copies of the Law, and Rules and Regulations of the Central Board which have been sanctioned by the L. Governor in Council and are therefore law.

Quo ad³ the heifers I can give you no satisfactory information as an attempt at ---proposition to establish a vaccine pus. in Montreal has failed.

Excuse this hasty scrawl as I am surrounded by calls and enquiries, as well as by enquirers. Our City Local Board was organized this afternoon.

Your very truly in haste,

W. Marsden⁴, Matte [?]

Kind remembrances to mother etc. W.M.

1892

c 1892 Fragment of letter from Leila Gogy Geggie probably to James Geggie from St. Leon

Fragment found by Elsa when going through papers after Leila's death in 1948. Elsa sent it to Lois in Almonte who then forwarded it to Harold. Lois said it was "from a letter from Mama about Elsa's wickedness at St. Leon years ago. As she says she was bad but after all she was only four" (which dates the letter to c. 1892). St. Leon, Quebec is 180 km west of Beauport, and only 11 km northwest of Yamachiche.

"...their hats and today she tore a ribbon off Conrad's scotch cap to make him follow, her big brother drags both boys to his door, and they are a [?]. So I do not wish to take water there; we take it from our own well and it is good.

I find so far that I have no spare time, the children give me all I can do. Fortunately the weather has been good and the roads are drying fast enough, but Elsa is troublesome – yesterday she contrived to fall into the ditch and was saturated with the slimy mud. I hung up her spring coat on the tree to dry, but found that it was just as bad this morning; when about nine o'clock she got her feet wet and I put her barefoot. In a few minutes she was missing and after some search Harold found her lying quietly on her back in the ditch opposite the Cemetery, having fallen in while admiring the headstones. I wish you could have seen what a figure she cut, even her hair being all mud! Of course this meant a warm bath

³ Latin: as far as

⁴ Dr. William Marsden (1807 – 1885) was born in England and came to Quebec in 1812. He practised in the city for more than half a century, taught at Laval University, and was President and Senior Governor of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Quebec for many years.

and half a day's washing, while I spanked and put her to bed for the whole day. She stood it quietly enough – sat up and sang and played with her dolls – but she says “Haddie told lies about her for she wasn't in the ditch.” This afternoon she wrote a letter to Memere with Lois' help and cried more than once that “she wants Papa, and will no one write to Auntie Blanche to send Gugy to town for him?” Harold asks me if I am not glad that I brought no cat...”

August 29 1892 Edward Marshall Sr to Leila Gugy Geggie

Gallingertown, 29th Aug 1892

Mrs. Geggie

Dear Madam

I received yours of 11th inst and would have replied sooner, but I hoped to get some information about your father from my brother at Woodlands; but unfortunately neither of us knew your father personally. All we know is that he risked his life and probably saved many soldiers' lives by leading them through the chemin couvert⁵. I find these words in Curé Paquin's book, “Ce fut alors que M. B. Gugy fut dangereusement blessé en entrant dans le chemin couvert qui conduit à l'Eglise. C'est cet incident qui a fait dire tant de fois que M. Gugy était entré à cheval dans l'Eglise.”⁶

I am sorry that I know so little. Was your father Colonel of militia or of the regular army?

A mistaken idea exists that Chenier was driven out of the Church by the roof being on fire. Nothing of the sort; it was your father leading the troops by the rear that scared him and he cried out, “Je cont bien qu'on est flambé”, and leaped through the window.

Yours truly

Edward Marshall Sr.

November 1 1892 Edward and Maria Marshall to Leila Gugy Geggie

Gallingertown, Ont, 1st Nov. 1892

Mrs. Geggie

Dear Madam

⁵ Covered way.

⁶ “It was then that Mr. B. Gugy was dangerously wounded by entering the covered walkway that leads to the church. This was the incident that has been told so many times that Mr. Gugy entered the Church on horseback.”

I received yours and hasten to reply.

I saw your name in the Witness, as one of the noble band of workers in the Temperance army. We are told “not to be discouraged in well doing, for in due time we shall reap if we faint not”.

When I lived in Morrisburg I helped to carry the Scott Act⁷; but in 3 years it was repealed. To use a French expression “cela me casses les bras”⁸. Seven counties repealed the Scott Act in one year!

However we are not responsible for the fruits of our labour. Our Lord said “She hath done what she could”.

I send you by Book post the Narrative of Curé Paquin. It is not the original edition, but copied into a larger work by Seigneur Globensky of St. Eustache, who made me a present of it. As it is a rare book, please return it after you have thoroughly perused it.

You say that your father “earned relentless hatred of the French Canadian people for his so called persecution of their race”. Was this solely political or was it partly religious? For I know by experience (after living 38 years among them) that there are both of these elements of hatred in Quebec Province.

You do not say whether your Father was of French or English origin.

Little does it matter, if we are adopted into a family of God, and belong to the general Assembly and Church of the first-born, which are written in Heaven.

I used to act as an amateur colporteur⁹ to read and distribute the French Bible in Lower Canada; but although I trust my motives were pure, too often I was misunderstood and consequently misrepresented.

My wife is President of a branch of the Presbyterian W.F.M.S.¹⁰ They collect about \$46,000 a year; but the money is a small matter, compared to the Missionary light and religious feeling awakened by those meetings.

Yours respectfully

Edward Marshall, Sr.

.....

Dear Mrs. Geggie,

⁷ The Canada Temperance Act was an Act of the Parliament of Canada in 1878, which prohibited the sale of “intoxicating liquor” in counties and municipalities that had adopted the Act by majority vote. It was often known as the Scott Act, on account of its sponsor Sir Richard William Scott.

⁸ It broke my arms.

⁹ Peddler

¹⁰ Presbyterian Women’s Foreign Missionary Society

You will excuse me adding a few words, to my husband's letter. He is very ill and says he has written himself out. He had la grippe last spring and has not got entirely free from it. We never lived in Montreal but near 5 miles from St. Eustache, 25 miles from Montreal, 30 odd years. This is our 50th year of married life. We have been farmers all our life till 10 years ago when we retired giving up our farm to our only son. We have two daughters both married and 15 grandchildren. I was 12 years old when the Battle of St. Eustache took place and I can remember so many incidents that took place at that time. Being so near we were acquainted with nearly all the people mentioned in the book Mr. Marshall sends you and that is the reason he requests you to return it as we do not wish our children to forget the past. Your father's name was quite familiar to me. I have often heard my husband mention it with grateful remembrance saying had he not shown the way in it would have been harder to take the church. His brother told me a few days ago that he went in to the church at the same time and saw the soldiers fighting the fires with prayer and Mary books that they gathered. We knew the [priest?] well, he used to call at our house every year as he made his tour through his parish [?] . My husband and I would enjoy talking to you about those old times and now I wish to say good bye.

I remain yours sincerely

Maria Marshall nee [?]

P.S. After reading the book, should you wish to procure a copy Mr. C. A. M. G. would, I am sure, be glad to let you have one. He now lives in the house once occupied by the Hon. A. Aimé Dorion, late Minister of Justice, Montreal.

M.M.

1897

May 22 1897 Leila Gogy Geggie to Honorable Wilfrid Laurier¹¹

Quebec

22 May 1897

Hon. Wilfrid Laurier

Dear Sir

¹¹ From National Archives Canada, Laurier Papers MG26 G, vol. 47. Pages 15146 - 15147

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of this city begs that you will support the amendments to the Criminal Code respecting raising the age of protection for girls, prohibiting the exhibition by Kinetoscope [?] & kindred devices of the Nevada prize-fight or other debasing scenes; against Lotteries & Race-Gambling.

Our Union has passed strong Resolutions on the subject.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Leila Geggie

Pres. W.C.T.U.

Mrs. Geggie

Box 1040

Quebec

1899

October 22, 1899 - Leila Gagy Geggie to her husband, James Geggie

Darnoc
Sunday 5 p.m.
22nd Oct. 1899

My dear Jamie

Two very cold and hungry boys came home to us at 7 last evening: Conrad had walked part of the way and driven the remainder. Harold had come all the way on top of the stage taking care of the fishing rods and the days catch, 5 doz. and three nice smelts, some of which we had for breakfast this morning. Just at the Brewery, Phileas Laberge who was up beside Harold offered to take charge of the rods and to

hand them down to Harold, but on receiving them flung them off, jumped off himself and ran away. Harold could not get off till they reached the foot of Blanche's hill, then had to go back in the dark to find his rods, which he did - but line and reel were gone. That bad boy must have stolen them and poor Harold, cold as he was had a scolding from Conrad when he arrived. However a plate of very hot soup each made a difference in the appearance of things to both.¹²

Conrad had stiff legs from kicks at football and not a boy made his appearance until 8:30 on the? Grounds. Result, Harold, Elsa and I went to the Cathedral and had the pleasure of hearing the Lord Bishop. It is seven months since I was in that church and it seemed like home to get back again. We walked out John St with Herbert and May¹³, the latter said twice that the Bishop's sermon was very good. Muriel and Blanche¹⁴ who had walked in to church remained to dinner with May. I heard Artie Veasey tell them that he was coming out so I hope he will mail this tonight so that you may have it sharp.

Just as we supposed I had petitions from little would-be bedfellows very early in the evening: however the dustman was so liberal of his sleeping powder that they both tumbled into bed and forgot until early this morning.

We are all very lonely, my Dear and shall find the time long until Wednesday morning by which time I hope to have Guillot painting our bedroom.

We do not know yet whether Bella and David¹⁵ have gone up or not but hope to find out tomorrow.

Last night I carried in all the flowers which were on the gallery with Lois' help. The children all feel very happy over having each sent Agnes something and talk a great deal about her¹⁶. Elsa is asking if you will kindly bring down her book "Through the Looking Glass" from the Grants.

Now good-night, my dear, please be a good boy and not a "terror".

Your wife Leila

¹² At the time of this letter in 1899, Harold would have been 12 and Conrad 14 years old.

¹³ May was Leila's sister who married Herbert Hunt.

¹⁴ Blanche was Leila's other sister who married Herman Ryland. One of her daughters was Muriel so she would have been Leila's niece. To further confuse the issue, Blanche and Herman also had a daughter named Blanche.

¹⁵ Leila's husband, James, had a brother, David, who married Isabella (Bella) Margaret Hossack on November 12, 1883.

¹⁶ Leila enclosed this letter when writing to Harold 14 years later. At that time, she explained that James was away in Ottawa "for the purpose of giving Aggie Blyth away". This probably refers to James' sister, Agnes, who married a Blyth. This also explains the further mention of Stephen Blyth that she adds at the end of the letter.

Artie Veasey has just sent me for tonight only a small "Almanack" partly English and partly French, (published in Quebec by Neilson and Cowan, at 3 Mountain St.) for the year 1823. In the list of "medecins & Chirugiens en campagne" (Doctors and Surgeons in the country) is one Stephen C. Blyth.

Elsewhere he appears as Surgeon of the Division of Boucherville Militia, Lt. Col. René Boucher de la Bruere commanding as S. Cleveland Blyth. So there is the whole of the man's name: Stephen Cleveland Blyth. Does Thorp know of any such relative?

1900

May 19 1900 Leila Gogy Geggie to Wilfrid Laurier¹⁷

Quebec

19 May 1900

Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier

Sir

A petition is shortly to be presented on behalf of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union asking for the prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of cigarettes and of material for their manufacture.

Our organization consists of 11,000 women, mostly mothers fully aroused to the evil wrought by this most pernicious form of the [?] of tobacco.

Will you, Sir, favor us by advancing the petition in any way you can? And will you also help to make the amendments to the Criminal code more stringent against all kinds of gambling and lotteries?

¹⁷ National Archives of Canada Laurier Papers MG26 G vol. 156 pgs. 45722 - 45723

We also wish for better laws for the protection of girls and women, and that prohibition shall be granted at least to the provinces in which a majority vote for it was polled. Will you help us?

I am, Sir,

Yours truly

Leila G. Geggie

Supt. Legislation & Petitions

W.C.T.U.

Mrs. Geggie

Box 387

May 24 1900 Wilfrid Laurier to Leila Gogy Geggie¹⁸

Ottawa, 24th May, 1900.

Dear Madam,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 19th instant, and to assure you that your prayer will receive most careful consideration.

Yours very sincerely.

Mrs. Geggie,

P.O.B. 387

Quebec

¹⁸ National Archives of Canada Laurier Papers MG26 G vol 156 pg. 45724

June 8 1900 Hon J K Ward to Leila Geggie

Montreal 8th June 1900

Mrs. L Geggie

Dear Madam

In answer to yours of the 18th May ult would say that having made the acquaintance of your father the late Col Gogy some forty years ago, on his occasional visits to St. Leon, we became to know each other pretty well. Could I tell you all that passed between us it would no doubt be interesting to you but much has been forgotten. Among the reminiscences at the time his stables were burned at Beauport. He arrived at 3 Rivers en Habitant with his Horses en route to St Leon or Yamachiche. On another occasion I met him on the boat going from Riviere du Loup to Montreal, the first time I had the pleasure of coming in contact with him on the steamer going to Montreal in his military capacity, on board at the same time was the Pope's delegate the late Bishop of Quebec M.Baillergeon. I have a letter from him but cannot at present lay my hands on it, in which he expresses a desire to come out as a candidate to represent the Co of Maskinonge but nothing ever came of it. A lady friend of his who lived at St. Leon I used to call on as She was acquainted with my wife's family. I may say she was a very nice person and seemed very comfortable. I suppose she has long since passed away. The last time I saw your father was pleading a case in 3 Rivers where the old house – stands where it is said he was born that is near the English church. Your father had the reputation of being a man of extraordinary ability and had done good service for the country. It is said he surprised the Lords of the Privy Council when pleading before them and quoting French or English law in either language. I am sorry I cannot tell you more that would interest you of your father who was recognized by all those who knew him as a remarkable man in many respects, but like the rest of us had his failings, but on the whole leaned to virtues side. Hoping the little I have tried to remember may be of interest to you and remind you of much that is dear to think of one whom you hope to meet again where there is neither sorrow nor parting is the wish of yours

Very truly

J K Ward

With best regards to Mr. Geggie

JKW

December 5 1900 Leila Gogy Geggie to Mrs. Sarah Lovell

Copy of letter to Mrs.Lovell

5 Dec 1900

Dear Mrs.Lovell

You may or may not recognize my name although I remember the late Mr.Lovell as having come to our house, here, and having talked over with my father, the late Col Guky, the part which they both had taken in the suppression of the Rebellion of '37 –'49. A short time before Mr. Lovell's death I had an interview with him at his place of business, arranged to call at his house to make your acquaintance and be shewn the paper which Mr.Bellingham had prepared for publication, and then changed his mind.

Unfortunately this intention was never carried out, owing to my being obliged to return home unexpectedly, I believe, but Mr. Lovell and I exchanged letters on the subject, in which he speaks of his his old friend.

Will this explanation justify to you the interest which the paper you have just read before the Women's Club possesses for me? The "Witnesses" report is just sufficient to make one long for more and to wonder if, under the circumstances, my father's dear name and the part which he too played, are alluded to?

Should I be in Montreal during the coming year, I will, if you permit ask for a sight of your evidently admirable paper; this letter is only intended to serve as an introduction to that request, by the writer.

Till then, I am, dear Mrs.Lovell,

Your's very truly

L.G.G.

December 18 1900 Sarah Lovell to Leila Guky Geggie

Montreal, Dec. 18,1900

My dear Mrs.Geggie

I received your kind letter and am sorry if it was delayed in the delivery, having been sent to the office.

I shall be very happy to see you when you come to the city, and also to have you read my paper. It was written from the notes of the late Mr. Bellingham, and also from those of my dear husband.

I have often heard him talk of your father, and I also remember him well.

Mr. Bellingham mentions your father's name as being a member of the Legislative Assembly, at the time of the troubles, but does not mention him taking part in the action. I think Mr.Kingsport in his History

mentions your father's name. The volume was a borrowed one, and I cannot refer to it now, but will look again to be sure what is specially mentioned.

With kind regards and the hope of meeting at no distant date,

Yours very truly

Sarah Lovell

49 Shuter Street

1903

Receipt handwritten by Leila Guky signed by C.M. Genest October 23 1903

I bought from Mme P.M.Genest in the house at the old Oil Mill

1 Lot of China Silver & glass & knives	\$15.00
2 Paintings Flemish	\$20.00
1 by R. Christie	
1 Painting of Beauport River by Mr. Genest	\$5.00
3 Stools	<u>\$3.00</u>
	\$43.00
2 Casernes des fruits	\$10.00
1 Trunk	<u>1.50</u>
	\$54.50

Received payment (*signed*) C.M. Genest

(Signed) Leila Geggie 23 Oct. 1903

1908

April 7 1908 Leila Gugy Geggie to Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier¹⁹

On Quebec Provincial WCTU letterhead

Darnoc, Beauport, Que

7th April '08.

Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier

Prime Minister

Dear Sir

Petitions are being signed in Quebec City praying the Government to enact legislation on the lines of the Bill introduced in the last Session into the Senate by the Honorable R.W. Scott, entitled "The Juvenile Delinquent Act" 7 Edward VII, 1907.

On behalf of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union I beg that you will give this measure your influential support.

Sincerely yours

Leila Gugy Geggie

Local Pres. W.C.T.U.

(Mrs. Geggie)

¹⁹ National Archives of Canada Laurier Papers MG 26 G vol. 515 pg. 138744

1913

August 13, 1913 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

"Darnoc"

13 Aug 1913 Your Uncle Conrad's birthday, 1857

Dear Harold

We found last evening on my return that you had forgot your resonateur - Papa sent it this morning and your razor strop goes now. Hope you will get both safely.

I suppose that you can guess how much we have appreciated your visit – you could not do more than guess though for it would be hard to realize how happy it has been to see you.

Although I laugh at your vanity and extravagance in getting that last Panama hat, never mind. I do not mean it. The hat is handsome, becoming and really an economy for it will last for years and years.

Loie and the boy are very well today, well and peaceful and have had a good night and good day. Dr. Petitclerc came and was satisfied this evening. The nurse has done her duty but I think I can manage well enough without her after tomorrow evening when she will leave. Of course I shall have to neglect other things but after all they matter less. I believe that baby will be good for nurse has not spoiled him one bit as Mrs. Rose certainly did spoil Jamie.

Good night darling boy and may you have a happy, glorious trip – Love to Ella from

Your loving

Mother

No news since you left from Conrad.

August 19, 1913 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

Darnoc

19th August 1913

My darling Harold

Your letter from Ottawa Station and card from near Chapleau both came yesterday and were very welcome. What you say of Dr. Munroe is very good considering what it infers and taking for granted all that we forgot to ask while you were here, he is sober etc I suppose. Who knows but he may take to the business during your absence and having a free hand, think he can make a good thing of it – as of course he can. I hope so and that I shall not need to advertise but in case I should you had better write me what you think. I told you I said “practice nearly 30 years in same hands”.²⁰

Friday, I think, we had a letter from Conrad who hopes to be at work again this week and last night I telephoned Miss Shaw who told me that his arm had been very sore, the scratch was between elbow and wrist so he went to Chebeaque where the Shaws are and they took care of him²¹. Very kind of them.

Miss Shaw had just come in from the train when I phoned and I had thought of her having been there all day and at? so wished to call her when she was at leisure.

This is Lois’ wedding day, five years! It is beautiful and sunny, in fact we are having now the warm weather we should have had in July. Lois is exceedingly well and we hear nothing from Dr. Petittlerc since Wednesday, but I shall telephone him today; he spoke last time of giving her an arsenic tonic since she had been accustomed to iron before. Though she has no sensation of indigestion I see that vegetables and fruits – of which she eats abundantly and with pleasure - are not digesting; I shall tell him all this.

I have written Conrad for a tonic for Elsa. She is all the time tired, morning noon and night and there is much to do.

These bits of crust are supposed to be “meakrobes”. Elsa has gummed them here²² - Jamie²³ picked them off the bread at breakfast. He went out to see Grandpapa off and came back with a long branch of geranium stuck in his little handkerchief pocket, the flower standing up above his head – very proud of its beauty and saying “I picks it myself”.

Faith Fyles²⁴ erupted in at 9 a.m. looking for wild rice for the Experimental Farm. - Charlie took her to the beach and they found it in abundance. – Next came a Dr. Miller from New York, old and crazy looking for

²⁰ Referring to Harold going out to BC to visit with Ella. He evidently appealed to his mother to advertise for a doctor in Quebec City and Dr. Munroe was the result.

²¹ Agnes was a Shaw so this must have been before Conrad married; presumably he was visiting her with her family.

²² Elsa stuck some of Jamie’s crusts to the letter to demonstrate “meakrobes”.

²³ Jamie was Lois and Charlie’s first child. Leila refers to “baby brother” below – this was Loie’s second son, Eric.

²⁴ Faith Fyles was an artist who did a pastel sketch of Wolf Lake cottage.

curiosities, antiquities, engravings and books – asking so many impertinent questions that I put him out. He had a frightful temper.

Now I must finish, Baby brother is yelling – since nurse left – I've found stewed prunes and a cup of coffee early in the morning and a tumbler of oatmeal tea at night are worth all the aperients²⁵ with which Lois has been dosed. What do you say to that?

Goodbye darling – love to Ella

Your loving

Mama

August 23, 1913 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc
23rd Aug 1913
Sunday 5 p.m.

Darling son of mine

I've tried in vain to find time to write to you till now. Lois is perfectly well and taking some Hydrochloric Acid for indigestion which Petitclerc brought Friday 5 drops after each meal to be continued for five or six days. He is to return tomorrow. – What tonic did you think she should have? – Baby brother is splendid, quite unspoilt thus having even a better chance than Jamie²⁶ and has gained just a pound in weight from Thursday 7th to Thursday 14th. The 7th he was just as at birth 9 $\frac{3}{4}$, and the 14th 10 $\frac{3}{4}$. He cries very little.

All is going well. Still I am all the time busy and worse still so is Elsa. Things are hard for her no matter what I do or try to do, to help – for the present my hands are tied and the prospect of sending her to Montreal if Lois can get no girl to help her is not encouraging – yet I can neither go myself nor allow her to go alone. If even Lois knew anyone or that Elsa had the least chance of going anywhere or of meeting any nice people while there to vary the monotony of housework and care of children, it would be brighter. At all events, Lois and children are to spend September with us tho' Carlo²⁷ must open Technical School Tuesday 2nd September and Lois has an idea of advertising for a French girl before she leaves.

²⁵ Aperients are laxatives.

²⁶ Jamie was Loie's first child. He was later known as Jim. Their second baby was Eric.

²⁷ Carlo was a nickname for Loie's husband, Charlie Chaplin.

Jamie has been much troubled with a cough much like your old laryngitis after he gets to bed and asleep. It yields for the time to hot fomentations with a couple of drops of alcohol sprinkled on, but returns next night; once he over ate (my fault) and had indigestion, was pretty sick too but that is over and he looks fine and bright. I explained to him yesterday how when he was naughty to Daddy and Daddy had to spank him for closing his fists and saying “no-no-no” instead of opening his hands and saying “yes daddy, yes, oh yes” – that the whole house was sad, sorry and unhappy. He listening, turned to his mother and said “Grandmama says a whole house and means all a people in a house. Know ‘at?”

We fit baby brother in Jamie’s “bed” every day and great content is the result but he has whined a lot of late, his father has adopted less severe measures though and manages him better that way.

I shall send you an old letter I just found written by me to your Papa when he was at Ottawa for the purpose of giving Aggie Blyth away; the date is 22nd October 1899 – it will remind you of a few old times which I recollect very clearly – the incident of the smelts and Phileas Laberge especially²⁸. – Also I shall send Conrad’s letters. I telephoned Miss Shaw the night of the 18th when she had just returned to Hospital.

Your letter about meeting Wa-wa came. If you meet him again please ask about Norburn what he has been doing and saying out there; chasing girls of course, he could not do otherwise anywhere – and dissatisfied also doubtless. I have written Mrs. Wa-wa and Elsa has a card from Wa-wa’s sister, Mrs. Tomlinson saying that they are to sail on the 24rd. We are hoping to see them on their way.

Nancie wrote Lois that she and her mother were to leave Calgary for Ottawa the 21st so they are nearly home now. I have written no one so have little news but someday I hope to write Aunt Aggie who Jean said thought of coming to visit us this year; hitherto we were better alone but now I am beginning to plan for visitors, reasonable ones, of course, whom one could endure and also entertain without such an effort as after our hard summer we are not fit for. There is Lois McCusker to be remembered too – though Bella from Brooklyn poor girl is otherwise engaged as you know from the letter I gave you to read.

Now dear it remains to tell you that we have had interrupted drouth (sic) and everything was suffering, till yesterday last night and today when things are smiling again at a steady downpour. Gogy²⁹ writes of drouth at Shawinigan, of his garden being a failure, all but tomatoes which are large and fine, he is tired of trying and intends “to sell his hens and keep only his “black cat, Maud and Herman”. Like Gogy is it not? –Just now Maud and Herman are at Baie St. Paul.

Mollie writes from Norwood of dreadful drouth too and everything going to waste. We are fortunate to have such a beneficent rain as is now falling quietly.

²⁸ She included a letter written on 22rd Oct 1899, transcribed elsewhere.

²⁹ Gogy Ryland was Leila’s nephew, son of her sister Blanche who died in 1904. Maud was his wife and Herman, his son (named after Gogy’s father).

Are you happy my boy, you and your Ella, and are you making plans? I am afraid to think what they may be - but I must just wait to see. I hope Munroe will quicken and brighten up and in the end that he will be the man you require. Then we must think of your post graduate work and where it shall be.

The other day Henri Delage asked me for a statement of the extent of land at Darnoc belonging to each of us. Carlo and I were making it up and he said that my share at 5 cts per foot would total \$100,000.00. A goodly heritage is it not – and then the town house and the ground rents from the old Gugy Seigneuries. Is it any wonder we wish to keep our sons with us to perpetuate the double name and repeat some of the old baptismal names too. Do you think me crazy to dream of it?

I have not written often but you are all the time in my thoughts my darling son. I am hoping to hear from you soon. This will be the last letter that it will be of any use to send you out west though doubtless you will be writing me several. Your card to Elsa and letter to Lois came, all are very welcome with the news that you can eat sleep and enjoy your trip. Here is a suggestion – cut a piece of cheese cloth a little larger than your car window for each night, attach it with thumb tacks or adhesive tape when you retire. Remove and throw it out of the window each morning. Result air to breathe without an accumulation of cinders and dust.³⁰ A word to the wise!

Give my love and a kiss to my future daughter Ella whom someday soon I hope to see. Love from us all

Your loving Mama

August 27, 1913 - Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc
27th August 1913

My own son

This letter has been delayed and so I am trying again hope you will find all this budget – waiting to while away some of the tedium of your lonely return journey.³¹

Conrad is quite well and at work again, talks of twelve more Sundays in New York and one of them was the 24th. In that case he will be leaving between the 9th and 16th November and asks if we can send Elsa to him for a week. It will be a question of clothes and time but I must try to do it for the sake of her seeing the big city – having just a glimpse that is – for very little could be seen in that time. Still 'twould

³⁰ Referring to his window on the train home.

³¹ Referring to Harold's trip by train back to Wakefield after visiting Ella in BC.

be a treat and she is tired and no wonder of the constant grind here; I am letting her give up music so as to be free to go as she pleases anywhere.

It was a strange thing my finding that old letter I've enclosed about Phileas Laberge, just at this time, because there is a terrible "scandale" in the village about him just "eclaté"³². His next door neighbor, Dodé Giroux's daughter, a motherless girl of 15 keeping house for her father and taking care of four little brothers and sisters – has given birth to a child of which Phileas is father. Mrs. Laberge, his mother ill already, is breaking her heart, his father is crushed and shrivelled up – and Jules the priest has been taken to Lac à Pierre with nervous prostration – all as a result. Is it not awful?

I am writing with gloves on a cup of tea before me – just off to town and my writing is awful I know, yours is improving – thank you dear boy. – The day which has been raining is clearing up and fine now.

It is difficult to keep Loie from moving about too much, she is so well and strong, but I am trying hard to prevent her from over exertion and she knows it is well worth while. The new baby is splendid so good and gives so little trouble, all promises very well.

Dear boy, there is much Papa and I would say to you but you will have to imagine it, with all our love for this time. Kindest messages to Anna³³ and Ella.

From Your own loving

Mama

September 4, 1913 - Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc

4th Sept. 1913

My dear, dear Son

I wonder if you are back again in a land where things are old and all too permanent – slow and unchanging, but at all events they do not live on a boom, or in anticipation of one.

³² Exploded

³³ Anna was one of Ella Stevenson's sisters who lived in BC

I am so glad to hear that you will not settle out west, where – I have always been told by those who know that many thousands would gladly return east.

I wonder if you received a big letter from me before you left? At the last moment of mailing I withheld it from the large official envelope Carlo addressed to Wa-wa at Winnipeg; thought I should chance its reaching you at the furthest point and give the other budget the chance to be last before you reach home.

I am full of anxiety as to what you will find there with Munroe and your work – a surprise of some sort; perhaps even a pleasant one.

Gladys Greig is to marry a Mr. Fergusson, a nice Scotch Engineer with good salary in six weeks and Marie Gilbert is to marry Gwillam Dunn, nephew of Logie and Stuart Dunn. “They say he has lots of money” is what everyone repeats: the pill would need some gilding by all accounts and an orange grove in Cuba is one of his assets by reputation.

A Mr and Mrs Raymond Panet have come to live in the big house Jules Belanger built on the site of Victoire Vallée’s, also the latter’s mother Mrs. Brimble, both the latter Anglicans, though Mrs. Panet goes to church with her husband. Gossip is busy and they are feeling it – questions are spared the ladies who are ignorant of French, but Panet – a nice fellow and not strong – is being asked why he has no children and how he can live with a non-Catholic, where they were married, etc, as well as why they go nowhere and have no one visiting them. The ladies were here today, the second time we have exchanged visits; and things may become lively. The Curé cannot separate this couple as he did a couple called Raquet, put the poor child wife in Beauport Convent till she was forcibly converted and remarried – all for the sake of being beaten by a drunken brute from whom she ought to have escaped while he held himself not legally married to her.

I wish you could see our baby Eric now, he is beautiful and so good, while Jamie is not so good as he used to be, very obstinate and having his own way overmuch.

I shall hope to hear soon how you are and know you will be lonely after leaving Ella. I am so sorry it must be so. Entre nous is not Jack Macdonald³⁴ something onesided? Successful, all the same of course.

³⁴ Jack MacDonald married Anna Stevenson who was a sister of Ella (whom Harold married). Norma Geggie described Jack as “a very nice and generous and successful business man--he had worked at MacLaren's store in Wakefield but went out west and had the enterprise to start making a living from the offcuts of the lumber industry, making packing cases etc., I understand, and ended up by getting into the lumber business and becoming something of a millionaire--no doubt he was 'sold' on the west and Ella had gone out to stay with Anna and Jack, so I should imagine he was putting on pressure to get Harold to stay over there and practice--which of course Leila would NOT like.”

Lois is fine. Monday will be your Papa's birthday – 75 he will be. Do write him.

Your loving

Mama

October 11, 1913 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc

11 Oct 1913 4 P.M.

Darling Son

Lois and her wee boys are just about to leave for the Montreal boat and shall take this. By the way Jamie can give any one of you, or us, a lesson in the use of the dominant "shall", it is beautiful and sometimes it is even the Scotch "sall".

Auntie Aggie left at 11:30 this A. M. to visit Uncle David and Auntie Bella taking her trunk too, but is to return sometime, or times again to us. She is such a quiet nice visitor, invariably fits in and is so unselfish anyone might well be glad to have her indefinitely.

Elzire has been four weeks with us mostly sewing for Lois and her kids, just finished today and is to leave too in an hour – cannot bear an empty house – so Papa and I shall be left alone, however we are used to that now and can stand it well. Monday I have a meeting, tomorrow I must go to see Muriel who is to leave next week. Doris has been ill again, chill!

I received your bottle well packed of Hydrocyanic acid for poor Blot and if possible Carlo and I shall administer it in a few minutes, very carefully, before he goes to the boat. Again just now Blot lay right on the top stair and I trod on and nearly fell all the way down.

The other dogs for which I got strychnin, are Edouard Parent's (if he does not get rid of it and his son says he will not) and one or two other unknown dogs. Three large geese and six full grown ducks have fallen victims to the depredation of hungry dogs, the big Tremblay dog is never fed at home, so his mistress tells me, costs them nothing. It's too bad, I can tell you.

I send Cameron Stewart's letter – he has taken much pains, and his negative information all confirms what we have decided – at all events he is not your man. I shall write to thank Cameron, note his change of address, (Phone in name of McClure he tells me, forgot number) if you come to Montreal. As you say, the question is whether Dr. Kemp will think favorably of what you have to offer. I hope he will unless MacKeen is better.

Now goodbye darling

Your own

Mama

I shall write Ella the first moment I get.

You were too good to send money to Elsa and Conrad; I hope they will stay till next Friday and enjoy it fully – Elsa is being rushed too hard because of short time and I do not like it at all, she requires rest and leisure.

Enclosed with this letter, another, from Cameron Stewart:

Montreal, Oct. 9th, 1913

Cameron Stewart to Mrs. Geggie

182 Mance St.

Dear Mrs. Geggie:-

I have tried to obtain some information about J.H. Palardy, as requested, but am sorry to say that I can give you very little that is definite about him. Of course I did not mention your name in the matter.

The porter at Laval thinks he remembers student of that name who was there some years ago, but we could not find his name in the list of medical graduates. A Palardy with other initials graduated in 1877, but this would hardly be the man we want.

I enquired at the office of the Registrar of the Quebec Board of P. & S.³⁵, and Dr. Gauvreau's secretary (a very nice young lady!) could not find his name on the list of registered doctors, but there has been so much confusion in regard to registration lately that it is possible that he might be qualified to practice here.

I also looked over 1205 des Erables, but of course did not call. It is near the end of the Delorimier car line, in a nice enough part of the city. There is no doctor's plate on the door, so evidently he is not practicing. His name does not seem to be in the phone book or city Directory.

This information is merely negative and will not prove very satisfactory. It might be wise for Harold to write direct to Dr. Gauvreau, in order to get definite official information in regard to the registration.

³⁵ Board of Physicians and Surgeons

The weather here is oppressively hot and everybody is uncomfortable. The new M.G.H.³⁶ is very fine, an improvement on the R.V.H.³⁷ in some ways.

Please remember me to Miss Geggie, also to Harold and Conrad when you write.

Yours truly,

Cameron Stewart

December 5, 1913 - Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc
5th Dec 1913

My darling Harold

Since the S.P.C.A. Ball Elsa and I have gone to amateur Theatricals at St. Matthews' Parish room to a Scotch concert at Y.M.C.A. and to the Morning Musical at Knights of Columbus Hall, with lunch after at Lila Wilson's (née McIntyre of Ottawa, Belle Blyth's cousin). Her husband is all that a hard successful man sometimes boasts himself to be: on his own word not fit to be associated with, and vaunting himself a scoundrel before his wife – one can only hope that he is lying all the time, instead of telling truth part of it. At all events he is an ugly, unpleasant person; such men always have on me the effect of making me wish to hug my own dear home men, and thank God that I have not to spend my life with men after his sample. But Lila is just as nice as can possibly be, as kind and straightforward that one wonders how she can have keep (sic) her niceness. She looks lonely and wistful, no wonder and say that all the women she meets in Quebec have their own little circles in which they move and seems to find in that the reason for her own loneliness – no children. They are rich, and live nicely, she has a good servant and all that but anyone would find it hard to stand a man who talks in his own house and at his own table as he does.

Agnes Shaw is here, day nurse in Hospital to Mr. Marsh who is scarcely improving. Mrs. Fry, his sister, told me today over the 'phone that this second operation has been a fearful shock to his nerves. Ayres from New York came here to perform it, Conrad had worked with him and afterwards George Ahern took him and Conrad to the Chateau for dinner, 'twas a Friday by the way and Dr. Ayres refused to believe that George was a R.C., said he thought "that sort of thing was passé" and George was the only educated man professing that faith he had ever met. – Since then Delany has been, and is still very sick –

³⁶ Montreal General Hospital

³⁷ Royal Victoria Hospital

tonsillitis and neuralgia – Wright is treating him and was with Conrad urging him to go into hospital. Not a bit of it, he said, with much profanity, because those Protestants would convert him.

I've just been telephoning and find that Mr. Marsh is very low, and that May Ramsey's husband Fred Thorne, also in hospital is low too, Kidney trouble, uric convulsions etc. Mrs. Bonham no better. – You must have seen about Otto Seifert's sudden death in Ottawa after just having returned from Quebec and Montreal to his own home, just died in his chair after reaching there – leaves a wife (Miss O'Sullivan the Florist of this city, and two little wee children).

You must have known that poor unfortunate Seymour Blanchet though much older than you; he had been at Mastai, came home and after scenes etc just shot himself at his mother's side in her bedroom. The Dean buried him from the little Bergerville church, so you see the old heathenish custom of treating suicides has died out thank goodness. Have you read of Uncle AEmiluis³⁸ death at Toronto, oldest lawyer at the Bar, and eldest Freemason etc, aged 91. 69 years a Mason. Homfray telegraphed me the day he died the 27 Nov. – I replied and then wrote that none of our men folk could go to the funeral. Poor old man it was a great release after such long suffering, and to his family too.

I've just been telephoning Lois too and things look as if I should leave sometime tomorrow to spend till Wednesday evening in Montreal, there is an excursion beginning tomorrow and lasting till then for \$3.80 – too good a chance to lose though I have such a lot of work to do that I dare scarcely leave it. – Lois wished Elsa to go up for Eric's baptism Sunday, she you (by proxy) and Edward to be godparents. I hope you will be willing to renounce the de'il and all his works in the baby's name (that should not be too hard) and to promise to have him reared and taught his Catechism should his parents fail, in which case you can give them some suggestive medicine, if by that time Church Union, or something else has not taken the sting out of all those promises. Jamie is my godson and I shall help rear and teach him rightly as long as I live, not much as long as his parents do.

We are having nice bright weather, but the roads are still mightily rough as you must know to your cost. I am so glad your invalids are better – Elsa says Dorothy never could spell as she noticed when there – hush on the subject though, as she was a guest there when she noticed that whenever she wrote she kept asking how to spell; she must however be worse now – a form of nervousness of course. I hope Mrs. Stevenson is better and that all are about to spend a happier Christmas together than last year. As for you, my son, my son, my darling, if you are really to be married this coming year, it will be the happiest of your life – only if it should settle you forever in Wakefield, in spite of all you say about good work there – and that is true too – it will be a very great pity. However time will decide and no plans are ever carried out as made after all if they are plans involving a length of time.

Goodnight darling, I shall probably go to Montreal tomorrow.

³⁸ Aemilius Irving had been a brother-in-law of Leila's, married to her half-sister, Augusta Gagy (daughter of B.C.A. Gagy and his first wife, Sophie Juchereau-Duchesnay). Homfray was one of Augusta and Aemilius' sons.

My own boy

Goodnight

Mama

Papa is quite well, so are Conrad and Elsa and can take care of themselves.

Sunday – so glad you decided in favor of Eric.

Written on the back of a programme for St. Andrew's Society's Concert inserted in the same letter:

Sat 1:30 P.M. Well I'm off for Montreal, so that means that Elsa will not come up till next week so the baptism is likely to take place Sunday 14th Dec. Somebody, Carlo I suppose, is to stand proxy for you.

December 21, 1913

Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

"Darnoc"

21st Dec. 1913

My darling son

It has been impossible to snatch a moment for writing even on Sunday but I wish to tell you that Papa and I are to have photographs taken even if you do not succeed in coming. Perhaps you cannot come, perhaps you ought not to try; but in any case we shall be photographed because you children wish it and ought to have good pictures of us. A group may be difficult to get because as you doubtless know those two little boys have to be operated on the day after Christmas and that may make difficulties. And do not come if you ought not to leave now, we shall wait till you come in any case to have a big rejoicing. I do not wish you to run any risk of letting a patient suffer for your absence.

I have written Ella and sent her half a dozen dessert-spoons this time – it is her birthday gift not her Christmas gift – that will come later, and this has been waiting ever so long just for a chance to write. Your box will go tomorrow but it too is only your Thanksgiving box, the Christmas box will come late too. It's too bad that I am always tardy but Elzire has not come although I expected her and had a lot to do, so we have had to sew many things that otherwise she would have done. For Papa we have made a dressing gown of dark grey flannelette trimmed with pale blue and of the pieces, one just the same color for Jamie – Lois bought the material – and both Papa and Jamie will be proud.

Tuesday. Now I wish to explain your parcel – I sent a few beans of a special sort which we have grown, they are better than the ordinary ones either for soup or for baking or boiling as a vegetable; also some

green split peas we find delicious for mil soup. The shoes are from Conrad, got in New York, hope they will fit. In reply to your question, Conrad would like the journal "Surgery gynecology and obstetrics" but does not know the address. He says you are very good to think of him in that way, but you are always good and unselfish towards us my boy. As for your gift, it is a picture and will reach you sooner or later – if you come it will fit into your suit case but I am not counting on your coming until sometime that you ought to come when you have no cases which ought not leave. Any time you come will be joyful – no fear of that my darling – whether it be Christmas or not 'twill be as good.

I have not been able to finish your letter Sunday, not yet yesterday though I carried it to town in my bag and back again. We packed and sent your parcel and Aunt Mary's and now Gugy's today: Conrad received a characteristic letter from him last evening, he certainly can misspell a great humorous letter and does so to Conrad always and sometimes – once in a way - to me. At all events I sent I 35 lb box to him containing besides plum pudding and a large chicken, everything else I could think of. He does not hear from his sisters not Auntie May I believe and it is lonely enough for him.

Well now it is Tuesday evening, the morning fled with hard work and the afternoon, in town trying to shop. Now Conrad is swallowing his tea previous to rushing off to town. It is the Christmas Tree night at the Hospital and we have been asked but cannot spare time to go so we are about to do a lot.

Now remember darling we shall not expect you because I fear you ought not to come – however do what is right and we shall be satisfied. - Oh I nearly forgot to tell you that Papa and I were a long time at Montminy's and have been photographed over and over again so you are to have a good picture of us both, I hope, whether you do or do not come to us now.

The weather is fine but very little snow and not cold; bad weather and roads for you I fear dear. Perhaps we are about to have snow storms soon and then you can luxuriate in snow drifts. Lois Charlie and the boys are to come down tomorrow, leaving Montreal by 1 o'clock train and be with us at 6 o'clock.

I shall write again, in a hurry now.

Merry Christmas darling; love from us all

Mama

1914

January 6, 1914 - Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

300 Harvard Ave
6th January 1914

Darling son

I am here to attend a meeting of Executive (Provincial) today and am to return home by tomorrow's 5 p.m. train. I must hurry because between Wednesday and Friday Wa-wa Avarad said he might come to visit us on his way home from Canso. I trust that today you will receive your Stephen Leacock book from Elsa, as well as the case of pictures etc. The book I've enjoyed immensely, and think that all those short descriptions of his experiences with Photographer, Dentist, Tailor, would make fine reading for an entertainment, at short notice. The advantage of a polite education is very good – and the dissection and resolving into its first elements of a problem play perfect.

The weather is beautiful both here and at home – but no snow. Aunt Bella just telephoned, they are leaving for home this afternoon. Muriel's next door neighbors McKergow have scarletina, their children have been playing together and their servants (black as the ace of spades) are sisters: so Muriel is in momentary expectation of trouble.

Poor Fred Thorne – May Ramsey's husband died Sunday and is to be brought up here today for cremation by his own desire. Only 32 and Thorn's eldest son: May has two boys, one about 7 and the other about 2 years old.

Your Papa was very well when I left with exception of a little irritation of the throat – but he is always willing now - so different from the old days – that I should run up to Montreal because probably he acknowledges now that there is a good reason for my coming to our children and grandchildren. And such a pair of those grandchildren are Jamie the best boy anywhere, (with occasional lapses) and Eric – your boy as if he could be any more yours than Jamie was and is just a beauty with the brightest eyes and rosiest cheeks I ever saw and as happy as the day is long - and this day 5 months old. Jamie 'tends he is Ursa Major and also Ursa Minor and that Eric is trying to talk – said the other "air in a puddle" whatever that may mean.

I've been all the afternoon at a 6 p.m. meeting and am now at Mrs. Waycots' with Mrs. Sanderson and shall mail this as I go home – from which I have had no news since I left, after all the time is short and I am to return tomorrow night. We have had a great talk about everything and are trying to get a suffragette to speak in Quebec.

Next morning. Well I did not get this mailed after all – no stamps. – Those Grants are great people, just as they would never acknowledge Mildred May they are never done writing of and extolling this Lottie Grant. Nancie writes Lois it is "a quiet swell "wedding" etc that Lottie is a great cook and nurse and Aunt Mary that they tell her if Allace is not good to her she can go out to earn and be independent of him altogether. They have quaint ways of joking certainly and in none too good taste but all their conduct now is in strong contrast to their treatment of the May girls.

Eric is sleeping on the front verandah all morning. Jamie asks why I did not bring up all my children and then I could stay long. Said someone had to take care of the house. "Well when we is big us boys will come down and take care of your home, if Mammy and Daddie is busy". He is just now telling us how he holds his cup, his mother asks why? – "Oh I don't know why but hat's my reason and my very precious reason too." At Christmas he greeted our piano with "Oh here's the piano that plays a Jamie song." He recognized the music of "The Mothers of Salem" when I played it – "that means the mothers of that place brought their chillian to somebody". And when I played Auld Lang Syne he knew it was "old Grimes". And Bonnie Dundee he recognized at once. So you see he has a very good ear. I'll mail this as I go to the train for home. Goodbye love, your own Mama

Elsa had a letter from Ella the other day, a dear nice letter too, and I am about to write her again. In the meantime goodbye. Are you getting on with your plans

Goodbye Mama

January 13, 1914 - Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc
13 January 1914.

Darling Harold

The cold moonlight nights which have come make me think much of you; though naturally, of all my children you are most in my mind at all times – your hard work under such hard conditions and long absence, make this easily understood. Now your diphtheria epidemic and your stable boys case in particular progress, I cannot help wondering - and how you endure it all darling mine. God only knows how you could stand the work and conditions but for Mrs. Stevenson and her family, Mrs. Shouldice particularly. And how I could stand the anxiety and suspense either. It is only because I know their goodness, care and love for you, that I can live, and be thankful that you fell into such hands. Your father is buoyed up by the confidence that his boys are all right and will turn out so too.

Talking of Papa – he is wonderfully well and unchanged in any perceptible way – only I have an ever present fear, nothing apparent to justify it. Avard struck Darnoc Wednesday night about 7 P.M. (and I arrived from Montreal late at 11:30); he finds Papa just the same as ever, perhaps more quiet, perhaps not. Mrs. Frank W. Ross, Jr of course pleased us all very much by sending Papa at Christmas a nice Scotch book, beautifully illustrated; she is always nice to him and he has daily 'phone conversations with her – besides which they compare Jamie with her little boy, and compare snapshots of him too.

Avard is nice as ever, just as boyish looking but more broad minded has been learning to dance, and all he requires is a little more practice and confidence to enable him to excel. He is to leave us tonight, spend a day or so in Montreal and is not so limited in time as he might be, because he has invented a

new system of head office book-keeping, though he conceals his achievement as if it were a sin and Harry Veasey has given him extra time and letters of introduction to other banks in which he is called "Head of our adjustment staff" and they are asked as a personal favor to give him any information or assistance in their power. And so young too! All the same I shall be glad to see him safely off tonight by 10:30 car from here. He has gone to town each day, but yesterday returned early, took Elsa for tea to Kent House, to a Hockey match in the evening at the Arena, St. Malo – tonight they and Conrad are at Chalmers church.

Dr. Delaney is said to be a little better. Mr Marsh also a little brighter since narcotics have been discontinued. Mrs. Bonham is improving a little and can whisper somewhat.

You will perhaps see by the papers that the Provincial W.C.T.U. presented a petition for the Franchise, Friday to the Premier; he was quite nice to us, said it was the first time and promised to see what could be done by next session.

My copy of the "Aurore" tells me of the death at Masham of an old man of 80, a recent convert – Baptiste Milliquet. Now that you are to stay in Wakefield I shall send you the "Aurore". The Home Journal has come safely, thank you my own son, it will remind me of you – as if I needed a reminder! I wonder if what you are able to collect will justify you in marrying? – I suppose no plans as to date etc have yet been made. It will be I hope a very quiet house or Church wedding. You know how quiet and devoid of fuss Lois' wedding was; still of course that is much as Ella and her people wish it, only they must not imagine that we like any pomp and circumstance, on such occasions.

From what you said of Betty driving with you I presume that she did not have her appendectomy performed; and I trust Dorothy and Miss Cann, as well as Ruth are still doing well. When once Betty is over her operation surely there will be a happy year ahead of you all, such as none of you has had since you have been in Wakefield.

It is after 9 o'clock, Elsa and Avarde ought to be here. I shall go to make cocoa, for he has not much time to lose and shall tell you when he goes through Ottawa. Here they are – at 2 A.M. Tuesday he will go through. He has seen very little of Hawkins boys – says George Poston drinks less than he did; and his daughter Vivi has been out earning her living in Banff and returned lately.

Now my own darling I must say goodnight – I wonder how you like your pictures, book etc – if you have even had a chance to look at them. Sleep well, and rest securely boy of mine – what use to tell you how we love and trust you, and that I am always

Your loving Mother

February 19, 1914 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc
19th February 1914

Darling Harold

I was so glad to hear in your letter to Elsa that you are having an easier time although it is terrible to have to stand the loss of life these terrible circumstances entail – added to the ignorance of people who will not send in time for you. I feel how hard it must be to have these things happen in spite of all your hard work and effort to prevent a fatal termination.

I have written Jean Grant who wished for a 20ct Tercentenary stamp to give to an old Canon Bayley in England who had been very kind acting as cicerone for her and her party in Salisbury I think: so I got the stamp from Miss Lloyd for her and hope she will be pleased, because they have been good to you and also because I have been negligent enough not to have thanked her till now for her Christmas present, a beautiful cushion cover. I can only try to write my most urgent letters and neglect many with housework and all sorts of other tasks: it is no excuse though, as I well know. In writing Jean I mentioned your having spoken of a nice young man and his widowed mother (no name given), friends of the Stevensons, whom you had met and liked very much. They may if they hear of your visit there understand your attraction for one of your own sex. Then again they may never hear. I should risk it anyway and have a good time and rest if you can and explain after or not, as you think best. You must be allowed to cultivate some of the Stevenson's friends if you choose and must keep some of your freedom to tell or not tell, them things.

Perhaps you know that Charlie³⁹'s "Uncle John" died the 8th while Alfred and Jean only arrived in London the 11th, in time for funeral next day, after an awful trip across.

It is some few years since we have had a Municipal Council in Quebec, entirely of R.C.'s – however last Monday George F. Gibsons was elected by 22 majority to represent seat No. 1 in St. Louis Ward, the Cape. He came forward as a Protestant and as such was elected, but I wrote to ask if he were to succeed whether he would press such and such reforms and he replied by returning my letter with his consent at the bottom of it. I think that was the wisest way don't you?

Did you receive the Witness I sent with your prize letter in it? I marked it visibly. You naturally wish for it to keep.

Conrad is working more now, some surgery and some of everything especially maternity work: he did an inguinal hernia with only local anaesthetic yesterday – novocaine. Patient was back in bed, after telling stories while Conrad operated, and had his dinner, full diet – doing well.

³⁹ Referring to Leila's son-in-law, Charlie Chaplin, and his parents, Alfred and Jean, and Uncle John.

Now there is something to which I require a reply – do you approve of Carlo and Lois twin beds or of one large one in the old style? I am buying house- linen at Simons and Minguly's cheap sale and require to know your views and intention. Modern ways in this as in some other things are best, I think.

You say your accident policy was in my favor, I did not know: however I say, as Elsa did, that at the right time it must go to Ella. Elsa was frightened and made to think on the subject by a great talk about old Mrs. Thom's resisting when her son Herbert proposed to transfer his insurance to his wife. The whole town heard the story of Mrs. T. Senior who was a most unpleasant woman and forever talked of her son's wife.

Florie Oliver is to go to Ottawa beginning of March as delegate to a Social Science Convention and Elsa probably with her – both will be billeted I suppose for the three days of Convention, no plans yet.

I poured tea for Auntie Bella today, a small bridge and Elsa was at the same time at a linen shower at Valentine's for Maggie Elliott who is to be married 3rd March to John Hewitson. Everyone hopes that she will be happy. She is so sweet and merry – but very little is known of him.

Goodbye darling mine. I am very far behind in everything I have to do and Alphonse Laberge Sr. comes to put down the new hardwood floor Monday. Ever your loving Mother Leila Geggie

March 3, 1914 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc
3rd March 1914

Darling boy

I suppose you now know that Elsa is in Ottawa at Aunt Mary's and I trust that you can ask Mrs Stevenson to have her – and Florie too – out for a day, just between morning and evening trains. Florie knew Betty at McDonald and might just as well know the others, and feel that you are being nice to her and they also.

Our hardwood floor will be finished completely today and very beautiful it looks but it has cost an awful price all the same. I was foolish enough to give the job to Alphonse Laberge père and he took two men to do it and oversaw the work only – the work alone will be \$4.00 per toise (?). But it is done forever and we can now walk in our bare feet if we choose without getting splinters in our "toeses" – besides sweeping and washing will be easier and better done than when everything caught in splinters and large cracks. My only regret is that you are not here to see and enjoy the beauty of the wood while it is fresh: it tempts me to sit down and pat it with both hands, the curl and wave in the grain are so pretty, even a

few pieces of maple mixed here and there make it finer. As the wood is a year old there ought to be no shrinkage of the seams at all surely.

6 p.m. Conrad has come to tea and is better: his throat and liver have been troubling again but he is better now. He is telling us of the persecution of a convert from R.C'ism which is truly awful to hear but quite reliable and I can easily believe it. The weather is very mild indeed, soft and "les chemins defoncent partout" as Edmond says. Poor old Shuldham (?) Hill has a broken shoulder I hear blown over by the wind yesterday.

Our flooring is entirely finished and beautiful including the maid's room and linen closet. It has cost a lot but is a delight and paid for.

Ferland says that he received your cheque some time ago – so that is all right.

Now listen to this and take it in. C.R.Whitehead wants an English doctor at Three Rivers, preferably one who has practiced a while, not a graduate of recent date – and will back him up for all he's worth, but will not have a French Canadian nor R.C.

Conrad says too, your dear friend Dr. Lebel nearly went to Heaven recently, apoplexy – so you see!

Oh, little boy, Three Rivers is near Quebec, and there are other Doctors who may step in, Can you think of it. Write C.R.Whitehead anyway and ask particulars and it may keep the place open. No young men there, only old ones, and no one doing any surgery.

Mama

March 20, 1914 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc
20 March 1914

My own Harold

So much happens in a few days – and your brief visit is over. Papa has not been very well a chill and bilious, slightly and just came home early two days following.

Conrad has heard nothing further from Dr. Bourgeois but has had other troubles. Mrs. Hooper, wife of a Lieut from Halifax, now at the Citadel whom Conrad saw at 4 p.m. Monday, and found nothing much the matter, at six o'clock she was so ill that he took her into hospital and operated at once – when he should have been meeting Elsa at the train and so did not – He found suppurated appendix, hernia and slight gangrene of the intestine, no nurse to be had save Dr. Carter's sister and he got her. All went well till Saturday when things began to go wrong, he spent Saturday and Sunday nights with her and Monday

she died. Conrad was greatly troubled and is so, of course. He got Ahern (over the 'phone only, he could not come out) and he spoke to the poor husband. During the week Stevenson had a similar case, died Friday, a clergyman's wife Atkinson, from Megantic, and at 1 a.m. Monday morning Conrad got a telephone to come down to St. Roch's to see a case of Strangulated hernia, since Friday. It was a public case, Conrad told the people to send him up at once, got Stevenson to operate and the man died in a half an hour. Then as Stevenson was there, Conrad got him in consultation, nothing to be done of course but just to satisfy the husband. Stevenson was very decent, Conrad says, couldn't have been more so in any way, so our boy feels a bit differently. Next day Carter sent an appendix case to Stevenson again – that liar is all the trouble; had he kept his word there would be no question at all of Conrad's getting on in Quebec.

The weather is fine and the roads are still good, our ice house full and Edmond busy delivering hay before roads break up. The hot bed will be made next week.

Sunday evg. The Social Science meeting at which Florrie read her report took place last evening. Elsa went and says it was very good, about 40 young girls, Mrs. Oliver (S.S.) to hear Florrie, who did very, very well also Mrs. E.E. Webb who dropped in – no one else "of years". Mrs. Balfour went with Elsa from here and returned. Mr. M.K. Craig, Conrad and Elsa ski-ed part of the afternoon before going in and while doing so, saw a man nail up a notice "Lots for sale" on a pole opposite Auntie May's property. Mary is 19 today – I sent her that number of daffodils, at 60 cts per doz and she telephoned thanks. Elsa called there and at Auntie Bella's Friday and was asked if she knew and how she knows, also how long she had known different young men whom Mary knows. She had the advantage each time.

Stuart Ritchie has quarreled with his father and gone to South America Bahaia (?) to a position offered, wife and children staying here till he finds out how things go.

Love to Mrs. Stevenson and Ella as well as your darling self. Elzire is to come tomorrow, we have the rooms tidied and rugs down but there is lots to do yet.

At Miss Brown's an Italian is boarding, speaks little English, has come to establish a factory of oiled linen in the old Brewery – for fishermen, I suppose. A bigger stone crusher is being put on the quarries up north of the Renaud ravine and some industry is likely to replace whiskey making in the fine buildings.

Samson wishes for part of the beach and has we hear rented the swamp to Gaulin to rear 2000 ducks in.

Things may be going soon again around Beauport.

Adieu

Mama

April 8, 1914 - Leila Gugy Gergie to Harold

Darnoc
8th April 1914

My darling Son

I was so pleased to receive your letter yesterday after such a long silence and doubly glad to hear that you had some good nights' rest.

I trust that Miss Cann⁴⁰ is sensible this time and will not insist on so much attention and waiting upon; what a good thing it is when one can suffice for oneself!

Lois is busy weaning that beautiful boy Eric and intends to have it finished for first of May, which is on the whole wise I suppose, seeing that the child is so strong and she such a thin little body. Then again I wonder if she is doing it because she wishes to be ready to help Mollie in case of need, while she packs and stores all the furniture at 184 during Jean and Alfred's absence⁴¹. Mollie must be staying at Harvard Ave. now and Carlo at least was to help her: I had at one time an idea of going up today for the Easter excursion, but gave it up this morning, as being unwise and ill-timed. I can hardly believe all this good news for Charlie and Lois, but am very glad indeed that it has come at last.

Odiana has taken that bottle of bitter tonic that Lois would not use, I gave it to her as soon as Dr. Lachance had ceased his visits and her little girl is now about a month old, 11 living, one dead and one abortion.

Elsa went yesterday to visit Miss Carey, her old music teacher, who spent her holidays last summer with Mrs. Drysdale out in Kelowna B.C. in the Okanagon Valley. The terrible tales, - quite, quite true of loss and failure, suffering and sorrow without any prospect of relief until years have gone by and many are dead, have kept Elsa and me busy thinking ever since, and being thankful for our lot! These Drysdales were a nephew of Mr. John Ritchie employed in his factory, married to an R.C., Miss Wright, niece of the City Hall man who went out some years ago, and have lost everything while the wife is a wreck and nearly blind. A girl teacher only meeting Miss Carey on the train warned her not to invest in anything, she too had put her salary into land and was spending every cent she earned in taxes with the near prospect of having to discontinue and lose the land after all.

⁴⁰ Refers to Miss Gertrude Cann, Ella's aunt, her mother (Mrs. Hans Stevenson)'s sister.

⁴¹ Jean and Alfred were Charlie Chaplin's parents (Lois' in-laws).

Oh! Dr. Bourgeois wrote Conrad that the time has not come for him to take a partner, he is sorry for he would like him very much in that capacity, there is still too much prejudice against him, religious prejudice especially, and that when the time comes he will require a man with money to put into his hospital.

So that is done and Conrad is busy organizing a military unit for this summer's camp, Wright first and Conrad second, Hubbard, Boyce, Delage and Stevenson besides I think but do not know in what order they come.

I think Conrad will also yield to entreaty and help with Scout work too – might as well keep busy and he is also about to move to the head, of Maple Avenue. Fortunately no one whatever knew of the idea of his leaving the City – so no harm has been done.

Mrs. Balfour and two babies who board at Miss Brown's are up visiting her mother, Mrs. Wright, 8 Coplan Court, cor[ner] Daly Ave and Charlotte St. Do you wish to go to see her if in town and at leisure? She is very nice.

10th April 1914

This will be late in reaching you for Easter my own boy, and so will a handsome calendar which I mean to send; the latter is one given by Brophy of the Cambridge Book Store to your father, who as Treasurer of the Lit. and Hist. Soc. pays them about a thousand dollars for books some years. I make this explanation for I would never pay so much for a calendar; but as I have it I wish you to use it till Ella comes and then to share it with her in the rooms that are to be hers and yours. Being handsome, it can be made to last for several years if the months can be bought of the same size and gummed on over the old ones.

To think of you doing tiling work and stable work! I hope you use gloves for both because of the care your hands need. That stable boy business is the worst, and meanest, when you are already so tired.

I enclose a dollar because I wish to give you that weekly "Witness" but feared to send the money lest you had already done so; and as you did, why I am returning it, and sending a few clippings to shew what is going on here.

Ewart Carruthers has left Shawinigan and obtained a position at Messina Springs N.Y. in Aluminum works at a high salary. I am told that his Dad is drinking hard all along, and his mother having lots of trouble. – Dadie Hossack⁴² is down for Easter with his people here; and the old George Hossack Grocery is rented for a branch of the Molson's Bank.

Elsa has two more dress-making lessons to take and then her course of twelve will be done.

Your Papa is very well, and beginning his spring work with avidity: the 1st May he will be 58 years at Ross and Co's. No man that I know has been so unjustly treated than he, unless it be Gavin Moir.

⁴² Dadie Hossack was a cousin of James Geggie.

Conrad was out to tea tonight and seems to be busier than he used to be but I believe that that woman Borland will neither answer the door nor the telephone half the time, so he loses practice that way.

Now goodnight my own dear Harold

Your Mama

Letter included several newspaper clippings including a leaflet about the Candidate for Aldermanic Seat No. 1 of St. Lewis Ward, dated Feb. 12, 1914. Leila wrote on it:

“This is the man whom we elected to represent us. He is asking questions and keeping things lively at City Hall; making the Council give a statement of all exemptions from taxation etc - so we are urging him on! He also promised before election to advance W.C.T. U.⁴³ views and legislation, so now we have him working in favor of establishing a Juvenile Court and Probation offices all of which Mayor Drouin thinks we do not require.”

September 7, 1914 - Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc
7th September 1914

Darling Harold

After your long silence I was glad to receive your letters and so were Lois and Elsa. We all rejoice at your happiness both present and prospective and also to hear that you both intend to visit us soon; the sooner the better.

As I am writing hurriedly, before going to town, I must get to what is most important.

I arrived by evening train Wednesday, have seen only Mrs. Baker in Montreal – she is anxious about Monty, who is on duty at St. Lamberts. Elsa had been busy with Elzire making nightshirts for the Red Cross Society and now has finished ten. I packed a box weighing 137 lbs of reading for Valcartier Camp and Papa and Elsa, a case of apples and both were distributed at once Mr. Lee tells me.

⁴³ Women’s Christian Temperance Union

Yesterday, Sunday, Elsa and I made up our minds in a few minutes and by good luck caught the 9:20 car CNR for the Camp. Stuart Ramsey on the platform saved us a hunt for Conrad and we got him in his tent writing to Lois.

In spite of threatening weather we went over a good part of the camp and saw how well it is organized. Conrad bought mutton pies to give us dinner but Dr. Wright arranged with the officers of Montreal No. 5 FAC⁴⁴ to invite us to their mess so we had a fine time. "Just rations", excellent cold beef, bread and butter, sliced tomatoes and cucumber, tea without milk. The only extra was delicious ice cream in our honor, presented to the Sanitary Officer Dr. Windler by the Ottawa Dairy Co. which supplies that delicacy to the YMCA for sale there, no one else sells it. I think I told you that Wright and Conrad have no mess just fare as the men do exactly. But that fare is excellent; meat supplied in refrigerated cars daily by the Harris Abattoir company in Toronto.

By the way the Doctors at table were Col Bligh Campbell, Cameron, Johnston, Nutter, Windler and MacKenrie Forbert, Stuart Ramsey, Wright and Conrad. Mrs. Wright, Elsa and I were the ladies and after a very pleasant dinner the Ambulance was found waiting with warm blankets to cover us, so though the review before the Duke of Connaught was accompanied by a heavy downpour we were safe and dry. A grand sight it was as they marched past 200 deep, regiment after regiment; but it was sad to think how wet the men were and that they had no chance to dry themselves. Today while I write it is raining still more heavily and it has rained all night, sad to say.

We were taken back to the tents and unloaded, after which Cyril was found and came to see Conrad's visitors who included a Mr. Sholto Smith of Calgary friend of the Shaws.

Cyril's Corps of Guides has been all split up and they are indignant; he is now ordered to attach himself to an infantry regiment and refuses to do so, knows nothing about it. He wears broad red stripes on his trousers and shoulders and Col Rogers when he was ordered in said "Well Robin Redbreast?" He is a Lieut, not yet Gazetted Capt. But passed the exams in spring, no wonder he does not relish the ranks and taking off spurs. We made every endeavor to find your friend Whelan but in vain: he wrote that he will come to see us if he can. All the contingents that came are to split up into other regiments that there is no finding anyone. We heard of two men brothers in different regiments searching in vain for each other. Bevan Dunbar is there too, his bride at Lake St. Joseph Hotel. I was looking for a Woolley and and Coghill too but it is useless.

With difficulty Cyril and Conrad lifted us on the 5 o'clock car and it was 7 before we reached home all soaked and reeking of tobacco having been packed in the smoker where every man sat and women thronged the aisles.

Conrad says that there are rumors of censorship for letters both ways, of all leave being cancelled and of newspapers being forbidden to print any news of troop movements, all pointing to impending shipment

⁴⁴ Field Ambulance Corps

of troops. Last week the signal service was forbidden to report any more ships - yet we know there are three in harbor and may be any number round the Island.

Papa thinks and so do I that you and Ella ought to come as soon as possible that you may see the camp and Conrad too before he goes. Do try, if you can come and of course we wish to see Ella above all things. I know that assault case is about to be troublesome but can you not come before it is likely to be called?

Dr. Nutter asked about you and sent Congratulations, so did George Shanks, Stuart Ramsey etc.

Conrad hoped to return tonight for perhaps the last time – they expect a hurried and secret departure before very long and he and Dr. Wright take turns to leave. Inoculation has caused much illness of late and Dr. Wright was one of the worst –

Your loving mother

Leila Geggie

If Ella lets the Grants etc know by 'phone when she is at Dorothy's they will be glad to call on her.

September 19, 1914 - Leila Gagy Geggie to her son, Harold Geggie

Darnoc
19th Sept 1914

My darling

On this first anniversary, just a month since you were married, I wish you joy and life-long happiness.

Everyone has been charmed with your Ella, Papa, Aunty Bella⁴⁵, Muriel⁴⁶ and Lois among others. The latter speaks of her beautiful music especially – of course Lois has a beautiful instrument for her to play on, but all the same it was Ella's clever fingers that did all the playing.

⁴⁵ Bella was married to James Geggie's brother, David.

⁴⁶ Muriel was a niece of Leila's, the daughter of Leila's sister, Blanche.

Now Ella tells me of the death of that kind nice Aunt and I am so sorry for her husband⁴⁷. What a terrible thing.

We are still awaiting Conrad's departure and knowing nothing – it is very hard. The 5th Ambulance Corps marched in to the Emigration Sheds Thursday, now we hear that 1700 more have come in but I do not know if it is true. He was with us Wednesday night and left yesterday morning. Goodness knows if we shall see him again!

Monday night.

Elsa and I were to meet Jessie Grant and Esther Kincaid and go to the camp yesterday but the crowds were so enormous, we never saw them all day long though we looked from morning till night – nor do we know anything about them yet. But we met Gogy, Maud and Herman and found Agnes⁴⁸ - and the Polnoka (?) party, including a lawyer who knew you at McGill, Harry Stockwell '11. Once more, in a transport waggon (sic) we saw all this great review again and I was so much pleased that Gogy and his family saw it all, by the merest chance and good luck too, they arrived at the very moment we were packing into the transport cart so they were put in too and saw everything to great advantage. How delighted they were you can guess, but I find Maud and Gogy both look very ill – Herman is not a bit developed and only understands french, both his parents talk to him in an arguing remonstrating tone all the time. Gogy's teeth are all falling out one by one of their own accord and he is thin, with that worried wrinkled frown of his constantly. Maud is thin and white and ready to weep all the time, complains of her back, especially when she writes.

We did not get home till 8 pm and tonight Conrad has come out again with Agnes; this time it looks like the last. – Many thanks for the films you sent – some are beautiful and the wedding group is pretty though being a double exposure there are more heads in it than there ought to be. Poor Mrs. Stevenson is half hidden by chance and Mrs. Arthur Stevenson looks as well and happy as can be. You say her death was quite unexpected but can one be ureamic (sic) without anyone's knowing it, even a Dr? - I cannot believe it. Surely she had had some analysis made at some time and had been dieting etc and her husband knew she was ill?

Conrad is arranging with us a code by which the printed cards may be made to mean more than the war office intends when it issues them. I suggested it and he has amplified my idea. He has paid every cent he owes and has a balance over of eleven dollars. Of course his pay, what he does not use, will be coming in and he has almost arranged to rent his rooms, the two lower ones at least. Mrs. Young has given him a sleeping bag and now wishes to give him a thermos bottle, revolver etc which she has. Probably he will give her about \$25.00 – he ought to give that any way if he could and the best way I

⁴⁷ Refers to wife of Arthur Stevenson who was Dr. Hans Stevenson's brother. He and his wife lived out west but both were at Harold and Ella's wedding. Evidently she died soon afterwards. Leila mentions this again later in the letter.

⁴⁸ Refers to Conrad's wife. Conrad was Leila's eldest son, Harold's brother.

think is to send it to Mr. Jack Johnston who I think attends to her affairs and and is competent and reliable – a very good friend to her and a wise one. She has taken No. 43, old Gregory's house and moved in all her furniture and intends to take roomers; when she phones me she is as nervous and irritable as can be, hurried too, and said today "oh I'm half dead, and have no time to talk." Poor thing it's so sad! Marion and Estelle are at school again and the new Rector at the School is Mr. Handsomebody, did you ever hear such a name.

Now Conrad and Agnes are going and will mail this. Goodbye dear and if Ella is in Ottawa send her letter to her.

Mama

September 19, 1914 Leila Gagy Geggie to her new daughter-in-law, Ella

"Darnoc"

19th Sept 1914

Just a month dear Ella since you were married, and I hope that every month of your life will be as happy as this has been; this is what I intended to write you this morning, and here comes your note with the terrible news of the death of that good kind Aunt⁴⁹ of yours!

To my mind she did not appear ill, and was in perfectly good spirits that happy day. No wonder you are all sad and distressed at the thought of her poor husband being left alone at his age, after a life time of companionship. I wonder if he has any children who can keep a home for him, which would not after all give him happiness.

You all have my sincere sympathy in this sad blow which Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. Shouldice will feel deeply.

Conrad has been down once more, and has repaired his error by going to see Mrs. D. H. Geggie and Muriel, also Aunty May Hunt my only sister to take his leave, for he is almost certain to leave this coming week⁵⁰, though we expected the departure ere this. No one knows, and there is nothing but restlessness and anxiety everywhere. Perhaps those in whom we are interested

⁴⁹ Refers to wife of Arthur Stevenson who was Dr. Hans Stevenson's brother, so Ella's mother's sister-in-law. Arthur and his wife lived out west but both were at Harold and Ella's wedding. Evidently she died less than a month later.

⁵⁰ Conrad being shipped overseas any day (WWI).

may ship away any night; two more ships came up tonight and we watch the lights in the harbor. Time will tell!

I am glad you saw some of the beauty of Montreal; it is such a wealthy city and that of course makes lovely spots on which the eye can rest with delight.

You tell me that Harold is busy all the time – yes, my dear, I am sure that he is, but his labor is lightened by the knowledge that he works for you, and that your love follows him, and awaits him. He belongs to you now and it is for you to make him happy – I am so glad that he loves your music, and to have you to soothe him with it is a great blessing to him. No other music could be so sweet as that which you make.

Goodnight

Your affectionate

Leila Geggie

October 16, 1914 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Postcard

Darnoc 16 Oct '14

Cable just received “Devonport. Arrived well. Conrad”. So I’ve telephoned Agnes to tell Lois who in her turn will tell Muriel and Auntie May who is now in Montreal Darlingcourt Apt, Sherbrooke and George (?).

Yesterday we met S.S. Missanabie and had a couple of hours chat with Monica Child, who missed Cyril both sides of the Atlantic. Could not get her off to see city because of slowness of examiners. All well here and fine weather. We have ‘phoned all around as soon as news came to let Mrs. W.H. Brown know her son Jack was safe. Mama

I told Conrad about your friend.

October 19, 1914 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc

19th October 1914

Dear Boy of my heart

I've just been writing Agnes and Elsa is going to town to see what Dr. Lemieux's last word is about her teeth.

I've been since lunch packing a barrel of vegetables for Guky, turnips, parsnips, beets, cabbage, leeks, and artichokes and I wonder if you require the same (except artichokes which I know you have and no one there values. Let me know please but as I've asked before I may have your reply tonight.

Yesterday a tablet was to be unveiled in St. James' Anglican Church, Hamilton to the memory of Sir AEmiluis Irving and his wife Augusta Louisa Guky. In former years they worshipped there for a quarter of a century.

Tomorrow the Daughters of the Empire have a pound day for the Belgian relief fund, we are to send turnips and potatoes, we have a fine crop, and make this a Thanksgiving offering. By the way, so many people here are speaking of the "Belgiums", just as so many in your country even school-marms are saying "perculator". Guky does better and writes "Belgums". We get some fun out of trifles like these in sad days such as we live in.

By the way, a horrible rumor has come to town, of which I am not telling anyone, but everyone tells me, that Ernie Hawkins who (his mother told me the 22nd Aug) had gone to Regina to a very good appointment, went thence to England and joined the Oxford Corps going to the front. Now it is said that he has been returned to England with both hands cut off!

I can't and won't believe it – and Capt Hay tells me that a woman in England has been arrested for originating such stories; an officer of a Cheshire regiment, brother of Mrs. Allan Boswell here showed such gallantry that after he had been killed at last, Germans gave him a military funeral.

In the Scotsman we read of a German sailor picked up landed at Aberdeen and brought to Edinburgh Castel; he died and British tars gave him a naval funeral – or a military with his own Prussian flag wrapped round his coffin. Time's up.

Love to Ella and others from your loving

Mother

November 20, 2014 Leila Guky Geggie to Ella

Leila Guky Geggie to Ella Nov 20 1914

Darnoc 20 Nov 1914

Dear Ella

Your parcel of silver and linen is at last safely dispatched, and I hope will be safely received; may it give my children as much use and comfort as it has given their mother pleasure to prepare and the rest of the household joy to assist.

I've been writing all the time there is to spare after looking to the house and knitting for our soldiers. Kind friends are sending me things and I am as busy as Elsa is – just now she can only sit at home and knit; the work is fascinating too, and while waiting for her upper teeth this work will progress. She has indeed suffered a lot, and there was no use subjecting her to more torture killing nerves and putting a whole back to deceitful good looking front teeth, 5 of them, a 6th was a pivot tooth and all having been filled and refilled already could only last a short time. She still has her lower front teeth and I hope they will last.

It was my mistake about Yorke enlisting – I should have written Earle – and I am so glad these two mothers are happier because of Conrad's being there and likely to be of use to them in case of necessity, which I hope will not occur. And I am very glad that Mrs. Whelan is sending warm things directly to her son, because then they will get without loss of time to those who need them. Mrs. Ernest Wurtel here has been sending me caps, and tells me today that she hopes her son Harold will not recover from his injured shoulder until the war is over – his nerves are shattered too.

Aunty Bella has half the Cape knitting for Conrad, and his patients are knitting too, and because for everything sent him hitherto he has written a swift and appreciative little note, he is a much talked of man – very few did this.

I have the \$100.00 all collected now for my heel-caps, thanks to my own dear family and many kind friends; therefore I am quit of that.

We are grieved indeed to hear of your sister Anna's illness and can feel for your distress at it, you who were so much with her and to her. I hope that she will be better soon and able to travel. Elsa will soon acknowledge your nice letter. Love to your dear mother, Aunt and sisters.

Your affectionate

Leila Geggie

1915

January 4, 1915 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

Postcard addressed to: M. le docteur Harold J.Guky Geggie
G.P.O. 4th January 1915

Cher Enfant

On vient de me remettre de Salisbury une de mes propres lettres, mise à la malle ici 27 novembre, renvoyée de Salisbury 18 décembre. Puisque elle est revenue par la voie de Yarmouth N.S. Royal Hotel le delai s'explique. Mais pourquoi a-t-elle été renvoyée? Nous avons été inquiets, mais j'apprends ce soir que Miss Shaw à l'Hôpital a une boune [*bonne?*] lettre datée le 19 – de sorte qu'il n'est arrivé rien de facheux [untoward]. Ne te presse pas cher – tu viendras quand tu le pourras et nous t'attendrons toujours. Il est peut etre mieux que tu as été obligé de passer les fêtes à la maison – en partie au moins – avec cette belle petite mariée qui a du être si charmée de t'avoir à coté d'elle. C'était une jolie idée, que de rêve [?] sa robe de noces et l'avoir fait sans que tu l'aie vu aurait laisser (?) quelque chose à desirer pour chaque. Bon soir petit garçon Cherie
Ta maman

Je viens d'envoyer encore une lettre à Conrad.

Translated by Andrew Geggie⁵¹:

Dear Child

*I have just been handed from Salisbury one of my own letters, mailed here November 27th, returned from Salisbury December 18th. Because it was returned by way of the Yarmouth N.S. Royal Hotel the delay is understandable. But why was it returned? We had been worried, but I learn this evening that Miss Shaw at the Hospital had a [good] letter dated the 19th—so that nothing untoward has happened. Do not hurry, dear—you will come when you can and we will still expect you. It is perhaps better that you should spend the holidays at home—at least in part—with that pretty little wife who must have been charmed to have you by her side. It was a lovely idea, what a dream her wedding dress was, and to have had it made without your seeing it would have left something to look forward to for you both.
Good night Beloved son.*

⁵¹ Note: The language and grammar used in this letter is good general 20th Century French, the only colloquialism being the French vernacular *la malle* in place of *la poste*. The omission of the definite article before the dates, for example *le 27 novembre* and *le 18 décembre*, may be excused by the space constraints of the postcard format. The punctuation may be idiosyncratic or may be a sign of haste. – Andrew Geggie

Your mother

I have just sent another letter to Conrad.

May 7, 1915 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc
7th May, 1915

Darling Harold

This has been a busy week with much outdoor work, hedge and garden, cleaning up everywhere and transplanting into the hotbed a great many tomato plants grown in a little box in the house by Papa; yet these are not at all farther advanced than those I sowed in the hotbed myself. However I think the transplanted ones will grow thicker and stronger in consequence.

I have a paper from Toronto about the athletic and naval achievements of poor Bill Jarvis, who was killed in the battle of Langemarch, (William Drummer Powell Jarvis), his mother is Uncle AEmilius's daughter and his father Uncle AEmilius's nephew. The younger brother, only 21 is still in England, AEmilius is his name too – and he expects to be sent over soon. Their parents are both in London with their eldest daughter Bertha.

Papa's toe which he hurt so badly Sunday is better, in fact doing very well – he knocked the nail off entirely, except a little string of skin each side and he would not allow me to touch it. I bathed and bandaged it with bi-chloride of mercury, and hydrogen peroxide. This morning I surreptitiously chucked the nail off, so I find that it is doing fine now.

The weather has been beautiful and warm and the grass is growing finely, we are very busy indeed. Elsa's cold is well long ago, but we are all surprised about all the poor privates of whom no news comes from the front; Theo Oviver, Okill Learmouth, Kenneth Glass, Garnet Lemesurier, etc and no one can get information from Ottawa. Conrad, as I told you cabled the 30th April, "Both well, tell Agnes and Boyce" Then Wednesday, 5th May Boyce cabled his people "Both well, including Geggie." These have been great comfort because no letters have been coming, the last one was dated 9th April. Agnes has been getting letters though, five since that, last one dated 16th so ours must be held up somewhere.

That is great news you tell me, I've not spoken of it yet to anyone; what plans have you floating about in your head for a home etc? because I shall be delighted to help in any of them, though my plans always start with postgraduate work and a practice in Quebec, where there are so few doctors now. Just let me know as you form plans, etc oh I am so glad, it's just fine to think of.

Love to you both my dears. I hope that stomach trouble will stop soon

Your own

Mama

August 1, 1915 - Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc

1st August 1915.

Sunday 5 P.M.

Harold darling boy

I've had a busy week – Monday Louise, eldest daughter of Gugy AEmilius Irving of New York and Staten Island – fell out of the blue. In other words she telephoned me from the Chateau and I told her to come out for afternoon and evening; I never had seen any of those children and she is 35, I attended her parents' wedding 15th Oct 189; a nice girl and sensible – thin and swarthy taking after her mother's family. I took her next day to Valcartier where I stood among a foot high growth of spirea where ghosts of the dead and memories of the absent thronged, and of the hosts of last year nothing, not a trace could be seen – here and there a few tents in groups, 4,000 men in all, Capt McBain said, are on the grounds (more coming though) and they were, with a few exceptions away at some field exercises. I obtained a pass, we went to the Khaki Club newly established and doing fine work for the men – the Y.M.C.A. there too of course, but this is managed by ladies who have things nice and sell iced drinks, fruit, ice-cream cakes etc and cook eggs and little things of that kind. Miss Seifert, Mrs. Harper, Mrs. James Miller and her daughter Gypsy, and Mrs. Belcourt of the Bell-Telephone were in charge that day. While waiting for the train I sat in McBain's office and wrote Conrad a long letter mailing it there and how I missed the dear boy in these surroundings which he had made so familiar.

Next morning at 7.30 Louise went down to the Island "to see the Porteous garden" her father had told her she should not miss it and I rang her up a few minutes before she left the Chateau to ask if she knew the Porteous's were relatives. Why no, her father had only talked of Charlie as his friend in youth and of the garden as beautiful. She might have been awkwardly placed and her host might have resented her ignorance, that she was his third cousin, one degree removed. In other words Mr. Porteous (C.E.L.) is my second cousin, and also of my late sister Augusta, Louise's grandmother.

After that visit I saw her off for home; she had seen at the Porteous home, one girl Frances – in bed with crutches beside her, infantile paralysis, one boy died of t.b.c., Conrad, last year – had been at Lake

Edward for years – one girl Phyllis died of appendicitis a few years ago, one boy is at the Front, one girl married Piddington, one married Paul Sile of Montreal etc there were eleven in all, twins among them.

Did I tell you Homfray Irving's only son "Hum two" they call him, was rejected physically unfit, but married all the same, no unfitness counts for that state.

Lois' family of boys is still with us – Carlo uncertain of his plans still, but in the prevailing sorrow that inconvenience is slight. Conrad has met a patient of yours who says you have a great name: his is Cameron. A machine gun put two shots through Conrad's trousers, by the way, between knee and thigh – too near – yet they did not graze him. Louise says that her only brother Gugy with his first cousin Harold Henderson are talking of joining an officers training corps on Long Island: ye they are neutrals over there.

Here's a story against me, but so good – Elsa had been complaining of me to Lois one morning using Conrad's pet name for me "old hen" "dirty old hen" she said, half in joke, because I had been refolding a badly folded letter she had written Conrad. Eric heard without understanding, and later in the day he was saying angrily, "dirt-old-hen" "dirt-old-hen" "What shall we do "to the dirty old hen"? asked his mother. "Baff" said he. The morning before our only five ducklings had their feathers all caked with bran and milk with which Papa feeds them – and Lois with Elsa caught and washed them in a tub – so that was what he alluded to, when he proposed to bathe the dirty old hen.

Yesterday Elsa asked him for a kiss – no! he said determinedly. Oh Eric what should you say to Aunt Elsa? Said his mother. "Please don't!" was the reply, just as decidedly.

Every evening the Victrola, yours my boy, provides a delightful programme, it is going now, after tea, and Carlo dances around with one or other child in his arms till they go to bed after which he himself or he and Lois keep time or sometimes dance to it. From time to time Carlo has brought down records from Harvard Ave. but none that I prefer to those you gave me which were besides, your choice and Ella's. I am looking forward to the time when you and she shall listen to them with us – and when we shall have your dear wee baby as we have always had Lois' children and when we shall hang over the cradle and watch your baby's pretty ways. I've told Papa and he is delighted, also Lois and Elsa – but what do you think I was told in Quebec in May that your baby was to come at once or very soon. I said "nothing of the kind".

The other day a McGill boy was telling me of all the tricks and mischief that Leslie Roberts (John H. Roberts' son) and Will Stevenson were up to: Leslie is a very extravagant boy, a dandy and dude now at Shorncliff with McGill A.M.C.

I am writing out on the verandah, Elsa in a green denim hammock (she made for herself) with the two boys, one on each side, listening to the Victrola inside. Eric says as he rocks "Up a doh" and "Dann ah doo doh!" and the lights in the city, all down the south shore and at the church are shining while the village sings hymns around the sacred heart statue, lately erected, at great expense.

I have not seen Muriel yet, never had the chance to go but Lois and Elsa went there with the kids, and Muriel insists that Eric is the prettiest thing ever happened, he is. The other evening she telephoned that there was an aeroplane over her house and away over the island, she was terrified, and I assured her that it was quite friendly not an alien machine. Frank was away.

I wish you could see Eric turn his lip out when he is sulky, worse than Jamie does even, and it is ugly, that loose out curling lower lip – “now he’s obbesint” says Jamie. We measured the boys on the usual post on the front gallery, and Jamie is two or more inches taller than Bertha was at 6 years old, and Jamie taller too than Susan’s baby was at a month older.

The tobacco fund for soldiers caught Quebec to the tune of over a thousand dollars – now its machine guns – about 15,000 – good eh?

Tell me how your bridge over the Gatineau progresses and also if you must return to horses in winter, and where they now are – resting? –

Tuesday morning 3rd Aug. No news from Conrad, but it may come any day so we wait. Did I tell you that Willie Scott came home a few days ago – with only one eye you know but otherwise well, I’m told. Adolphe began a letter to Conrad a couple of weeks ago, I hope he finished and sent it off.

Here’s a story of Hubbard, he was out in his motor, Constance with him too, top of Crown St, motor, (a Ford), stop he tried everything, got underneath, cars passed, people stopped, rain came on. Constance was very sorry but had to take a car for home; he worked away till he was perfectly at his ‘wits’ end’ – at last looked in the tank – you can guess the rest – no gasoline!

Jamie is here says kisses and loves and hugs; here’s Eric and says me too.

Charlie has arranged our knitting machine but now a piece is broken and has to be replaced before we can continue.

Finished hay last evening, twelve hundred or so short of last year’s crop, two men from St. Tite made it, the same men, by the job, just 12 days, netted them \$5.00 a day each. Not a drop of rain, nor any hindrance whatever.

I am told here that Aunty Bella is trying to sell her house and that she and Uncle David are to live in Ottawa, as Dadie Hossack will not come here to live with them. Last week both these men were in the city from Kamouraska to attend Mr. J.H. Holt’s funeral. Another Jeffery Hale Hospital Governor gone.

Goodbye my darling – love to Ella

Mama

August 12, 1915 - Leila Gagy Gergie to Harold

Darnoc

Thursday, 12th August 1915

Darling Harold

Two letters, postcard and night telegrams have gone to find you, and if your mail is not sent to you at camp what can I do in case of emergency such as this? You surely have made arrangements for such things as mails from your home at least!

I thought a 'phone or telegraph message would reach me ere this and told Ruth last night to ask you to send either.

Adolphe comes twice a day 8 A.M. 6 P.M. to use the Catheter. The last night was a bad one, restless and wretched, and at 4 A.M. I gave Papa his morning bath in the big bath. I wish to feel the pouring of water on my legs, he said, so I gave him a very warm bath, washed his beautiful white hair and brushed his teeth putting him back to bed and to sleep till 9 o'clock, his pulse was 80, his temperature $99 \frac{2}{5}$, and he had a good morning. Mr. Ross wished to motor out with Gavin, he asked if there was anything he could do or bring. I said, yes a few flowers would be appreciated. "Capital idea" he said he would bring "a handful". I asked him to come in the morning while Papa was well, but they came at 4 P.M.; the flowers were much appreciated, (beautiful roses, carnations, sweet peas and pansies, a big square box full) but Papa was pretty weak and tired. Mr. Ross wished to know if we wished for a specialist but I assured him that Conrad and I had long ago arranged the course to be pursued in such a contingency, and that Adolphe and Dagneau are perfectly satisfactory – that we do not require a nurse, being so many in family, and that his sole diet is milk which he takes well.

Now I have done up Papa for the night, Elsa will go into town to mail this, I must try to rest a little. Carlo had to go up to Montreal this morning so the girls and I face tonight alone, plus two bonnie boys.

If you think of 'phoning Adolphe for news, or details his number is 5560. However, I quite count on seeing you in the morning, though naturally I do not know you will get away at all.

I think that story about your paternity must have been started simply by your running down alone in February: a matter of no consequence now.

Oh how sorry I am for poor Conrad, when he learns what we are going through while he is so far away.

Papa sends his love.⁵²

⁵² James died about 2 weeks later, on September 2, 1915

God bless you Mama

November 1, 1915 - Leila Gogy Gergie to Harold

In black edged envelope

Darnoc

1st Nov. 1915

My own boy

It will only be two months tomorrow and it feels like six! All the watching and waiting we did and how sad it was, I can scarcely realize now that it was so short a time ago. So much has happened too, and is likely to happen!

Conrad has spoken on "Life in the Trenches" three times during the week he has been with us – first at Kirk Hall when the collection for Ladies' Aid work was over \$42.00. Next at Y night of W.C.T.U. Convention, a small collection and last at Lauzon Town Hall, with Mayor, Curé, Agnes, clergyman and ladies on the platform. Tickets were sold 25 cts, and about \$75 dollars realized for Red Cross – no, that was the gross sum, fifty was the net amount. He does well enough and people are interested and enthusiastic.

He and Agnes have been out to lunch, to tea and to 5 o'clock tea five or six times to church three times, and never seem to get enough sleep. Telegram from Ottawa yesterday asked if he was ready to report for duty; and he promised to do so Monday next, the 8th. They have taken a flat at the Grande Allée Apartments today and are to settle there: Medical Board work on returned soldiers has been so satisfactory that all are to come to Quebec, instead sending M.O.'s to Halifax. I really hope that they could have stayed here for his two month's work but they cannot.

Our convention is successfully over, everything very fine, which is a great compliment to a Union which was really not in favor of inviting Conventions and yet carried out what I wished when I could not do the work myself. Abundance of money collected, of billets, and of lunches from different churches, all very fine and nice. Mrs. Jack Thomson was Convener of billeting Committee and only made a few blunders after all her Hard work, taking eight delegates herself – we had four – very nice and helpful girls, three were and the fourth a sensible woman. One girl Hilda Dunsmore, from Huntingdon says Edna Clouston is very low. I also had a letter from her mother. Agnes is well but Edna has been in bed since April.

At last I got the coat of your suit from Flore – does it fit? And I put in some odds and ends for which you can find a use if anyone can, among your people. The apples and butternuts (which you gathered

yourself) were just to give things a home taste. I've soaked in water some butternuts and cracked them finding them very nice; they've been here for years indeed.

Conrad sent you a safety razor and several knives all so blunt that they require sharpening – it can be done in Ottawa and the razor strop can be had at any druggist's shop he says. I hope you will take care and not chop yourself to pieces before knives are sharpened, nor after either, till you learn how to use the razor well.

Now it is poor old Mr. Hill who is ill – he has suffered a long time from stones but seems to be going downhill now. Arthur his youngest son called a couple of months ago “married writing”. He had a girl in Texas who he had met when crossing the ocean some years ago, he corresponded with her for a long time after that was going to see her and stuck in N.Y. then the correspondence ceased. His mother had had a letter from this girl some time before asking for his address, and hoped it was she he had married because he did know something of her. – No letter came and everyone began to send her clippings from papers shewing that Lieut and Mrs. A. Hill of Quebec were registered at the London High Commissioners. So she had to admit that she knew he was married but had no idea to whom; then the bride wrote a charming letter asking forgiveness and Gay told her that at Halifax, “there was a widow who picked him up on arrival in January and fairly persecuted the lad”. Just think how fair Mrs. Hill was, when she said that “the lad was 34 and not at all likely to let himself be persecuted by anyone whom he did not fancy.” She followed him to England and when they were leaving for France Arthur's Col who had known her for years advised him to marry her, also gave her away himself, and made them a gift of 50 pounds – think of it. The bride said she is a good musician, not good looking, is sister-in-law of Alderman Robert (a French protestant) of Montreal and has a 13 year old daughter in Ottawa – She belonged to N.B. herself. Still no name, except Pauline. A long correspondence, or rather long waiting, Pauline writes that she has no training a a nurse, is in Paris – as a Canadian – and terribly lonely, so as the one thing she can do, she is playing for wounded and invalid soldiers at cafés or wherever they congregate. But just lately, Shulham, at Valcartier met Col Hazen from N.B. who says he knows Arthur's wife, that she is beautiful and a splendid musician her maiden name was Winslow, and now the marriage notice is in the paper, without date – they do not know it – and her name is given as Pauline Winslow, no mention of her unknown husband.

Wednesday morning 4th Nov.

We all four took tea at Auntie Bella's and Conrad told the story of the battle of Ypres, at Chalmers afterwards and did it very well – but the room was full and low-ceiled, the temperature rose and he was very tired afterwards. His dress is too warm and he wears his heavy overcoat in all weathers: the Ladies' Aid made \$26.00.

Tell me, do you require a winter overcoat, or not, to wear until you put on your fur coat?

It is a long time since I hear – I hope that Ella is still well, and that Mrs. Stevenson will be home soon.
Love to you both, my own boy, from your own Mama

1916

July 30, 1916 - Leila Gugy Geggie

Darnoc
Sunday, 30 July 1916.

My darling son

It is quite true that I have fearfully neglected you; but I've had difficulty in living and the children were often so fractious with heat that I had to interpose and keep them interested, or keep Jamie quiet while his mother and Eric slept, in the middle of the day. Lois does rest and it is so gratifying to note the improvement it makes. Carlo in his fortnightly visits finds her looking well better than ever too – so I am satisfied. Still some days the children are forever interfering with each other and very tiresome; “Me do; Jamie too” says Eric – then Jamie says “Eric do; not Jamie too” But just lately Eric has been generally “a good little Ta naygen ?? puppy” and things are going much more smoothly; yet they need supervision and guidance in their play, and there is housework and gardens to do. If I keep Jamie at garden and chickens things go better in the house but it cannot be done all the time. He's a beauty that Eric and knows each of the batches of chickens apart and chases to divide them. He is wonderfully sensible though, obeys much more than ordinary children even when he will suddenly strike out with his hand and say no violently and a moment after burst out laughing. – It is so well that Jamie and Eric have learnt firmly that we all love them just as much when naughty only we are so very sorry for them. There is never a sulk, but for a while Jamie used to say “you don't speak to me as you do to Eric” – his mother told him “when you were a baby I spoke to you as I do now to Eric, when he is a big boy I shall speak to him as I now do to you.”

This afternoon we have driven over to Little River leaving here at 3 and back here at 8. The children were very good and the day cool with a breeze, but I am very tired indeed, and sorry to see how ill worn and weary Rob and his sisters look. Clare and Georgie are pitiful enough but Rob can scarcely, is stiff and has rheumatism in right hip and knee till he is very helpless and yet having no haymakers he is working frightfully and worn out. He has haymakers hired for tomorrow – his last bunch got sick and went on the spree; all three look all skin, bone, muscle, and big strained eyes.

Last evening I had a letter (enclosed) from Lgt. Garrett – in which he does not say “see look at here” but I can tell that the boy is might lonely. Somerville's letter and this are the only ones I have had, and it is a

relief to get them. Two prisoners of war from Wakefield is a large allowance but there is more about it than about Mrs. Hay or Mrs. Young's husbands.

Did I tell you that I have 35 chicks in all? – have lost none. Muriel who was to get milk from us arranged with her maid Marie so we have not the trouble.

Mr. Marcoux died and was buried a week ago. Adolphe looked so much alone at the graveside poor boy – I wished you and Conrad had been there. I must say that they had less decoration than most people, just a canopy over his head of purple and white cloth in their otherwise undecorated drawing room. The church having been burned the service was held in the salle publique.

Flore Guillot brought me news of you from Adelbert her nephew, the Redemptorist near you. Young Robt Ritcher at the Citadel has applied for transfer to Conrad's 136th Batt. and Conrad has written him that it will go through, he is only 20 and delighted. I have not yet been able to bring together my sailor and soldier but hope to do so in time.

Love to you all, my children, and I am so glad that my girl Elsa will be lonely no longer. I am very tired. Goodnight – I am trying to do all the things I should; Your own Mama

August 8, 1916 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Did you write a letter of sympathy to poor Adolphe about his father's death the 19th July?
8th Aug 1916
Darnoc

Darling Harold

It being just a year today since your Papa was in the office of Ross & Co for the last time, drew & paid out his salary of \$176.00 leaving \$8.00 in his cash box, & \$27.00 in the Bank – I decided that this should be the day I would take in the enlarged photograph. We all of us think it a splendid picture and Mr. Moir phoned in reply to my question, that I was quite at liberty to hang it in the outer office as I had asked permission to do. All framed and with a little name and date plate the picture costs \$20.00 so I took it in myself. Jamie accompanied me to the Station to carry my bag and a parcel and after kissing I sent him home. I had left his mother and Elsa lying down for their afternoon rest and sleep, and he came with me like a little man.

I found Mr. Moir at his old place and standing as usual, but Robert Hunter perched up on a high stool in Papa's old place. They admired the picture, Mr. Moir mounted a very high stool and took down an old picture of a Donaldson Line S.S. from the only available place. I had brought four different nails and screws, a gimlet and picture wire; so Robert very soon had the work done and after a few words of

thanks I came away. Frank Ross has finished Salmon fishing, missed a steamer coming up and has had to take one down and across, and catch the train up. A few weeks ago when Mrs. Ross and he were going down, there was a train stopped by "orders". He and other passengers missed on being taken to a station and he not only had to take the whole responsibility, but as the train hands would not transfer luggage Frank and a few men passengers had to do it. That night he was taken very ill, Mrs. Ross and he were entirely alone and she had trouble to get a Dr. and attend to him; he was overtired, and they had prepared their own tea on a spirit lamp. So it was supposed – says Gavin – to be a case of acute indigestion.

7th Aug. Just a month today since I mailed that letter to Frank Ross – of which I shall send you a copy, as soon as I can make one – and no reply whatever! It is not a well written letter: I had tried so often to write and failed to satisfy myself that at last I wrote and sent it off. What does it matter? Nothing that anyone could write would induce him to do what had he intended to do it he would have done long ago. Only a multi-millionaire could break his solemn word in that manner and escape the consequences, moral and legal.

Carlo arrived Saturday morning just as I was paying the haymakers, the same St. Tite men, \$162.43 for over 10,000 bundles of very good hay @ 1.60 a 100. Last year it was much less 8.106 at \$1.50 and the year before 9.35 at \$1.75. You may think how I felt each evening taking in Edmond's figures and adding them all up without anyone save Lois to check my calculations, if even Carlo had been here; but he just came unexpectedly as I had finished and hand them the money.

Yesterday we celebrated Eric's birthday, and he donned over his clothes that sweet little pink pussy dressing gown Ella made him to both boys great joy and delight. He had a book, a motor dumpcart etc and a gorgeous cake (Johnnie-cake) the only kind that Jamie has been allowed by Dr. Jack, but he is so well that I suppose there will be an end of such restrictions soon. Of late Jamie cries and whines, drawls (of all things) and is often unwilling and disobedient; he is taking a tonic. I supplied comfits to sprinkle on the cake and his father brought four little green candles in pink roses.

It is so good to think that Elsa has enjoyed a visit with you and is to come home satisfied after it all. I supposed she shewed you that little penciled letter from poor Sgt. Garrett in the trenches; a sad little epistle! After she returns Lois and Charlie have planned that Lois shall go up to Montreal for a few days while we keep the children. I am quite willing for they are even better with us than with her, give us less trouble.

8th August. Tuesday. I've written Elsa and am not about to try to finish this and hie me into town to mail it. Oh dear I've been weary this summer, weary and sad! Could not do half the things I should and had many tussles with Edmond who is good and faithful, but would be a bully if he could and would refuse me the right to change my own mind! Think of it – a woman who might not change her mind! And the heat has been awful beyond words; I suppose Lois' movements will be guided by what the weather man does. Tonight is cold with a high wind, last night there was heavy rain and a storm; Gerard Thomas is going to Redemptorist Monastery in Penn. to be an Irish brother, so we had no mail tonight. The boys are

in bed and I am about to be off to mail letters in town and to see poor Mrs. Hill whose husband died and was buried last week. Tomorrow Enid gives a big Tea, next day she is to be married and go down the Saguenay and then North where there are three white women and one Finnish and she is consigned to Connell (Tom) for the rest of her life – an unmannerly boor, hard and narrow, yet chosen by herself faute de mieux⁵³, truly her fate is a sad one.

I am grieved to hear of Ella's constant headaches, perhaps if they are the result of neglect to wear glasses, they may cease in time as she continues to wear them; poor girl it is too bad altogether. – Harrie dear, do not wish your boy to grow up too fast, rather try to enjoy all the beautiful years till he does, they are so sweet to look back to, unconsciousness on his part is so beautiful, and the task to teach him to love and serve others, to be unselfish is a great one. Jamie in the evening dries and puts away alone all the tea-things, and is very proud of it, his mother washes them in the pantry and then goes down stairs. Just such tasks as these made Conrad and you the dear useful good husbands that you both are. God bless and keep you and yours my boy, my boy!

Your own Mama

October 26, 1916 - Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

300 Harvard Ave Montreal
26th Oct. 1916

Darling Harold

Your letter received last night and I was very glad indeed to hear from you, but sorry that things are not as rosy as they might be. I've come up here at Lois' request – Charlie has a cold, a bad one, and a few holidays, before he goes to Paris, Ont. So I am to take care of the children while Charlie and Lois go for a little trip to Brockville till Monday. Of course I intend to go to see you before I return home if all goes well, but Elsa has Elzire and such a lot to do that I do not know what may happen, and I should scarcely have left her. Fancy I've sold turnips, cabbage, carrots and beets, by the ton and right off the field, about \$9.00 per ton, to fill a car for Montreal; Edmond has begun to cart them yesterday and will keep right on, but the man to whom I've sold is O'Neill from Little River a horrid bully, so I do not wish him to know that I'm away! Over the phone Elsa will personate me etc but things might be so that I should have to return suddenly. This will mean that instead of a lot of vegetables rotting in the roothouse, I shall have a nice sum of money to use.

⁵³ lack of a better

Before I forget, I must tell you that I went to see Frank Ross in his office Monday, had a long talk, polite and kind and all that but could not do anything just then, I should hear from him soon though etc, etc. I asked when, he said about the end of the week or in a fortnight or so – was very sorry he had not been able to come out to see me. So we must just wait and I hope something nice will come of it.

I enclose Conrad's last letter for your information and amusement and am just thinking of your's. That was a joke of course about crying at the church door about your calumniator.⁵⁴ What sort of a mauvais coup does that mean?! Take no notice of it except to offer five dollars to the person who mentions it if he can produce proof of the author of such calumnies. And yet, for the sake of \$5.00 dozens of stories might be brought to you. There are liars everywhere even outside of Masham, nothing strange about that, but someone may claim the \$5.00 and give you a chance to get some damages for defamation.

I am so sorry about Ella's cold, as it must make her work harder but if you have a big packing case to put the boy in he can do himself little harm. I shall do my best to see you three, but cannot promise.

Lois looks well, Jamie was sitting up in bed to greet me with beaming eyes and face – "this is the happy day, Daddy and Mother are going away and Grandmama is coming." He may say a different story tomorrow though.

Goodbye Darling, and love to you all from your

Loving

Mother

1924

January 5 1924⁵⁵ - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Monday 5 Jan 1924

Your letter of New Year's Day has just come, my dear, and I shall try to find you what you ask for, information about the Seigneurs of Beauport etc, perhaps I can find it.

About my great grandfather, who spells his own name Barthèlemé Gogy and describes himself as Colonel d'Infanterie, Major du Régiment Suisse de Sonnenberg, au service de sa Majesté Très Chretienne, Grande rue du Fauxbourg St Denis, a Paris. Datée 4 mars 1788.

⁵⁴ Person who attacks the good name or reputation with malicious intent.

⁵⁵ Page missing

By a notary, Joseph Michel Budeau of Three Rivers, spells it Sieur Bartelemy Gugy, Colonel au service de France, & Chevalier du Mérite Militaire.

His elder brother Conrad Gugy was Captain of the 60th (Royal American) Regiment, he was member of the Legislative Council of Lower Canada, Died 10 April 1786 aged 56. Had been born at the Hague and served under Sir Frederic Haldimand all his life, being devoted to him. Haldimand and Bousquet ...⁵⁶

1925

February 5 1925 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

5 Feb 1925

My own dear Harold

I have one of Conrad's dear funny letters to send you for amusement this weekend & a fine one from Lois, is she not good to write so much & the wee daisies come from Philip.

I am doing my best to sell La Cabane, "the Shanty", on fair terms, at least it will give me some ready money which I very much require, beginning 1st May he will pay \$30.00 per mo. for 12 years. Just now he has been paying \$20.00 rent, \$240.00 per annum.

I pay 67.81 taxes

Repairs 32.19 at least

So I shall receive \$140.00

\$360. Per annum & save

\$100.

\$460 but at the end of 12 years he will have the Shanty & I shall, which he kindly tells me does not matter because I shall not be here. The man is my present tenant, Ryan Poulin, a chauffeur for the Liquor Commission Inspectors.

I've been very busy since my return but am getting through. Elsa has had a busy time too, going to see Ted's wife Helene, up here near the Church at College. She is doubtless sick, but unreasonable, envious of everyone, cross & sulky often, & Ted is scared of her tempers, is worn to a frazzle trying to deceive

⁵⁶ Next page missing

her into a happy mood. She is foolish because he will not stand it always, & no one can go to see her without incurring her envy, "Oh there you are, going away & leaving me, I haven't been in town this year etc etc." She tries every doctor, & decides that they do not understand her case, that she has stomach ulcers & a "kink in her appendix". Ted got her to have Adolphe, which was worse than ever, she has gone back to an old severe diet prescribed by Dr. Convery. She was in bed for quite a time but is up now & going about & nothing on the face of the earth pleases her.

We have had two lovely days, so Herman came out Tuesday night with me & spent a couple of hours, he is to have to work this summer after he has done field work or study at Petitpré a month & at Berthier-en-haut six weeks – then he is to try to get a contract to work during the summer for a firm, preferably in Ontario because of his desire to learn English. My! It is a pity to see a youth at liberty to rule his own life according to his own immature judgment. He rooms at Miss Sturtons on Ursule St, No. 36, takes meals in the next, Angele St. & actually buys 10 to 12 lbs of various biscuits to keep in his room & to gormandize at all hours, between meals, on rising, before retiring. It cannot be right to do this, can it?

I think Elsa has stopped her French lessons for this winter, it is too terribly late to come home.

Jean (Luke's) Elliott mother died last Jan, a year ago, her Uncle's wife in the summer, & her Uncle today after a month's illness double pneumonia & pleurisy, water drawn off 5 times, & Jean has been down here all that time nursing him with another nurse. Now she will have to see what can be done with her blind Aunt who lived with him lately.

My dear Boy, do you see the reports of our Referendum enquiry here before Judge Gibson & the rascally business done in telegraphing votes, & illegal voting? Montreal has no monopoly in scandals or unprincipled legislators; I've always held that for our size we are just as bad as Montreal if only anyone were interested in finding out about it.

Oh, last Sunday a Notary came from Montreal & spent some hours here looking over the "Foy & homage of Conrad Gagy dated 26 Jan 1781", or in other words his declaration & description at Chateau St. Louis, to Governor Sir Fredk Haldimand; of his Fiefs & from whom purchased etc etc. The question is to determine whether the beds of rivers were also purchased, & if the pulp co's owning the property now have the right to construct dams etc. Just about the same question as that decided by Jury against Conrad Gagy, just before he died 10 April 1786.

I wonder if you have yet given your lecture on the French Revolution? Do not forget how your great great grandmother Elisabeth Jeanne Tessier with her two young daughters lived in darkness till their milkman took them in his cart & set them on their way to England where they were afterwards joined by her husband & son & finally came out to Yamachiche to take possession of these Seigneuries. Poor Refugees!

Now goodnight.

Love from Elsa & your own

Mama

February 27 1925 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

27 Feb. 1925

My own dear Boy

I have only just read your sad letter, & I have no words to express my deep penitence, that I should have been the cause of sorrow to dear Ella whom I love & about whom I am so anxious⁵⁷. What wonder that I told Lois she was low spirited when she was so ill & suffering. What cakes I would have taken myself before Lois was born, when I was ill all the time & terrified too, & that after all my experiences I told her – I was mistaken I know now – never to let anyone persuade her that motherhood was a disease, not to make her despondent. Probably her observance of my injunction may have been why she lost two babies. She had always told me never to shew her letters, that she knew I would understand, whatever she said that she did not mean⁵⁸.

I knew you were both interested, but never intended you should see that letter with that hasty slangy sentence which should never have been written. Even if it was never meant in any derogatory sense, I can well understand that it would hurt poor Ella, in her present condition & cause her pain, more than I can ever atone for. I thought I had burned it at once.

I hope that keeping Ella in bed will avert the danger we all fear most &, in time, make you both happy.

You poor boy, not to be aware that we all realize you are happily married, & helping each other in every possible way, sympathizing always & agreeing in all things as well as consulting each other. I know that you have the wife you chose from all others, your first love – thank God – the profession, & the home you desire. Of course you both work hard & have many deprivations – don't I know it? But you have each other & two sweet boys with another baby just as sweet coming happily. We all realize these things & are careful I hope to make no comments or criticisms which might be misconstrued. Many people are clumsy in their expressions, even when we do not mean unkindness; this special case is regrettable but I just hope you can both forget & forgive, as well as continue to love us.

You are right to protect Ella in every way, & I shall send no more letters of course.

⁵⁷ Ella would have been about 7 months pregnant. Stuart was born on May 2, 1925.

⁵⁸ It seems that Leila sent on a letter from Lois in which there was a comment about pregnancy which hurt Ella's feelings.

I had ten hard days in Montreal & left there in a blizzard last night & brought it all the way with me. Elsa met & brought me home, we drove up the hill in hills of snow & home was warm so comfortable.

Times up.

Your own

Mama

Fragment undated Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Pages 5 & 6

...your father's memory to treat his family well, they all belong to those fine people of whom you think so much. It is not only Uncle David, Aunt Bella & Dadie who deserve visits & sympathy. That house of five women⁵⁹, all growing hopelessly old, with not a brother anywhere near, or able to help in anyway. In fact they have helped their brothers & families all along constantly make & send clothes to Bert's 5 children, summer & winter, send money too. What if their tongues are sharp, you are no baby, & can stand if you will only think that it is your duty & that they have always loved us for your father's sake. They have led the hardest and most heroic lives – always poor & always toiling bravely & for Aunt Mary it is coming to the end, you can treat her sallies or theirs with pleasant raillery, always taking the humorous view of what they say – it is not difficult if you try. If this rent business smoothes out I must go up soon to see you & everyone else for myself. I'm about to do it soon, I hope because Elsa's ships will begin the 27th. Bena⁶⁰ is the only one of the family who still visits Aunt Mary and it is too sad.

Please send Lois' letters enclosed to Conrad. I'm so delighted with Eric's improvement in studies – shall send him five shillings; in England that is the right thing; he is not too old to become ...

March 2, 1925 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Dear Harold

Your nice letter came Saturday night, and I was in bed reading it when at 9:20 (or there-about the light went out and an earth-quake began lasting, it seemed to me, a long time, during which I had sprung up and stood bolt upright, imagining myself in Montreal at the Dougall's and wondered how I could get out.

⁵⁹ Probably refers in part to James Geggie's sisters, Aunt Aggie and Aunt Mary. The latter was Mary Jane Dunn Geggie, who married Robert Grant.

⁶⁰ Bena was Robena Blyth, a cousin of Harold's, daughter of James Geggie's sister, Ann Geggie, and James Blyth.

In a while I realized, groped my way downstairs and got my flash-light, only repaired that same afternoon. I was shaking, and sat down till the light returned and Elsa returned from town. She had been one of a party of 9 girls seeing a Minstrel performance at the Chateau of the Sherbrooke Snowshoe Club. The shock there was just as strong and just as great, so she came home in terror about me. Two slight shocks followed at 11:30 and 2:15 – altogether it was a fearsome performance or rather experience after all the storms we have had, but I am thankful to be at home.

Thanks to you, our house too is a bower of beauty and perfume. The bulbs have been one long delight, all magnificent and lovely colours, we think often of your many many thoughtful acts.

I made a mistake, the razor strop I have is not the special one I thought it was, only a very common one. What is the best way to dry out the bulbs after flowering please?

We heard that Garneau was frozen to death Thursday night, the evening I came home, the man who while making hay with Edmond Conrad and you discussed your destination after death. Poor old man, never strong; since then we learn that he is recovering, so really do not know.

I had no trouble returning from Montreal, Elsa met me in spite of the storm and we were driven up the hill by a neighbor, in spite of the strong wind it was not cold.

Much love to you Ella and the boys. I do hope that she will improve everyday as spring comes
Goodbye
Mama

March 30 1925 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

30 March 1925

My own dear Boy

I am very grateful to you indeed for being so good to Aunt Aggie & for wiring me. I thought first of going up at once, then of waiting till the remains would come for interment here, till Aunt Bella's letter came Saturday. All the men of the family were up, including you, & you were seeing after each of them & making them all feel that [they?] were doing it too.

Of course it was quite the right thing that she should be buried there since Bena liked it so – Walter, Conrad & Rob Hossack were the absentees. Of course it was a sad surprise had it been Uncle David, it would have been only what I expected, yet Aunt Aggie looked so frail in January when I am so glad that I saw & had Tea with her, & she was just her old self. Now it will be a constant watch for you, for Uncle

David⁶¹ & Uncle Herbert⁶² have not much longer to stay. The former will be 80, on the 4th next November, & the latter 74 the 8th Sept. Aunt Mary 75 the 8th June, & I 71 the 19th July. It is not pleasant for you, my own, but very fine for them. I hope Aunt Mary's people will let you know if she is ill, I think she would like you to be with her. But I am overjoyed that Aunt May⁶³ is trying to rent Wildwood & to come nearer to you, hope she will succeed, for it is not safe there at the Lake. It should rent well indeed.

My Shanty has not sold the man never intended to buy but would not make up his mind, so another family has rented it.

I am well thought I had a cold for a couple of weeks, stayed at home on that account otherwise should have gone up to Ottawa for the meeting on the 10th inst. My cough went quite suddenly & I am enjoying beautiful weather but the roads are bad.

That French & R.C. cousin of mine from Sorel came out yesterday afternoon, & is very difficult to talk to, just simpers & says yes & no. She must be 91 or so & not tall, but fine features, while she is staying in the "Foyer" because of a very diminutive chap of 22, who strange to say uses neither liquor nor tobacco. He is not much more than three feet in height however & very childish in appearance.

I have another letter from Lois today, they have bought a house but are having a hunt for title deeds – no joke in that country I believe.

I am thinking how much better this fine weather will be for Ella, even if the roads are not good enough for driving & I suppose the Gisbornes will be out soon to make things gayer for her.

We've had a great deal of comfort & pleasure with all those beautiful flowers, the last pot is in bloom now, tulips, but they have never 'failed' & we have given many away to the sick. Old Adam John Elliott & his daughter got home. He is much better now, while it is Mr. Chambers who is having the same operations.

Love from Elsa & me. So many thanks for your kindness and letter received today.

Your loving

Mama

I believe that Mrs. Shaw is now quite well.

May 21, 1925 **Leila Guky Geggie to Harold**

⁶¹ James' Geggie's brother, David Geggie died in 1932.

⁶² Herbert Hunt was Leila's brother-in-law, married to her sister, May.

⁶³ Leila's sister, May.

21 May 1925.

Yes, my Darling, I have received your munificent cheque for five hundred dollars and thank you a thousand times for your generosity, I've sent the last cheque for our passages.

I am grieved to hear that Ella has phlebitis to crown her troubles. It is too bad, though you evidently have all the care and kindness to surround her with. So fine that Mrs. Shouldice and the girls can and will stay with, because Ella will feel so much more at ease about everything in the house, and consequently her spirits will be better, and she will make a quicker recovery all things being equal. My phlebitis was in the groin, and I was so much alone with Papa away at the office from 7 a. m. till 10 or 11 at night, that I cried nearly all day. I had sole care of Conrad, out in the Vincelette's house up in the fields, it was a rainy summer – rained every day in torrents, and I had Louisa Viristow to look after Lois and do the work. We moved out from St. Denis Ave. (corner de Breboeuf, house belonging to Hunt estate) 12th July, I on a stretcher in a cab, and moved back 22nd November when I had a crutch. Conrad cried all the time – I hired Mme. Edouard Parent's sister who ran away at night, did not like Louisa. Then hired Jane McKinley who stole everything in the house especially groceries, which her mother collected weekly, and fought with Louisa.

Aunt Blanche was ill at home, an abortion⁶⁴, Mémère⁶⁵ looking after her and the two bigger children, with an impossible maid to help, Aunt May spent the summer in P.E.I. with the Irvings.

I only walked the following January, and Aunt Blanche never recovered properly from Muriel's and Teetali's births and these miscarriages, with all the want of care and comfort she endured then and always. As for me I was and am fortunate, to have been able, for many years since, to walk and do all that I have done in spite of much that might have cost me my life.

I am so glad that you have undertaken to care for Mary, it will mean so much comfort for her and her mother, all of which you owe them, for the love they have always borne you. More than that, I am glad you will have another man, and at least one good nurse for everyone's sake, and to save any chance of accident – There will be no chance there being an accident nor of your having to interfere, after the mischief was done as in Aunt Aggie's case last illness. You will be glad in the end, for the peace of mind you have given mother and daughter. Thank you.

I'm so glad that your wee son is thriving⁶⁶, and shall be very sorry when the Aunts and Grand Aunt will have to leave. I can only hope that it will not be for a long time yet till all's well. I trust too that Aunt May will be able to rent her cottage in that inaccessible but beautiful spot.

We are putting up green blinds, Elsa was glad to get your letters, she sends a group photo to Ella and all of you.

⁶⁴ Miscarriage

⁶⁵ Leila's mother, Mary McGrath Gugy

⁶⁶ Norman Stuart Geggie, born May 2, 1925. He would have been almost 3 weeks old at this time.

Love from us both

Your own mama

June 2 1925 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

2nd June 1925

My own dear Son

I've risen early to write you a line just to tell you that though preparations are going on I see no chance of my being able to go up to say goodbye to Ella and you and the children and everyone else⁶⁷. I had intended to do this to spare you from coming at such a time when Ella cannot come by any means and will miss you so much. Much as we should love to see you and you wish to see us, my own darling, after all the terrible strain, anxiety and sorrow you have undergone, will you not consider waiting till September when we shall sail to Montreal and go right up to see you before returning here? Then Ella will be well enough to enjoy a visit from us and to share it. I am hoping even that in the summer you may be able to bring her down for a few days – because my room will be awaiting you all the time. The other three may be occupied by the Darlington's and two other Mac girls "Mac this" and "Mac that" I call them – one is Lois MacCusker of St. Louis de Gouzague, an old Presbyterian clergyman's daughter and the other a friend of hers, a R.C. both Immigrant train conductresses who will pay for rooms, and be very little here.

Think over what I say, because I do not wish to be selfish – I am very well and hope to return early in September still well. I should grieve to give dear Ella one moments loneliness because she ought to make haste to get well during the summer time.

Sunday, an Auto turning backed into and broke down half our gate. I am busy trying to find out the car owner.

I wish to send Ella flowers, she will get them in time but they are so late that it will be after I go – none open yet. I like her to have them from right here at home.

Elsa and I are very busy, just finished a new dressing gown for me. Ted Young is to see to my Collections, he is right on the spot and more than willing so that will be quite all right and satisfactory. Now much love for today to you all, your own Mama

June 12 1925 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie

⁶⁷ Leila is referring to wanting to say goodbye prior to her and Elsa's imminent trip to England and Europe. She is solicitous of Ella who had her third baby, Stuart, on May 2. Ella had a difficult delivery with post-partum hemorrhage, followed by phlebitis, and likely was suffering from post-partum depression.

White Star Dominion Line notepaper June 12th 1925

Dear Harold

We are getting along very well today, and have had wonderful sunshiny weather getting warmer each day. Tuesday we struck a heavy swell off the banks which knocked out most people. It began just after tea Monday p.m. and I had to get Mama to bed early. We both spent Tuesday in bed and altho' not very ill were miserable. I was up and quite well next day but it took Mama till last night to find any backbone. The Doctor on board is an awful soak so I got Dr. Weeks of London (Ont) and he gave her three different doses of aromatic ammonia and today she is as active as ever. We are not to have a concert as no talent has offered. I hear that in the Hubbell party in 3rd they have organized a quartet with Mrs Robertson and Mr Smith (both church soloists from Montreal) and also an instrumental quartet. They have wonderful concerts and all the nice people seem to be across the rail. We have picked up Jean Grant's friends Maud McLean, Miss MacIlroy and Miss Pepper and go over for talks now and then. We and they are not allowed out of our class but can talk across the rail. They have the only sunshiny decks and ours are cold and shady.

Dr. Green, Col Mewburn, Mr. Abraham, and Capt. Someone sit just near us and had quite a celebration last night in the dining room and later in their room so none appeared at breakfast today. After I had been absent for three meals they all toasted my first appearance in the dining room, in water. We had so much to do before leaving that I quite forgot to give you Charlie's cable address. Since he has one it may as well be known and used if necessary. Chaplin Resciendus, Parl London. You can send delayed message at much better rates but it all depends on your hurry. We found that a word is limited to ten letters so you can use words like wel/met/saf but it all depends on an agreed code. I don't know how we would ever have got away were it not for all you did to speed us the last day. Certainly the taxi helped Mama to do up all the odds and ends and get on the boat in a much fresher condition. I do think if people could get away without the awful strain and rush that we would be better sailors.

I have spent a good hour in one of the cabins today with about 10 others talking to a Hubbell tour woman who wants to sign us up for every old thing – tours in Scotland and Ireland, Holland, Switzerland, Holy Land, etc. but everything goes so fast that I have not considered any of them. I think our best plan is to go to Lois and then arrange slowly and at our ease. We will keep at it though, now that we are here and try to do a lot before we return. If Charlie does take holidays we could see a good deal either in France or England in two or so weeks of driving and stopping off where we like. I hope you found Ella improved on your return and that things did not go badly while you were away. The change and boat trip would be good for you and we were so glad to see Hans. He is a sweet natured child and such a thoughtful grown up little fellow. I am sure he must be a great help and comfort to you all in the house.

Did you see our boat grate along the side of that tramp that was lying at the wharf the day we left. The tugs did not pull us far enough out and the first we noticed was an awful lot of yelling and scuttling as the crew all ran for shore. Someone says that in their hurry a man fell overboard but I didn't see him. Anyway it made quite a gash along our side about 30 feet above the water line and people were excited.

There are five old brown monks in charge of a party to Rome headed by old Father Maurice who was ten years at Limoilou and is not at Pointe aux Trembles. He says he knows of our family well and has told Mama that I speak with an accent "tout a fait charmant". He himself speaks very good and pretty English and is a nice old man. He is the one who appeared late at the wharf and did the record hop skip and jump up the gangway. He had been out at Limoilou and was held up by the drawbridge.

There is great fuss and bustle just now among the passengers over landing cards changing money etc. There is a crowd 3 deep around the pursers office and all the stamps are sold out. We have just passed a school of porpoises but I missed them with my usual luck.

I am so glad Mama is feeling so much better now. She comes to all her meals and they seem to be doing her good and I think she is really much rested. We are thinking of going to Chester for a day or so and then up to Glasgow and Edinburgh for the 19th to the 25th.

Lots of love to all

Elsa

June 26 1925 unfinished Leila Gugy Geggie to Ella Geggie

On letterhead of Darling's Regent Hotel, 21 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh

26th June 1925

Dear Ella

I am writing from this land of pure delight and enchantment at last, and have been hoping that you are growing better each day and enjoying the lovely weather with the society of your wee third son. I know that it's only three weeks – will be only three weeks tomorrow since I said goodbye to dear Harold and Hans on the wharf, and yet I trust that there is a great improvement in your condition.

I must tell you something of ourselves though and how after landing the morning of the 14th we went to Service in the wonderful Liverpool Cathedral, with its Ladye Chapel and Monuments to "all good nurses", after Florence Nightingale; Elsie Inglis and "all good women" and someone else and "all good mothers".

That afternoon we went to Chester where we saw what we could of the Cathedral and wonderful cloisters, we explored the quaint houses in the Rows, and walked the Roman wall. Six of us started on this party, and a seventh joined us. We continued next day to Bettis-y-cold in Wales and motored in a van to its Lake scenery, putting up in a nice little private boarding house, next day to Llandndno and the program was about the same only the won ... [unfinished]

July 13, 1925

Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

Camberley England
13 July 1925

My darling Harold

I have missed last mail and fear you have had little news of us. It is a poor excuse to say we have been rushing and that London is tiring, even two or three days at a time. Perhaps I can do better in future, because you see Charlie and Lois only moved in here the 28th May and the maids from Woking would not come, so with a little temporary girl, from a most picturesque thatched house they did the most necessary work then abandoned the place and came down to get us in Edinburgh when we returned 2nd July we all three began and never stopped keeping things up to date till yesterday two red-headed girls came into residence, and today everyone had a rest. There is an old soldier gardener who has been two years and two weeks blind from tear gas in France. He and a boy are by constant effort bringing the grounds into their old state of cultivation and beauty, training and clipping after the manner of this country, and oh dear me what an everlasting lot of it there is to be done with the long winding avenue and hedges everywhere doubled and trebled.

Lois is well, so are Charlie and the dear children. Philip is finally developing away from the cramping influence of "those blinking big brothers of his", anything he cannot do is put off till they come home to "magic things because they are good magickers". Sylvia is beautiful, quick and sweet but cannot speak at all – two years old the 4th June, and they squabble a lot. There always has to be something, and after all everyone is well and strong and happy.

The house is freshly done over painted and papered from top to bottom and all kinds of conveniences added, their large gas stove from Montreal in the scullery and an "independent boiler" in the kitchen with radiators in the dining room and hall etc etc. They thought of moving again, in two years when the works are ready, to Prince's Risboro taking the two years to sell this house and buy another but now think that they may be able to stay, while Charlie motors back and forth twice a week. Time will tell!

Jim has led his class of boys who have been doing latin 3 or 4 years – he only began last Sept. Now Elsa and I are to go to Bournemouth Monday next for two or three days with the Sandiland's my cousins - the Hamilton's, other cousins have left Stratford on Avon and I am trying to find them. Then the 27th we go to Dover for school closing with Lois, and after that to France and Switzerland.

The heat is often sickening, no rain yet and everything suffering burnt and yellow, it is said that since 1856 there has been no such weather.

We have been attending the British Commonwealth League in London, a Franchise Society, before which most interesting people spoke – Lord Cecil of Chelwood opened , and there were speakers from all over, a garden party at Bedford Women’s College where we saw Lady Astor’s picture and were all, everyone, introduced to the Duchess of Athol. Tomorrow night we are to go to an At-Home at Lady Astor’s. Then Charlie motors us around every evening, we just tuck the children into the car and let Sylvia sleep. The roads are so good that I stand it better than I used to do, but the sun is hot all the same – twilight is best for driving.

I have heard nothing of Blanche and am very anxious indeed our Convention is fixed for 13–14-15th Oct in Westmount where Mrs. McLachlan can run home easily. Tomorrow we are to go to London and complete our booking, probably for 11th Sept. That means landing the 18 and the Darlington’s being gone I propose to take over and get into harness again, then close and leave the house alone, take Elsa to Convention too and up to visit Ella and you if convenient. In the meantime things are going well at home and I have satisfactory reports from the Darlington’s, also from Mr. Smith of the Royal Bank.

I shall hope to hear soon from you how Ella and Norman⁶⁸ are also how Mary is. I have not written though but have been very busy indeed if those girls turn out all right there will be more time but we must hustle to see all that we can. Elsa remembers so much that she makes a very good companion and guide. We shall have lots and lots to tell and to think of, so many beauties to remember in this beautiful country, where so much care is taken to enhance the natural loveliness.

I know that you will be sorry that we did not stay longer at Bridge of Weir, but how could we in the terrible heat and with the whole family waiting for us. Perhaps you did not know that Mrs. Burges was so helpless with rheumatism in hands and feet.

Do you not think it dreadful, Jamie aged 15 is in the C.O.T.C⁶⁹. and is to do a week’s training on Salisbury Plain of all places. Now goodbye. Love to Aunt May and specially Mary⁷⁰. A whole lot to your own folks. Mama

August 20 1925 Leila Gagy Gergie to Conrad and Harold Gergie

Camberley

20 Aug 1925

Dear Conrad and Harold

Time is slipping away very fast and I am counting the days till we must again say goodbye. I have your letter and am glad that you are not finding that you lost much practice during your absence last year. Glad too that you are all four well, although both children suck their paws, Marie probably just imitated

⁶⁸ Referring to the new baby, Norman Stuart. Unknown when his second name began to be used.

⁶⁹ Canadian Officers Training Corps

⁷⁰ Aunt May (who was Leila’s sister)’s daughter.

Cora⁷¹. Sylvia sucks the back of her right hand sometimes but I try to teach her each time she begins to put her hand behind her back. She is a beauty and a darling, but though 2 years old 4th June last, is only trying to say a few words yet, “good girl”, “please”, and “Phidee” for Philip – first of this kind in the family, the boys all spoke early. However, she is quick as light and will make rapid progress now. They are all six well and have such a nice place secluded by trees, shrubs, trellises etc from the village which abuts on it. Just now the cook is away, gone to see her fiancé, a soldier home on leave with his family from Ireland where he was hurt seriously. She will be back Sunday and in the meantime the housemaid carries on. Both are red-headed, and bobs.

Now in my last letter, a very long one, I gave you the address of one Dorothy Grafely, No – St – Station Gloucester, Mass. Will you please look up the letter and supply the missing number, street and station???

14 Aug. Since writing we came over from France and in doing so passed through Armentieres, where we intended to stop to take a trip around the locality in a motor. However there had been, we found, a deplorable accident on our line the evening before with many accidents and great loss of life. So we wired Lois, lest she should be anxious and continued our journey crossing the channel on a glorious day, without the very least inconvenience. Elsa though was very nervous because there was delay, due to heavy fog hanging in the sun and the fog horn sounding all the time. We had two hours wait at Dover, during which we had Tea at the Station and heard two tall chaps who came into the station call “Leila” repeatedly, with orders that showed she was a dog – a very beautiful big dog, whose name was spelled just the same as mine. Her owner, very tall, had a head hollowed out at the back rather than rounded out. That evening we got to Canterbury, put up at the Fountain Inn, the oldest, where we were very comfortable. It is very quaint, indeed, with those queer dark chopped out rafters and beams, all showing going everyway in the plaster or cement. Everywhere I’ve found hotels good as well as reasonable – in France 10% was added “for service”, at Zurich 15% and at Lucerne nothing, we just tipped on our departure as in England.

Arrived we walked around till late and in the morning started again with Service at 10 o’clock and visiting the Cathedral – next day explored the city and the West Gate towers as well as the weavers, whose industry goes as far back as 1550, to the Huguenots who brought over their silk industry when expelled from France. Now they use Egyptian cotton worked with coloured silk at the ends and hem stitched by hand when it is for table runners or scarves. We visited the Westgate Towers with all its contents and a most fascinating exhibition and museum – at the former we saw a pitiful case of locomotor ataxia due to a piece of shrapnel lodged during the war in his spine, yet he was the exhibitor of a recent picture called “Barter”, a man seated on the floor with baskets of fruit from which women in dutch caps were choosing while he held up a glass of drink. The painting was full of power, yet the caretaker told us that he – Dr. Worthington – had infinite trouble in painting because of the jerkiness of

⁷¹ Leila is addressing her older son, Conrad, who had two daughters, Marie and Cora.

his movements. He had two nice daughters, exhibitors too, who tried to get him along and to prevent his falling when his legs got tangled up.

We chose as our favorites an interior, a beach scene and rhododendrons, and when Elsa was telling an old, old lady who was shewing us around, she blushed and said she was the artist – Miss Claudia A. Gale. So funny!

40 of the Reformed faith were burned at Canterbury at the Martyr's Field.

Sunday we went to Service early in the Cathedral and heard Rev. Dr. Bickersteth preach, then in the afternoon we joined the descendants of French, Walloon and Dutch Huguenots who worship in the crypt, ever since the days of the persecution. They are not very many now, and have forgotten most of their French, their pastor is Rev Jean r. Barnabas who used to work in Montreal with Father Chiniquy. There are kept there registers of births, marriages and deaths of eighty or so Teisiers, but there is no knowing if any of them is related to my great grandmother, Jeanne Elisabeth, however I shall find out later about it.

After that service, M. Barnabas seated me at the Communion table in a recess, inside the rail and gave me the aged blackened communion plates, used since the beginning, and walked back to the Fountain Hotel after which we left for here and arrived at midnight. Time did not seem long, because in our car was a young Flying man, Matthew William Kenneth Gilbert-Harris, coming to North Camp, just before we were met at Blackwater by Lois and Charlie.

I've been here four days without moving, just writing and reading, helping a bit with the children, specially Sylvia who runs off when she gets a chance, down the drive and off on the street. Lois' cook is to be away till Sunday, so there is more to do, then we shall go up to London perhaps for a weekend.

I am expecting news daily now from Wakefield, about Mary⁷², and also about her father, who has not been very strong. I am really very anxious till I hear and yet all will be well with Mary of course. Talking of her while we were in Lucerne, Elsa kept saying that Mary ought to be there too and that she and Mary would fit into the landscape like natives being exactly the same type as the people there.

I am more troubled though, about Aunt May, who will look after all of them but no one at all will look after her, and she will never take care of herself nor realize when she is weary to death!

Now goodbye my dear boys,

Much love from Mama

Attached a pastoral letter from Canterbury Cathedral with Leila's note:

⁷² Mary Hunt, daughter of Leila's sister, May. Her father, who apparently was also unwell, was Herbert Hunt.

Elsa and I attended the French Service here at 3 p.m. just before leaving for Camberley. The Congregation was small and has very little knowledge of French, but all are descendants.

August 21, 1925 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold⁷³

Camberley
21 Aug 1925.

Dear Boy

Thank you for your letter, containing so much news. I had written another joint letter but sent it off to Conrad alone, so write this to you. I have a pretty neck scarf for Ella, and I do hope that she will soon lose those horrid aches and pains.

That is bad news, just at this juncture, about Uncle Herbert, very bad for Aunt May, who may very well be overtaxed at a critical moment, of whom no one at all is taking any care, unless I except you, who are of course watching them all. I hope that they will sell Wildwood, make something on it, and if necessary build again, avoiding at the least, the same mistakes.

Please keep for me the Swiss map I marked, there was another which I lost, marked too.

In Zurich 15% "for service" was added to our hotel bill, in Paris 10 %; at Lucerne nothing; one tipped on leaving as one liked. But 15 per cent was dear. A french franc is about 5 cts of ours, but a Swiss franc about 20 cts. At Zurich we explored the city and attended service at Ulrich Zwinglius' Church, (called Gross Munster), in the German language, and came to Lucerne, where we had reserved a beautiful room at this Hotel, a corner room with its own balcony, where we sat half the night looking up at the Scenery, and in the morning found Rigi and Pilatus* still watching us. When rested I went to evening service at the Swiss English Church. All over we saw scouts, guides, and the Salvation Army, which everyone treated with respect whether preaching on the streets or playing tambourine in Bars and Collecting. We were only a week in Switzerland, returned to Paris for a couple of days, and intended to stop at Armentières. However on the way the papers told us there had been a terrible accident the day before, so we did not stop, came straight on and had a fine crossing, no sickness, but a heavy fog made Elsa anxious. At Canterbury we spent two days, attended service Sunday morning in the Cathedral and heard Dr. Bickersteth preach, went to the French Huguenot service in the Crypt in the afternoon, then came on here. The clergyman, one Barnabas was a fellow worker in Montreal long ago with Dr. Chiniquy, he's a fine chap; middle aged and unmarried – his congregation small and drifting away, also losing their own language. His registers go back to 1550, there are about 80 Teissiers, but we do not know if any of them were related to my great grandmother – but no Gugy's, of course not for our

⁷³ On letterhead of Hotel-Pension Terrasse Luzern

people did not come over from France till 1792 or thereabouts when on their way to Canada. Barthelemy, his wife, Jeanne Elisabeth Teissier, their only son Louis, and daughters Adelaide and Amelie, probably the mother and daughters came to London first and were followed by father and son. They came over with a young Irish girl, Juliana O'Connor, on her way to join her father Dr. James O'Connor, a Surgeon in one of Wolfe's regiments, then disbanded. When she arrived he – tired of waiting for her had returned to London, where she finally followed him. In the meantime Louis Gagy had learnt from her some English on the long passage out, and they had become attached to each other. Communications were slow and difficult in those days, but when Louis Gagy in the course of time came back to England on business for his father he found Dr. O'Connor dying and with his consent married his young daughter, her step-brother Hugh being witness. The young people came out to Canada at once, and I have their Marriage certificate, also the big Bible Patrick O'Connor gave to his niece at her marriage in 1795, although they were Roman Catholics. It was that certificate I wished to get when the key broke in the lock.

[Written along the side:] Most of these details I obtained long long ago from Aunt Maria Stevenson⁷⁴.

[Letter ends there, unfinished or last page missing.]

*Mountains outside of Lucerne, Switzerland

September 12, 1925 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold

S.S. Regina on the Clyde
12 Sept 1925

My dear Harold

We are well on our way home; left Surrey yesterday morning at 9 by Charlie's motor for Euston at 11, Liverpool about 5, very late. It has been a delightful trip, and we have been hours stopped opposite Greenock. This a. m. a tender came alongside with some 70 passengers and my a deputation from Glasgow W.C.T.U. with beautiful flowers! Mums, myosotis asters etc, etc! also my old Montreal friend Christian Richardson with a wee Scotch lad to carry flowers and good wishes. She and I had about an hour and a half to chat, which it will very much delight her anxious sister to hear: this sister has an excellent position at Spencer-wood as housekeeper for His Excellency Perodeau, (or rather his Honor). She comes to see me sometimes, I've known this family since the 80's.

⁷⁴ This would have been Leila's aunt, her father's sister, Maria who married William Stevenson. The latter was B.C.A.'s nemesis. However Leila would have known her Aunt Maria who died in 1877, a year after Leila's father died. Leila would have been about 23 years old when her aunt died.

Senator Lorne Webster formerly of Quebec is on board with three young sons and two of their friends six in all says he had a letter from Willie Shobo this a.m. and all's well with Quebec. Willie is his Manager of the Canadian Import Co where I buy my coal. But all is not well according to me, for there is no longer any Chronicle, it has had to merge downward into that ragged Telegraph, which we shall not receive in any case until the next day. The poor beautiful kind bright Ethel Barrow has died in Jeffery Hale of Kidney convulsions – perhaps not more than 50, and worth all her blasé children put together, while Sep will go to pieces - poor chap.

All the same I am glad to get home to my work. The Darlington's have instructions to get in the few provisions we shall require to begin with Saturday morning and by afternoon we shall be at home.

There is an English widower (of French Huguenot origin), Jerome, sits next to Elsa at table and on deck those fiendish Stewards manage, (these things for reasons of their own!) Old man is going to Montreal to see the land and visit sons settled in various parts of Canada with an idea that he may settle, evidently well off, and lonely. Another couple going out with more than an idea of staying, are from Edinburgh, the wife was out long ago, and he has left his business, retired – if he decides to stay, he can do so and just send for his money. They are fine people well off and know Brig O'Weir well – their name is Ewing.

In fact there are many families with children too going out prospecting, one lad about 10 in one group has been answering the curious questions of a U.S. citizen, demonstrating how he twirls into his kilt. "A rale Scot wears naithin inside but a white shirt – he'd rather wear a kilt than any other claes – I'd rather wear a kilt masel' " And do you mean to say that that's a rale or rael dress, and how do you keep the thing on. "Rael dress, ma certie, why there's a boadeeca and then there's the preens here and yon." So the wee chap's tartan is to go on Sunday morning to arrive in Montreal and to shew the U.S. man "hoo a rael Scot lukes".

There are 5 girls and women at least who came over on same trip with us in June – odd isn't it?

I shall never forget this splendid trip and the fine weather, just made for us – it was getting cold the last fortnight. I had two slight falls one when bathing my feet in a basin on a waxed floor in Zurich; Another time in Canterbury Cathedral with about 60 sight-seers I did not see a shallow step, where none ought to be only about 3 inches, so I tripped n it but neither time was I hurt enough to stop or turn me aside. Tuesday we had a motor accident, we four and Eric were bowling along the London road when two women and a little girl in a tiny car ran out of an crossroad straight at us, Charlie swerved to avoid her but she struck our front mud-guard and dinged it up; the impact drove her off but she flew back and cutup our back mud-guard, by that time we had passed and she continued alone the way we had come, till her wheel crumpled up, and we were resting between a tree and the fence on the side – nobody hurt. Then Madame came and asked "Whose fault was it anyway? I was going slow wasn't I." Charlie answered "You certainly were not!! No one Screamed – we might have cut them to pieces or been killed ourselves or both. But Charlie is so cool, there were lots of witnesses but it caused delay, which would have been bad had it been the day we were to sail.

17th Sept. Since writing the last lines Saturday night, I've been in bed four day, and four nights, a bad dose, though I've not been either so weak or so depressed as in June. Elsa was sick two days. We both tried Conrad's sea-sickness cure in June, this time we tried yours, on each occasion until we could not keep down anything. I also took Seidlitr. In June good old Dr. Weekes in our party prescribed Aromatic Ammonia long after nausea had stopped and when I was just weak I think it did me good then; but this time I tried it too soon and it only increased nausea.

However it is all over now and done with and had I wished for a Dr there is a new one who looks decent Wilson with Irish degrees and not over old. The other one Ross had English degrees and was ruined with drink or dope or both and had been divorced by his wife – he could not keep his hands still even by holding them together and the fingers and flesh between twitched. He is drifting to ruin in Liverpool whence he date (?) some communications to the Daily Mail on the subject of sanitary care of meat and foods in which he said that the New World could teach the Old a great deal on the subject. He is pretty right too as I know well. He had seen service in Egypt.

Friday 18th Sept. We are well up the Gulf and due to arrive this evening at Father Point. We are listening to a dance orchestra in the Drawing room while everything is wrapped in a dense fog. The horn has blown at intervals from early morn: Prof and Mme Biller are on board, the son Jean to whom you were so good they say is one of the secretaries to the League of Nations in Geneva, a brother an artist, not very strong since the war is with him. Another is lying in France one in Montreal and one an Engineer in Cleveland, Ohio, will have to return to Montreal because – having been born in Switzerland and the Swiss quota being full and he having exhausted two permits of 6 months each can by no means obtain another.

They and two others are returning from the wonderful World Convention on Christian Life and Work in Stockholm.

There is a nice nursery on board and a lot of children; two cribs and tables, a big swing, 2 rocking horses and 6 big wall pictures make it up.

Now it is night – the fog cleared this morning and we went along well – but here's night and dense fog again.

7.30 a.m. Saturday. Glorious warm weather, opposite Fort Martinière near Berthier en bas due at Quebec at 10.

I must write soon to Aunt May, so glad Mary and their grandchild are well – suppose that the whole family has now gone back to town ever so much happier. I only hope Aunt May will not have worn herself out – such a heavy task is hers alas.

November 2, 1925 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

2 Nov 1925

My own dear boy

I must have stuffed the last page of your letter – rather of mine to you – into the stove with some others and must begin again, should have done so before but have had a carpenter putting in broken panes. An old chap and the water pipe leading to the stable is burst so I have a man digging that – when it is finished the plumber is to come, put in a new length and mend roof here as well as in the creamery. It is difficult to secure men because at this season everyone is hurrying. Even the ocean steamers are in a rush, 4 to 6 coming in from Friday to Monday, and Rosetta Joseph who is responsible for the P.O. at the dock, being away in Europe with her father (just home today); Elsa has been extra busy. Yesterday I went also to have a few minutes with Beryl Cyril Child's sister who is children's stewardess on the tragedy ship "Melita", her last trip this season to our city. Next year she hopes to have a staff job on another vessel which will stop here, when we can expect to put her up each trip. She is looking forward with great delight to this and I am glad she is to have a change for the murder of their Commander, Clews, whom they did not like at all, by the 1st Officer Towers of whom they were very fond has hoodooed the whole ship. You must have seen the account of the crime in the papers, it occurred at Antwerp and there is proof of an intention to kill five other officers and then himself. Evidently there was a deep hatred, the Commander refused to recommend his 1st officer for a ship, the latter's retirement was due in five years and he had never had a ship yet. Towers wounded two who will recover, said they had ruined his life between them. The Capt was taken off at Southampton, in his coffin, Towers led after him hand cuffed and shouting that he was not mad, would not be shut up, wanted to be hanged and done with. Then following him the two wounded men were taken to hospital, and the ship is to be laid up at the end of this trip. Cyril does not write, nor does his wife Sylva. Beryl is nervous and very lonely when she touches land and gets no home letters, so I write to Father Point and to this dock also. Fortunately Monica writes, so does her aunt, Miss Moore in Victoria, but Monica has her hands full with her father, an active man for years and years leading a free life in Banff, now shut up in and very restless etc etc.

When I came home, I found that Albert Laberge 48, the eldest son had died and was buried. He was a beer barrel animated had been in one brewery after another till of late years a jail guard – never bright nor quick but tranquil, married Edouard Parent's daughter and leaves four children under 6 years old. The parents had willed all they had to him and he was to look after his only sister Marguerite 26 and an epileptic. Now they are to change the provisions of the will and the whole village is taking sides. Mrs. Laberge is in bed, her old husband goes to town to work though he does very little, Marguerite has a hard time with them both and Chanoine Jules, now the eldest of five living (out of fifteen) has to undertake the charge of house family etc.

4th Nov. Strange to say the snow which fell last week has remained and everyone fears that winter has come to stay. The roads are good nevertheless and snow has worn off them. Elsa walked into town yesterday with comfort and ease but fields are all white. Sunday she plans to walk to Little River to see the Hossacks and their cousin Mrs. McConochie who as usual has spent the summer with them and will probably return to her son's home in the States for Christmas.

You speak of the soft French Chalks – they cost very little, only about as much as that hot water bag, I am glad that there are some extra shades that Ella likes, delighted if she finds them nice! I find by the way that they can be had just the same at Crowley's on Ste. Catherine St.

Lois' last letter says that since she spent a while day in Court and May (who made the charge against Annie for having stolen L6.10 the property of Billy Bunnet, May's young man) gave evidence, Annie went off into hysterics, but confessed, and was bound over to keep the peace, (i.e. not to steal) for a year, her parents being security – since all this has happened, they are leading a quiet uneventful life. May brings messages of how grateful her parents, various sisters and relatives are for Lois having kept Daisy instead of ruining her character by discharging her. No doubt their lives are happier, and the news from Dover is good since Eric has recovered from tonsillitis. None of the Boys know anything about Annie's affair; their parents do not talk before them and the little Philip has seen or heard does not seem to carry any connected story to his mind.

Now I keep asking myself if Ella is much relieved by the removal of her teeth and treatment at Hospital, and shall be very eager for news of her. We both send much love, and I enclose for you the two views of interior and exterior of the Church at Altnau, Thurgau, they just came the other day from Otto Meyer, the son of the Herr Pastor, I wish to get copies enough to send to Conrad, Lois and Homfray Irving, who is the delver into family history in that family. As I told you, the church is not extremely old, being rebuilt one hundred or more years ago the boy could not give me the exact date, his older brother Willie is an M.D. a very fine looking chap who speaks good French, but is so extremely sad and serious in appearance that I just wonder if he could ever laugh. Otto tells me that his father is to write me.

Evening. I am finishing this at Mrs. Young's, and hoping to find a letter from you when I return home – hoping so much that you will have better news of Ella, as for the children, there is no need to worry about them. I only wish that Mary's baby looked as well – half as well as yours.

A letter came from Conrad this a.m. he says he belongs to a new Club the optimists, intended to look after troublesome, or delinquent, boys. No joke he will find it, but men who try appreciate their own fathers' anxieties of years before.

Poor old Mr. Clint died suddenly, was buried today, 79 years.

No more now must catch that Kent House car.

Good-bye, much love

Mama

1926

March 4 1926 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

On embossed "Darnoc" paper

4 March 26

My dear Boy

Your letter has just come and I am ashamed not to have written sooner, but there was much to do since you put me on the car at Wakefield, Bernard at Ottawa and Mrs. Enright at Mile End – which station I find very convenient for me.

I went off early yesterday morning to the Chateau Frontenac to meet a deputation of Montreal women come to interview the Government asking for the right of married women to vote on their own property, as spinsters and widows do. After waiting, listening to Church Union pleading by Eugene Lafleur, K.C. etc., two of our women spoke, Madame Gerin-Lajoie and Mrs. Sampson. They gained their case and married women in Montreal are to vote, but not this year because the lists are already prepared and it would be too expensive to add the names. So now the women in both cities are on an equal footing.

I brought Mrs. Young home with me for a rest and change, a very quiet afternoon.

As for your mumps, I am sorry, and glad I got away, but what on earth are you to do for a boy⁷⁵?

Your story, Marie-Ange, is slight, a mere sketch but as such it is just all right – the other, Defectives, is the same, and as a series of sketches or word pictures would be all right. They would have to be well copied, retouched and perhaps filled in a little – at least re-read. What I cannot understand is how they missed the old parent's club feet till the very last.

I told you Mary's boy is thin and grave, serious – She can make him giggle spasmodically, but he has no smile. Oh dear, I wish that he were otherwise; it's sad.

I find that Bob Logan whom I told you that we had had here once while he was working on the Falls – an engineer and engaged to Doris Daniels – is now working at Chelsea. If you see him say, I told you to look him up. He is really and truly nice except that infernal habit of smoking, how objectionable it is indeed, and how unfeeling men are about it, while women suffer. I know a delicate woman, a Judge's wife, whose supply of breathing air clutches my throat every time I enter her room. Florie, who is used to her father and brother smoking, and the Elliott's and Kathleen Colley who are not, alike object to dancing with smokers. It's a filthy objectionable habit.

⁷⁵ Presumably, the young fellow helping Harold with the horses is down with mumps.

Now I wish to say that when you and Ella can take a rest, and a trip, at any time Elsa and I do hope that you will come here for a real long one, just to do as you can. Please remember – children too of course.

Now good night, much love and many thanks to each. Your own Mama

July 15 1926 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

In bed 6 a.m. 15 July 1926

Dear dear Harold

I have sent my little boys – and wee Herbert too, a few flowers from Darnoc – and I know that you will have your share – just for the sight and the “snoof” as Jamie used to say. We have such a wealth that I would fain share them as much as possible; and I do. Lilacs were so wonderful again and by putting out a little notice board at the gate on the Electric light post “W.C.T.U. Lilac sale”, I made about \$7.00 for the funds. In that way, one Sunday morning I had a visit from two elderly very drunken U.S. citizens saying “we don’t want to be offensive, we don’t want to be any trouble, we love your beautiful country, we love your flowers, and we want to have some fun”. However, I got fifty cents from each for large bouquets – that much of their money was well spent anyway. But we never can give away enough. Though I offered to all the Churches only St. Andrew’s – of all the seven – sent for an auto load. We began the custom and now others nearer town offer theirs.

I have a card from Aunt May which is very disquieting. She says they have all been sick except her and the dog, and she hopes that those two will continue to be well. I hope so too – but oh dear me, what a responsibility she has always shouldered, and how gaily she goes on increasing it by going to live in that out of the way spot.

What is weeping eczema? Breaking out into watery blisters, I suppose. Mr. S. S. Oliver⁷⁶ has it and no joke either, sometimes it is better, reduced to a few spots on his face and hands that are visible but it is on his legs all the time. Of course he is constantly at work, 68 years old and his wife the same; she is a chronic heart case, and her brother Lionel, with her sister Mrs. Millard (whose daughter is an Edinburgh and London M.D.) were to come out to bid her goodbye; the latter has come alone because the former died in Malta in the spring.

What has been the matter with the double family at Wildwood pray and are they better? They would not know what to do were it not for you, Aunt May says, and I can well believe it. Dear boy, I am so grateful for your goodness to them since they became your neighbours and patients. I wonder what they did before, but then there was not so much need, not so many in the family, and as the head of the house of Hunt grows older and more infirm, the troubles increase.

⁷⁶ Stuart Oliver was Auntie Ruth (Ruth Oliver Geggie)’s father.

My spot of eczema on my ankle is just the same, though I eat no meat to speak of, and my diet is mostly cereal, vegetable and fish. But mine is dry eczema, I have to wash it though for I bathe all the time especially my feet, as bathing rests them. We have spinach, rhubarb and salads daily – I have beautiful curly lettuce, and have been eating lamb's quarters, radish tops etc. till the spinach was ready.

I am writing in a hurry. It is a cool beautiful day and we expect to go to the Island of Orleans to see the Ottawa Geggies who have been there a week.

Stuart S. Hawkins is settled on St. Genevieve Ave. Elsa and Florrie called on his wife and children yesterday; two nice children, very well behaved, Chris and Mary Isabel. Stuart is at home a week and away at Kenogami two weeks all the time, and the children are to go to High School there in future.

By Lois' request, I send you the letters of her trip, which must have been very beautiful – it is pleasant to think that the Citroen car Conrad chose has continued so serviceable.

I enclose also a little book received by mail, some quack money-making scheme of course which will wake up and terrify folks into shelling out hard earned cash.

Talk of daring! Edna, Fred and their little boy, Jim, have started to drive up to visit her parents in Whitby, her mother never very well. Fred with only one eye might break down on the way. His sister Jean's husband, Fairley Blair, is pretty ill, has had to give up work for a while and their children, three of them, are not strong at all.

I hope Ella is better and that things are going right that the bonnie boys are better of whooping cough and that little Herbert may not catch it.

We have just come from the Island and found the trio well. They were very good to us and we had a lovely lunch at the Golf Club before our return.

Lots of love to each one. Have Anna and her family come yet, I wonder? How are they?

Your own Mama

August 19 1926 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold and Ella Geggie

Stamped with Darnoc etc

19 August 1926

My dear dear Boy and Ella

This is your wedding day. I wish you many happy returns of the anniversary of the event that made you both so happy. I remember still with delight the beautiful weather, the joyous surroundings and all the happy group except that good Dr. Stevenson was not there – neither was Papa.

As the years have flown they have brought you much work, partings, and loss; but you have had such a happy home all through the troubles and illness, such a lot of both my poor children⁷⁷! Yet you have each other and the darling children, and so can bear things.

We are coming soon to see you all; just how soon I cannot say, but as soon as possible, and as things are settled. Our summer tenants are near their departure and have to be replaced if possible, two families. Paradis lease will finish first of May, he has given up Aunt Blanche's farm. I have rented it to another who will not be satisfactory as he just grazes and takes what grows without cultivating. Now I hope to send him off on that account, contrary to conditions and rent to Eugene Lortie, a fine farmer has been reared on the seminary farm at Maizerets but his wife died, and eldest daughter married so he had to leave. Having four big sons, he wishes to continue farming and selling milk in town, has a lot of cows, and a good custom.

You see that there is a lot to see to and I cannot move yet, but wish to go to you before cold sets in. Just now there is a camping party on the lawn towards Laberge's, under the white birch, an auto and tent – no trouble to us, they have a gasoline stove, Coleman No. 9 and do real cooking, get milk, eggs, and vegetables from the Paradis and just water and use of bath-room from us. They are very nice indeed, 3 artists, Harold Ayres (who was a young soldier who came in 1917), his wife of a year, Charles Comfort⁷⁸, an artist too, and his wife of 2 years, who just keeps home and cooks. Both are very domesticated girls, make their own clothes, and live all in Toronto, but go to Winnipeg or wherever there are publishers and books to be illustrated. They have done such beautiful pictures all around the country and city, that they will make their holiday very profitable. Monday morning they will return towards Toronto, but in the meantime, Beryl Childe's ship, Montnairn, is due tomorrow, may stay a night or two with us, a dear heedless girl, who cannot be got to write Cyril, sends a senseless telegram and expects him to do the writing. He – who probably had no news after his father ceased to be able to write – received a 3 word

⁷⁷ Ella's mother, Margaret (Min) Cann Stevenson died in 1924. Also Ella had her third child, Stuart, born May 2, 1925; she had a difficult delivery and required blood transfusions. Two doctors came from Ottawa to do this, Drs. Stuart Evans and Norman Gioux; the baby was named after each of them, Norman Stuart. Ella's sister, Betty came and stayed in Min's cottage to look after Stuart.

⁷⁸ Charles Comfort (1900 – 1994) was a commercial artist, landscape and portrait painter, printmaker, muralist, teacher and arts administrator. He played a significant role in Canada's War Art program and in the establishment of the Canada Council for the Arts. During the 1920s and 1930s Comfort was recognized as one of Canada's finest portrait painters working in watercolour and oil. In 1931 he formed his own commercial studio with Harold Ayres, mentioned above, (1894-?1977) and another friend. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1972. He made a lovely, delicate pencil portrait of Elsa signed Chas. F. Comfort, "Darnoc", May 29, 1928. She is in what appears to be a nurse's uniform, i.e. with a nursing sister's veil, bearing insignia which might have represented the Canadian Red Cross for which she worked, as she was not trained as a nurse. As well, the family had a watercolour of a street scene, what looks like a back alley in shadows and sunlight, possibly in Quebec, now in Norma Geggie's possession, signed Chas. F. Comfort, '26. Since it was at Darnoc, it is likely that it was painted in the area, possibly in the city, and was painted in the time period of this letter.

cable announcing his father's death – and then had to wait 3 weeks for details – is now indignant and will not write, but his wife has written me complaining bitterly.

Saturday, Matt Craig's mother is to come for a weekend, and with her I had to ask her younger son, Norman, who dogs Elsa's footsteps and is just an oaf – good, kind, fine fellow though and earning his living well with the Canadian Import – Lorne Webster's coal company. Of course his mother has just one idea, to get her son married and he is absolutely slow and impossible, moody and unhappy. However on Sunday Elsa will probably be at the dock, and it will be his only day here. Mrs. Craig is from Kilmarnock, Scotland, very fine woman with 8 sons and only one daughter. All the sons were through the war, one in Russia, the eldest, and all over – this very boy Norman went very young.

After Mrs. Craig we expect Minnie Henderson who will stop here on her way from Edmonton back to Alva, Scotland. You know her sister, Betty Miller, met her here in June. Besides these, goodness knows how many others may come unexpectedly.

I thought when I resigned the Prov. W.C.T.U. Presidency to an even busier and more reluctant woman, that I should have leisure – but I have not found any more than before. It is true that [!] require more rest, just have to lie down and often sleep because I have not slept at night. Elsa is very cheerful, busy and energetic – what should I do without her? Yet I dread to leave her alone, and there is no one likely to catch her fancy anywhere around and she does not worry about it at all. Her circle of girlfriends continues to increase, self-supporting girls and others, (I told you about the little Cable girl who speaks Finnish) – all very nice too.

Lois McCusker (Immigrant Conductress) to whom I went to the King Edward Hotel to say goodbye last year the day I sailed – you were with us – has phoned me often, late at night when she comes and goes, but never has time to travel out here.

The Citadel Brick Co. (Ramsey) is to build a Million dollar new factory between Montmorency and here on the lower level – the Rothermere Pulp and Paper to build at Limoilon, all good news for us which may end in our selling building lots well.

Elsa's love and mine, lots and loads, to you both my dears, and to the wee darlings. I omit such a host of things in writing. I wish I did not. Goodbye, my own

Your loving Mama

Enclosed a business card for Docteur L.G. Perrin. Maladies du Coeur et des Poumons, written on the back:

I have had 2 visits from this man, nice, not strong, and last time he brought his wife, very nice – always comes Sunday. He wishes for acacia seeds to sow in rows to provide shade necessary to grow ginseng out at Charlesbourg, says a good market can be found for it in Canton or Foodrow [?].

September 7 1926 Postcard Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

On postcard of "First Temperance Cross in Canada erected at Beauport 1841. Rev. Charles Chiniquy Parish Priest."

I have your delightful book and thank you a thousand times though I have only looked into it so far; Elsa has read a page or two and tells me about it as I write. She has just come from the mail. I have a lot of writing to do and it is raining hard. We met a friend of Lois and Charlie's yesterday off the Alaunia, S.T.C. Stillwell, in charge of timber seasoning. Elsa took him round the town and he came here to tea and for evening. We had Mrs. Frank Sutherland here Thursday with her 3 boys & Edna with her boy Jim. I sent Eric a card like this one and Sylvia said "funny man with beard unnah chin".

Dear you are so good to give me such a lovely book and I am very grateful. Love to all your bonnie bunch. Lois has sent me by Mr. Stillwell an English fruit cake.

Mama

September 17 1926 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Embossed Darnoc notepaper

Darling Harold

I've neglected you and it is a shame – but do not think of not have lived your life well enough. You certainly have done more than most of your contemporaries.

Here is Stuart Hawkins saying that he is "fed up" - ugly slang (did you know that in training London Bobbies are forbidden to use slang, except in repeating what someone else has said?) Stuart says he has no more ideas and does not know what to do or where to obtain any. Fancy your saying that when you have a nut case claiming your attention and needing study or help.

Lois' last letter says that she has at last heard from you after a long silence, has not heard from us either for a while. Beryl Childe is in today and I have arranged that she will bring over next trip an old suitcase full of good out grown clothes for a poor family of which you told her. We shall express it from here. Please tell me the number and ages, or sizes of that family – I might help too.

How is Ella – better? Active and cheerful? Elsa is at the Dock since 7 a.m. I am going now 1:30 to meet Mollie and Maitland returning from Europe and going right through. We have been very busy getting in peas, beans, tomatoes, making jam and jelly, clearing things up generally. I went to see Dorothy Barrow married the 1th at the Cathedral. Her brother Fred will be married the 5th Oct then rumor says her father will marry Mary Shaw but I do not believe it, though it was his late wife's dearest wish even before she was dying.

I enclose \$36.00 for Aunt May, Paradis' rent for 3 months, June, July, August, because I am not sure where the family is yet and am afraid it may go astray. I hear from Edna that Ewart went to see Mary and Bernard in the winter, had a musical evening much to his taste, but criticized Mary's unbobbed hair and too long skirt; an up to the minute young man he is surely. Mrs. Carruthers and her husband are

probably to spend part of the winter with Edna and Fred – Ewart being now in Toronto. Jean Marsh's husband, Fairley Blair, is said to have been much improved by his trip across the ocean, but their children are all three rickety and delicate.

Ted Young at the Reford Office goes down to Father Point – Helen is wild, and departs for Eboulement when he goes, “she doesn't like my job”, says Ted. But the other evening when Elsa and I were seeing Mrs. Craig off, he was preparing to start down the river at midnight, Helen had therefore left for Eboulements in the afternoon, and both Elsa and I smelled liquor on this breath so that is the reason Helen is so angry and so afraid. It's not his job but his weakness and bad habits and when he loses his job, he need not blame her. We've had rain but today is fine enough.
Love from your own Mama

1927

June 23 1927 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

23 June '27

Darling Harold

I send you four good snaps taken by you at the Island of Orleans that 24th May during your lovely visit to us. Now I am about to have printed some more copies and when you see a film of oxen working on the Island, you will know that it is true. Your films are very good.

But is Emile Plante St. Pierre, the man in the field, and Roland Chabot the boy in the road? I think so. And was the Church or wayside chapel in the same parish?

Poor Mrs John Ritchie is down at her home on the Island but very miserable still and not any better.

Since your letter, with Ruth's came, I have telephoned a Mrs. Edmund de Gaspé Power who lives out at Sillery, and she came to see me, spent all afternoon Tuesday, a small thin woman of 36 with 6 children, one a boy who has been hurt very bad when quite small. Mr. Power has an arm with two fractures badly set and a pinched nerve. He has had jaundice and is very difficult to feed, an engineer working in the cove. He is an R.C., she Anglican – all the children R.C.s too. She has a picture of Bannockburn, written under by her father, so that is the name, but is very hazy as to where it was, does not even know whether her father owned or rented it but thinks it was on the Beauport Road – I do not! I explained and talked to her about 3 hours. She is quite close to the Asylum and to the late Dr. James Douglas. So I asked Miss Forsyth, who is the late Miss Bignell's niece, therefore ought to know because her grandfather Bignell owned the property which after his death was bought by Dr. Douglas, and is now the Mastau Sanitorium, a little to the west of the Asylum with a brook running between. I have written also to Geo. Gale in Montreal to enquire – he is one who has enquired and written much on the subject of Old Quebec. I shall probably meet Miss Louie Douglas (Louisa Hawthorne is her name) because Mrs. Power is to go up to Ottawa to bring her down next week.

Lois letter received today says that they are hoping to begin repairs soon, busy with specifications, plumbers etc. We are so much pleased to think of the Low's being over there in case Lois ever being ill, Miss Low being so good and sensible and devoted to her as Lois is to Grace.

John T Ross's daughter Marjorie is to be married this p.m. and the weather is fine and showery by turns.

Love from Elsa and Mama

July 12 1927 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

12 July 1927

My beloved boy

I have your letter and am glad to hear that you had the pleasure of giving Aunt May \$60.00 which I was delighted to send, five months' rent to 30 June from Paradis. I have taken a large note from him which he will meet in time, and by that date, after two or three renewals, owe more. However I am patching the stable and to do it tearing down the old windmill building, the mill itself having been sold long ago, built in 1893, the year Mama died. I'm not sure - the Creamery was built in that year, but Papa⁷⁹ wait[ed] a year or two I think to see if Mr. Bedard would build the waterworks he had promised to provide - then when no water came and winter buttermaking was still impossible, the pipe laid on the surface all summer freezing early in the autumn, he at last bought a windmill. I shall with the expense of some labor and part of the material make the old stable last longer; some new shingles will help a lot.

This house is to have two coats of paint on the tin galvanized iron roof, two coats of red oxide of iron.

Wednesday 13. I am so sorry about what you say of Mary's asthma - the idea that she should be the only one to inherit Mémère's asthma! Aunt May once had it too, but Dr. Coote cut a wee sliver of bone out and she has never had a return in all the years since. I cannot tell how many but over 30 probably - it would be worthwhile to investigate?

Wednesday 13th. This is a very sad business about the school accounts not being audited of which you speak - is there also a chance of money being short or not collected? At all events you are not in it, are you? Yet I am sorry for anyone who is. It is a serious thing and I cannot understand anyone doing so because it is so dangerous, so likely to be found out. Please tell me how it goes on.

I am glad to hear that you are going to camp for a while even Stuart Hawkins spent Sunday P.M. here and was leaving that night for Chicoutimi; his wife and children are at her parents, 41 Somerset for a month or two, and his is to join them in a fortnight. Just before he was due to arrive news was brought to us that Alphonse Laberge's garage and lumber shop in the brook hollow 4th house east of us was on

⁷⁹ James Geggie

fire. Explosions followed and thanks to there being no wind, the flames rose as straight as if there had been a chimney, till our new water hydrant from Ferland the Baker's, came into play, with a very fine pressure, kept the flames under control. The owner of the business was away at a baseball match till 5:30 "mais il ne s'est pas découragé" though he had a fire and no insurance less than 2 years ago "il va se rebatir toute suite".

Did Ella ever get the gloves changed for her?

Do you know that Aunt Bella fell downstairs with a small chair in her hands? Evidently badly bruised and shaken, and going to the Dr but no more.

Oh! Today Miss Cream phoned me that she has found Bannockburn, it is the Morgan estate, the house burnt down long ago but the name still on the gate as you [go] down from Grande Allée on St. Louis road to Ste. Foye. The George Penneys told her where it was and is.

Just had a visit from three nice young engineers wives, Crutchfield, MacPherson and Goodwin.

Goodnight dear,

Your own Mama

July 19 1927 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

19 July 1927

My own Harold

This my 73rd birthday and I have your nice box of sweets, all very nice and good especially the big slices of nutbars, marrowbone and peppermint creams. Thank you very much my darling so good of you to remember all the time. Lois has sent me such a pretty printed voile dress, a little tight about the hips where Elsa immediately undid the seams there and taking a piece of the belt let it in to widen the upper part two or three inches then spread the gathers of the skirt just a little, so now I have such a light and pretty frock navy leaves and tracery on white getting darker towards the bottom where it ends with a broad blue stripe.

It seems to me that I grow stouter while I weigh 6 lbs less than a year ago.

I've been to see Ethel Jones tonight, 5 weeks in bed with a temp of 101 – 103 every night, down in the morning. Drs. Hubbard and Delany cannot find out what is the matter, talk of possible intestinal infection, are giving Salol and enemas of soda bicarb. Not a relative near, all at the seaside and everywhere else at this season, and none nearer than cousins anyway. Nurse English married to one Dubé at Rivière du Loup, voluble but does not join in the conversation, as some she has had, used to do, though like the others she stays all the time in the room and listens attentively. Detestable patient has been judged too feverish to move even in an ambulance to Jeffery Hale for X Ray examination; may be gall-bladder, they say, or infection.

Then I joined Elsa at Mrs. Machin's and avoided a heavy rainstorm.

20th July. Well, at 11 last night, I entered my 74th year – and at just that hour and day my beloved mother died in 1893. She was born 28 May 1824.

I've had a quiet cool night's rest and your dear letter came today. I am so glad that you saw the Hamilton's. They left here with Gogy and Maud in their car, the 4th July and I have heard nothing since, neither a couple of wraps which they were promising to mail when Maud interrupted by saying that they will bring them when they come. So someday I suppose we shall learn where the two families parted, at Shawinigan or where else.

I have had a letter from Aunt May acknowledging the \$60.00 and have written her since, strange to say a dividend – the 1st – from my International paper 15 shares, bought with proceeds of 10 shares Can. Steel, has failed to arrive while that due for the Ryland's 7 shares bought with proceeds of 5 shares Can. Steel came safely. I've written about it.

Poor Mrs. John Ritchie (Josephine Macfarlane) is pretty much off her head – too bad; husband and sister dead.

Elsa is in town and I have had a visit from M. Courchesne of the Lands and Forests Dept, very old and frail, who had been of great help to me in all the Seigneurie business; there is so little to show, and go on but so much to do, of which in the way of plans he has done. I hope that he will live a long while for I shall probably require him.

21 July Elsa has gone at Mrs. Machin's invitation for a picnic and drive around the Island of Orleans, with a niece of hers, Mrs. Trevor Buchanan of Montreal, her two young sons and Miss Carterold. I am to join them for high tea with Mrs. Machin and Miss Hale at 143 Grande Allée. I am so glad of the trip for Elsa, an all day one.

Now my dear boy, so many thanks, and love to Ella and the dear boys, from your own

Mama

July 27, 1927 - Harold to Leila Gogy Geggie (with comments added by Leila later)

Wed. July 27, 1927

Dear Mama,

Just a note to tell you we're still here and busy. It's a long time since you heard from me and its time you did.

Today I finished a letter for Lois and wrote one to Conrad but I have little time now to do more.

I enclose two letters which Bena gave me last week. I know you will be interested to read them and will return them to me to keep. How vivid they are and how they express the personality of the writers. I don't suppose you knew Papa in 1860 – you were only 6 years old then – David's age. I wonder what David Geggie of 1841 labored at all day before he wrote that letter about his brother James to his brother Robert⁸⁰. By candle light in a butt and Ben⁸¹ I suppose and how he reasons! Bena said she would bring the rest to you but I hope to see them before she goes down to you.

Now I must stop and get to work. We're all well and busy. Ladies Aid Tea tomorrow night and we are hoping for decent weather.

Love to you both from us all

Harold

Leila writes along the side of Harold's letter:

No! I met your father first 9th March 1875 after a Concert in National School, D'Auteuil St. now a R.C. Library etc. But he said that about 1860 he met me one day crying lest some kittens I had in my pinafore should be drowned. And he used to stand across the river admiring the fields and trees, wishing that they were his, or even that he were free to rove among them. He had heard such stories of Papa chasing and expelling trespassers especially those hunting game and wild birds!

August 7 1927 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

7 Aug. 1927

My darling Harold

Your letter came yesterday – I had had none for awhile, and I let Bena read it – there was no reason why not do so and a good reason why I should, because you said she was “good company” while she is so impressed with her husband's idea that she must not stay long because it is such a strain to talk to here. She was so much pleased!

He has clever ways, tells her of all the men he knows who talk of their “poor wife's headaches, cold, rheumatism” etc, and never fails to remark “what a comfort it is to have a little wife who never complains”. Of course she would suffer anything in silence to merit such disinterested praise. To rest

⁸⁰ Was James Geggie's father.

⁸¹ A butt and ben was the name for a Scottish 2 roomed cottage where the butt was the kitchen and the ben the sleeping area.

and sleep on the gallery is her delight and to write letters – she has received not a word from any of her selfish family, to all of whom she writes. Fortunately Aunt Bella very kindly wrote one of her characteristic letters giving every atom of news about her own folks that she could gather. I was so delighted!

Marjorie is a dear little girl, so unselfish and useful – careful of her mother too and so nice to me. We are enjoying their stay here very much and hope to induce them to stay a good while, to do Bena some real repairs.* *Written along the side:* After all I've had scarcely any visitors this summer, Guky and Maud twice for one night and the Hamiltons for a day and night!

The three Hossacks from Little River came today in their car – a fine Oakland 5 pass. Elsa and Bena say that his driving does not inspire them with any desire to sit on Rob's car, he drives so slowly and wobbles all over the road. They all look dreadful I find but I am so glad they came.

Monday 8 Aug. A long nice letter to Bena has come from Charlie⁸² and she was delighted all the more as she did not expect any although she has written every day – perhaps one or other of the three boys may write next, who knows?

We have a thunder and lightning storm, heavy rain preventing us from going anywhere.

Beryl Childe will be here end of this week – her sister Monica has gone out of her mind – her mother did the same – and is in an English asylum.

Oh! Thank you so much for the two letters, your father's so characteristic, and that narrow selfish one of his Uncle David. The Mary of whom your father writes was Mary Muirhead whose wee, old, grey, silk glove will go to you with the letters. I have found one letter to return with it and am looking for another which describes the life and privations incident to the life in Canada of that poor preacher whose brother David could write such a cold smugly religious epistle without a word of regret or the enclosure of a few pounds or even shillings to help him along.

We are so glad that you are at Sunset Lodge and that it is such a rest.

Love your own Mama

Lois letter today says that they really have the house and that builder has been quietly collecting the cupboards etc they could require to finish the work more quickly.

September 25 1927 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

25 Sept 1927

⁸² This is likely Charlie Watt, Bena's husband. The other three men could be Bena's three sons, Douglas, Gordon and Robert, or her three brothers.

Dear Harold

First, Dr. Emile Dupont of St. Grégoire Montmorency, died a week ago and his wife wishes me to write both my boys to ask if one of them will not buy her house and apothecary shop to settle down so near his own home. No question of buying or bargaining for the "practice", she says no one has any right to do that, but says that her husband had all the Dom. Tex. Mills (which are being doubled in size), Electric Plant and all benevolent societies etc. She urges that when the time to retire from practice you would be so near here that there would be only three miles to move, instead of being tempted to continue practice till you break down as her husband has done, at 50 and 6 mos after an illness from 1 to 17 Sept. From her standpoint, it is an offer you should be glad to accept and she would be glad too of your succeeding her husband. The house is new, large, commodious and handsome, just in the middle of the town, near the Church at the foot of the long hill.

Second. I am grieved to have missed Mr. J. Reid and party – after waiting till 2 p.m., we had to leave being due at 3 at the Cathedral for the wedding of Eileen Sissons, Shuldham Hill's niece to Dr. David Parker Cool now of New York, formerly of N.B.

Returning shortly after six we found a note, that evening I phoned at intervals till 11 o'clock – next morning ditto – no result. My usual non-success at the Chateau and we both are sorry as can be.

I am trying to pack a box of garden stuff for you and the family, just for fun and for remembrance – all very good except tomatoes, which though very fine, nearly all develop a horrid dry rot before ripening – this we cut out and succeed in canning a lot, but such a deal of trouble and waste. Fortunately yesterday I took them all in, the very last and so the cold rain just commencing will do them no harm.

The apples picked to save them from theft are of two kinds one is very soft and ripe, the other neither but will mellow if kept for winter. All our white plums were taken, but we saved some blue, these trees quite disfigured by black knot, must cut down many of them and am trying to arrange with Experimental Farm at Cap Rouge, Gus Langebier Supt to prune, graft, spray my trees etc. Might as well have good fruit as not (knot)!!!

Very glad of the return to standard time – was glad of advanced time while it lasted.

Best love to the gude wife and the bairnies, three of whom we are so glad and so proud, only wish we could be nearer.

Your own Mama

October 2 1927 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

2nd Oct. 1927 7 p.m.

Dear Harold

On this your forty-first birthday, I've been thinking a great deal of you and of course we hope to be able to accept your very pleasant invitation to meet you in Montreal and be driven up – perhaps the end of this week – shall let you know soon as possible and then trust that you can get away.

Yesterday was very moist but warm, so was the night, and as I lay away I heard the tap of drumsticks at regular intervals, not loud but repeated and approaching with, as the sound drew nearer, other noises. All the windows were open and I rushed to the one in the hall farthest from the clock. By that time the noise and gentle clatter, discreet chatter, no desire to disturb anyone, but occasional exchanging greetings with a meeting vehicle – were unmistakable. Twice during the war I had seen these midnight processions, but then they were chanting gently, led by priests and acolytes in full canonicals. This time it was just a mighty horde for many minutes hurrying along – not marching nor in any order – under the moonlight. Perhaps few heard them. Elsa did not.

I've been writing to Dr. Troup your friend, some questions about Metropolitan Nurses, one visits my neighbour, but I would not like to have my enquiries repeated of courses, after all, they were not at all complaints.

Elsa is in at the dock since two, was there all yesterday, so I was lazy and again stayed at home lying on the hammock swing on the verandah. The day has been just glorious as different as can be from the day you were born which was cold, just like November, leaves all gone, a furious dry wind and such cold, no snow at all though.

I have hunted up two or three letters which belong to the series you sent me, and added the little silk glove Mary Muirhead's which your father always kept in a little birchbark box. I found too the receipts for payments on your Life Policy taken in 1898 and handed over to you when you were practising – very little it must have been worth to you then, I fear.

Did you remember that Friday was Conrad's wedding day the 12th – another happy day for us as yours has been my darling. Your wife and his have been good daughters indeed and I am thankful for them. I wish you many happy returns of your birthday dear, many happy years and as fine weather as it has been today for each.

Mme Dupont has another applicant I am glad to say.

Love from us both, Mama

November 17 1927 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

17 Nov.'27

My own dear Harold

I can quite understand how mentally and physically exhausted you must be after all those sad cases, which, as you say – take so much out of one. About the Giroulx-Proulx case, we saw abbreviated accounts in our own papers and then Aunt May, very kindly sent me a bunch of Ottawa papers with details especially about your care of the poor survivor, who I trust will die in hospital instead of coming home to terrify his family or either go to jail to stand his trial with all the long drawn out misery of it.

However I have something to tell to make Ella and you laugh heartily. McKenzie King spoke on Confederation yesterday to a packed audience at the Canadian Women's Club in the Riverside Dining room of the Chateau. It was too long and unrelieved by the least touch of humor or lightness – afterwards we had 5 o'clock tea and lots of smoking, both sexes jumping at their cigarettes with avidity. Elsa and I have had a two year's arrangement with Mrs. Sutherland and Pauline to sit with them, which suits us very well, because for one thing we both escape Mrs. Hyde and her daughter who have lived opposite the Sutherlands for such a long time that the S's cannot escape their watchful eyes and Mrs. Hyde knows that she cannot join my party therefore my presence protects the S's.

We were taking out tea sandwiches and cakes, when Elsa across the table said to me quite low "look at your old Mother in Israel" at which I nodded. It was the first time we had know that the eldest Miss Burstall, Francie, smoked. Of course during the war Elsa had worked at the Khaki Club for the whole crowd and knows them well – so do I – they are sisters-in-law of both John T and Frank Ross, and Elsa always calls that one so. I had seen the performance but it was nothing new and I was not even looking that way. Mrs W. H. Petry and two others were at this table behind me. Next moment I heard my name and found that this large woman had come round behind Mrs. Sutherland's chair. "Mrs. Geggie, you and I are old friends, will you not have a cigarette with me?" There was no time to think, I'm glad to remember that I smiled and was gracious from habit, not conscious intention. "No thank you, Miss Burstall, you are very kind". That was the end of it but I was a bit dazed to realize that all the tables near were enjoying the joke and the Sutherlands were stiff because they could not realize what had happened all of a sudden nor why.

This is to be Elsa's last week at the docks, and tonight is the date in 1860 when our immense stable outbuildings with all the crop and most of our cattle were burnt during the night and we children were carried out in the night while Papa was kicked in the hip while endeavouring to save his riding horses. There was thick snow then and fire had been set by a toy cannon discharged in the hayloft by a sailor boy who had run away telling a tale of ill treatment to whom Papa and Mama gave shelter.

18 Nov. I have a letter from Sadie Lee who has graduated as a nurse in San José, Cal after taking a full course as in Jeffrey Hale she only had 22 months. And she has also obtained a divorce. Lee is still in Ottawa.

Now goodbye dear and tell dear Hans that I like his composition, am so pleased that he will write a good distinct hand. Love, so much, to Ella,

Your own Mama.

November 29 1927 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

On Chateau Frontenac letterhead

29 Nov 1927

My darling Harold

A week ago, I sent Hans fine school exercises, and received in return such a nice letter in good handwriting, so very neat and so well expressed too, that we are both just delighted. Eric and Jamie also are improving much but though older they have not as steady and round hand as Hans fortunately has. By the way can you give me a hint for a birthday gift for the dear boy? I am (on Lois advice) sending Jim and Eric French books, Maria Chapdelaine for one, as the elder especially has to know a lot of French for his city of London Matriculation which includes admission to Oxford and he intends to read up at Christmas.

Evening. Your letter has just arrived to allay my anxiety lest you might be ill because I have not heard since you were ill. But the lull has evidently come to rest and save you, and poor old Giroux has gone to his long rest – it is to be hoped that none of his many children will inherit his brain (or want of it).

From many of your letters, lately I notice that you are going more to Church, even if it is only at night, and I am much pleased because, principally of the dear boys – it is good for yourself too. But you know, Harold, perfectly well that all through life we all need an elevating and inspiring influence and God is the best that can be taught us ever. Children need to remember, in after years, these quiet times spent in church with their parents, the memory has a steadying influence in many days when there seems to be nothing of the kind anywhere. That is why too we parents should try to control our tempers and not make violent statements and so forth – we require all the time to think of the example we are setting which will influence them in days to come.

That's a longer preachment than usual dear, but you know that it is not far wrong and that all our lack of self control tells although your children seem be to "bien planté", to have good steady nerves, much more so than most. Dear Hans, tell him, Grandmama wishes to see him too, and she is coming soon.

I am having trouble just now about a girl of about 44, just Lois' age, and a Lois too, McCusker, a Highland Scotch clergyman's daughter from St. Louis de Gonzague, reared in dire poverty and the hardest work, mother long ago dropped dead at her washtub. This girl reared two brothers and a sister – all in the west now, Eunice a nurse in the Mormon country at Cardstone; trained in Edmonton, and so shy that I never could get her to see Agnes or Conrad through I tried and they tried too. Father very deaf and stern so unsatisfactory in his church and he went off to the west, in some queer way – perhaps disappeared – and was found doing excellent missionary work among foreigners with a small organ on wheels – playing as his daughter says "the dolefullest psalm tune". At all events the good old man is doing useful work which lonely foreigners appreciate and meantime lives with his eldest son, a recovering shell shock case with such a difficult temper and a perfect saint of a wife who is cheerful, brave and more patient with her old father-in-law and pesky husband than their own family could possibly be. Lois appreciates and

loves her sister-in-law and two little nieces, loads them with benefits and gifts. She sees them sometimes because she is a government conductress on trains of immigrant women and children, but I do not know what is coming because she is losing her grip and there is no knowing what Dr. Alford in Ottawa will say to her. What kind of a Dr. is he?

1st Dec. I am writing in bed early in Lois' room (where Elsa and I sleep in winter) with the sunshine pouring in. This other Lois wired yesterday to the Russian family on the Battery with whom she lodges, stay in Ottawa three days, so I watch still. Do you know Alford?

Sergeant Pressland – he was a muff⁸³ a heart case, young, with a way of casting sheep-eyes sneakily at everything feminine. They ran after him – he would then hide, and his chums would carry him out of his tent and bunk and throw him at girls' feet. Nice looking! Yes, Conrad took him home then Agnes could not get rid of him, he would not leave. We had Wilkie, a double hernia case a fine fellow, huge "a fat boy", pink and straight, junior to Pressland. Agnes' sister was coming to visit and she had no second room. She 'phoned me in distress, I got him to the phone and asked him for one week to come here. He came but it was 3 weeks before we saw the last of him, he had neither sense nor manners but Harold Wilkie took him in hand from the start so we had no trouble except that he too silently resented our wishing to terminate Pressland's visit, though it had been stipulated 1 week! Pressland brought out one of his girls to tea once, she was cook at the Khaki Club and of course Elsa worked there, knew her well – but fortunately we were both away and Wilkie alone, when he opened the door, he just "I can't let you in here", put on his coat and cap and walked them down to the station so saw them off. May, the cook, was furious, we saw Pressland no more, heard he was working at Ross Rifle factory and soon married a French Canadian. Next morning at breakfast, Wilkie told me about it and I was very grateful. I could not have handled the case so well had I been here myself, and he "didn't like to tell me in Elsa's presence", so waited till she left the room. Wilkie too is married and has a child or two – in Brantford. That was a dreadful Battalion, the 33rd from London under Major Harry Thornley, a splendid chap, but graft and politics inefficiency and want of principle played the mischief.

I am so delighted to learn that you have the water pipe arranged to resist frost and the furnace to heat your office – these things mean so much to everyone. Talking of which, we ceaselessly think of our trip to you and how to manage it. One experience when Mémère and Aunt May visited me in Ursule St. and the man "Dejoe Grenier" was to keep the furnace going – cost \$300 in burst radiators furnace etc. we thought of emptying it all but are told that, all the same, the stagnant water from the sidewalk into the house will freeze. Then too it would be a great job to pack jams, pickles, bottles of liquids of every kind and to transport them elsewhere and there is so much else to do. Our man Paradis is neither willing nor reliable in our absence. What if he neglects the fire and we have a catastrophe? I think I must go up alone first and Elsa after.

Mama

⁸³ Muff: to spend time idly

1928

January 25, 1928 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

25 Jan 1928.

My dear Harold

I am grieved to learn that you have an infected finger; these things are so painful and so dangerous too. I hope it will be better soon, for I recollect with terror that Dr. Stevenson had lost a finger in that way.

I wonder, but forgot to ask you – do you still continue to write as you did for some time owing to writer's cramp- with the pen between 3rd and 4th fingers. Because having less constant scribbling to do now, I thought you might hold your pen in the usual way and form your letters better. Q.E.D.

Now my dear, I have taken a few hours this stormy afternoon to sort and put according to date, a number of old letters which were in your Grandfather, Robert Curry Geggie's desk. Of course they are scattering, and mostly relate to his Brother James, who came as Missionary to Leed's and Inverness in 1837. I dare not judge the dead and one who must have undergone such privations; but he had a fine wife your grandmother⁸⁴ told me and large family, to whom his unyielding attitude must have been terrible, and a terrible wrong! In fact there was no end to the wrong he was doing to his people in Scotland and here, he a man in the prime of life, educated and yet dour and illogical – mentally immovable. There are a number of his sermons, at which I only glanced but perhaps you may go farther and find out if they are more or less practical than his few letters.

You may let Conrad see the collection at some time when you may meet, goodness knows when! I send these in an odd old letter case of your own dear father's. His life of patience and self-sacrifice, self-effacement even, and lack of daring were doubtless inherited; had he done as business men advised in 1888 when Senator Jas. Gibb Ross died 2nd October things might have been so different. Mr. H. M. Price, Arthur Hunt, and Daniel McGie as well as others all asked me to endeavor to persuade Papa to propose terms to Mr. Frank Ross Sr., or to start business for himself. That would have been the time to dare, to strike out anew; even Mr. Ross himself proposed it to your father and Gavin. The latter would not start either except your father should take the lead; "I'll serve you" he said, "but not Frank Ross". So nothing was done, except that F.R. gave them the S.S. Polino, to be paid for "out of her earnings" just fancy, and when she did not earn her expenses and was sold why Mr. Frank Ross got the purchase price I suppose and we have her Bell on the back gallery.

⁸⁴ This would have been Agnes Geggie née Hossack.

I send also your grandfather's old scrap-book and the "Old Manors – Old Houses" of M.P.G. Roy. Hope you will be pleased with all these things my darling. Love from Elsa and

Mama

Please tell Ella that we are using and enjoying the table-cloth and napkins with the blue border, very much.

Who is that Kingston boy, friend of Douglas Watt? [*written along the side of letter*]

I just happened to mention that I had seen at Leonidas Grenier the painter's, next to "La Cabane" a small print – very poor- of all the Curés of the Parish, he immediately said "except Chiniquy" and that he would like to see it – said that certain people held that his picture should be included but it was objected that only those who had been of good repute and set a good example had a right to be among the other good men. Someone had the temerity to insist that, all the same, Curé Chiniquy⁸⁵ had done good while here and "history was history". But the boy added that something belonging to him had been preserved, the plain black wooden cross of temperance which has "become universal, which he originated. So history is falsified!

Today – beautiful weather, Elsa went to morning service and heard one of Dr. Gordon's best sermons, he has a gift at it. Earl Haig, who was an elder in St. Columba's in London where he was two years assistant; Leslie Clay the Moderator and MacMillan who all died during the week.

You are right the worst of the winter is over – today was beautiful and I thought have written so much – but I did not this is the first letter – I'm so lazy. But I'm so thankful for such a comfortable house, thanks to Elsa who rises twice at night to keep it so, then we can open our ventilators all the time. It takes system and determination to keep a moderate fire and temperature, women old or young, require some comfort I think, and ought to have it when it is possible. When on that subject I ought to thank you for the oil of wintergreen and tablets, which especially the latter, have I think done me much good. I take the tablets faithfully and feel that I am much less stiff and have no pain to speak of so I am very glad.

Monday. Elsa has been in town all day- Maud has been with me and Herman this evening. He is leaving now and will mail this.

There has been a recount today in the Mayoralty Election and Prevost –the lawyer- is declared elected. I'm glad because we need a change.

⁸⁵ Charles Chiniquy (1809-1899) was a controversial Roman Catholic priest in Quebec. He was a strong advocate of temperance, which would explain Leila's support of him. He was excommunicated from the RC Church (partly related to some questionable activity with a housekeeper among other things) and became a very vocal critic of it for many years. See Dictionary of Canadian Biography On-line. Note: See also notes written by Leila on May 23, 1934 about Charles Chiniquy.

We are well; I've no news from Conrad lately.

Weather is fine – must close in a hurry – suppose you never saw Bob Logan again.

Love to you all and please give Hans the little screws – 8 of them – to put up the two shoe racks for his mother and you.

Now goodbye

Your own Mama

February 5, 1928 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

5 Feb 1928

My beloved Harold

For over a week I have not written you a word, although for all this time you may have been busy reading all those letters and papers I sent you, in which I am sure you are interested. I've read them but cannot say, for the life of me, whether that poor resentful, narrow, obstinate, good man was ordained or not. How he could, from the beginning, have taken up such a stand – as to refuse to tell whom he had married, even to his brother is sadly incomprehensible and then how he could so have neglected to provide for her and their children, by refusing, or deferring, to report to his home committee, is deplorably lacking in right thinking and energy.

I tell you that I am thankful every time that I see you(r) virile energy when there is work to be done and the way you and Ella go at the books when there is not - then all the time the love, faith and interest that you have in your profession! It is God-given and to be gloried in - that love for one's work; that desire and self-sacrifice – need to help in every way, and to save every pang, physical or mental to your patients. It is what I am thankful for everyday I have lived for years and what your dear father was thankful for too, up to the last! Both our sons lived for the work they had chosen, and the responsibilities as they came and met either in the right spirit. That is living – not shirking!

I hope that all is well; that your thumb is not bothering you – Be careful, neglect nothing for your own safety.

Adolphe has been coughing all winter – had his tonsils removed and was hard at work within two days, looking ill indeed; I'm so sorry.

We have been to see Mrs. John Ritchie Wednesday; still cheerful, asks about all Beauport, about Cécile's husband whom she calls "Jumping-jack" – poor girl Cécile is badly married and so sad with so many children and a man who thinks he is delicate – perhaps so, but he has all the capacity for play, and none

for work, or keeping any place found for him; not up to his standards - he despises life in Beauport where his wife's family help so Mme.

Then Friday, as we had a nice fowl, we invited Norman Craig, as we do every now and then, for dinner and the evening – very slow decent chap so that is over for a while, and Elsa kept him busy finding words, (she has 270 now) for “Gutta percha tyres”⁸⁶.

Next night, Saturday we had a young neighbor who asked Elsa on her way from the mail if he might come to see what books or pictures we have which may help him in his Architecture class. He came at 8 and left at 10, talked so much, low and fast, and so much about his health, he is timid, and nervous he says etc, etc, etc. We are not supposed to know that he has been put out of the School of Art and Design in Joachim St. – where he says they smoke all the time, spit on the floor etc – and he objects.

[2nd page missing]

February 13 1928 Deputy Minister of Labor to Leila Guky Geggie

Department of Labor, Inspection of Industrial Establishments and Public Buildings, Montreal

February 13th, 1928

Mrs. Leila Guky Geggie, Darnoc, Beauport, P.Q.

Dear Mrs. Geggie:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 8th inst., relating to matters affecting the employment of young girls in some of our stores in Montreal.

Although the public act has many useful clauses relating to the comfort of females in commercial establishments, I feel that the time is near when a broader act concerning these matters should be drawn up.

I have again taken this matter up with our lady inspectors, and I will soon be in possession of more data.

Reverting to the volume that I have prepared, I have great pleasure in mailing you a copy. You will note in reading the book that I had not forgotten our short conversation when I had the pleasure of meeting you at your cottage.

⁸⁶ Gutta Percha Tyres - Gutta Percha & Rubber, Limited was a very common name for tires in Canada. Founded in 1883, it advertised itself as the largest all-Canadian rubber company. Gutta-percha (*Palaquium*) is a genus of tropical trees native to Southeast Asia which were used for their sap to make a form of natural latex.

Realizing that genealogical studies are never very interesting except to those related to the families, I have endeavoured to add to this book sufficient historical matter to make it entertaining to people that are familiar with the history of our Province.

The different landmarks surveyed had to be visited in order to secure the information that was needed, and it has cost some time and trouble to secure this as I felt that anything reaching so far back had to be built on correct historical facts.

In the hopes that the book will please you and with best wishes for your health during the coming year.

I remain,

Yours very cordially,

Louis Guyon

Dpy. Minister of Labour.

Feb 15 1928 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Written on the backs of Canada Cement Company dividends

15 Feb 1928

Dear Harold

I hasten to thank you for your nice long letter and to enclose a story of some pigmies in the Phillipine Islands for Hans to read – while he is not well, give him something new to think of. Don't you think he has laryngitis as you used to have?

I am so grieved about Ella's good Uncle and Aunt, it will be hard on the two remaining Aunts. But I am glad that you and Ruth are there to help the dear good souls to their long rest.

Here I am, at Mrs. Enright's, 388 Roslyn Ave, Westmount. Came up this afternoon on a hot stuffy car. Left a heavy snowstorm at home which blew us down the hill and which Elsa had to face going home. Up here there was rain and slush lots of both.

Just now I am at Mrs. Dougall's on 618 Belmont Ave. Midwinter Conference begins tomorrow. At last Mrs. McLachlan after 45 years of labor has broken down – a slight stroke.

I cannot say it yet, if I can or not, run up to see you.

About your granduncle Rev James Geggie, speak to your Uncle David. In 1841 or '42 he was at Valcartier, where he was presented with that silver headed cane which Elsa uses, when he left. He came from

Leeds to Quebec in 1838 and baptised your father, registering the baptism in his Leeds book – so he then had a register and was qualified.

I think the sermons at Lake Beauport and Stoneham were not his but your grandfather's, who taught all week in Quebec, drove out to fish in those places Saturday and preached Sundays, returning to his teaching that evening.

Did you ever read Barrie's "Little Minister"? James Geggie married too in a way which caused him to wish to leave home, a nameless girl who made an excellent wife and mother so your Grandmother told me – but do not say a word about that. He had quite a large family about whom I shall ask Aunt Mary too.

Can you remember where you last saw my large camera in a box at home? I shall write again. Mama
Do not mind the defective envelope if it brings the enclosure safe.

Following notes recorded on backs of same Cement Company paper, appearing to be records of Quebec history, who lived where when...:

E. F. Fletcher arrived in Quebec 20 Oct 1827 with his father, Brig Amethyst, Capt. Thompson.

Mrs. McLaughlin's boarding house, Palace St. 2 doors below St. Hélène, now MacMahon corner, (burnt and rebuilt since occupied by William Wilson H.M.Customs.

3 house was Dr. Caldwell whose brother, also a Dr. living in Montreal had attended Fletcher Sr. when wounded in the W.I.

Next house down was Ross – D.A. Ross family, next below Dr. Painchaud, worth and eccentric. Dr. Ross and Painchaud Jr were schoolmates of Fletcher at Dr. Wilkie's and the Grand Seminaire

1st door S. side MacMahon, Natural History Museum of N. Chasseur – afterwards moved to Parliament Building near Prescott Gate.

Palace Hill, opposite side higher, dry good store of Henry Trinder and Horatio Casewell. Above which was Albion Hotel kept successively by Messrs Payne, Hoffman and Kirwin; opposite was dry goods store of Robert Symes J.P.

In Malliot's Hotel – afterwards Casey's building and belonging to Chief Justice Sewell – John A. McDonald and D'arcy McGee often met in later years to spend a quiet convivial evening

Rev. Dr. Daniel Wilkie's school, corner of Garden and des Ursulines.

French school books bought a Mr. Horans father of R.C. Bishop of Kingston – other side of Fabrique St. opposite Jesuits Barracks.

Haymarket Theatre, corner St Anne and Garden, site of present Clarendon. Saw "Douglas" performed by pupils of Dr. Burrage. The upper part of building used in 1835 by Mr. Hartney for auction prints and engravings.

Corner Uersuline Lane and Garden St. Miss Cary, sister of Joseph Cary afterwards Deputy Inspector General and of Thos. Cary prop. Que. Mercury kept circulating library.

Dr. Wilkie in Garden St assisted by Mr. Johnson, afterwards Mr. P.Ramage. A writing master mended quill pens

Etc, list of names continues...

June 6 1928 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

6 June '28

Dear Harold,

I am very glad that you really did get to the Convention at Kingston and I do sincerely hope that no effects of an unhappy nature followed to anyone of your family or patients. It is only fair that you should get away sometimes, fair and necessary too.

It think that you need not think yet about putting your boys at Kingston since there are other good schools in Ottawa where you can keep in touch with them and as you say the chance of their staying in the army which is the poorest use to make of any fine boy now-a-days when the whole effort should be to keep war away and to rear no more soldiers. That peace movement is the greatest ideal and the most daring I think, but one which deserves our support with the hope that it may succeed. Yet I cannot but notice that everywhere pre-war activity is what the papers report.

Rain has stopped; today I hope to seed my garden, but I have had a busy time so far. Three artists, Ayres, Comfort and Lapine (a Russian) were supposed to camp on our lawn, but two occupied the guest room and one Russian, Lois' room, while they ate mostly in the kitchen using their own supplies brought from Toronto and added to here as time required. We had many fine drives to Lake Beauport and St. Charles and Ste. Anne. They were here just a week and the first Sunday another artist, Jeffries and his wife came for a visit.

No, I shall not buy a car this year; do not require it and am too full of other business!

The Seigneurie case is to come off any day now and I expect to go up with M. Courchesne, the chief witness an employee of the Government Department of Lands, Forests, and Seigneuries who has rendered great service in searching out the whole matter for us.

Was that not sad about poor Mrs. McKenna? We had invitations to the King's birthday party but her funeral took place instead. She had requested no black hangings to be used and wished for a simple funeral. There is a fine example for lovers of pomp and ceremony – but there were 6 carriages of flowers, of course.

I am so glad to hear of my dear little boys being well over their operations.

Love to everyone from us both,

Your own Mama

Lois McCusker is with us since 18 April, only here two or three days a week except the first week. Beryl Childe has sent us her fiancé, a 2nd Engineer, a nice very English small chap, straight and practical, a year older than she evidently Cyril.

June 16 1928 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

16 June '28

Dear Harold

I am so delighted to learn that you and Ella had such a pleasant break in your busy lives, even if it was very short.

I am so glad that you both like the dear flowers of which we are so fond just now that we fill the house with them. We are less pestered than we used to be because I put up a little sign on the telegraph post in English and French, "Lilacs for sale".

Before I go farther, I must tell you that the address of Rupert H. Reid (or Reed), Sci '10, of Kirk's Ferry is being advertised for – by the Secretary of the Graduate Society of McGill University, Montreal. Can you help to send it?

I have sent Charlie's address which was also in the list of those advertised for. After all it may only be that their annual subscription has not been paid!

Yes, Conrad, dear boy, is forty four and not well – has been going through a sadly hard time, operations, tonsils, haemorrhoids, and a tooth removed with anaesthetic and returned from hospital the third day. Evidently he suffered a great deal and yet was off or meaning to be off to the Coast with Agnes and the

children very soon after. Operated on Saturday and intended to start Thursday – I cannot believe that he went after all and consider it to be so rash, when he has need of so much care to keep up his strength and recuperate. But I am not there and cannot help my far away children.

Mrs. Leggo of Ottawa is to come to see us tomorrow evening with her daughter, Stuart Hawkins' wife and S.S. too. Such a crowd as we have been having nearly every day. Last night Miss Bullock, head of the Gov't Conductress Staff came with a bunch, including a rude old Ship Captain. Beryl Childe's fiancé, an English engineer, Clare Bonner, was at the house at the time; he is a small man, good looking, nice and sensible, but not Cyril's stamp and he will not recognize the engagement though they are to be married in July.

We have had more artists, Mr. Alfred Meikle from Toronto who has come before several times with his sister, a Mrs. Solliaffer (Catherine Mitchell), who is doing the old Manor from old photos I have.

I have no summons⁸⁷ yet to 3 Rivers – July is at hand after which there will be not Court Sitting and it means waiting till autumn!

Goodbye dear and love to you all from us both, Mama

July 19 1928 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

19 July 1928

My dear Boy

I rejoice indeed that Hans has passed his exams so well and so easily. Don't you owe them all, and especially him, a trip to Darnoc as a reward – and mine for having a 74th birthday?

The enclosed letter from Cyril has pleased me, but if he had followed his first impulse he would only have run the risk of his telegram not being delivered, and in fact if we had got it, Beryl would have had it the day she sailed down the river as we went out on the tender and she came running down the gangway to see us.

Oh yes, they will have a home but she wanted one more trip. They could not qualify as to residence in England and there was only this one trip up the St. Lawrence that they could meet before he may be ordered to an Eastern cruise. If so she will come out in the autumn to live with her aunt in Victoria for the winter, where they may see each other oftener.

Cyril evidently knows how fly-away his sister is but I think she will improve. Her elder sister Monica will be a great drag – in a mental sanitorium; their mother died that way too, and not old only has had lots of trouble, their father drank and she had lots of sorrow and hardship, too much for the poor thing. Of course I know very little about it and that little not from the family.

⁸⁷ Regarding the Seigneury trial.

This morning Dorothy Elliott phoned to invite Elsa to motor to Portage – I was so glad and she has gone to return Saturday. The last few days have been quiet only the rain has been dreadful, but today promises well and I do hope that haymaking will begin in earnest. Our garden is doing well, but we only have lettuce yet and very fine. Trees are being blown down, and it is always at the extreme east end of the farm, so that our neighbors down there ‘phone to us to remove the fallen unwelcome guest.

You talk about a small car – yes, as soon as we return from the next trip to England, which I wish to take next year. But I do not think you realize what a dreadful road ours is for driving, a perfect procession, and such reckless drivers too! Last Sunday Matt Craig came out to take us for a drive, and did not do so because of the danger. He is a very careful driver, and it is with him that Dorothy and Elsa have gone today to see his wife (Marjorie Woodley), and their four children. There has been another fatal accident near the church where there was one two years ago. So many level crossings and only one main road leading to all the lower parishes all the way down the Gulf and back again – not to mention St. Anne though that was worse before the trolleys ran – but there were no motors.

I came out to Mount Hermon⁸⁸ with a few flowers to lay on my dear ones’ graves, and am finishing this on a bench – must now go to look up Herman, who is in town and I must see what he is doing – missed his exams, I believe. Talking of that, Jamie has passed his well!

Much love Mama

Conrad writes cheerfully. I hope he is getting well. Don’t worry about my being alone. I rather like it sometimes.

August 3 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

3 Aug. ‘28 6 a.m.

My own Boy,

I am so sorry that you had such a hard trip and bad weather; the getting pulled out of a ditch must have been no fun, and I hope you did not swear. I think you are not given to that but you are far too irritable. Do you not think how hard it is on Ella (though she never says a word) to have to listen to your angry bark for every little thing. It would wear me out or make me stay at home or shut myself up. It’s not the way to rear children either. Do try to reform for the sake of others and because the habit will do you nothing but harm – try to learn patient ways. I’ve no right to preach tho!!

I have never been in, nor near Ste. Eustache Church. There are several steps up to the front, I believe impossible to ride a horse up! At all events the front was strongly barricaded – entrance from the Sacristy at the back of the main Altar was obtained by crawling in stealthily, and Papa was wounded in

⁸⁸ Mount Hermon Cemetery where Leila’s parents, husband James, and infant daughter, Annie, are all buried.

the neck as he led the troops in. At all events, there would be no sense, no object in such a mean trick as that of trying to make a clean horse drink dirty water in war time.

Strange to say, those Reekies came down to see the Dock that day after you left, and told her the same Ste. Eustache story as having been told them Friday by one of the Historical Guides in the English Cathedral Friday, apropos of the old Flags there and Mrs. R having mentioned our flags. The guide asked if I was still alive – said “I hate them people, she’s an old devil and the old man was an old devil too.” How long a monstrous falsehood may live!

I’m writing in bed. We have had a visit from an Eric Wentworth Stevenson of Lynn Mass., a 3rd cousin of your children – with his wife Lois Sherbourne. He is 39 and very grey, a grandfather, General Electric is his business, and they seem very nice people.

We were to have gone to a lunch for Ramsay McDonald, but it is cancelled. The Men’s Club will not show up and it is no use for the Women’s Club to do so alone. I should like to see his three daughters though.

We have Mmes. Marsh Sr. & Woodley for 5 o’clock tea yesterday and Mmes Ramsey and Schwob (Aunt and niece) are coming today.

I’m sending you Lois’ last letter and dear Eric’s; it is the first time that he has ever had to boast of standing so high in his form and I trust he will repeat it. But what swimming, cricket, tennis and other feats he performs. “Promises to be the best all round athlete the school has ever had” the Headmaster says. However if the family returns in a year or two bringing him with them he may settle down to steady work and life here with a new purpose. His conduct and character have always given great satisfaction but all of them have tempers – inherited, the worst kind, which I trust they will learn to control!

Now here’s Lois McKusker back from holidays with her family at Onion Lake, Sask. But what do we care since the time she was away was just what suited us best when her room was very convenient.

Love to dear Ella. I hope she will gain plumpness and strength. Love to Aunt Mary and the girls. I have sent snaps of Stuart with [?] Mary to Lois and Conrad. He writes in such good spirits, the dear Boy, and is planning not to miss sleep.

Your own Mama

August 8 1928 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped Darnoc etc

8 Aug ‘28

Dear Harold

I write in a hurry to enclose Beryl's note and am to get the sugar spoon and a butter knife, so that with the teaspoons Elsa and I gave, her five o'clock tea-table may be Quebec silver. Please send Ella and your card to go with them.

We have had Bonner here two evenings in succession, a very nice chap, handy about the house as seamen often are and our opinion of Beryl's good fortune grows. If only she has the good luck to develop some sense because she loves a good man. He jumped too high in going through one of the iron doors on board ship and cut a tremendous gash all across the top of his head, might have died, and lay a long time insensible all alone. However he is better and sailing today.

We have picked and sold 4 gallons beautiful red currants at 60 cts and are now just beginning to eat peas, beans, beets, carrots, and turnips, all so young and tender – only wish your bunch was here to enjoy. How happy we were to see you even for so little a time and that we had even two fine days for it has been rain ever since.

Conrad seems to be very well again – so thankful. I hope he will go a little easier.

We are to entertain two – or four- of the English schoolgirls coming out with two conductresses – to tour Canada. They will be with us two nights only and for breakfast - autos to take them back and forth. Elsa will have her dock work to do and will help at picnics and serving at Mrs. Finnis's, the Ross's etc.

I have a letter from Conrad which I must send you and require again, it was in reply to a letter Conrad wrote 4 years ago to a Swiss Gugi. Must be a connection, distant, and from a different part of Schweiz where his branch had moved. Interesting of course, but someday some of you may go – as I did – right back to Zuben – from Basle to Zurich, thence to Altnau and lastly Zuben. However someone of the party will need to know the language well to make the most of the opportunity. Even then the people are very little capable of realizing anything outside their own country and affairs – educated though they are in their own language and way.

Goodbye dear – God bless you.

Much love Mama

August 17 1928 Leila Gugy Geggie to Ella Stevenson Geggie

On letterhead

The Old Cape House

20 Mont Carmel

Quebec

17 Aug 1928

Dear Ella

I am all out of notepaper tonight and have been - because of the great heat and delaying a trip to town to provide many things required, writing materials among others. Still I wish you and Harold many happy returns of your wedding anniversary together – a very happy and blessed day for all of us that has made our boy so happy and given us such beautiful boys.

Today Miss Douglas down at the dock spoke to Elsa, said she knew her brother at Wakefield, he never wore a hat. Elsa said “neither do I at home, summer nor winter – and today I came in bareheaded because of the heat”. “You’re all alike”, she said, “and he has beautiful children, a beautiful baby, very beautiful⁸⁹”. So naturally, Elsa likes her.

By mistake, I told Harold that Miss Douglas was grand-daughter of Dr. George Douglas of Lake St.Charles; I believed that she was but I am told that she is the grand-daughter of his brother, Dr. James Douglas, a fine total-abstaining old man, who gave to the Rev. Chas. Chiniquy, while yet a parish priest, his first lessons in abstinence. So I was wrong and take it all back.

But to go on with my story of Miss Douglas – Elsa did not like her so well when she had to go up to the Post Office on Peter St at the same time Miss Douglas Chauffeur was driving her up, so Elsa asked to be driven up at the same time. “I can’t wait”, she said so Elsa jumped in just in her uniform. Arrived there, the car and its occupants just deserted her and Elsa had to run over to the Reford office by which time she was drenched through, and get Ted Young to call a taxi for her to return. She just put her lips obstinately together and drove off.

1st Sept. Now I have just found this crushed letter in my coat pocket when I thought you had it long ago. I’ve not been going out myself very much, and have been very busy. Did I tell you that Guky’s son Herman had an accident, the 10th Aug. in breaking a razor blade lest it should be replaced in his case – a piece flew into his eye. Dr. Beaupré removed it with a Magnet and he is still in St Luke’s Hospital! Maud’s mother died the 14th and everything has been happening, Guky and Maud going back and forth here, there, and everywhere. Guky has just arrived in town and phone now that they will be out to sleep and that he will take Maud home tomorrow. The boy has suffered terribly – right eye – it has been superating , and now the treatment is electric and he suffers too. At best he is not patient or considerate so I gather that he cannot stand his mother’s presence so Guky is taking her away. Both parents you may imagine are desperately anxious though the Dr. says that the sight is in no danger.

I am sending some of Lois’ letters which please mail to Conrad, who will have returned from Dochester by this time.

Please excuse my delay and mistakes etc - Mama

⁸⁹ This would be referring to Stuart who at 3 ½ yrs old had beautiful blond curls.

September 4 1928 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

On letterhead

Chateau Frontenac

Quebec

Tuesday 4 Sept '28

Dear Harold

I have just received notice that my case⁹⁰ against Jos. Chrétien will be heard at 2 p.m. Thursday the 6th at Three Rivers. I shall probably leave here by early train that morning and arrive quite in time, stay at Hotel de Blois and stroll up to the Court House. My good old M. Courchesne will stay at Dufresne's; he is anxious for the fray, and I depend on him. So am I anxious to have it over, so are the Ursulines and others. M. Fleury assures me that we have a splendid case and nothing to fear. Our position is that of Arnold Wenkelreid taking all the spears in his own breast that his people might get the benefit of it⁹¹.

I wish you were nearer because I fear I must hurry back home.

Elsa and I have taken a few sweet peas to the cemetery and spent the afternoon there, just the day of the funeral⁹².

There is a wind and the sun is overcast but it has been easier to go about.

Herman is still in Hospital, likely to be there a good while I fear. Gugy and Maud went home Sunday.

Goodnight. Much love

Mama

⁹⁰ The Seigneury case.

⁹¹ Arnold von Winkelried or Arnold Winkelried is a legendary hero of Swiss history. Winkelried's sacrifice brought about the victory of Switzerland in the Battle of Sempach (1386) against the army of the Habsburg Duke Leopold III of Austria. According to legend, the Swiss initially could not break the close ranks of the Habsburg pikemen. Winkelried cried: "I will open a passage into the line; protect, dear countrymen and confederates, my wife and children." He then threw himself upon the Austrian pikes (or depending on the version, spears) taking some of them down with his body. This broke up the Austrian front, and made an opening through which the Swiss could attack.

⁹² Probably refers to the date of James Geggie's funeral. He died on September 2, 1915.

September 7 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

7 Sept. '28

My dear Harold

Yesterday morning I took the early train for Three Rivers - a slow one but Florie Oliver was on board as far as Pont Rouge.

I met Messieurs Fleury, Courchesne and Barnard at the Chateau Dublois and had a great disappointment when they disclosed the necessity for another delay, till November, just because, not having consulted M. Courchesne, they were claiming more rent than was really due, and part of the ground for which they claimed it actually belonged to the Ursulines. Such stupidity seems incredible and it is no use to talk about it; I must just wait till November.

I went then to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Baptist, née Hart, Lumber people; a dear little woman with four daughters – who drove me around the town and out towards the Lake side; I took the Montreal express and was home at 10:30 much to Elsa's amazement; very tired and glad to be in my own bed.

8th Sept. Can you imagine that Papa was born 90 years ago today? And Uncle Herbert 77?

Dr. McIver and his wife Marjory with Mrs. Ronald Lindsay came out today for an hour, after 'phoning. He has been very ill but is improving, lay on the porch swing while here, and accepted a glass of milk, drinks no tea or coffee.

I had a great surprise when Halton Fyles, his wife and two little girls came in. He is a geologist working for the Canada Cement Co., now at Chateau Richer camping, and coming Monday to camp on our lawn.

Sunday, 9th Sept. Elsa was at the Docks for one Ship Friday, and four yesterday; she is at church tonight. Great changes are imminent in Dock work, Vivien Tremaine has resigned.

Lois McCusker must go in by the 6 car in the morning, so I must be up to make her breakfast. Good night – much love. Please send Lois letters to Conrad; she is now at home. Mama

September 13 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

13 Sept. 1928

Dear Harold

Your letter of the 7th was very wise – it would have been useless, under the circumstances to follow me; on such a wild goose chase too. I could not refrain from telling Messrs Fleury & Barnard, our agent and the lawyer, that had they consulted M. Courchesne in advance this other delay could not have happened and I have charged the latter to hasten as much as possible lest poor old Courchesnes should

have Bronchitis again or something else. I've written Aunt May on the subject and sent Mr. Barnard's brief letter which I only received after my return here.

It was well that I came home, too much for Elsa to do alone, and the weather cold and rainy, but Mr. and Mrs. Baptist to whom I went treated me so well and she took me for a beautiful drive everywhere in her car – to the Church, to the Cemetery, and along the Lake side.

Saturday Dr. McIver and Marjorie and her brother, Ronald's, wife came for an hour; he is better but not fit yet to work. He lay on the porch swing and drank milk, no tea or coffee any more. And it is noticeable that Marjorie's manner to him is improved, she does not treat him so much like an imbecile – or rather as if he were an imbecile and she his keeper. High time too!

Halton Fyles, his very nice wife and two wee girls came that afternoon, Saturday also; they were camping at Chateau Richer and I asked them here so since Monday they are with us and in the house, because the ceaseless rain and wind made it impossible to stay out. Today the first fine day we have driven up the Laval road and out to Charlesbourg to examine all the quarries everywhere. He is a geologist, (his father taught him) and employed by the Canada Cement Co. If he finds that our quarry suits, I shall be glad. He is a little thin brown man – might almost be an East Indian, had a kidney removed before going to France where he took over a colored Forestry Battalion he recruited at Windsor and has altogether had pretty hard times, but he is a nice soft-speaking, neat, quiet, quick chap, good to everyone. We have breakfast in bed as usual, he lights the kitchen fire, gives little Anne and Shirley their breakfast in the kitchen, and his wife hers on a tray in bed. She is very delicate. He takes his own and then is off to his chipping of stone in a square tent on the corner of the lawn near Laberge's and on the brink of the hill. The tent is wider at the bottom and has a canvas flooring attached, a little gauze covered foot square window and door-flap upraised on two poles. [*Sketches an example beside.*] He has obtained in our and other quarries numbers of samples and numerous fossils in the shape of flies etc, and specially long stems of a beautiful lily [*another sketch*] running parallel, and one of its seed pods but not a blossom, etc. etc. etc. They are all to be sent tomorrow to the firm's Chemist, whoever he may be.

Dr. Fyles also taught Faith the specially valuable part of her work too and painting. We went over yesterday to Levis, Canon Roy's wife shewed us the Church with Commandments, beautifully illuminated lettering done by his father so long ago. Halton is 41 and very like his father indeed; we are glad to have him and suppose they will leave tomorrow. Last night a friend came to visit him, a Mr. Robertson whose wife is Dutch, so we had him for dinner too! Halton sends you very kind remembrances.

I did not tell you – did I? –that the last Tuesday in August, I went down to the Island of Orleans to see my Cousin – 2nd cousin – Emily Porteous, now Mrs. Farel Vinet Calvin Serjeant, of Huguenot descent too. He keeps a large Boys' School at Purley in Surrey, England and left four days after to return home. They are nice people, she probably older than he and she gave me a poor copy of a small miniature of the Baron de Teissier de la Tour of Nismes, France, father of my great-grandmother, Mme. Barthélemi Guky, and

[she]is to send me a copy of Barthélemi Gugy's own picture which I am anxious to receive. But doubtless I must wait till next August, the only month when M. and Mme. come over to this side every single summer; he loves this country and is, I think, a little younger than she.

Willie Snaith and his wife could not visit us after all, much as he wished to do so, therefore we must wait for next year to see them both again – he has been disappointed. It is so many years since he has intended to come.

I send for yourselves and Conrad some more of Lois' letters, very interesting indeed.

I wonder why Ella and David have had upset stomachs and hope that they are long ago quite recovered and able to go out as usual. Will you please ask Ella to send me one of her and your visiting cards to go with the sugar spoon to Beryl Bonner. It cost \$3.00 and the butter-knife, which I got for Conrad and Agnes to send, the same. Do you think that enough of a gift? I do! We have teaspoons so that her tea-table will always remind her of Quebec but after all we owe that family very little – the debt being entirely on their side – always, so we need not give anything very expensive. I did think that I could get Dr. Gordou to give something – he ought to think of it himself, a single man with a salary of \$3,000 and a Manse, and because he knew all Beryl's family when she was a baby in Raymond, Alberta.

[This section all written sideways along the edges of the 8 pages of this letter.] Sunday 16th Sept. We were up very early to speed Halton and his family who have been a week with us. It meant work but they all helped and were so nice that it was a pleasure. They are quiet and so considerate, patient with the children, and altogether nice. Eileen's father was Dr. Yeats of Cowansvilles. I wish that this letter could have reached you sooner but I wrote hurriedly while others were talking, went to Charlesbourg for a drive when I should have finished. Halton is to go to see you, has lived near you without knowing it. He is deaf in one ear, but one would hardly notice it. That is a great story of Miss Arnoldi and Miss Urquart's having visited you after being guests at Lois and Charlie's home.

Love to you all my dear ones, from us both, Mama

November 3 1928 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

Saturday 3rd Nov. 1928

Harold my dear

I have just received a letter from my lawyer M. Jos. Barnard saying that the case against Jos. Chrétien is fixed for Tuesday the 6th at 2 p.m. before a magistrate.

I shall take the train early in the morning, arrive in Three Rivers about 10.15 or thereabouts and proceed at once to Mr. Barnard's Office 3 Hart St. 'phone 640. I shall be accompanied by M. Courchesne, one of whose sons, Hermann is a Dr. and the other a fine violinist. He is a fine old man in the office of Lands

and Forests and Cadastre too, who has done all the fine work on which my case is based. M. Fleury will meet us there.

The Court House where the case will be heard is diagonally across the street from Deblois' Sanatorium, (so called only) - and I have an invitation to go to Mrs. Ned Baptist's, on I think Des Forges Street, but not sure.

From this distance I can not say at all whether I can return with you or not! I think not; but as soon as Lois McCusker has left us and navigation closes I intend to send Elsa to the States for a visit, and go to you myself for one. I am watching for the sale of 10 shares Canadian Connecticut Cotton, bought at 88 ½ in 1923, said to be 8 p.c. paid \$20.00 4 times a year till 1925, then reduced to \$10.00 quarterly and last 1st July 1927, paid its last dividend greatly to my disgust now it has become active, talks of reorganizing and I am inclined to sell instead (it is worth 94 today), pay off some heavy debts for repairs to the Creamery and Shanty, etc. etc. preparatory to going to visit you after this Three Rivers case has been, I hope, disposed of. While Dock work is going on and McCusker here I cannot be reconciled to leaving Elsa; it would be too much for her shoulders. Two breakfasts before 7 a.m. and she would scamp the second which is for herself. No- whatever Elsa may say, I cannot go just now, but there are two other chances; wait and see. Better let me work quietly in my own way towards settling things properly that I may enjoy a free and unworried visit when I come to you.

Of course I hope that you will be able to meet me at Three Rivers, whether you come by train or car but I do not expect even to sleep there. The case may not take more than a few minutes and there is a train about 7 o'clock from there which comes here at 10. Now I must close.

Your own Mama

Mtre. Barnard says "J'ai pleine confiance au success de cette cause". Strange that it should be heard on the anniversary of Papa's birth⁹³ – 6th Nov. 1796! Do you observe how M. Ernest Lapointe is making discoveries about the Status of Women in French Canada?

November 6 1928 postcard Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

E.L. Baptist

145 St. Genéviève St.

Three Rivers

Dear Boy

⁹³ Referring to B.C.A. Gogy

I am just as glad that you did not come, after all, for about an hour of trifling desultory conversation, it all turning on whether or not we had proved that Jos. Chrétien was proprietor of the lot 272 (which owes \$1.69 rent "en délibéré" from the lips of Presiding Magistrate), finished it.

I returned home by 7.30 train this evening. If you had come, I wished for your camera to take the scene in court – a picture the black marble tablet in St. James Church to Barthélemi and his wife, and of the tomb in the Cemetery etc. etc. etc. Now if we can only get a favorable judgment before the 11th! Mama

And the Ursuline sisters who were to share expense will not do it because they have just sold their Seigneuries to Vanasse for \$10,000, which refused them permission to sue.

November 14 1928 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

Stamped Darnoc etc

14 Nov 1928

So glad to receive your newsy letter and to find that the boys are driving and riding well. We shall meet Beryl Friday at the Dock on her way out to Victoria to her Aunt. Try to send me a visiting card. Of course Fleury's evidence established that each Curé read the notice to censitaires, a week ahead to pay on the rent day. Then exhibited the certificate of registration, also certificate of delivery of notice. M. Courchesne exhibited the large plan and affidavit that Jos. Chretien owned the lot and paid taxes, gave the extent and boundaries of his lot and showed by the Cadastral that he was the owner. There was no question at all of our right, nor any pretence that the dues had been paid! Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are the rent days only because the 11 fell on Sunday. I am anxious for the result but have heard so far nothing. The weather lately has been beautiful and mild. I have not heard from Conrad for quite a time. Hope he is well. Much love Mama

Sending some of Lois' letters which have been accumulating for too long.

November 21 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

21 Nov. '28

Dear Harold

It's a horrid case, that of old Dan Morrison and his daughter but I think it will be settled out of Court before Monday.

At all events you did not fight nor Strike either old man or daughter, their reputation is notorious and though you have a bad temper and shout, you are known to be respectable and truthful. You are not

accused and you were in your own home protecting two foolish young things who had run to you for shelter, probably your patients, they became so anyway. Everyone knows that old people unused to self-control become incapable of it, a potent reason for inculcating self-restraint all through life. Our neighbor J.E. Bedard was a shocking example of the penalty of unrestrained temper, yet he could be kind when he chose.

Of course the Morrises will lie, from fear of consequences; the old man's brain may be softening, but he must be taken care of and people must be protected. Parents too should see that their boys do not annoy the old man, else – if he can prove who his tormentors are, they – the parents – will have to pay. It is cruelty to tease the young, the aged, imbeciles, infirm or the drunken – cruel and dangerous, resulting sometimes in murder.

At any rate I am sorry for the daughter who was trying to take the old man home – at first at any rate – and who may have an awful time with him for years. Surely she will be afraid to lie on oath – it is so dangerous and will cause remorse unending.

The less said the better, of course, in conversation or on the witness box. The wretched girl, to think you would combine with them, make a guilty bargain, to obtain her exculpation of you! If she never exonerates you, no one will believe you did anything except try to ward off blows or disarm the old villain, for sake of the girls. And you were in your own home, almost on your own doorstep and property! He was an assailant, almost a house breaker.

Don't mind my boy, tell Ella not to mind; it is vexatious, but such things will happen without any fault of yours – and as I say your kindness and good reputation will in the end vindicate you.

What you say of Lois' dear bunch is true! Every day now must bring news from St. Léon, of the collection, and from Three Rivers of the judgment.

Mama

November 28 1928 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

28 Nov.'28

Dear Harold

I am so glad to receive your letter - sent both on to Lois- and to learn that Old Dan Morrison pleaded guilty of assault – far better for him and for all concerned. It amounts to a kind of penitence after which he can not tell anymore lies. Try to forget it yourself and all concerned. I hope there will be an end to girls – or anyone- playing Hallowe'en jokes. The wrong thing to do evidently, as you remember how your little boys once nearly got into trouble too. But the custom is part of the Calvinist Reformers replacing prayers and masses for the dead (with frolics and tricks) who on Hallowe'en are supposed to be walking about among us and trying to attract our attention. On that evening devout R.C.s will not go out after

dark, not throw anything for fear of striking the soul of one beloved hovering near. – However the old man did well to refuse to give \$1,000 – yet his costs will worry him and be enough to throw away for the satisfaction of a rage. What do you get - \$10 for your time?

29th Nov. Aunt Blanche's birthday 1855 – 73 years since – poor dear. But just now Elsa has found in the Gazette Thorp Blyth⁹⁴'s sudden death, and I've just sent a wire of sympathy. Only 55! I wonder what was the cause and whether Walter will come home now and give trouble? Both Aggie and Bena will miss Thorp who did a great deal for both. Aunt Bella⁹⁵ and her household will feel this loss very much; Thorp went in often to play games, talk over news, and play the piano; he was a great favourite, but none of his house ever went to Aunt Mary's⁹⁶. Unfortunately he had drunk dreadfully for years but for years past, so far as I know. His wife may be left very badly off, but his only daughter Isabel has married a rich man, a lawyer, who does not practice, makes patent medicines, and is not very practical. Thorp's boy, John, I know little of whether or not he has done school. I fear that the whole thing is a dreadful wreck. Hope I'm wrong.

As you still have \$3.00 due me for Beryl's gift – will you please save me some trouble and thought by giving one to each boy for his next birthday, bank acct. if you think best. Hans' comes soon, the 17th Dec.

Lois McCusker left here [at] last for St. John's, N.B. after 7 ½ months stay, which gave me in all just \$225.00. It was work for us both especially for my dear Elsa, but I required the money very much.

30 Nov. No decision yet in the Three Rivers case, but Fleury⁹⁷ has- all the same- collected \$205. out of which I shall have to pay his disbursements, M. Courchesne etc. And I really cannot see why the decision can be delayed beyond the 6th Dec. They seem to do these things the 6th Sept, 6th Nov. – unless it should go to 6th Jan which would be awful.

Good night my beloved son – Elsa and I are so glad to be alone to do our housework and to feel free. Lois McCusker is a good soul, but so badly reared and she jars.

December 1 1928 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

1st Dec. 1928

Darling Harold

I have your letter of the 29th. It is nothing that you and I have been writing each other at the same time, and at night, when both of us, from the nature of our lives have most time to write. What if my letters are often careless and incoherent and yours sometimes almost illegible and make me sorry.

⁹⁴ A cousin of Harold's on his father's side ie. James Geggie's sister, Annie, married a Blyth. Thorp was their son.

⁹⁵ Bella was married to James Geggie's brother, David.

⁹⁶ Mary was another of James Geggie's sisters.

⁹⁷ Fleury was her agent for the Seigneuries so this was presumably the rent collected from the other tenants.

But today I went back to bed at 6 a.m. after writing Conrad and putting coke on the furnace – we are having great comfort. However as I am going to town I wish to say – and to mail it at once that the view you express about poor Thorp’s death is not that of a well-bred man about your own cousin. We tried, your father and I to be sympathetic and just especially in presence of a calamity and grief and more so, when as in this case, confusion and poverty are very likely to follow.

Now I require you, as a gentleman, to dress as nicely as you do for church and to pay Belle Blyth a special visit, if Ella will go and bring a couple or more of the dear children if you like – but after all, perhaps I’m wrong, better no children.

I know you will be nice if you go, and say no word of that infernal science which is after all responsible for so much. He was an affectionate man and father, and any woman who loses such is to be pitied and comforted. Try to see – some time when you can, Aggie⁹⁸ and Bena, how broken-hearted they will both be, I can imagine. Do what is right and kind – after all that is the whole of politeness and good breeding – even when others have not done so to you.

Remember Thorp came from Ottawa to your father’s funeral and expressed himself in the handsomeness terms as to the debt he owed your father – of course he had long ago repaid the money advanced by your father and Uncle David for his education. I believe Auntie Bella and Uncle David paid Thorp’s passage from Ottawa for that funeral and she certainly left here, drove to the C.P.R. got Thorp and caught up to the funeral.

You know, I may as well tell you I’m afraid that it may be found that he and Belle may have been living on trust funds. Hope I’m wrong but all the more reason for being very kind at once – if so, Aggie and Bena will be in a bad way. Do unto others etc. but do not fear about me – I never shall owe anyone at any time, no matter what I do without.

Your own Mama

December 3 1928 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

On Chateau Frontenac letterhead

3rd Dec. ‘28

Dear Boy

Elsa and I have just been to Seifert’s – only one – ordered half a dozen heaviest dessertspoons	\$18.00,
one dozen heaviest teaspoons	<u>\$20.00</u>
	\$38.00

⁹⁸ Aggie and Bena were Thorp Blyth’s sisters; all were cousins of Harold Geggie’s.

It will take a week to obtain the former, and I should like to have a sample tea-spoon because I dread to trust my memory for the pattern and the tea-spoon he showed us is certainly much longer and larger. I can send you one, if you like or you can send me one – to make sure.

I think it rather queer, unless Aunt Mary is ill, that no one has written since Thorp's death. But from what we learn she is failing much and suffering much; (not her old active self at all any more, and it grieves me much).

Elsa has had a cold and not been out since a week till today. An old and very good prescription of Dr. J. F. McIver's is what she takes and we both find it excellent – "Turps dionnin [?]" it is called – do you know it? I think it is patented but had to get a prescription all the same from Casey the Druggist in N.D.de Grace, before I could obtain it here and pay 75 cts – though I suppose even if Willis had not taken the label off it would have cost the same.

Our Christmas parcel is to go overseas⁹⁹ tomorrow, principally Latire, Maple Sugar and Laura Secord candy which are not to be had over there.

Now will you please find out if the Witness still goes to your Community Library, to whose address, and when the subscription will end?

Have you the film of either of the groups taken 19 August 1914¹⁰⁰ on your lawn? I should like to have it for a few days if possible – one is better - the narrowest.

Now much love – in haste and I'm trusting that you will see all the Blyths.

Mama

December 22 1928 Joseph Barnard avocat to Madame Leila Gogy Gergie

Joseph Barnard

Avocat

Des Forges 108

Trois Rivieres, Que

Trois-Rivières 22 décembre 1928

⁹⁹ To Lois' family in England.

¹⁰⁰ This would have been Harold and Ella's wedding photo.

Madame Leila Gugy Geggie

“Darnoc”

Beauport, Quebec

Chère Madame Geggie,

Le juge Lacoursière vient enfin de rendre jugement dans notre cause. Nous avons gagné sur toute la ligne et toutes mes prétentions sont confirmées. Je fais publier une copie de ce jugement dans le journal pour l'information des autres censitaires. On me dit que ceux-ci n'attendaient que ce jugement pour payer leurs arrérages. Je vous transmettrai une copie du journal publiant ce jugement.

J'ai retiré les documents de la Cour et les remettrai à M. Fleury à moins que vous ne préfériez les avoir vous-meme.

Pour ce qui est de l'enregistrement du testament dont vous m'aviez parlé, je ne vois pas la chose nécessaire vu que le juge reconnaît par son jugement que tel enregistrement n'est pas requis en ce qui concerne les droits seigneuriaux.

Je vous fais tenir l'Etat de la balance d'honoraires et déboursés dus sur les deux causes précédentes ou j'ai occupé pour vous. Cette balance est de \$19.95. Les frais de la dernière cause seront payés par Chrétien suivant l'ordonnance du jugement.

Bien à vous,

Joseph Barnard

Enclosed with invoice:

Dame Leila Gugy et al,

DOIVENT A Mtre J. Barnard:

RE Dame Leila Gugy et al Vs Chrétien.

Sur cause No. 4090, Cour du Magistrat du Dist.

Etude de documents, correspondances etc.	\$10.00
Substitution de procureur	1.00
Continuation de cause et désistement	5.00

Sur cause No. 5154 Cour du Magistrat:

Bref	.40
Signification	1.30
Rapport et exhibits	.80
Inscription	.30
Désistement	.30
Frais du Proc déf	2.25
Avis de poursuite	2.10
Déclaration	1.00
Sur cause	5.00
Memoire	<u>.50</u>
Total	\$29.95
Reçu acompte par M. Jos Fleury	<u>10.00</u>
Balance due sur déboursés et honoraires	\$19.95

Trois-rivières 22 décembre 1928

Translation¹⁰¹:

Dear Madam Geggie ,

Finally, Judge Lacoursière has rendered judgment in our case. We won on all counts and all my claims are confirmed. I will publish a copy of the judgment in the newspaper for the information of other tenants. I was told that they were only waiting for this decision to pay their arrears. I will send you a copy of the newspaper publishing this judgment.

I removed the court documents and will provide them to Mr. Fleury unless you prefer to have them yourself.

With regard to the registration of the ruling which you spoke to me about, I do not see it as necessary since the judge recognized by his judgment that such is not required with respect to seigneurial rights . I send you the state of the balance of fees and expenses owed due to the two previous cases I worked for you. This balance is \$ 19.95 . The costs of the latter case will be paid by Chretien following the Court order.

Sincerely,

Joseph Barnard

1929

Feb 4 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

St. Léon's, Co. Maskinongé

4 Feb 1929

My own Harold

Friday by the 5 o'clock C.P.R. train I left home and found at Louiseville a telephone from M. Fleury asking me to take a carter, so I did, a high cutter with a driver who had been a woodcutter all over Abitibi and wished to know if I am M. Fleury's sister. We drove the whole six miles without seeing man, woman,

¹⁰¹ Poorly done by Judy Geggie

child or vehicle, a single-track snow road with at long intervals, an oblong pile of snow in which fence rails were stuck on end.

I was very well received, but notices were to be given out from the pulpit Sunday – I took Mme Fleury with me and went to call on the Curé to thank him for doing it. He is a new man, Lavergne, was very gracious, looked at the old, old photos Mme. Barthemi Gugy etc and my own mother, and admired the quantity of clothing and head covering – “si modeste” with an implied reproche for the present scant attire of women and girls.

Yesterday I went with M and Mme to Grand Mass, saw for the second time here, the blessing of the candles and heard the call to the censitaires read from the pulpit and the authoritative warning that immediate actions would be taken against those who fail to pay. For the first time, the agent postponed the collection till Monday and Tuesday to avoid the Sundays intervening – a senseless business. However it gave me an extra time to ask questions etc and this morning I was up early but one only or two came at first. Afterwards they came in groups till the office was chuck full, all smoking. A flat desk like a counter across the open door separated the Censitaires from the State dining room where four saucers on a chair contain cents, 5 cents, 10 cents, and 25 cents, a cardboard suitcase box has the notes and the dining table holds the different books, lists, receipts books etc etc.

The Curé came and paid his rent, so did a few others, but it was slow and many asked questions, one spokesman for the office full would start arguing and objecting. Just the usual story “these rents were abolished in 1854, no one is any more obliged to pay” etc. Our agent shrieked and yelled, they all shouted, then the majority came like lambs to pay. One, Ferdinand Bergeron, returned later for his money, \$12.04, says he will contest. Things are likely to go faster this afternoon, and by tomorrow, when the “quarante heures” start the number coming will be very great no doubt – will tax our capacity if things go on this way.

All this time a big strong man of 73 is in the kitchen, a beggar, Patrick Murphy, from Sillery, who has begged for 20 years, though quite able – very like our old John Campbell who does not come any more.

There are queer names, Arthur Bel, easily understood; but Philorum La Terreur and Osa La Terreur, his son, tell me that their ancestor was Swiss, probably a soldier – they live at Yamachiche; Wilbray Lamphrou, Oscar Lapolice, Honora Lamphrou and Rabouin Trahau.

Mme Legris who lived in the cottage which we occupied and sold her for \$400.00 has died (they sent me an announcement – her husband did at least – he gave her a terrible lot of trouble with drink and was an illiterate, while she had been a teacher) and the place is sold at the same price \$400.00.

After dinner. Things are going better, many arrears are coming in, even eight years paid just now with a smile, although the judgment said “five years and the current year”. It is awful the way the Censitaires have not been paying and now the government has corrected all the rents, most of the small amounts by a few cents – change of currency from old French to English money. All in our favour, although all these years they have had the benefit of a smaller rater. M. Courchesne has gone over the whole list and changed the sums in red ink. It all gives us and our agent more money but of course the expenses are to

be paid – that same M. Courchesne \$200.00 to begin with, \$39 for Barnard etc etc. Things are going better, lots of laughing and joking since dinner time, and some who went away to think and talk it over have returned to pay. But not Ferdinand Bergeron, so far he will probably take a test case.

M. Fleury, by this time finds that I have been useful – at the first he foolishly half resented my presence. The place is full of tobacco, and I am about grizzled – the weather is glorious, am I not fortunate, for fear of blackening the white ceilings with tobacco as the office has been blackened, the ventilator slot is kept open.

Of course the poor old sister of my host is more crooked¹⁰² than ever, Mlle. Louise – she is boss of the house with the penalty of doing all the kitchen work, cooking etc. The lady of the house, supposed not to be very strong – but much better than she used to be – takes it easy. The eldest son – a priest from Verdun, Montreal, will come tonight to preach tomorrow at the quarante heures. I may return with him tomorrow night to Louiseville on my way home. There are 8 sons here and two daughters; one son is a lawyer, he also took our case and gave it up – one is a notary and one a farmer to remain on the land – the nicest of the bunch! You remember the fine house with every comfort, even luxury. The mail has just come in but nothing for me. I have written Lois – Elsa twice, am anxious to be at home, but glad to have been able to come here for the necessary time.

M. Fleury was always Agent for the Ursulines but has lost because they have had to sell to a notary Forest who will do his own collecting. He has more time for us and is more anxious to please. Next Monday only he will go to another part of the Seigneurie.

I must write Conrad too; finish a letter already begun. Love to the bunch. Are they enlarging their list of French words and questions?

Goodbye

Mama

February 16 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc, Beauport, Que

16 February 1929

My own dear boy

I am so sorry that you had such a tiresome time with your car horses and the weather. As for me, at St. Léon, I was not at all cold driving either up with the carter, or down, with Paul Fleury N.P. The weather was specially sent from Heaven but the Devil himself sent the Tobacco (of every brand, cigarettes, pipes,

¹⁰² Referring to her posture, likely due to arthritis.

and an occasional cigar) and the matches, also the filthy cuspidors, although the latter were specially washed and replaced at noon, as well as at night by those poor women who deplore the smell of smoke, blackened ceilings and dirt. But what do women matter anyway? They all cough from it, so do the men, so did I, and lozenges were constantly given out.

You see M. Fleury's father was the village Doctor, so his sister Mlle Louise, the weary Martha of the house, has more of an idea of cleanliness than usual, and certainly runs her brother and the whole house while Madame his wife – who has had fifteen children, 8 boys and 2 girls now living – suffers from high blood pressure, 200 at one time, but now 130, has always taken it easy. Does not interfere either Mme Hector Caron has had 18 children, but only has 4 living, I believe – Hector is uraemic, his mind going – only 58 or so, but is the son of consanguine parents uncle and niece. His next brother, Louis George, a dipsomaniac¹⁰³, I saw die at Mastai years ago. Of 3 little girls, only one lives, I saw her this time fair and pretty, but sick and one of her 4 children sick, tbc¹⁰⁴ of the bones! Gustave at Louiseville, looks very old, has 2 little girls – the sisters, two step and one real, are fortunately nuns.

Now I enclose James Cole Brown's letter, if his Grandfather was in St. Louis, Miss. in the very early eighties and was a chess-player I must somewhere have a letter from him, only one, he never replied to my next one, and I had found his name in the chess column of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat for which was then special Quebec correspondent. May some day find his letter, it is somewhere.

I was to have gone yesterday to Montreal to midwinter conference but did not feel inclined to leave home again so soon.

Private. About Bessie Lanctot you had better provide yourself with a lot of salt and ask Ella to remember please, that all she is exaggerating is one side of every question, the side she is silent about is what other people talk about. Of course her head is turned, and though I knew her great grandparents, Dr. Rees who attended Conrad in Bermuda till his death and her grandparents, the Hills, a paymaster in the Navy, and now know and visit her mother for whom I have deep sympathy, she is ill and in great trouble which she is trying to hide from everyone - her children are a swift bunch of whom I know very little and Elsa never goes there but I think I like Arthur (now at home while his mother is visiting Muriel Thomas her eldest daughter in New York) and Audrey (now at St. Helen's School Dunham) the two youngest. Mr Sissons was Welsh from a place of that name I think – 27 years older than their mother who was younger than his two daughters. He was employed with Price Bros. at Lake St. Joseph or thereabouts.

Mr. Hill belonged to an excellent Irish family with a title in it and was intolerable in his contempt for Canadians, of course this attitude has descended to your neighbor. However they are all kind good-hearted and out for any kind of fun and not too particular!

¹⁰³ Dipsomania is an historical term describing a medical condition involving an uncontrollable craving for alcohol.

¹⁰⁴ Tuberculosis

Too bad Philip has been so sick! What do you think of that treatment that Lois has had for her leg? Would it help you? And do you think that Elsa and I are right to take hot baths every night as we do?

Lois is quite evidently sick and miserable too.

Jamie writes Friday night gave us an inch of snow – when our XI played Folkestone with a red ball in the snow and mud. We still have the snow with an additional two inches. Icy winds from Greenland are also here and we are settling down for the rigours of a record winter – which will probably end tomorrow! He is 5”11” and has not grown during the holidays but has put on 2 lbs and his chest shows a 4” expansion.

Now love to each of you and goodbye,

Mama

February 17 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Sunday 17 Feb.'29

My own Harold

I have forgotten to ask what you think of that Chicago paper the “Occult Digest” which comes every month to me and which I re-address? It has come again – do you not think that anyone who lived by its counsel would be insane?

Perhaps I have not told you that Adolphe is away for his health, with his wife at Havana when I last heard one of their four boys boarding in a Monastery, the other three at home with Madame Marcoux, Josephine and Evangeline, who have a servant too. As for his practice, Dr. McKay of Quebec, who has settled here for a couple of years is attending to that. A delicate looking young fellow with a queer twist to his mouth sometimes, pale and thin. I have been speaking to him Friday about the 20 year old boy, Sarto (the Pope’s family name) Duplain who died that same night, eldest child of the tenant at Auntie Blanche’s house. He has been ill and suffering dreadfully for such a long time – nephritis. I was phoned to yesterday and went down to see the coffin and lights in Auntie Blanche’s drawing room away at the back, at the edge of the bow window, lying east and west, tomorrow morning, I shall have to go to his funeral.

These are just the same days that my dear little Annie, who was burned Thursday the 14th February, and died Saturday morning the 16th, was buried Monday the eighteenth.

You know that the Richards in the Creamery east side, lost two children, Tubercular Meningitis, seven of the remaining eight are more or less ill, the mother who had a dreadful miscarriage in June is wretched and the father absolutely condemned, with no chance of getting into hospital, no room.

Then the Paradis in the same building west side, one son Jean Baptiste, married, an epileptic, is in hospital, very ill; Adélarde the son at home has been coughing a year, spots on his lungs, very thin, and Thursday the poor old mother, best of the lot was stricken with paralysis, left side.

Grantham in the Shanty is out of work since first December- so you see how things are here, which make the winning of that lawsuit all the greater blessing. I still am waiting to know how much we are to get from the Seigneuries; 2 days brought \$90. And there were 3 more days but there are about \$50.00 of arrears which we have to pay before we can touch anything. However I am glad now to learn from the papers that it is entirely probable the Government will arrange to take over the Censitaires debts and compensate the Seigneurs which will be a great relief to all concerned. Adolphe is in New York today, to be home in a week.

Love from us both, Mama

Feb 19 1929 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Tuesday 19 Feb.'29

My dear Boy

You have asked about the origin of the Seigneuries two or three times. They were all bought by Conrad Gugy 17[34] - 1786 who died at Yamachiche, was taken over the ice to Sorel and buried there the 13 April; removed after to the old Dorchester St. Cemetery, and finally – thence to Mont Royal where his nephew Louis was buried under the same stone. One Fief was bought from Pierre Boucher, at one time Governor of Three Rivers, and an ancestor – so Madame Fleury tells me, of hers.

You write of coming up the next rent day to see the collection. Yes; it would be nice to do so – it will be 11 Nov. la St. Martin¹⁰⁵ and who knows whether after that there will be any other rent days if the plan of Mr. Bouchard goes through as it seems likely to do now. We shall receive our money regularly from the Government without the intermediation of an agent. The money will come promptly and in a fixed unchangeable sum, instead of varying as it has been wont to do according to the goodness or otherwise of weather etc. It is a good idea certainly for all concerned if the capital is well invested instead of being lost.

I hear that Adolphe and his wife are on their way home from the West Indies and Southern States – hope that he will be better else the change to Quebec temperature will be hard to stand.

Those photos of your boys look beautiful and we are so glad to have them.

Wednesday 20th. Ted Young came down today, says Estelle's Dr. promises that she may leave the Sanitarium for her home in Toronto 1st of May. Mrs. Young and Marion are to move 1st May also, to an apartment in the Marlborough, Corner Milton and University I think, remember that if you run down to

¹⁰⁵ November 11 is the feast day of St. Martin de Tours. The holiday celebrates the end of the agrarian year. Traditionally it was a time when the seeding of autumn wheat was completed; a time of the slaughter of fattened cattle.

Montreal and wish to call on them. It will be a smaller apartment than they have now which is too expensive and they used to have one or two with them, now they will be alone.

Will it not be nice if Lois and Charlie get those Rimmington Hobbs? They will have some associates then – now they have none. It is so hard to make friends over there, busy as they are and having moved about so.

Goodbye, love to you all,
Mama

March 14 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

14 Mar. 1929

My dear Harold

Not having mailed Ella's letter, and having come into town on a wild goose chase, I am writing you too.

Herman was out Sunday afternoon for a couple of hours, is studying very hard for his Land Surveyor exam, and says that when it is over he is to have a "slight operation" on his eye – his right eye which gives him no pain, but is useless – it will mean he stays only 8 days in hospital.

But I am asking your advice about the best man to whom he could go in Montreal – is it possibly Stuart Ramsey? I might perhaps have written to Dr. Will Enright, but ask you first then shall write or phone Guky or Maud who will I know be willing to do anything which they ought to do. If it could be possible that you might be in Montreal at the time, or one of your usual holidays scoots, I should be so glad. It is such an awful thing for the boy, who is over 25, and a hard worker, if his whole future is to be jeopardized by his own stupid act. He talks of being "nervous": it is lack of self control, undue introspection etc, not unnatural in young people of course, he is so jerky and restless.

Just tell me what you judge best in the cases. I would almost go up with him myself, he is so apt to step aside if advised by some chance acquaintance. I always remember when his mother brought him as a lad to have something done adenoids I think, never communicated with Conrad, "did not want to give him trouble", a kind of "mauvais honte", and I was only able to get Conrad there as he was going into the operating room with Dr. Coote, same hospital as he was in this time too. But they were so pleased and grateful when Conrad did come.

I only wish that Muriel¹⁰⁶ would take some interest, even now when the boy is threatened with really the loss of an eye.

Much love

¹⁰⁶ Muriel Ryland was Herman Ryland's aunt.

Mama

March 21 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

21 March '29

My own Harold

I've just finished a letter to Conrad sending him his copy of this which is for you, of the Baron de Teissier de Latour, father of that poor old Jeanne Elisabeth who married Bartholomaeus Gugi, who became Barthelemi Gugi, in France I suppose when he married the lady from Nimes at the French Court. Have you a picture of her? A dull copy taken from an old painting?

Last August, Emily Porteous (Mrs. Farel Vinet Caberu Sarjeant, another French Huguenot family), my second cousin gave me a very small copy of an old miniature which her father gave her and which Charlie has beautifully enlarged. Don't you think it is beautiful and so nice to have?

Next it will be Barthelemi himself that she is to give me. It is a promise, thirty or more years old which Emily made to let me have these pictures when she could put her hands on them. Although belonging to her, they were in the Bank vault and during her brother's (Charlie E.L.) lifetime, he refused to give her possession. Now that he has died, a couple of years ago, she is mistress of her own portraits, papers etc. These Porteous men have been tyrants of the old dreadful school – to their helpless womenfolk especially. These were the days of the "good old times", so falsely named, when self control in the masculine sex was not inculcated, temper in middle age developed into insanity towards the end.

About Herman: 10th Aug last a splinter of razor blade flew into his right eye above the pupil. He was breaking it according to habit, between his fingers when it had become useless. The splinter fixed itself fortunately high up. He was 51 days in hospital, suffered frightfully, and has only begun to work since Jan. Now he is studying for an exam in April; but his right eye is useless, not quite sightless. Dr. Beaupré says it is adhesion to be remedied by a very slight operation. Of course Beaupré has treated him from the first – but he is now an old man, I suppose. Don't know him. What do you think? It is scar tissue, I suppose.

Elsa has been pretty limp lately, has begun taking cold baths in the morning as she used to do and is better. Her nails are growing in again and no more festering in sight, owing to painting with iodine. We expect four Australian boys (about 17) the 3 to 8th April - a Rotarian, Kiwanian, and I.O.D.E. undertaking.

Love to you all my dears,

Your own Mama

April 4 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

4 April /29

My dear Harold

I should have said sooner that we could not leave home to accept your invitation. We were to have taken 4 Australian boys, but Mr. Hay judged that we live too far away from the centre of things. So having got ready we are doing much needed sewing and trying to get Paradis to make the hotbed.

“Of the 160 Australian boys in their teens, not one of them smokes or drinks” – please tell your boys that, and they are fine specimens too! The above quotation is from the Chronicle-Telegraph.

Poor Mrs. Elliot has had a paralytic stroke Monday morning but is rallying; her sister Mrs. Beiber came from Sherbrooke but her step-daughter Maggie Hewitson did not come from Montreal. Dorothy was sick too at the same time but Jean stayed at home a day from her office at Price Brothers. Fortunately when navigation closed she was not too long idle till she got in there and hopes to stay, because of course navigation work is only seven months while that is permanent if not so well paid. Neither girl is strong and not one of the boys – three- has ever help[ed]; Stanley has always been poverty-stricken and has a wife and children – Willie just gets along and has lost his only child and Charlie who lives extravagantly never helped and they do not ever know his address; has been very ill now in hospital but no one knew till it was over.

You ask how the tenants are paying – not well of course, and I am sending lawyer’s letters to Paradis and Duplain, probably Grantham too who pays \$15.00 some weeks and then skips one or two. Altogether it keeps me on the watch all the time. I am to see Prévost tonight. Since Mme Paradis died the family has been quarrelling worse than ever, the two girls are leaving to go to a married sister at Charny, both old and worn out and sad. One Amanda came in today, the second time, to tell me that they are going. That wretch Adélarde who has not worked is playing tyrant, putting them out and insisting that his father give him everything now. So I must get in first of course and shall possibly be without a tenant first of May. But say nothing of it to Aunt May for the present please.

I am finishing this off at the Chateau, Friday afternoon just before going home. Those Australian boys are everywhere about, the weather is fine and soft, the roads dirty of course but cleaning up signs are everywhere and in a day or two there will be little snow. John Street is being all change [d], the Winfield Confectionary and Walker the plumber’s next door pulled down to build a Theatre right through to the next street.

Then the old Tourangeau house No. 100 is to go now to make way for a skyscraper. On Anne St. Miss Lane’s and two others are already gone to be replaced by Price Bros. 16 storey offices etc.

My time is up – we are both well. Love to you all and goodbye my own. Hope you will get this tomorrow.

Mama

April 11 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

11 April 1929

My own Son

Your letters are dear and very interesting - I'm so sorry for the poor boy with meningitis, also very sad about that brave soldier Mrs Sully, who has always kept up such a brave show. Give her my love, I'm thinking a great deal of her and that heart condition. How goes your goitre case in hospital, and the old man of 86? His is similar to your father's case, is it not? I shall wait to hear.

I have had some money from Paradis \$100.00 and sent some to Aunt May; had to tell her some of the state of affairs. I've seen Prévost my lawyer who is to try to persuade him to sell or mortgage to pay. Between us we may manage to get him to see reason, a tough old nut as there is to crack. But remarquez bien, not one of the people, tenants etc who bother me so much is bad. There is no drunkard, thief, nor treacherous person of either sex, who would harm us or our property. I am often forced to wonder that they are so respectable, even if so great a problem. All polite and anyone of them ready to help in case of need and civil to my face at least.

Sat. evg. Paradis' indebtedness is reduced to \$120.00 which he promises to pay next week; says "it's all made but hard to collect, still he will have every cent in a few days". It will make a great difference to me of course as it comes along, and in the interval Grantham sends \$5.00.

This is Sunday and the Richard's (the miserable family in the Creamery east end where the two children have died of tbc meningitis, where the poor half dead mother of 10 when she arrived, had an abortion in July, has just had another now) have just sent in their rent and the best pays I have, never owe me anything. The father still trying to work at his painters trade is told at the Dispensary that he is dying – no hope for him at all. He is in every way disagreeable but tries to work – you spoke of disinfecting their house when they leave, but they are not leaving, staying another year.

Adolphe is treating the mother who is very weak; I had him here today and he has given vaccine for Elsa's two very sore fingers – she has had 7 at different times. He says that he himself is running a fever of 102 since he came home, too bad to begin again after such a wonderful trip to Jamaica etc etc. He desires to be kindly remembered by you all, always sits and asks about everyone but he was so tired and sleepy – of course under the circumstances Dr. McKay gets most of his practice; a thin white chap.

Those letters in the New Outlook are very interesting and yours is just splendid – I'm proud of it. No wonder your sentiments were recognized by those who know you intimately – Aunt Mary will also no doubt recognize the circumstances. She will be 79 I think in June. I do wish you could pay her an occasional visit – she will just be getting pneumonia or heart trouble someday and dying too. You ought to try even if she is so odd for you know we owe it to ...[page missing?]

...sensible yet and to do well, even if he is a dear sport. Now goodbye my own dear.

The snow is going fast. Your own Mama

May 1 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

May 1, 1929

My own dear Harold

I'm in a hurry. I've been trying to write a lot of things but gardening has come in, although I've only done it vicariously – through Héribert Giroux – La 'Dounne's half-wit son.

How are you? – and how is dear Ella? I know that tomorrow will be darling Stuart's birthday. Please tell him Memère loves him ever so, and Aunt Elsa too.

I am so grieved about Herman's eye – he has studied so hard for his exam, that he is all nervous and exhausted but he passed very well. Then after a rest at his home, he went to a Montreal specialist – Leslie I think is the name he is the eye-man of Gogy's Co. Canada Power and Paper Co. and he advised strongly against operation, said it might injure the other eye, would certainly cause more disfigurement; he is to wear glasses and so for the present he is working in Montreal of which I am much pleased - , hope he will be with some English-speaking people and try to learn some English language ways and habit of thought!

I told you that Elsa had festered fingers – around the nail, seven, at different times, during the winter. Her dock work began last Saturday and in preparation for it she wished to have her last two fingers healed. Adolphe gave some vaccine and they did heal, both were recidivists. He also advised treatment physio-therapy and she has gone to Dr. Samson's Clinique 4 years established on his return from Paris – he is a Lévis man, very nice she says and after even two weeks treatment he certainly has done her good. After a very thorough examination he pronounced the case Raynaud's disease¹⁰⁷. (Is that how you spell the name or is it Renaud?) Certainly her hands and feet have given very much trouble this winter and already they are keeping warm now while the Dr says that she responds well, so I hope for great improvement soon. She is hopeful too, taking rest a great deal and liking the effect of hot and cold showers and electric treatment, given by Dr. Lauchance formerly of Beauport.

I have good news. Last night Paradis brought me the last cent of his rent, and owed neither Aunt May nor me anything, till this morning when his next month – and year- begin again. So I am to send Aunt May a check so a great load is off my mind and I shall in future see that he keeps paid up monthly – if I can! Because I know quite well how seed time and harvest take money. One girl has left the house – one remains and the son is ill, tbc.

3rd May I must close. Mme Belanger – my 20 Mont Carmel tenant has come with a M. Duchesnay, brought me money and will mail this –

¹⁰⁷ Raynaud's phenomenon is a disorder causing discoloration of the fingers, toes, and occasionally other areas. This condition may also cause nails to become brittle with longitudinal ridges. The phenomenon is believed to be the result of vasospasms that decrease blood supply to the respective regions. Stress and cold are classic triggers of the phenomenon.

Mama

May 10 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

On Chateau Frontenac letterhead

10 May 1929

Dear Harold

I have cut from an old telephone Directory the above list of eight at the Clinic at which Elsa has had 12 treatments alternate days hot and cold showers, and high frequency electricity.

Today she announced that she feels as if she is regaining the vigor she has missed altogether for some time past. Of course she has been resting a great deal both in bed and out on the galerie – this is a French word, is it not, and ought to be so written? “Il faut que ca cesse” said Dr. Samson about housework and the putting of her hands into hot and cold water all the time. At all events the fingertips remain cured ever since Adolphe gave the vaccine; on the Sunday fortnight they were well, she only began treatments the next day. One of the very few questions asked her, was whether she had always been given to fits of crying and laughing, always? And she could not remember. Also he asked if her father had died of paralysis – she said no, just of old age. He noticed the shape of her feet and toes – short and stubby – as being typical of Raynaud’s disease so he kept telling the two students who attended the Clinic till he found that she understood French! He speaks English very well (but Dr. Lachance does not), and told Elsa that first day that he would give her “something to take by the mouth, mercury”. He has not however done so yet.

Well! About Ruth¹⁰⁸ – I shall send her a gift in a week or two, and wish them happiness with all my heart. Can Hugh Lanctot not give Reggie some work which he might be able to do?

I have sold Héliodore Laberge, the third house eastward from here, a small piece of land on the hill side behind his lot coming up onto the pretty glade we called our Park. He had it surveyed last year before I knew just the spot he required, and I refused to sell unless I got cash, so he has just paid me four hundred dollars, at 7 ½ cents per foot running up from the brook. Naturally he will make it a beauty spot, being an architect and having money, but he overlooks us, as I did not anticipate.

Sunday. Elsa continues to feel returning energy, and has gone to the dock today, only once each week. We are breaking our necks to get Grantham work, there seems a chance of at least employment for the season at the Dock, the Reford Line through Ted Young helping, so as the poor man is not pushing Elsa had to drag him from pillar to post down there. Once he disappeared and came home, she ‘phoned me and I sent him back after dinner. I hope he will land a job, for when he has one he is no shirker, works hard, and faster than younger men, but has no self confidence.

¹⁰⁸ Ella’s sister, Ruth Stevenson, who married Reg Gisborne. This is referring to their upcoming wedding.

Yesterday and today have been fine; I am to have Héribert to work again tomorrow pruning, chopping and digging in the garden, and generally cleaning up. With his help I've made a great and it will be a lasting, improvement.

After Elsa's ship had sailed, she lay down three hours in the nursery, then went up to Church tonight and to the Oliver's afterwards; will only be home late. – Mollie, Maitland and Louise Grover sailed Friday for England. As the ship did not come to the wharf and it was late when she passed, we only wrote and did not go out in the tender.

If I often use the hotel paper and envelopes, I ought to explain that Lois McCusker last year left quantities of both belonging to every hotel between this and Victoria, taking some always as she went to write her reports etc but overestimating her need.

I see by the payment that Mr. John T. Ross, (whose two sisters married brothers, lawyers and R.C.s in England), John Vesey – Fitzgerald's wife was Annie the elder, who died long ago. Just a month or so ago their daughter – only child – died and now he himself has died. The second Martin Vesey-Fitzgerald married Ella the younger sister who has been a long time a widow; she is also childless.

Mr. Carruthers died the 9th in his 70th year, at Whitby Ont. Edna and her boy Jim had just rented her house here and gone up for the summer; Fred has got something to do for a chartered accountant, Grant Glassco, who married the late Sir William Price's daughter, Willa.

I had a nice letter from Cyril today. He sends love to you and is applying to Price Bros – where Stuart Hawkins is an architect – for a vacancy they have.

Goodbye and much love from us both, Mama

Finished on the train.

May 26 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Sunday evg

26 May 1929

My dear Harold

I have been so busy, and therefore did not write you but Elsa is off to church tonight and I am writing in the moonlight on the back galerie. I wish to enclose one dollar for Norman's birthday bank (or other) account, and one for David's. No stipulation is intended and the boys are free to use them as may be thought fit.

Today has taken place the usual blessing of autos at St. Louis de Courville up near the Falls, so it has been a very noisy and busy day with constant passing of Bands, cars and people of every kind but the

weather has been beautiful indeed, although Friday gave us sudden darkness, heavy hail which made the country and fields like heavy snow, followed by torrential rain. For a time Quebec and Lévis were hidden as by a veil.

Our garden is ready and I have lettuce transplanted but not much else except peas sown Wednesday and beans before the storm Friday.

I had a letter from Cyril saying that he intends to apply for a vacant place at Price Brothers for an Engineer as he is anxious to come East. Banff does not agree with either his health or Sylvia's.

Lois writes that wee Sylvia is now quite well and they intend to consult a London specialist – malaria they think.

I am putting a stone foundation under the east and north sides of the kitchen extension of old Creamery for the sick tenants Paradis, also a new chimney and clapboarding (*includes sketch*). I expect all to be finished in a couple of days and shall be glad. They are the poorest and sick family, yet never behind in their rent.

I've come into the electric light of the dining room, and Elsa has returned. I am sorry to say that the 3rd finger of her right hand and the 1st of her left have begun again to suppurate sluggishly around the nails today, although the Drs. are very much pleased with her condition otherwise, and she is to shew them her fingers tomorrow. Of course she eats and sleeps perfectly well, takes things easily and goes to her treatments daily.

Antoine Guillot came today to see us; his sister an invalid is in the Hotel Dieu du Sacré Coeur St Sauveur, so he went in too, to work as a Carpenter, a year ago, and now is farmer also for their large place- so he is well content principally because his wife who twice deserted him and now wishes to return, cannot touch him there.

I think I told you that I had dinner one evening at Mrs. Sissons'; she is alone, has still two unmarried girls one in Montreal working and one at school at Dunham. She herself is good and very slipshod but all her children are queer and unreliable.

I must say goodnight dear. I am very tired and sleepy. Elsa and I both send love to you all – I'll write sooner.

No, Herman is not much disfigured.

Mama

In Elsa's hand: Mama asked me to put in \$2 but I forgot to get it from her so am short. Sorry but hope to send it next time.

June 7 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

7th June 1929

Dear Harold

I am fearfully late but anxious to get this off, all the same in time for dear Ruth's wedding, just a little cheque to shew her that we love her and wish them both all that is good and happy, but in the meantime she will know best just how to place every cheque. When the presents are all in there will surely be some small necessary thing of which no one has thought – so there it is!

I hope the day will be fine, above all things and that you will be free to stay around all day and have no hurry-calls.

I saw in the papers a day or two ago the story of a case similar case to that Trempe one – murder too. I hope you are through with it.

I am rejoicing – we are, that the Province is not to send Mtres Lanctot and Geoffrion to the Privy Council to oppose the application of the 5 Western women that the B.N.A.¹⁰⁹ be changed, so that women may be declared to be persons¹¹⁰; now they are not. It would have been disgraceful I think had this Province interfered in such a way, with the Dominion. Just fancy the Montreal Commercial Travellers Association, having in like fashion asked the Provincial House not to grant women's Suffrage! What "scunner"¹¹¹ have they against the sex to treat them so, and to fear their misuse of the vote? As if men always used it well and rightly!

Sylvia seems well again. Do you remember all the terrible sick-headaches Papa used to have; and Lois – and sometimes Elsa? And all the Hydrochoric acid Papa and Lois used to take from Dr. Parke? Might it not be that kind of heredity which Sylvia has too?

Elsa never has headaches now, her fingers came to nothing, the sores cleared up without any vaccine and she goes on with her treatment – will do so till Dr. Samson tells her that she is entirely well, so he says.

It rains most of the time, day and night, but the garden things are beginning to come up. Beautiful Solomon's seal – have you any?

Now goodbye my dear – I've sent off to Oshawa Dominion Convention my reports. Our good women are not dismayed by the existing state of affairs.

¹⁰⁹ British North America Act

¹¹⁰ Refers to the Persons' Case. The "5 Western women" that Leila mentions were Henrietta Muir Edwards, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Emily Murphy and Irene Parlby. On October 18, 1929, the Privy Council in England declared women to be persons under the law.

¹¹¹ Scunner: to be in a state of disgusted irritation. Origin Middle English (Scots). First known use: 14th century.

Your own Mama

June 24 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

24 June 1929

My own Harold

I've been very busy, so neglected you; but Elsa's hands are once more nicely healed and she is to ask Dr. Samson today what he thinks of her resting to go to the sea-shore. She has had 40 treatments; 20 of hot and cold showers and massage and 20 of high frequency. She is certainly in every way better, but the Doctor ought to be consulted of course as to what he will wish and think.

I enclose two letters of Lois for you and Conrad – it is fine that Sylvia is so much better, but I wonder what it means that Lois herself has a chaise-longue for the garden and a settee for the house? Of course if it just gives her more ease – why it's all right. I hope she has no lameness but though she never would complain she must be tired enough and need some extra rest – so it is well that Charlie thinks of these things Napoléon's Tomb leaves him cold – it's quite true that there is not much enlivening about it.

Thank Ruth please for the announcements and the very nice letter she wrote me. I hope that she will be strong and well beyond what her appearance betokens; and I am very glad that they had many checks. Those girls are all so clever and capable that they can do wonders with very little, but after all two must live on something. I hope they will be happy.

Yesterday Matt Craig drove out his wife and four children, went back to attend to his ship and then came for them in the evening. The children, two girls 10 & 8, then two boys 6 & 4, had a great time and a picnic of sandwiches, cakes and lemonade on the gallery, and their mother played hymns and made them sing. Thursday they will be driven down to Portage by Matt, and Elsa may follow the next week. After that I shall hope to be ready to go up to see you, but something depends on what Dr. Samson says.

Last Friday morning, we were in the kitchen when a tall young chap and small passed the door towards the garden, Dermott Murray and his bride, née Gertrude Quinn. He used to be a dear pretty little boy and is now a nice looking chap.

Our poor old Paradis has an older brother dying, and the nuns told him yesterday that his son Adélarde will not recover. His epileptic son married – has just undergone an operation for double hernia and some other thing. So the old man is pretty hopeless!

The ground is rather dry so the prospect of rain tonight is pleasant. What terrible storms we have had though in different places!

Saturdays Gazette was full of news of Medical Conventions and one article gave the cause of the frequent cases of Angina, as Coffee-drinking, overstraining by labour or exercise – but never any mention of alcoholic excess!

I am enclosing this time the two dollars which Elsa omitted a while ago for the children's birthdays.

I gather that you and Conrad have not written Lois lately, though I occasionally enclose a letter of your's or his. Now I must go to the garden.

Mama

July 7 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

7 July 1929

My own Harold

I've appeared negligent though I am only busy and pre-occupied, trying to plan for many things and to seize in between chance to visit you.

First, Elsa has ended with June her treatments – is quite well and enjoying life. We agree with you entirely on the whole subject, and also that she shall go to the Sea-side; only each day that we have rain, rain, rain, and each time that a card comes from Kathleen telling how freezing cold, wet and uncomfortable it is at Portage, she rejoices that she is still here.

With this the subject of treatments finishes; you, Conrad and we agree!

Please say by what ship Madeleine¹¹² and her friend sail; we wish to see her- if possible- in passing.

Our old Paradis is in despair, his son Adélard, who went perhaps two months ago, is dying he says t.b.c.¹¹³ of the throat, at the Laval Hospital. In any case he warned me this spring that this is to be his last year of renting from us. I have advertised, had ten applications, and three have come to visit the place, a fourth is coming and I am likely to get much higher rent and better conditions, with a three to five year lease.

I have given a 30 days option on my house 20 Mont Carmel St. at \$25,000.00 two fifths of which belong to Aunt Blanche's estate – a very good thing for us all, and a perfect deliverance for me if it goes through. I shall know soon, by the 3rd Aug.

Besides this, I am trying to bring up to \$5,000 an offer I have received for a large piece of the Ryland property, from the St. Grégoire de Montmorency road down to the beginning of the beach and from the Beauport River to the boundary line of Aunt May's property which it does not at all affect. All of course subject to the approval of Muriel (and Frank), Blanche and Bertha. I have been making – no, having

¹¹² Madeleine was Ella Stevenson Geggie's youngest sister.

¹¹³ Tuberculosis

made, plans of the divisions of the property and registering them; having an addition made to the Creamery roof in front to cover the gallery and shed the rain – and have bought a good second hand bath at a Jew-shop to put in the Shanty where theirs has sprung a leak. In the meantime I've had to give Grantham notice to leave 1st Aug – found months rent due and no one worrying except me. \$125.00, the father has given up working, and his sons waiters at Kent House etc etc disclaim responsibility.

Gardening is still a necessity, weeds grow apace, and I have been able to obtain a lot of help in fighting them, perhaps ten half days for all sorts of work, woodcutting as well as garden by Heribert Giroux, a man of brawn, no brain – and several odd hours work out from young boys at 10 cts an hour (pretty poorly done too) still it all helps me, and now Elsa has done a little, the last few days – she loves the work so much.

You are very good to offer the lake cottage¹¹⁴, I cannot see the way, but would if we could; so many irons in the fire, so much to be seen to, but I hope it will all turn out well.

Best love to you all my dear ones. I'll come when I can.

How many of you will go to Hartford, Conn¹¹⁵. When you do go?

[Mama]

July 17 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

17 July '29

Dear Harold

Just lately I have been examining at Paquet's, aluminum ware such as you speak of buying for Ella. It strikes me that though one may require and use one or two of these expensive new things, so many and for such an amount, will be found superfluous. In that case, they can be kept clean to give to other bridal showers from time to time as they come along.

By this time you will know that we met Madeleine¹¹⁶ and Betty Taylor, gave them a few blossoms, showed them the nursery and its crowds of foreigners and then escorted them back to the ship for dinner when they were just due to leave, according to instructions – but after reaching home we watched a long, long time before they left the wharf, and we might have done more for them had we known. Only when once the hour for departure is set it is not wise to tarry. But on their return we may be able to keep them a few days.

¹¹⁴ Possibly the cottage that Harold and Ella had on Montcrieff Lake. This predates the Wolf Lake cottages.

¹¹⁵ Ella's only brother, Bill Stevenson, lived in Hartford, Conn.

¹¹⁶ Ella's sister, Madeleine, from B.C., visiting with a friend.

I enclose Eric's letter, it is just the same – all sport! He is a dear boy but I wish he were as practical as Hans – only over there they do so fete the sports¹¹⁷.

Mollie and Maitland are to sail on the Montclare tomorrow, we shall see them as they pass through. You ask if after the sale of the Cape House we shall go over to England. I think not; it will be getting too cold – but after all let us wait, the sale is not at all sure; I wish it was and am waiting. However by next year I hope to have all ready to go over early for a long summer.

I have had an offer from one Amedée Demers for the lower part only of Aunt Blanche's farm, from the lower track and road to St. Grégoire down to high water mark (below the swamp) and from Beauport River to Aunt May's boundary fence. I told Demers that he must give more than \$5,000.00 if he wants the land, from \$7,000 to \$10,000. I believe he will. He offered \$2,000 then later \$3,000. Of course I wrote Blanche and Bertha, then Muriel, finally Frank. He replied and I send you a copy: will you send it (and Eric's letter) to Conrad? I must have the latter back. How do you think I can leave home just now when I am having such great opportunities to do things which count? And three different parties are after my farm here for next year, when Paradis is to go 1st of May. I advertised and had ten applications for it.

Sunday 21st July These are the pages I forgot at home, my dear, when I went to town on Friday and wrote from the Chateau. That evening on my return I found awaiting me a marvellous letter from Hans which I prize indeed – the dearest most naturally graceful letter that anyone could write with such a comprehensive description and news of everyone and things. I'm so glad he has passed his exams for school in Ottawa and I've sent his letter to England; you shall see it on its return. The fine feeling your boy evinces is so promising!! I shall write him in a little while and I look for great things from your bonnie bunch of boys.

So the Lanctots are gone to be near the Montreal end of the new bridge. I hope dear little Donald will be taken care of and I wonder if he will. I spent a couple of hours with his grandmother on my birthday – such a good kind easygoing careless person, not too curious about her young people, asks no questions it would be useless. Doesn't think any of her girls smoke – not to her knowledge, two of her boys do not smoke either. She thinks none of her family drinks and though the Lanctots have been kindness itself through all her terrible trouble, and Hugh is a nice chap and good husband and father, she keeps away from the family where wine flows all the time and the poor dead mother (so long ill) was soon forgotten. You see Dr. Rees in Bermuda attended poor Conrad¹¹⁸ till he died. He and his wife visited us here that summer 1876.

David Morgan Tailor had married Dr. Rees' sister. Then Mrs. D'Albuoy, and Mrs. Hill were daughters of the Rees', the former knew Conrad well. And Mrs. Sissons (Kathleen Hill) at 16 was induced to run away by old Sissons, 27 yrs older, who took his grownup daughter to chaperon the elopement to Montreal, where they were married. Her father, who was the same age as her husband – went to the police and

¹¹⁷ Eric and Hans were cousins. Eric lived in England, as did his parents, Lois and Charlie.

¹¹⁸ Conrad Gogy, Leila's brother, who died of pneumonia in Bermuda in 1876 at the age of 19.

got into the papers, about his daughter's abduction, forbid her mother to visit or receive her and behaved like a blustering old tar, as he was; paymaster in the Navy, 11 medals, Chinese war wounds, etc. The Sissons had 11 children, "how could I know she would be so prolific?" he asked. One died as a baby, the eldest girl of 15 or 16 Elodie died of t.b.c. pestered to death by the foolish attention of Lawton Brodie – who has since married an old widow with a grown up daughter - 6 Sissons girls still live, 2 still unmarried. Arola in Montreal in a Bank, and Audrey returning to St. Helen's school at Dunham. 3 boys, one electrician married to an Irish R.C. at Kenogami with the Price's. Audrey tells me she visited the Lanctots at Easter and met you, Ella, and the children – evidently was filled with admiration. She's a nice little girl, natural, if she can only remain so for a while at least.

6 p.m. Elsa is just leaving for Church, and I remain to write on the back gallery. This has been a beautiful day indeed so we ate and enjoyed life out of doors since rising and had meals out here too.

What do you mean by saying that while I live I am a bond between you four? See that each of you after my death keeps the bond just as strong as it was at any time of your parents' lifetime. Else have we lived in vain. Write each other when I am not here to pass the letters on. Be patient and kind for I shall know, my son!

Your own Mama

August 5 1929 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

On Chateau Frontenac letterhead

5 Aug 1929

My own Harold

It is very difficult to write at home so at 6 o'clock I've dropped in here to try. First, the Cape House option was to be up the 4th, but it was Sunday, so that made it today. Paradis' son Adélard died Friday – not quite 30, I find – so we went to the funeral this a.m. at 9. It struck Elsa as "how much we threw overboard at the reformation, beginning with a foreign language and how little the ceremonial had to do with the object of it, and with those afflicted who remain behind". I thought, 3 priests, acolytes and asperging¹¹⁹ as well as communion, the clergy only. All symbolic, and the tipsy candle on the catafalque¹²⁰, the holy water also, not on the coffin. What if they do sing the same psalms as we – everything is incomprehensible.

Coming home after seeing Helen Young – who seems very much better after her visit to Portage – I hunched and came in to town several things to do, and I caught the old land agent about Cape House, thinking he had been perhaps 'phoning during our absence. But no, he had forgotten the date, and is

¹¹⁹ The rite of sprinkling a congregation with Holy water.

¹²⁰ An ornamental structure sometimes used in funerals for the lying in state of the body.

still awaiting an answer, asks me to wait a day or two, not more. I am sure it is the C.P.R. which has already bought Miss Tremaine's house a little nearer the Terrace. – Well I must just have patience then, probably a lot of patience!

You said in one letter that you would get that \$35.00 from those people who owe you “by fair means or foul”. Oh no – you do not mean that – because it is a just debt, and legal means to recover it are not foul. You have a right to get it if you can, and there may be more than one just way.

The Ryland swamp lot is not sold yet – that will require patience too but I am not inclined to accept Frank's proposal that he should get a share for Muriel and establish a Trust Fund for his children while Blanche and Bertha require support. I have to obtain legal advice on the will, Auntie Blanche's, as to the “provision for her unmarried daughters while they – or only one of them lives”; also I must do it tactfully indeed.

Oh and there are lots of other things, with every day cropping up. We have had Matt Craig twice for an evening meal while his family is at the seaside; they will return Thursday. Kathleen Colley has returned, weather too cold down there – she never bathed once, nor did she go to the beach – so Elsa is thankful that she rested at home and we had every comfort and luxury. She lay on the galerie couch, read or sewed and refused invitations, one to go to Toronto with Jean Elliot. She eats and sleeps and is well and bright.

No visitors came at all, until Saturday last, the 3rd, when we had taken in a Miss Marie Weeks, from Philadelphia, just for the night, a nice girl stranded at 11 o'clock on her way from McGill French course to Kent House, a Teacher. Next morning two similar teachers took her away to the Saguenay, but the Ball had opened and the phone rang. It was Dr. Troop and I was glad to see him, his wife and his cousins Miss Higham, (pr[onounced] Hy-am) and Miss Woodward, one Scotch and one English. They only stayed about half an hour and he wished to shew these British women our flags. I was glad to see them. Dr. Troop looks much changed, I think, pale, thin, and raw – they drove Elsa down to the Dock all the way and visited all around.

Rev. Mr. Potter of Montreal is replacing our Dr. Gordon; I called on them on evening – last time we met was at Ste. Anne, MacDonald College, when you were with me, and he took the train with us back to Montreal. Then you and I drove around the Mountain, when our chauffeur took us to Buckingham Street – instead of Bellingham Ave where I wished to see Dr. Wyatt Johnston's widow. Her son, Harry Johnston is to marry shortly Mr. Walter Lyman's daughter. The Potters are to come out to see us tomorrow with a daughter – another daughter, who was with them here recently, has married Dr. Rexford's son Orrin.

We have had terribly heavy rain for 24 hours, but last week I got down to the beach on a hay cart. Elsa followed on foot, and we dug up those beautiful yellow Canadian wild lilies of which I sent Hans one; I hope it will grow. We got Stuart Hawkins to drive us one night to Maizerets where we dug up yellow iris; now I have to get blue ones near there another time. I've done a lot in that line lately, digging up and putting the plants opposite to the kitchen door.

I am well, and we have had on the whole a very restful summer, it was often and long, very wet, generally cool which suited us, and we have been alone – suited us too. The few very warm days we managed to get through without effort. One day Matt Craig drove me to Laval; another Stuart Hawkins, his wife and children drove me there too, he saying he could not remember the way. But when we came in sight of Brown's he knew it and LeRossignol's where we had a long talk with the people left there.

I shall enclose Lois' letters received today and snaps. Send them to Conrad please. We are planning to meet Madeleine of course and Betty Taylor.

This is a fine evening but cold. Elsa is at home. I have my winter coat and feel quite energetic because of the cool weather. Now much love my own, to you all, Mama.

August 13 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold and Ella Geggie

Darnoc

13 Aug 1929

My own dear Harold and Ella

I am so glad to hear that you are both likely to get away on a trip – wish it could be longer – and shall wish to learn your address while you are there.

Your letters all come regularly and are such a comfort – I send dear Hans' one that came for my birthday and which I sent over to England for my children there to see, it was so good. You should see it too, for his coming as he does is due to your teaching and example. The ease and completeness with which he writes are so charming.

Also the Cape House is not yet sold – all the options were satisfactory and the whole thing would have gone through, had not the Livery Stable and garage next to the St. Louis Hotel blocked it all by asking \$250,000, just one hundred thousand too much, the would-be purchasers say. The object I take it is to build a C.N.R. Hotel rival to the Frontenac; we must say nothing but wait a while.

The man who wishes for the Ryland property however keeps raising his bids, and I keep communicating with the heirs. If he can afford it, the man Amedée Demers wishes for the whole farm, buildings and beach. In case we close there ought to be enough to enable Blanche and Bertha to live comfortably, as their mother's will provides for.

Thursday last Elsa and I went down to the Island of Orleans to see my cousin Emily Porteous and her husband Farel Calvin Vinet Sergent. I am after a copy of a miniature of Barthelemi Gogy which she has in the Bank. She tells me that her Grandmother told her very little of her escape with her two young daughters from Paris to Neuchatel where they were finally joined by [her] husband Barthelemi, and [their] only brother Louis. One night when the mother and daughters were at a party in Neuchatel, their

mother said “we must take our leave, a Courier has just come to inform me that the head of our family has been guillotined” – a de la Tour, of course. These three, Madame Barthelemi Gugy and her two daughters had fled to the protection of Général de Meuron, where Barthelemi and Louis joined them. Amélie, Mrs. James Porteous, said that, at that time she was fourteen, in reply to Emily’s question about her age – so Emily asked if she too could go to parties when she should be 14.¹²¹

I must now close in a hurry. Elsa is to go to a picnic at Chaudière by Vivien Tremaine dock workers today.

Good bye.

Love to Will and Flora.

From Mama

We thought that Madeleine was returning next week.

September 29 1929 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc Beauport Quebec

29 Sept. '29

Dear Harold

My biggest boy, and oldest one too, I am writing to you for all three others, to say how much I enjoyed my visit, and how sorry I am to learn of dear wee Stuart’s accident – thankful indeed that it is no worse. I’m glad David eats well, hope Stuart will do so too.

We both wish you many happy returns of your birthday Wednesday, and send you some Golden Bantam corn which I hope all my boys will like. Lois is growing it well in England from seed sent by Jean Chaplin.

I send you, to keep, a clipping from a French paper, le Sorelois, full of errors and all mixed up. Your 3rd cousin, Eva Chévalier, daughter of Elisa Phoebe Johnston and Jules Chévalier, married a Larochelle – she died young, and left one boy. The writer of this article may be either the widower of Eva, or her son. But at all events he ought to take ordinary pains to ascertain whether what he writes as history is founded on fact.

I trust that Ella is better – so many frights may well have affected you both, David’s illness when I was there, Hans’ afterwards, and then Stuart’s accident. Thank God for the happy issue of all.

¹²¹ Amélie, who escaped the French Revolution with her parents, was Emily’s grandmother. Emily was a cousin of Leila’s – so it was Leila’s great grandmother who was the Lady in Waiting to Marie Antoinette.

Love to you all

Mama

Attached is a lengthy clipping from Le Sorelois from 13 September 1929 "Les Vieilles Familles de Sorel". This article is primarily about the Seigneuries, the Gugy family and the Johnston family. Barthelemi's daughter, Amelie, married a Johnston. Leila has written copious corrections in the margins:

B.C.A. Gugy married first Sophie Louise Juchereau Duchesnay and purchased the Manor and farm from her brother. He never was Seigneur of Beauport and did not wish to be. He practiced law at the Bar of Montreal and afterwards of Quebec from 1852 till his death in 1876. B.C.A. Gugy practised law in Montreal till 1852 when he removed to Quebec or Beauport to defend himself from suits by his neighbor William Brown, Miller about the River Beauport.

Strange very that all these Johnston's, Bell and probably J.H. Galbraith too came from Berwick on Tweed whence the Geggie's also came.

October 19 1929 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Prisoners' Welfare Association

1231 St. Catherine, Montreal

19 Oct 1929

My own Boy

I returned from Ormstown Convention Thursday night so tired that I was not able yesterday to do much except to go to see Mrs. McLachlan and have an hour's talk. She lives quite near and is better than when I last saw her, living permanently with Inez and Shirley, so more cheerful for one thing, but has had an operation on her eyelid (the lower one removed of a growth, which does not heal, yet is much less disfiguring than it used to be).

On the way, quite near too – called to see Mrs. Trotter – but failed. She is too ill – cancer of the breast; and tried to see the Bonham's who have moved from Melville to Mountain.

Now, here, I have an appointment with John Kidman Sec Can Pri Welfare Association¹²², and he is keeping me waiting all the same. I phoned Muriel last evening, she was out and had not called me before I left. 'Phoned Herman just now – he is working out near Cartierville, will not be back to his apartment till 5:30. I am staying till Monday, (the Enright's are so good to me) and think of taking him

¹²² Secretary Canadian Prisoners' Welfare Association

(Herman) for a sightseeing trip such as I took you on one Sunday in your first year at McGill, to Mount Royal, etc.

I told our Convention speaker Mrs. Lancefield (Mrs. Pugsley's daughter of Hamilton) about that cheeky speech of the little boy who asked the English teacher why she did not give the Monkey's face back to him. She said at once, "that is not original, it was learnt at the movies". So you see what a nice influence they have – of course grown-ups repeat before children too young for admission, what they see and hear.

I hope you received the apples, which were specially intended for Ella's birthday that she might be able to cook and eat some of them as I feared that she could not eat the corn.

I have 'phoned the McIver's and they wish me to go there for supper tomorrow afternoon. I must make it fit in if possible. Herman has just phoned that he will be here at 5 to see me today. I just forget the way up to those graves on Mont Royal; top of Pine Avenue I think, and I know that the Gogy lot is between the Lyman and Telfer lots, not far either from the Chaplin's.

I find that young William Sutherland, my step-niece Bertha Irving's son, who married Harriet Birks has called his two sons Bart (short for Bartholomew) and Michael.

I have had such fine weather since I left home except Wednesday at Ormstown. I told you how kind Howard Clouston was not only to come to see me but to drive me down to see that Chateaugay Monument in all the pouring rain.

It is so strange to be in Montreal each time without Lois, but good to know that they are to return sometime soon. I rather expect to find, for all she has never said so, that Lois herself has never felt happy or at home over there.

I am quite anxious to return to Elsa and my ordinary tasks which must be accumulating. I have an offer, the final one, from Demers, for the lower part of the Ryland property from road to Ste. Gregoire to high water mark from river Beauport to Aunt May's line, \$5,000 – not enough at all.

I am waiting now for Herman so goodbye, my dear. He ought to be here in a minute.

I hope the scar on Stuart's dear cheek will disappear¹²³.

Love to you all,
Mama

¹²³ Stuart Geggie always had a scar on his cheek – it never did disappear.

November 10 1929 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

10 Nov. 1929

Dear Harold

I trust that you are once more all well and that you may long remain so.

I wonder if you will forgive me for suggesting that now you have a good and intelligent boy, as I take it, in the house, you should make him a routine programme to include attending to the furnace and bringing in wood etc at regular hours, so as to leave Ella and her aunt free. I think it would be well also in summer months to make the wee boys refill the wood-box regularly.

The other night when I was dining at Matt Craig's and hearing the children [say] their prayers, it struck me that I've seldom or never done that at your house.

Talking of Matt Craig, Marjorie his wife, née Woodley (Ronald, Herbert and Elliot's sister) and their two sturdy girls, and two little boys – sturdy too – we dined there Wednesday – they drove Elsa home Friday, and they were here today. Matt, of course, like his brothers, was long at the Great War. He is 6'2" in height, very thin and only weighs 140. Nothing fattens him and feeding only makes him bilious. He works the 7 months of navigation very hard, and many nights a week into the bargain. He is nervous – oh my, and has heavy burdens to bear in the way of sending money home to Kilmarnock – father, a spendthrift, now dead, and a hard, cruel, frightful-tempered man!

Now a younger brother is to come out in February, and Matt, poor chap, feels that he cannot support him if he does not find work, so I have volunteered to see if something can be found by Charlie, Conrad or you – each in his own neighborhood – in advance. Morison is evidently a very fine chap – so is Matt of course, but with all the former's qualifications, the United Collieries Limited do not give him more than a starvation salary.

I enclose certificate of character and wonder if there is one firm even, of which [you] can see the Chief, not a subordinate, and ask if such a man would be employed by him or by his firm? I am sure you will do your best and return me the certificate.

About Elsa – her hand is for the last ten days better and better, till now it is quite and perfectly well, so we are quite elated; she is otherwise happy, cheerful and energetic. Nearly everything is ready for winter – I say that nearly every day, yet each day we do a few things more even after we have considered that they were finished.

I wonder how your face and black eye are, and how Ella and the poor wee Stuart's face and head are.

I think I told you that Stuart Lemoine Fairchild has died – drink and dope – leaving a widow and 10 children. Temple is a widower with 2 children, and one of the girls remains at Valcartier where Price Brothers have bought all their property, built beautiful residences, a club-house, and large stable where we saw 14 polo ponies.

Now goodnight, my dear. I hope that you will have a happy Thanksgiving all together.

Love from us both

Mama

I just have news that Cyril Child's baby boy has had an eye removed: sarcoma.

December 6 1929 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Friday 6 Dec '29

Dear Harold

I hope that you are on the contrary making up your mind to have no more accidents, of any kind, to be less impatient and more deliberately careful. The idea – you must take care of yourself.

Mrs. John Ritchie's brother died at Hotel Dieu yesterday, poor chap, long ill and 74 – erysipelas ended it all and his paralyzed sister is not to know yet.

Elsa is just going to town to see Marjorie Craig, who has been quite ill; Drs wish to remove her tonsils. Matt and her mother refuse to let her have the operation – are they not foolish? And she has every now and then such terrible trouble with her back, lays her up for days; this last time her mouth full of canker sores etc etc.

The day is beautiful. Ted and Helene have moved to town and sent me some flowering plants to care for. I've just been arranging them.

Mrs. Sissons has been so dreadfully low-spirited about that son at St. V. de P. that speaking to me of the self-righteous attitude of the others towards him, she said they've all done crooked things too. There's Hugh Lanctot will never pay anything he owes if he can get out of it.

Goodbye and much love

Mama

1930

January 1 1930 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

1st Jan 1930

Darling Harold

Your visit was such a pleasure, even now that it is so long past, but I forgot to tell you so much! Did you see out of the bath-room window the little summer house which Héliodore Laberge has built on the top of the hill over the brook, on the small piece which he bought?

I am so glad that you were able to go home directly and found all well, but I hope Ella was not too much worn out by the continuous trips each way.

You've all been so good to write at once, and I must write to Hans and the other boys.

Elsa is now at a Tea at Mildred Stobo's for Valentine Oliver. I am writing at the Chateau and there is a heavy fog over the river, everything thawing and pools of water splashing.

We had a quiet new year and thought of how short your visit was but how enjoyable. Elsa follows instructions, Adolphe gave her a pique¹²⁴. She says that he is thin, white and limp, has had a bad week without sleep because of "des accouchements difficiles"¹²⁵.

Yes – of course, I shall send the book of Provincial Houses, Manors etc for Ella to copy Horatio Walker's tree colouring. You are both very good to offer to copy the old Manor. The broad carriage path coming from the west up the hill ran along past the hall door parallel with the old house whose hall door looked north. The back of the house facing the river, had one story more because of being on the side of a hill where there now is a quarry.

Your letter came yesterday, Ella and Hans' today. So glad you saw Dr. Lewis, it was such a chance. We are at work and likely to accomplish many things, but there is of course a lot that we shall not accomplish. Yet we had such a nice peaceful visit and well worthwhile. I have lots of letters to write and all sorts of stuff.

I saw that a boy in Ontario was drowned while trying to save his dog. Children when being taught kindness to animals must learn that the life of a human being is more precious and must not be risked.

Now Goodnight. I'll write to Hans next.

Mama

January 19 1930 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

19 Jan 1930

¹²⁴ Needle

¹²⁵ Difficult deliveries

My dear Harold

I think that the letter you unwittingly burned contained news of Elsa – that she has most faithfully obeyed orders. After you had given her one dose of the serum she has gone to Adolphe who at intervals of two or three days has administered six others increasing $\frac{1}{2}$ a c.c. each time with no ill effect, except a little catch in one arm on some movements – nothing whatever to notice. Every single day she puts her finger in the hot bath – freshly made – for an hour, and some days the finger appears exceedingly well – on other days not quite so well, but certainly not at all worse – nor troublesome and she has gone on with the bath. Otherwise she is quite well and active as usual.

Thursday we were both at a tea of Mrs. S.S. Hawkins, and although we had refused from the first to stay to the evening meal afterwards, we found that we must do so – and returned home late. That baby, Tommy, is fine, good, sturdy on his feet, spends half the day out but does not speak at just 2 years, while some other woman's baby walks just as well and talks too at 18 months so there is a fly in the ointment of course.

We are so much grieved about the total destruction by fire of the Seifert building with tremendous loss, except it is said the most valuable things of all contained in safes in the basement. I hope that the last is correct, but am so much grieved for those Seifert's have had an up-hill fight for years and years. Of four brothers, only one living, Harold, who married Louise Bain and has one boy, two girls. The eldest son, Albert, married a Gale girl, died a year or two ago, leaving her with a grown-up family. The second brother, Otto, had a laundry here and in Ottawa and died there, leaving an Irish R.C. wife and little children – she married again and disappeared in the big U.S.A. The third brother, Fred, McGill Medicine in the '80s, like the others wild, but so handsome, died in the Tropics, ship-surgeon on H.M.S. Falaba. And Harold is as steady, shy, fine, but has had lots of sorrow, but a good home and wife. Five sisters, and only one married and I think that the whole of them owned the business.

Simons and Foulds next door had some damage too, and two old aunts were carried out, one taken to hospital – while Mrs. Ernest Woodley, two sons and two boarders, had trouble to escape great loss too. Not long after the Pfeiffer fire – all our English business people with fire and loss. Then the Patronage, a poor childrens' school on Abraham hill – and the Montcalm Hotel where you, Ella and Madeleine had tea, at midnight in July 1924 – a cigarette butt did for it, flung beside a partition. Oh such loss for so many when there is no room for waste or loss of anything these dreadful years – no justification for a single selfish cigar or cigarette, nor even one glass of beer!

Yes I know Dr. Parmelie (G.W.) quite well, a most approachable, nice mannered man to whom I can easily go if you wish it. He is prosy, drinks somewhat, though probably not in the daytime and is a very good officer of Public Instruction. J.C.Sutherland – Frankie's father – is under him; he talks and lectures and holds the floor in true school-master style – against all comers. I know both well and believe them both zealous. Eleanor is now as you say Mrs. John Hall Kelly, but another is the widow of Alan Powell whom you knew at Kamouraska long ago. If you write I should like you to have it typed or copied – will look better, and easy reading secures more prompt attention.

The Ronald Lindsay's eldest boy, Frank, working in Montreal as is his brother, I saw both when I was up in October, has married there a Miss Willis of Ottawa, probably without his parents' knowledge, and he is in a Bank – so if she has no money or not enough, he will probably lose his place.

I can imagine what a time you must have up there for we have so much snow and so much wind with drifts, but the wide, wide, auto snow-plough keeps our auto-road like a clean floor, while a 36 inch horse plough makes us a fine, hard side-walk, much higher and separated from the road by a thick snow-wall, so that all danger of auto-accidents is prevented; so walking is easy.

McBurney, former principal of Lachute School, with a mentally affected wife, no family, has been living in Quebec for a few years, very religious, a mason, Pres of the Bible Society - [?] – and a highly spoken of man, Provincial English School Inspector etc also a heavy whiskey drinker (but no one mentions that) had a cold when in Montreal last week, only 55, was being taken to Western Hospital and – as I understand – died on the way. A terrible loss, and such a good man, such a perfect man, everyone is saying. I know that he gave his stenographer an easy time, did her work while she was ill and while her father was ill. It was she, Connie Buchanan who tells Mrs. Ramsey, her aunt, how perfect the pury¹²⁶ the old chap was. But I wonder what the effect of his drinking habits had to do with his poor wife's mental condition – worry lest he lose his work and they be reduced to poverty? Would it not be strange if she recovered? Mrs. R. remarked that it was Mrs. McBurney herself who 'phoned the news and asked Dr. Gordon, also others, to go up to Montreal for the service, and her voice and manner were so calm and steady that each person was surprised.

Tell me please how everyone is and how these children are, two of them whom I went with you to see those few days in Sept.

Uncle David was born in Nov 1845 therefore was 84 last November. His brother Robert born in June 1843 – so is not far from 87.

Poor Clara Hossack is pretty sick and Herman Young is, I think, critically ill, perhaps has no chance at all. I've been just phoning Little River and they tell me all this.

Now good night, my own dear.

Your Mama

February 4 1930 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

4 Feb '30

My own dear Harold

¹²⁶ One definition of pury is to be short-winded due to being fat – not sure if Leila intends this here.

Your letter came today with Cyril's fine one – he certainly has a style and I'm glad that you are likely to keep in touch. You cannot imagine anything more like in appearance to him, yet more different in character than his indolent unreliable sister, Beryl. Yet we constantly say "how like Cyril"! I hope that she will not wreck the life of her fine husband, on whom she has so firmly impressed his inferiority of education and "class".

I've been busy; have rented the Cape House well to a man and his wife this time, and had terrible scenes with Madame Belanger who absolutely fought for it, after having had it 7 years at \$85.00 per month and being far in arrear – and then last year at \$100.00 per month and getting farther in arrear – so now after scenes and hysterics of every kind, I have ended the trouble and rented at \$125.00 per month to M. and Mme. Coté.

I am now looking forward to renting this farm and Aunt May's after ever so many slips twixt cup and lip. When the leasing is over then will come only the collecting, but on the whole the year coming ought to be a much more comfortable one for us and for Blanche and Bertha than any previous one.

Now my dear, you and Dr. Evans are likely to go to Europe for study are you not? Well I am anxious to know when you plan to sail or have you not yet decided?

All my tenants near home are to stay except old Paradis who has bought the Brown's house next door but one; at least his two worn out char-women daughters have produced from somewhere the savings of a lifetime and paid \$1000.00 each for this new house, cash, and the old man is supposed to pay the third thousand by degrees. Having sold one of his 3 houses in Giffard, he is in funds, yet makes his daughters pay.

5th Feb. I've been busy over a small fire in Cape House; am to get \$75.00 to fix it.

One of my sandwich women marched this morning and other two this p.m. so I am to let them continue without accompanying them, now that they have done it alone and found that nothing happened. They being broken in, also well paid, will make no further objection. An old lady just about to board a street car threatened the younger of the two with her cane and called her names.

Edna Marsh has just returned from Whitby, has been eight months there, since her father's death. Says "Daddy's pension died with him, too bad because it was all arranged the other way, everyone thought mother would go first and now they don't know what to do about it". Mother has gone to live in Toronto with Ewart who is a terrible autocrat - that's all he has left of the army.

Love to you all

Mama

February 7 1930 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

7th Feb. '30

Dear Harold,

I think that my letter asking when you are to sail to Scotland with Dr. Evans must have crossed yours telling me that you are to go in July. I can hardly believe that he is to pay your way – I wonder why? At all events, it will be a wonderful experience, and I am asking myself why to Scotland but I suppose its famous Edinburgh Hospitals are very attractive. I shall hope to get there myself, with Elsa – if she will come – but it is too soon to think about it yet, too many other things to bother about

Having taught my sandwich women their work I have now let one pair go out alone. Perhaps I did not tell you that I obtained police permission, advertised for workers and obtained an enormous number of applications, chose two couples, and had them go out, accompanied them myself, and am now letting them go alone. Christopher Hawkins is to snapshot them for the papers.

Thursday while parading one of them, I had a phone call from Elsa – a fire in the Cape House caused by a “flaming stove-pipe” so the Fire Inspector said. I had a day of it – am to get \$75.00 which will repair the damage – Mme Belanger will have her Insurance too; she had just risen in the morning when she found the fire in the hall at the foot of the staircase where everyone would have been trapped in the upper rooms. There are fire escapes at the back. We are having a very cold snap but no unusual trouble, only I was to have gone to Montreal Tuesday next for midwinter conference and have written to say I cannot go; cannot make up my mind to leave Elsa in such weather. Her finger is almost wholly well, only one very small hole into which she can put the salve with the toothpick point. Conrad has now sent her four boxes to take of small cherry colored capsules, No. 280 Calcium A. Ayerst, McKenna and Harrison – with directions, but she is using your solution and salve faithfully with great apparent benefit and is otherwise well.

What an awful accident that poor child had – just similar to what Philip’s was here one Christmas when he might have lost an eye too when he skied under a barbed wire fence near the hotbed. He had two bad scratches, not deep, across the eyelid upwards.

We should be glad to know how the plum pudding turned out, that you took home from here after that absolutely restful visit you and Ella paid us at Christmas? Enclosed is recipe for the sauce.

Conrad writes about “Mary Shaw’s” arrival, evidently he overlooks her marriage to Sep Barrow – who by the way has gone over to Norway for a trip on business for two months – what a nice long time to be able to stay out with her people in the west, for Mary does not need to return till near the time of Sep’s coming. In the house there is the perfect maid, Albertine, who was with Ethel for years before Mary died, who knew Mary well, and Ethel’s determination that Sep and she should marry. Also the youngest daughter of the house, who came home to roost after having left and tried many things in Montreal - and is now entertaining friends and playing Badminton, Bridge etc. etc.

9th Feb. A glorious Sunday morning after a beautiful night; I am sitting up in bed writing comfortably on my wooden tray. Have just had a 'phone report from Georgie Hossack about her sister Clara, who is still in hospital, a little brighter today, not much better appetite, but her kidneys not functioning any better. Their brother Henry has come from Michigan, stays at the Victoria Hotel so relieves them of some hospital duty early and late and they can take time to attend to home.

Yesterday I received from the Inspector of Electric wiring an entire condemnation of the electric system in the Cape House, all to be replaced according to modern methods. It will be very expensive but is necessary and had any part of it been responsible for the fire, it would have been worse, and all over the house instead of in one small spot. The new tenant who is to come 1st May will reap the benefit and poor Mme Belanger will have to stand the mess and workmen.

All this means that it is a wise decision to stay at home; also I have my parading women to see to, not to accompany, more advertising for the same cause, distributing leaflets etc. All this will be easily done as I shall have to be in the city in any case. Oh, I hope that my children and grandchildren will realize that their ancestors were people who actively helped the advancement of causes which "lack assistance and the righting of wrongs which need resistance"! To help the world improve is worth living for, as you medical people do, at such enormous cost to yourselves. Fortunately too in this age there is increasing appreciation of medical work, and even in our own province, where so much is to be done, there is growing appreciation of the need.

Last Sunday evening Elsa and I had tea at the Ramsey's and met Conny Buchanan from Levis who used to know she said, both my boys. She is in Dr. Parmelee's office and has a great opinion of his justice, wisdom, and impartiality. She broke down in 1917 very badly, over Red Cross work and besides has a twisted ankle due to a skiing accident; she looks poorly.

Elsa suggests that I go over to see Lois with you, also thinks that Hans is just of such an age that he would benefit by the trip if you could take him with you for the trip.

Mrs. Ramsey tells me that Oscar Thomson is to marry again in China – Canton – a Missionary too, Miss Croft. So little Priscilla is to have another mother and Oscar and all of them be happy I hope; he is a young man and a nice chap. Now I must tell you that in reply to some Christmas letters I learn that Homfray Irving's wife died 14 months ago – also that Aemilius Jarvis married again to his children's great dissatisfaction.

Well it is now Sunday evening and I must close. Neither of us went to Church today. Clara Hossack is a little better.

Love to you all,
your own Mama

February 27 1930 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

27 Feb. 1930

Dear Harold

I am very sorry that you have got into trouble, because it would have been better to have written Dr. Parmelee, and to get expert advice on the situation. It will not blow over and you must see a lawyer so as to protect yourself. "Do not undervalue your enemy" – he is wicked from what you say and must be guarded against. Is there still a chance to help matters by consulting the Department of Education?

I have a lot of Lois letters to send you, must do them up. She was able to obtain for me, at last, a copy of an out of print book, "The Three Rylands" which I must send you, one of those strange old books which show how narrow were the lives of good well meaning people a few years ago – according to our more modern ideas at least.

I've been getting out my sandwich women today; the Bill to admit women to practise law was given the six months hoist last week after some very good speeches and a much better vote than last year. The one to give women the vote is to come up Ash-Wednesday, and we expect a large delegation from Montreal, whence also comes the money to carry on the campaign; they sent me \$100.00. I pay my women, two at a time, \$1.00 an hour for carrying the gaily colored sandwich boards on the Grande Allée where they have no trouble, but on John Street they have been snowballed and have had eggshells thrown at them. Mrs. Frank Leslie of New York left years ago a fund for Suffrage work, and a couple of years ago, the Montreal Women's Club, finding it had not all been used, applied for and obtained some hundreds of dollars, so we are helped. Is it not a good idea? Of course, I have not much hope of success, but, just the same, we keep our women going and distribute literature in both languages, as well as putting expensive advertisements in the papers, like these I enclose. No. 1, same size in Le Soleil, cost \$14.40; No. 2 same size in L'Evenement cost \$9.00, and No. 3 in the Chronicle cost \$12.00 – what a difference.

We are both well. I've seen off today Henry Hossack and Rob is now alone with Georgina.

Love to you all. I've had letters from the Grants¹²⁷ and Aunt Bella, also Aunt May lately. Uncle David was in bed ten days with bronchitis and rheumatism.

Mama

I've written this in the C.P.R. waiting room.

March 2 1930 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

2 March 1930

¹²⁷ Probably refers to Aunt Mary Grant née Geggie, and daughter Jean.

Dear Harold

You asked if I had noticed the discovery of Dr. Colly's. Yes I did and am very glad indeed for it is a promise of help for many who are now very much handicapped. Conrad will doubtless have something to say about it soon.

I await news of the School and Jos. Shouldice business, for I fear it. The more you insist that what you said is true, the worse for you. The sooner you apologize the better. Your audience will have thought over and digested it all the same, it may bear fruit but by apologizing you may save having to pay damages. Get good advice at all events for after all such an accusation, going from lip to lip does harm. Just a report like injured Howard Clouston's father a great deal, you know, and my boy, try not to be such an impetuous speaker – it's dangerous.

Yes, women ought to be on school-boards. I am writing to the Dept. of Education once more about it.

I enclose a snap taken by Stuart Hawkins' boy Christy, of one of my pair of Sandwich women, the best looking one; the other, older, said her children would object. I have had two pairs, one at each side of Grande Allée back and forth, no demonstration there but on John Street where they went twice, they were snowballed each time. Last time the other couple came up, they had been drinking, so I had to get rid of them; were anyone to perceive their condition it would injure our cause. Gin, they said, the older woman said she had a sick baby, got the gin for it, congestion of the lungs, 5 months old.

We have a heavy fog today and damp snow falling finely – I hope for a fine week, a lot to do, our Suffrage Bill will come up Wednesday – Ash-Wednesday – and we shall probably put ashes on our heads for sorrow when we shall again be given the 6 month's hoist.

M. Maurice Duplessis who was one of our unexpected votes for women to practice law – a lawyer himself, he was the lawyer at Three Rivers against me for Jos Chrétien in the Seigneuries case when we won it in Dec. '28. I am to send him flowers tomorrow at St. Sacrement Hospital out of Ste. Foy with thanks for speaking in favor, and beset hopes for his recovery.

Two or three years ago it was Hon. Henry Miles (whose sisters were schoolmates of mine long ago) who fell twice and cut his head when he sponsored our Votes for Women Bill. I cannot be sure that Duplessis even if in his seat on Wednesday would vote on our side, because they seem to think that it is a much greater evil to give women the vote than to admit a few to the Bar, which only proves Chivalry on their part and the conviction that there is nothing to be feared from their being admitted.

Goodbye my own dear. Elsa's finger continues to improve, only a tiny hole and no redness at all.

Mama

Did you read in L'aurore 14th Feb. "Le pastorat féminin" by M. Morin and Mmes. Marthe Clodat and Perside Bourgoïn-Lapointe?

March 7 1930 postcard Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

7 March 1930

Well little Donald's poor mother died this morning after two week's illness. Sad!

Your long letter came today. Oh yes poor Clara Hossack died and Georgie is not at all well. I send the latter some flowers sometimes.

You see we've lost the vote as we expected, but we had a better vote and send orange narcissus boutonnieres to all members who voted our way.

Elsa is as usual, well and we have such fine weather.

March 11 1930 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

11 March 1930

Darling Harold

The enclosed speak for themselves, terrible sorrow for Mrs. Sissons. – I've been busy but not too busy – either of us to think about your trip to Scotland this summer, and to hope that you can come down a few days before that we may see you, because I can see no chance of going over – though I require no money, thank you. I just have such lots and lots of things to see about all the time, and in which to help Elsa – to whom I owe so much!

The papers will have told you of the Votes for Women result – no surprise at all of course, but a rest till next year from some of the activities.

I went yesterday to poor Mrs. Lanctot's funeral, two chariots of magnificent flowers, a great number of people – a cui bono¹²⁸? Hugh looked a wreck, his father is a failing man in great danger and trouble now as you know. The two brothers of whom the paper speaks were there, and there is no news whatever of the one in St. Vincent de Paul, whom his poor mother is hoping to see any day; worse still, dear little Donald is to go with his father to Dolbeau, the new model city of which he is to be town manager. No man to have the care of such a child, yet he is his natural guardian! Most people expected that he would be left with Mrs. Sissons, but how she could undertake anything more I do not know.

12th Mar. I send a snap of our Sandwich boards carried by 2 women of whom one has turned her back – Parliament buildings in the background – and your mother. Hope you like it.

¹²⁸ Latin. Literally "as a benefit to whom?", an adage used either to suggest a hidden motive or to indicate that the party responsible for something may not be who it appears at first to be.

This is a beautiful day above but deep snow, water, and mud underfoot. Matt Craig's brother Morrison is to arrive next week and nothing definite is yet settled for him, a civil and mining engineer. I wish there was a chance away from Quebec, away from being a drag on Matt himself whose nerves are all on the surface.

I am finishing this at the Chateau – at 7 and Elsa has gone out to the Craig's for supper.

I do hope that Ella and the household, specially Mrs. Shouldice is very well.

Love – Goodnight,

Mama

March 16 1930 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

16 March 1930

Dear Harold

We have had a very cold week, yet we keep comfortable and our coke pile, I think will last through the time necessary to keep up fires.

Last week Conrad wrote by air-mail, cut off thereby about two days' time and spoke of sending Elsa more pink capsules of vitamin, said to have the properties of cod-liver oil but they have not come yet. I have been wondering if there would be any good in prescribing another tonic for her, seeing that she says that she is always tired and without energy: would strychnine tablets like mine be of any use? She certainly looks well, has good appetite and spirits all the time. Tonight she retired saying that she means to rise with some pep, and to do things tomorrow! Of course, whatever you say she will do – just as she faithfully steeps and anoints her fingernail. She lies down and rests, also sleeps a great deal, with a desire to store up energy for her Dock work to begin in five weeks; she has knitted, sewn, attended to the furnace, and done some housework and gone out too. I've helped in all except the furnace, cannot do that, she understands it best, and has evolved a system which is satisfactory, as well as economical. Old Paradis cleans out the ashes when necessary, but of these there are, with coke, very little indeed or clinker either.

I have a letter from Gogy; Herman has been taken by him to Dr. Gordon Byers who pronounces his eyes perfectly healthy, although the right one has but little sight. That is the best one can expect and it is quite safe for him to go off to work elsewhere than in Montreal where he has been busy all this time at good pay. My! Gogy is a grateful boy, and has so much confidence in what I do or say or wish, and then reports at great length and minutely. As for himself, he is working more than ever and has not much respect for his company or their managers! However he evidently satisfies them.

How is Mrs. Shouldice¹²⁹ standing this cold winter – and Ella will, I'm sure, be better if you are burning coal (or coke) and the temperature is more equal.

I hope your 'flu patients are better and your Scarletina ones too. Here a family I know has just sent to Jeffery Hale¹³⁰ the eldest of two girls very ill and insensible from Scarletina, and there are many cases of that, measles and whooping cough too. Stuart Hawkins' two younger children, Isobel 6 and Tommy 2, with measles, followed by whooping cough now, inoculated yesterday and today with a serum from Montreal, and his wife tells me that the effect has been immediately beneficial.

I had a long 'phone last night from poor Mrs. Sissons, her 5 daughters all left during the day and she was alone for the first time. She cannot sleep and is trying to get from N.Y. a cousin of 51 to keep house for Hugh at Dolbeau and rear little Donald; she is a Mrs. Walker a widow whom I knew as a child in Quebec. Now good night my dear, much love to all of you from us.

Mama

Can you supply initials and address then mail my enclosed letter please?

The season at which you are to sail, July, is beginning of cheap rates; I could get passage at last moment. Perhaps even you are going

March 27 1930 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc 27 Mar '30

Dear Harold

To take up the story where it ended last night, Adolphe came this morning and brought the enclosed bottle which Elsa is taking. At all events she was when she awoke today much better and the flow has stopped so she is gay and bright again, has been down to meals and helped in various small ways. But Adolphe speaks of the advisability of undergoing electric treatment either at St. Francois d'Assise or St. Sacrement away out at Ste. Foy, (but probably at the former), where Dr. Rousseau specializes in deep (profonde) electric treatments after she has taken some tonics; as he brought this stuff today she will finish it in a week and then take yours. According to him these treatments are to be taken two or three a week and then stopped for a week or two – and are very efficacious. The trolley will take her to the door and home again, no need to stay, but they are just treatments, as were those of the Clinic St. Louis last summer, only less frequent, of which she is very glad. As Adolphe laughingly says "it's like being photographed, you feel nothing". He is such a joke. I read him your letter about the Crazy Curé who prepared so long ahead for his mother's death, and he agrees that he is out of his mind, or will be, so you agree too.

¹²⁹ Mrs. Shouldice was Ella's Aunt Mary, her father's sister, who lived at the Maples until her death at 100.

¹³⁰ Hospital

You spoke of reading “L’Aurore”; to my mind it is refreshing – no other publication has the same viewpoint. And these people like Abram, whom I met the other day at the Bible Society rooms, and who thinks so much of you – are simple and direct, their faith is absolute, and their lives as a rule, simple and austere. I suppose it was the 7 March Number, Dr. Rondeau’s editorial, an old friend of mine, brother of Mme. Bourgoin and aged about 80, I should say. Also about prayers, even silent and secret prayer, the short article signed “Chaumière” about the Salvationist work which was nearly dead and became once more fruitful and prosperous. They are an example, I think, these French Protestants, so patient as a rule. I have known of the life and work of the original Muraire and Bourgoin, away back in 1869 in Quebec, (the latter beaten on the cove fields, left for dead for giving testaments), after both had fed the starving in winter, themselves had driven loads of wood in storms to useless families, when no habitant could be got to take it; when these men and the wife of one were teaching children without any fee etc. Point aux Trembles College and others similar are the result. And the French of the paper is good. France decorates these people after years of teaching, the latest is Mlle. Amaron, now 80! Dr. Bourgoin came from Glay, so does M. Abram. They write under various noms-de-plume, Dr. Rondeau under his own name, Jean de Bayonne etc. Louis Abram is L’oncle Louis, etc, etc, but they are thoughtful articles.

Well, I shall let you know if anything happens.

Mama

May 1 1930 Leila Gogy Geggie to Stuart Geggie¹³¹

Darnoc

Beauport

Quebec, Q.

1st May 1930

Darling Stuart

Grandmama wishes you a very happy birthday and hopes that you are remembering to look carefully, first to the left, then to the right before you cross any road, and then to walk on the side.

Grandmama had a very happy visit with her dear ones on the Gatineau, and she loves them all very much. She is very proud of all her boys and glad that they are so kind to everyone and always try to do to others as they would wish others to do to them, as the Golden Rule teaches.

Grandmama is very, very grateful for all the love and care that she and Aunt Elsa received at The Maples always, and of course she hopes that all her very dear boys will come away down in the beautiful bright

¹³¹ Stuart would have turned 5 on May 2, 1930.

summer-time when perhaps she can put a tent out on the lawn in which they all can play, and sleep too if they wish.

When David's birthday comes by and by in a few weeks there will be a letter for him too, and in the meantime Grandmama hopes that both boys are eating their meals well and that David is swelling out his chest, holding his head up, and not letting any wings grow on his shoulders at the back.

The weather is very beautiful down here and the big river shines in the sun, large ships come in every day and Miss Oliver is busy doing Aunt Elsa's work for her. Everyone is very busy at this season, and so is

Your affectionate

Memère

Enclosed is something to put in Stuart's bank.

May 11 1930 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc Sunday

11 May 1930

My own dear Harold

Elsa continues to improve, things have been happy, easy, and fortunate, chiefly because I have been able to get people to do necessary things. A thunder storm the night before Elsa arrived not only blew out our fuses (which Matt replaced), but blew down a 10 months old chimney at the Creamery, Richard side. I got Arthur Grenier to repair it yesterday \$10.00. A motor truck striking the west post of Auntie Blanche's gate turned it on its base. Arthur set it straight and cemented it \$3.00.

A husky chap, Alex Giroux – the late Bernadette's nephew from down the road – at 35 cts per hour – polite and willing to please, a stutterer, but quick enough has cleaned up all around, put up screen doors and windows, sawed and cut wood etc etc. Now today two applicants for the farm have come from town, fourth time. The 30th April going, from the Thom's I looked up two who had answered my advertisement from St. Rochs and St Sauveur, and today, after the fourth visit I am renting to them – two brothers carpenters and farmers from St. Felicieu, one a bachelor of 46 with savings just discharged from hospital where he has been 10 weeks – fell from a scaffold and had an abcess in the back of his head. He lives with his younger brother, wife and 6 children and furnished the money; there is one boy of 12 and two older girls – well, I've done the best I could, \$25.00 monthly 1st year, (that's what Paradis always paid), \$30.00 next year and \$35.00 third year – they to do all repairs free of charge if I furnish materials. A good bargain under the circumstances. As for Paradis, the thief, he has taken all my wire netting, five rolls, during my absence, torn out every board, taken every piece of wood, and left the place bare – not a bit of hay, straw etc. However I am rid of him and must be satisfied that I shall have

less anxiety – having my gate thrown open all the time, the cattle of others in the field, ever since Paradis left 1st May, he himself leaving my gates open.

But Thursday I went to town for two hours, Marjorie and Dorothy came out to visit Elsa. Friday Rosetta came and brought some lovely snapshots of Holland and Flanders. A man taking horses to Baie St Paul came wishing to put them in Aunt May's field, 8 of them so next morning, I collected \$4.00 at 50 cts a head. Three came all drunk more or less, each having a huge wad of money; one said he was Patrick Guay, his grandmother who was Irish gave him his baptismal name. Another insisted on spelling his name, A – T – e – b ? Can't make anything of it.

Elsa lies with field-glasses and some sewing or knitting on the porch swing and watches her ships, hoping to be able to go, 26th June, aboard the Empress of Japan on which Bonner will be it seems and which will be given over to the I.O.D.E.¹³² for one day, to receive entrance money.

Now goodbye darling boy. I hope you are observing your prescribed diet. I give Elsa milk soup at 11 a.m. and dinner at 1. I think it would be beneficial to Ella too, a good tonic, then when dinnertime comes she would not be so exhausted that she cannot eat.

Love to you and everyone from us both

Your own Mama

Glorious weather ever since Elsa came home.

Have you heard anything of nursery nurses from Toronto from Sick Children's Hospital and said to be out Britannia way?

May 14 1930 postcard Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc Beauport

14 May 1930

Your Mother's day letter came last evening and was very welcome. The Delphiniums you sent by Elsa have taken beautifully, no check in their growth at all. - Today Dorothy Elliot had a few girls to tea, 8 in

¹³² International Order of the Daughters of the Empire, which Elsa worked for as a volunteer on the docks, working with new immigrants. On February 13, 1900, 15 women meeting at a hotel in Montreal, drew up a constitution for the organization that would become the I.O.D.E. In 1924, the Provincial Chapter of Quebec received its Charter. One of the main objectives at that time was to meet new settlers arriving in Canada to assist with the work of immigration and citizenship. Chapter members in Quebec City met ships arriving at the docks to welcome and offer assistance to newcomers to Canada.

all, I think and Elsa wished very much to be there so the electrician Chalifour who is putting light in for the new people, Tremblay, drove her in his old Ford to the Station from which the rest is easy, and she will drive up this hill on her return too. I think it is quite safe- she has such an easy time otherwise.

I am just trembling about those new Tremblay people, brothers – after coming out Sunday and making the bargain the older one who had been in hospital, was in bed Monday and half yesterday, but they did not weaken and were to come today. No sign yet but I still expect them hourly.

Love to you all.

Mama

May 26 1930 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped Darnoc Beauport Quebec

26 May'30

Dear Harold

We are glad to hear of the success of your play and the Tag-day¹³³; it is well to know that somewhere these methods of raising money are successful in proportion to the effort put forth and the enthusiasm of those who bear the burden.

A letter from Conrad Saturday says that Dr. A. R. Munro (Sandy) from Edmonton is to go over this week to London and Edinburgh – he hopes you may meet him somewhere, a very fine fellow, but evidently shy – a shy Scotsman – hard to know but worthwhile. Elsa has put off writing Dr. Evans but is to do it now, does not now feel as if she labors under any disadvantage whatever; which is very fine indeed and very astonishing in the 7th week. Certainly her appetite and sleep are all right, she is sun-tanned from lying on the porch swing, and her lips are a better pink, no blue tinge now. Of course her spirits are good and with the field glasses she watches her beloved ships, which are certainly beautiful in the dancing sunlight on the river.

Yesterday and today however there has been heavy rain, my flowers are all out and smiling, little birds are cheekily hopping everywhere and she is watching a big bird banded around with alternate black and orange which turns out to be a “myrtle warbler” – very beautiful.

You write of my going to England – I've some things to settle and Elsa is not at all so inclined, says it's so peaceful here now that most of our anxieties are over and that she has taken two delightful showers at the Y.W.C.A. and has no work or anything to tire her – everything being optional. However there is still

¹³³ A tag day is a charity fundraising day where anyone who makes a contribution to the charity is given a tag.

time but Elsa is anxious in July to take an afternoon ship on an occasional Saturday when, everyone being out of town, no one is available and Rosetta's at her wit's end, but can do nothing because of her Jewish Sabbath. These days always come.

Three Maternity cases in 10 hours! Poor boy, and such heat. I hear of a 2nd child here, a doctor's child too, born on the same day as the 1st just a year ago, and a very delicate mother.

In our old Creamery, there are 16 children – 8 each side, 8 at Grantham's but much older, and 8 more at Aunt Blanche's down the hill. Think of it, 32 in all! I have obtained work for Grantham at Mount Hermon Cemetery to do light gardening and he is giving me \$10.00 a week since. I hope it will continue until arrears are paid.

June 8 1930 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

8 June 1930

Dear Harold

It is decidedly not the Ryland business which has worried me lately, for it is in better shape than ever, and improving – so do not vex yourself imagining things. Above all, do not be “frantic” – none of my children have any right to fear because I am only doing my duty and know how.

My very own property has been the trouble – when the three absent ones that I had rented well, I believed that I was telling the truth because I had just read to the brother who had been hurt, the whole lease and he had shown me the wad of money to pay me the two first months, then departed to get his brother that both should sign. Neither returned and after phoning, writing and visiting both they had both got cold feet. I wanted those two men (they were such good carpenters) to repair the buildings; may get them yet for that at least.

Here now I have another; he signed last night a little form to hold him till I get the notary. But there are strings to the bargain and I am trying to help him collect \$200.00 to pay me and buy some farm stock. His brother-in-law (a comfortable corner grocer) is security for him, and the doctor – a well off old farmer is to be brought to me dead or alive before this midnight.

Paradis my old tenant turns away everyone, would not take the farm himself & tells untruths, that I ask \$700.00 a year; think of it! He never paid more than \$300.00 a year and I had to get M. Prévost often to collect it. Never even paid for the water \$25.00. Now he says and shouts after me in the road “Payez vos dettes! Vous payez pas vos dettes!” Of course it's false – I pay scrupulously, even paid him for milk for which he said my other tenants (the poverty-stricken, sick Richard's) could not pay. They say they never owed it, and I believe them.

13 June You see, my dear, I have no time at all – but finish in a hurry. New tenants are installed, 8 children, one four months. And Eugène Lortie whose father was formerly of Priest's farm, where

Edmond succeeded him has also leased Aunt May's farm for three years – so I shall be able- as she is better now to collect an old debt which I never before told her when old Cayer did not pay his last year's rent to her. I paid it.

Now goodbye. There is a lot to do yet.

Mama

Keep this, Cora and Marie's photo from Conrad, the Philip one too.

Elsa has had 2 showers and feels fine.

June 25 1930 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

25 June 1930

Dear Harold

I am grieved to think that you have suffered so much with your teeth and that yet you have five front teeth left to torture you, instead of having all removed. And then the terrible time you had with your practise at the same time. What should you have done without that dear boy of your's? He certainly will be a blessing to his family all his life.

I've letters from Lois lately in which she says that Eric will have to take another year at school, for all he thinks he is so far advanced, and will only come home when the family does to go to McDonald College when his home is in Montreal will be near for the holidays. Jamie will remain another year over there if necessary but all that will not be this year.

I have just sent Jamie a Quebec Statistical yearbook (or rather I have had it sent from the Govt Department) because it will interest him, and be a nice dry birthday gift.

For Philip and Silvia I am trying to find a game of the city of Montreal – or rather I suppose I shall get a Montreal guide book, that Philip may teach his little sister the streets and places which she so much regrets she does not know. I had the idea suggested by Lois and Elsa's having found London so easy because of the game of London Post Office they got when they were children.

I am writing to the Crown Trust of which Frank is a Director and arranging to hand over the Ryland business; have had a reply from the General Manager Rexford.

Today I met Dr. Percival, forgot to speak to him of you!

But I am very, very sorry about Charron losing his grip and especially the fire-arms.

The rain falls every day, at some time or other and in torrents and deluges.

Goodbye my boy; love to you all

Mama

July 7 1930 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped with Darnoc Beauport Que

7 July 1930

My own boy

I am glad to learn that I shall see you so soon, and also that you are having with your dear family and friends such pleasant excursions. Naturally it will be fine to have Will, Flora and Mary in the country near you; it will make their holidays too ever so much more delightful for of course they will be very short in any case.

I am sorry that Aunt May is worried about the Cayer-D'aigle business – the old man always said he would pay but it is now evident that he will never be able, and why should I not have tried to get it from him when it was due, and she never received, I believe, as much for her farm as it was worth, considering that taxes rise all the time, and no tenant treats land fairly, as far as I can see. It is a shame to realize in what a state old Paradis left my own land, in spite of my being here to watch and urge him to cultivate. Fortunately Aunt May never put in water nor built any more than a barn. Her tenant Eugène Lortie can pay and will pay so she will have no more trouble.

The struggle that I have to get even the weeds mown on the Ryland property is a shame and now when the Crown Trust in Montreal is to manage it (for that is its name – I had to write to find out & Frank confirmed it) I do not know what it will be like. However I've done my best and shall have to just stand the state of affairs and consequent neglect.

At all events I hope that you have not told Aunt May all about that Ryland business. Why should she know? It is my own business and I shall try to straighten it out at once – at once. If only those girls will let Frank take care of them as he has always wished to do; and as he can so well afford to do, all will be well. What should he not give them the entire usufruct since to his children the property will finally belong?

We have some trifles to send to Sylvia and Philip. Shall we keep them to give you here or send them to you at Wakefield?

I went this morning to a meeting of school contributors at Montmorency. Poor old Gore, Ward, and Daikers, the former recovering a little from paralysis, the other two aging fast and very hopeless because their property is so likely to fall into R.C. hands. Five children have been going to the city to school, fees

and transportation being paid by our taxes & \$730.00 odd dollars on hand; two more likely to attend next year. You will remember meeting Daikers when you were here at Christmas.

Mr. A. H. Holiday the Sec-Treas, is a nice very erect flaxen-haired (turning white) chap, and we are much indebted to the Dom. Tex. for putting him to tend our scholastic affairs.

Elsa at last tried a small ship Saturday after noon, just one hour, and went up afterwards for her showers at the Y.W.C.A. Immigration has fallen off that the work is nothing and she is delighted to be at the dock again, everyone coming to shake hands etc. Tomorrow she is to go with Dorothy Elliot to call on a bride, a Brown from Cantley, married to Farraday and not yet 20, attending St. Andrew's Church.

It rains, thunders and lightens nearly every day or night, so much that the electricity is turned off at the power house and we use candles and my flash light. I hope the weather will change before haying is well started, else I do not know what our man Coulombe will do. He is so slow but has a young energetic wife. Fancy in that double house which was a Creamery, there are 16 children, half on each side, and on the sickly Richard side another coming next month, while the eldest girl (20) is losing her sight, or threatened with it – cataract. She says the Dr. at the Clinic is treating her for it daily, putting in drops which give her great pain. The Coulombe's however are all healthy as can be.

Tuesday. Helen came down today. She is much better than she used to be, but Teddy is not, and she is doing everything in the world for him, afraid that he will lose his sight. They go up to Stuart Ramsey in Montreal every month, both Helen and he, and there is every chance of his having to undergo an operation.

Did you read in your Aurore of the 4th, on the 4th page too, a letter quoted from the Franco-American, written by our little old French tenant of years and years ago, Jules Savarin, contradicting the idea so common in the U.S.A. and Canada, among English speaking people, that there is a different kind of French spoken on this side of the water from that spoken in France. Strange that so many people still hold that belief, that ours is not real French.

Now I must close, as I have some things to do all around the place. Enclosed is a card for the boys – copy of inscription on an historical tablet here.

Love from us both,

Mama

September 8 1930 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

8 Sept. 1930

Your Papa's birthday

My darling Harold

I have just received your letter from Edinburgh of the 29th at the same time with your cable from Glasgow of the 6th. We are so delighted to think that you are to stay with us even a few hours and perhaps Ella and Hans may motor down for the weekend. They have not said so though. At all events it is delightful to think of your intending to stop with us again even for one night.

Mrs. Hawkins? Oh no. I can assure you that I have quite done with her, and to her announcement that she could not explain properly by 'phone, but would come to the house, I replied "Please don't come at all, to quarrel with two sick people." She replied "Oh not sick at all. You're not sick at all, you can do anything you wish to do." However I stuck to it, "Please don't come, please don't come." That's a month today – and I hope to never – I've breathed more freely during that month although I certainly enjoyed the drives when they came, and was able to bring home some heavy parcels with more ease, one of them some heaving castings from a foundry. Still the struggle to keep her from attacking Elsa was too great and her scarcely-veiled animosity to her was too wearing; even after I had more than once asked her to keep off the subject of Elsa's operation, she never missed an opportunity of suggesting that she had become a "malade imaginaire" or make a coarse joke. It's done with for good, without writing or explanation and everyone knows that early in June Elsa did put her up for election, did the very thing she was fighting for, but would not submit to her dictation to do it over again in the way she prescribed – that was by writing a letter and giving it into her hands that day, or the next.

We have beautiful weather now, but occasionally heavy thunder and rain storms; we had one last night, after Matt and Marjorie Craig had spent the afternoon here with their four dear children and the little maid. They brought their own lunch and made a bonfire of some old branches, so had a fine picnic.

I told you that Ayres and Comfort had taken us by surprise, spent one night here and now I receive such an original letter from the latter, that I am to show you when you come.

I am still quite well, and my hand and foot improving too. We shall meet you at the dock.

Your own Mama

1932

January 20 1932 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie ¹³⁴

Stamped "Darnoc", Beauport, Que

¹³⁴ Written on letterhead of *Dominion Women's Christian Temperance Union*. Along with names and addresses of nine *Officers*, letterhead includes the following: "The Lord of Hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our refuge." *Badge – a Knot of White Ribbon. Time of Prayer – Noontide. Methods – Preventive, Educational, Evangelistic, Social and Legal. Watchwords – Agitate – Educate – Organize.*

20 Jan 1932

Dear Harold

We've had some stormy days and night, with rain at times, but it's fine now, and we're busy busy trying to rent all the houses; telephones and enquiries all the time with appointments being made almost for each day & so far only one has come. Of course this is because I advertised & everyone is behind in his rent.

Elsa went to a tea – oh I told you that before, at Mrs. Reggie Rays. It looks as if she would have another in a day or two at the Thom's for their daughter Vera Marani- drinks & smokes like a fish, but never where we are.

Your letter about Ella's performance at the Institute meeting on the subject of the "non-interference with temperance matters". You begin wrong though, for I have always been proud of my daughters-in [-law] because they are always such good wives, housekeepers & mothers – or at least each one is a model as help to her husband, head of her home etc etc of course they are good temperance people too. And I am of course more than delighted that she has faced those people with her principles: it does everyone good to take a stand for what is right, & it does their children especially good to know that they have done so. When their turn comes to do the same each one is proud to say I'm doing as my parents did – & it does help a lot, makes a child feel so proud.

What a good hand Stuart writes, great care has gone to teaching him that. I'm so much pleased that he will write a good, clear hand, instead of a careless untidy one. A child at least should learn the value of writing, (whatever you may say) because things enough come later to alter our power to write legibly - & yet we try to do it. Cora and Marie write very nicely indeed.

I am so glad to hear that Mrs. Shouldice is better again; it is high time, for spring is coming, soon the days are longer, & with us there are signs of better work for our men.

A long [letter] from Aunt Mary has come, speaking of Dadie¹³⁵'s look of health & prospect of long life. Also – apparently the Royal Trust has taken away all the table silver except what is in use and appears to have authorized Misses Burpee & Smiley to go through & to arrange everything by themselves, although so many nieces are on the spot and might have been asked to at least be present. Says also Securities will have to be sold to pay Agnes Maclaren her \$1000.00.

I wonder if you would let me go up to Montreal alone for 8th Feb Midwinter Conference? I suppose not?

Well good night my dear & love to all my dear ones – from Elsa too,

Mama

¹³⁵ Dadie Hossack died on July 13, 1933, about 18 months after this letter was written.

1933

January 18 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" Beauport Que

My dear Harold

You can perhaps easily imagine how beautiful the sun is as it shines into the dining room. Elsa went yesterday to Mrs Reggie Ray's reception, (she was Leila Argue, a Dr's daughter of Ottawa).

I hear that Frank Ross gets worse and worse, never sober, generally nearly in delirium – even his usual guide is afraid of him. One day when the guide presented himself, Frank knocked off his hat, shouted, "what does that mean? You have not a hair on your head. I'll soon fix that" and swiftly drawing his revolver fired close to the top of the guide's he[ad] – he dropped at once. He humps up his shoulders, glares at one out of wild bloodshot eyes as an animal would do, & unshaven, unkempt, is a terrifying sight.

The mother-in-law of one young man with whom he drinks says she wishes they would both drink enough to kill them quickly.

I had a nice letter from Jean, about Aunty Bella's clothes, saying that some person ought to be empowered to see to them that they might be protected from moths¹³⁶ etc.

When Miss Galbraith died Mr. Dunbar said just attend to her personal apparel as you think best. I shall not require an accounting for them, don't tell me anything about it. So I gave away what was useful for the poor neighbors, very nearly all clothing – second hand clothing is worth so little if sold. Of course furs, muffs, coats, capes etc, I'm sure Miss Burpee will carefully put away as for the winter. But it is a pity that was not all decided! Poor Aunt Bella was failing long before we knew - & no wonder. She is at rest & in Quebec¹³⁷. Well I must close.

Love Mama

Leila Gogy Geggie to Conrad Geggie January 30 1933

On WCTU letterhead

30 Jan 1933

¹³⁶ Both Aunty Bella and Uncle David died in 1932. Jean Grant was a niece, daughter of Uncle David's sister, Mary Grant nee Geggie.

¹³⁷ In Mount Hermon Cemetery

My dear Conrad,

So glad to receive your letter of the 20th & to know that you are all well even if not very busy, so I am taking the opportunity to send you a pamphlet to read, lent me by my notary who picked it up at Auction; I had none myself, although after Papa wrote it I copied it all for the printer. So I wish you please to read it carefully, then send it to Harold, & I shall let Lois have it next. It is not the end of the story either - & it is all true – but the same story went on until William Brown died in 1875 – or thereabouts. His son-in-law Geo Hart took it up then, Papa continued to defend himself, my poor brother Conrad died May 1876, & Papa 11th June same year. He had ridden into the Court House Friday, & breathed his last quietly at home Sunday evening about six o'clock – angina pectoris – having made his last Will that same morning at 4 o'clock.

After that Mr. Dunbar, Papa's most intimate friend, a Freemason, Grand Master & prominent lawyer, settled the case each side paying half the costs – after 24 years.

I was within a month of 22, Mama was an invalid, a great sufferer from asthma; Aunty Blanche had the previous autumn married & Uncle Herman we found, alas too late, that he could raise fine vegetables & keep hens, but had [no] education, profession or calling by which to make a living for himself or family or even the idea that he had to finance these activities. Totally unpractical, would not sell his vegetables or eggs, loved to give them away to anyone who praised or cajoled - quite Irish!

So I undertook to settle Papa's estate, & the Ryland's lived with us till 1884 – two years after we had been all burned out, and rebuilt where [we] are now, in 1882.

I began at 11 years old to copy everything Papa wrote – his hand was illegible, & my education was greatly impeded thereby. I sat up nearly all night to write & he, poor old man, never suspected it, when having stolen in & laid the pages of foolscap on his desk, I snatched a few hours sleep & was ready at 7.30 to drive off in old Chamberland's caleche to the bridge, whence we ran up Bridge Street, the old wooden staircase – now iron – Conrad to the Boys' High School – afterwards Wm Thom's School, till he went to Bishop's College Grammar School where he had pneumonia, went to Bermuda & died. And we girls went to Miss Phillip's School on the Grande Allée, corner Berthelot.

I have got far ahead of this story of Papa's, but it is no tale, no invention, all solemn truth. And it like all the rest, I copied in my childish round hand, being so vain about Papa's constant praise! I marvel now how we got through it all & have every day since been thankful to good Mr. Dunbar, Mr. Peter MacEwen, & Mr. James Macnider – these three, especially – Lawyer, Bank Manager, & Broker, who steered me so straight through those days of storm, & stress, while poor sick Mama, Aunt Blanche & Aunt May, managed to direct such men as we could get & pay on the farm. Aunt Blanche was often sick, very sick too; had puerperal fever when her second boy was born. They all worked unceasingly to make the farm pay, thanks to a good market right in our own kitchen for milk, butter & eggs.

Well read this story please, you may not like its form – it was not meant to be polite to most of the characters & he knew them intimately – the proof that such accusations brought no punishment was

their truth! I've written that sentence wrong – you know what I mean: their proof brought him immunity. Just before his death a telegram came: “How much your terms to impeach “Judge _____” from Ottawa.” Papa replied, “Three thousand dollars”, and that was the end of it.

At all events, my dear son, read & pass this letter on with the book to Harold, to come back to me – by the way the last page is missing somehow- but the rest will make spicy reading, even if you cannot read it all understandingly. Sometimes I've been puzzled myself.

Brigadier General James Secretan Dunbar¹³⁸ has been visiting his son, Col. James Bevan Plenderleath Dunbar, here for the last few weeks. So of course I had to see them – Elsa & I called there, & they came here, we had a great old time – I knew his parents before he was born. Dunbar, Jones & Cary married each a beautiful Poole sister – And I do know that I owe a great deal to Masonry¹³⁹.

We too are having such a mild winter, little snow & beautiful sunny days. Pellan helps with furnace & snow, more than he did last winter, & Elsa has an easier time. I am better & waking up somewhat.

Lots of love from Elsa & Your own Mama to you all four.

February 2 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped Darnoc, Beauport, Que

2 Feb. 1933

Dear Harold

I have written Conrad a long letter with a pamphlet written by my Father, copied by me & then printed long ago. It is the story for about fifteen years of the Brown vs Gogy case, & is of course now out of print but my notary Mr Sirois lent me this the other day and I wish both my boys to read it carefully through, to see what long drawn out misery it represents, especially as the thing continued till Brown died when his son-in-law took it up, & then Papa died in 1876, after which the son-in-law Geo Hart, & we divided & paid the costs – so it was finished. But the wharf Papa built is still there just as he built it; also Lawyers pleading their own fees [cases?] now obtain fees – though Papa was very wrongly denied any.

Now I find too that our French Canadian lawyers take cases against Priests, regardless - & when my dear father took a case against Messire Grégoire Tremblay for old Léon Poulin because the Rev bully had expelled him from the choir, had also preached against him from the pulpit – had not named him though – but said that a certain contumacious¹⁴⁰ chorister's children would bear to their grave “une

¹³⁸ James Dunbar, K.C., D.C.L. was a lawyer and one of Leila's advisors after the death of her father, see above. His son was Brigadier General James Secretan Dunbar.

¹³⁹ She means to the Freemasons since Mr. Dunbar who helped her so much was a Freemason.

¹⁴⁰ Obstinate; disobedient or rebellious; insubordinate.

tache sur le front.¹⁴¹ Well we, as a family, it was who were persecuted forever after. Yet R.C.s take cases now against priests.

12th Feb. Your last letter is great news! Tell the boys that when they come in the month of May Grandmama & Aunt Elsa will be so happy, so glad, that they will take them to see Montmorency Falls, & Valcartier Camp.

I am reading just now "The Great War as I saw it" by Ven. Archdeacon Scott, taking the take of their going over to France just about the date on which they did it. I think Conrad went over the 7th Feb. on which morning he received a letter from me, & lost it - in the hurly burly of departure – without reading it, poor chap. The picture Archdeacon Scott gives of the Camp at Lark-Hill is just as bad as anything Conrad gave us, but the old man's style is all his own, jocular – laughing at himself as were – is so easy, so transparent, so full of kindness, common sense & toleration that it is a real human document that shews how the dear old man rollicked along, caring neither for rules nor orders, but picking his way where he saw duty.

All this time, I find it so long – there is no news from Lois since Jean¹⁴² died, 24 Jan. By next mail surely she will know it, she & Charlie will be broken-hearted. I have just a card of thanks from Alfred for my sympathy. Love to Aunt Mary Ella & the dear boys. Do you see how many French Canadians are coming over from Rome everywhere, in Montreal, Quebec, and everywhere else? Read L'Aurore.

Mama

Feb 10 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc", Beauport, Que

10th Feb 1933

My own dear Harold

I wonder if you saw in L'Aurore that 412 adult R.C.'s were baptised in Christ Church Cathedral Sunday 29th Jan by the Rev Victor Rahard formerly a Roman Catholic priest? – In Limoilou between the corner of the Beauport road where it turns towards the bridge, on the Charlesbourg road, there is a Rev Boisvert, formerly a priest too who is also converting & baptizing groups & families all the time.

This is becoming, more or less, a country where toleration is gaining although two vile French newspapers in Montreal continue to vilify Jews, but our Legislators have scored those papers & heir proprietors. Our Quebec Jews bought land from the Seiferts, beyond Maple Avenue, to build a Synagogue, paid for it & then found that the son of our neighbor Héliodore Laberge, Curé of a lately

¹⁴¹ A stain on the forehead

¹⁴² Jean Chaplin, Lois' mother-in-law, father of Charlie, wife of Alfred Chaplin.

built huge expensive Church on Maple Avenue, had started Crusade, a series of sermons & pamphlets, also petitions, claiming that district as purely residential, no schools etc. The Jews were to have a Talmud Torah School. Worse still we find that our own Protestants, various denominations, carried round & had signed similar petitions. It was to go before [*word missing*] but Peter Bercovitch M.P.P. advised to let it alone – not to make matters worse. Of course they will circumvent the Bigots by some other means. But we find that a lot of our own friends signed, whom we did not suspect – “did not want to see those Jews walking past their door” – Horrible intolerance, and the fun is that for years Jews have been buying up town, till there are 65 families in that district, there to stay!

A change has made things easier for Elsa – Paradis sold his best cow, our breed – his last one took sick so he had to buy from Lortie the quart we take each morning. Yesterday the old man struck & Elsa was told without any warning, “Papa did not go for your milk”. Pellan’s Landlord, Lambert – a man born without hands, no thumb, rudimentary fingers turned every which way & useless, had bought a cow hoping to sell to Paradis, who would not buy. So Pellan’s little girl coming up to offer me Archdeacon Scott’s book, “The War As I Saw it”, I gave her a note explaining, so now Lambert is to send up a bottle of milk each evening fresh which we shall find in our mail box! Rudimentary hands will not milk so Pellan milks at night, the Landlord’s wife in the morning – Pellan rises late in winter & is afraid of cold. He’s an arrant¹⁴³ coward, but all the same very good to us, & sometimes offers to get the mail if the day is bad. Little Therrien always gets it at night.

Ted Young’s holidays begin tomorrow so Helen & he are to start for Hotel Beausejour, Quai Les Eboulements for a fortnight. We have not seen her for a month. She is weakened with constant sweating, always her clothes wringing wet, but is determined to go just the same. She never wishes to see anyone, so we do not go; it is better so. Mrs. Bishop goes into her room occasionally & phones here. I write her & phone Ted for news at the office.

That man William Power is out on \$7,000 bail for manslaughter, & his trial is to come off – I do not know when.

I have not heard anything yet of the Conference W.C.T.U. in Montreal, but have been reading of how our Franchise petition was forestalled by an attack on women and girl workers, to exasperate the valiant men who think that they are being supplanted. A girl may marry at 12 or 13, but may not earn her living until 18 or 20. But char women are always wanted just the same, & they have to leave their homes to clean up after men especially.

Adolphe¹⁴⁴ has been away for a cruise but was ill part of the time, fever, not seasickness, & only began to recover at Panama. So now with his wife & her brother he is recuperating at Atlantic City, hopes to be back soon.

¹⁴³ Downright; thorough; unmitigated; notorious

¹⁴⁴ Adolphe Marcoux was Elsa and Leila’s doctor and seems to have been a family friend

We are very sorry about the way you have to take so much stuff instead of payment. Naturally there is nothing to do for any of us, although it adds to your burdens, anxieties & expense – while you cannot say either now, or in a few years how you will come out.

You will be glad to hear that I have without any expense for law, but just by a slow correspondence with our Beauport Convent & the Mother house in Montreal been paid one hundred dollars for damages owing to their cesspool inundating our farthest field. The evil had existed, & increased for 47 years, since the Convent was built – but Mr. Prévost told me we could only claim two years' damage. So that's over & I keep wondering if I was too soft with them. I asked \$200.00 & then let them off with one because I wished for no law-suit to drag along & to be left behind me. The money will be useful just now.

I have no news from Eric but we are asking him to come to us from closing of college till he sails. Of course, you wrote poor Alfred¹⁴⁵ – I wonder if Eric did – if not it will be dreadful, but really I think he will do the right thing.

We are having a cold snap – a Miss Buchanan, from India, whose parents are both medical missionaries there, is to come here next week with some other girls.

I hope dear Hans will be better soon, & send love to them all in your house. Lois will be glad to see Betty & her husband. Goodbye my darling. The Radio is a treasure.

Your own Mama

February 18, 1933 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

on embossed Darnoc note paper

My own Harold

Here is Lois' last letter, and just fancy, she had no other news than what I sent her, just what I saw in the Gazette. I hated to tell them knowing what a sorrow it would be to both Lois and Charlie.

Eric has not answered my two last letters, still I am writing again today, and you may, please, if possible call at the Watt's to see what Marjorie has to say of him, she may get more out of him, being young too, than I can. He might even be willing to correspond with her, by which means we might get some ordinary news.

Elsa has gone today to a meeting of the Oxford Group at the Y.M.C.A. under Rev. Elton Scott (Archdeacon's Son) come down from Montreal. There is a much better spirit of fraternization among our

¹⁴⁵ Leila's eldest daughter, Lois, was married to Charlie Chaplin. Alfred was Charlie's father and had recently lost his wife, Jean. Eric is a son of Lois, so Alfred's grandson.

different churches than there was in old days. Except a few narrow souls, the fences are pretty well broken down between our different denominations. The Sutherland's (Frank's parents and sister) are among the most antiquated anyone can imagine, condemning everything not their own – and yet having definitely left the Cathedral over a choir disagreement.

I have been busy over renting, or seeing applicants, and have one, the one facing our hall door arranged for – while a very promising family has just come today; hope I shall get them. A very nice couple came yesterday to the house down the hill and really like it. He is a Price Bros. man out of work, name of Greig, with that Co 20 years, drinks alas, had quite a breath, and coming in from the cold nearly fell asleep. But she seems very nice, young too, they are well bred people, and seem to have means enough to pay \$30.00 per mo rent. It is hard to find now just what one would choose.

How goes your man Easy? Can you still dragonade¹⁴⁶ and make him work?

What about Mrs. Eckstein? And Sandy Kenyo? I think she does wrong – perhaps, who knows – not make him go home to his own people. Does she perchance tend towards a drop too? – Many old women do when they are weak, and have been taught that Alcohol brings strength; when they are ill nourished and believe that it gives courage endurance etc. Few of those people have been reared abstainers and so tend to accept an offered glass.

The other day a funny thing happened; our door was on the chain and Pascal – Marie-Louise's eldest son came hammering at it asking for his mother, he had a man outside in an auto "qui a affaire à elle"¹⁴⁷. Elsa speaking through the chink of the door, said, that we had not seen her for months – so away he went. Turning to me Elsa said he smells of liquor (and I worried ever since, because she had said, and so had everyone, that Pascal (the eldest and always delicate) was the only one of her four who did not drink! - I feared that she had run away, poor, old, sick, miserable, creature, and that her boys thought she had taken refuge here.

Today Philippe Grenier, our ice-man (who is her cousin, and a good friend to her) came so I said you always told me that Pascal was Marie-Louise' only son who did not drink. "Quite so he replied; no, he never drinks". Quite gravely. Well, said I, how does it come, that he came here sometime ago with a man who was enquiring for his mother and he smelled of drink. Then Philippe's face became wreathed with smiles: Oh now I understand, he said – that was voting day, there is always liquor at the polls and someone had given him a drink. His mother was angry, said she would not vote and ran away to hide all day.

¹⁴⁶ Dragonade: subjugation by military force (Historically: the persecution of French Huguenots during the reign of Louis XIV by dragoons quartered in their villages and homes)

¹⁴⁷ Translation: who had business with her

Just imagine! A fellow of 20 odd who does not habitually drink, will yet accept it if offered although he has no great taste for it. The taste and the habit will come though, soon enough. – To my mind there is no such thing as an abstainer from principle among them, nor because they have not been well taught the evils of drink – and then there it is at the polls actually; everything is left to chance as to whether they take liquor or not.

Well I shall close my dear and remember we shall expect you and your bonnie bunch in May. The weather is fine roads good and Pellan in great excitement about the coming of spring. I have old Larouche, my old carpenter doing a little towards finishing the stable, paying only a little account each week to keep him and his from starving. – I am so glad I got \$100.00 from the sisters of the congregation for that drain.

Mama

March 2, 1933 - Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

On embossed Darnoc letterhead
2nd March 1933

Dear Harold

Miss Emmeline Shaw – very old- left when she died a few years ago to Matt Craig's three children a certain sum of money which is carefully invested for them. But another child was born, and he – little Matt – had nothing. His parents are busy saving up for him the same amount, and not one of the children have any idea of this Legacy while the two elder ones are quite old enough to give lots of trouble and to have very extravagant habits which would give their parents – and themselves – lots of trouble.

Children with possessions, or any kind of cause for boasting, are handicapped. It spoils their disposition, Sweet as your children's disposition is! It induces others to tease and beg from them – oh there are a lot of reason[s] why a boy who realizes his parents' struggles, for his sake, is happier and makes a better man, than one of whom others are jealous, and seek him for what he has and try to induce him to spend, or to raise funds.

I look upon it that your – and Ella's – goodness and kindness, to that poor afflicted Uncle and Aunt, and Dadie¹⁴⁸, earned whatever you and your children may get. You were the only male relative, your visits, advice, and the chatter of your dear children, were so much appreciated, that by the time the property

¹⁴⁸ Referring to Uncle David Geggie, Aunt Bella, and Dadie Hossack who lived with them.

is sold, you will have perhaps nearly as much to spend on Hans and Stuart too, as dear little David will have some day, when he starts in life, because he bears his uncle's name and you deserved the rest¹⁴⁹

At all events, I hope that the child will forget, and that no one else will know. We did not even tell Lois – absolutely no one – Elsa received her copy of the Will the 22 Feb, acknowledged it simply, and called the attention of the Trust to the fact that her name ends in a, not ie¹⁵⁰.

I had a note from Miss Burpee who says that Dadie is well, cheerful, and always ready for his meals, enjoys the visits of his many friends who drop in of course.

Elsa has a cold in her head, which is improving; I give her Aspirin also inhalations of Benzoin and something which Lois sent us long ago through a perforated face mask.

You will enjoy Eric better, and we shall try to induce Alfred to cross with him, visiting here first.

Now about Sirois pamphlet, and Brown! William Brown was I believe a man from the North of Ireland, a Miller who lived in the large stone house this side of the Asylum, same side. Had three daughters and one invalid son, very lame, perhaps infantile paralysis and tbc¹⁵¹, lived to 30 or forty and drove about in a pony wagon or Sleigh. Occasionally walked a little, and Papa would pick the poor boy up in our vehicle. These were a dead wife's children, they had a governess whom their father married and she lost her mind, perhaps became childish, was always walking into town, or out – Papa used to pick her up too.

¹⁴⁹ Harold inherited a quarter share of Aunt Bella's house on 337 MacLaren Street in Ottawa, when she died on Dec. 23, 1932. Uncle David had predeceased her, dying ten months earlier on February 21, 1932. Bella's brother, Dadie Hossack, had also been living in the house but died a mere 7 months after Bella, on July 13, 1933. Harold's inheritance was shared with two others. Bella left ½ the house to the Reverend Canon John Vernon Young, a 2nd cousin of hers, who lived in New Brunswick. Mr. James Stenson Bangs, a friend of Dadie's, inherited the remaining ¼ of the house. Bella left the household goods, as well as stocks and bonds, to a cousin, James Young who lived in Montreal. The inheritance turned into a headache for the heirs of 337 MacLaren. The 3 heirs could do nothing to divide their part of the estate until the house sold. Unfortunately the real estate market in 1933, the height of the Great Depression, was dismal. The building stood empty however taxes and insurance still had to be paid. It took a judge's ruling to determine whether the funds for this should come from the "residuary estate" ie. from James Young, or from the 3 heirs to the house. The judge's ruling was for the latter. None of these 3 unlucky heirs had the cash on hand to manage the costs of a house which needed maintenance and repairs. Eventually Harold and Mr. Bangs bought out Canon Young's share, and Mr. Bangs, who lived in Ottawa, took on the job of property manager. In time, the building was rented to a couple who kept it as a rooming house. The last correspondence in Harold's papers dates from 1937 when this arrangement is still in place. One benefit for Harold was that being a property owner in Ottawa allowed him to send his middle son, David, to school in Ottawa without needing to pay school fees. As his Uncle David's namesake, David Geggie also inherited \$2,000 in cash from Aunt Bella.

¹⁵⁰ Elsa inherited \$1,000 from Aunt Bella when she died.

¹⁵¹ Tuberculosis

John Brown, (brother of William) lived in the smaller house across the road where Dr. Saluste Roy lived for years, and was the father of John Brown, Enid's father. That is why Enid's father always said if your Grandfather was mentioned – “Never knew him – never knew him”.

They had money – William Brown bought that part of the property I think from the Racey Estate, with the Mill, or Brewery, on it adjoining the river and bounded by it, and hired an English Miller – John Ferguson, whom we always knew, his wife, two sons, and a daughter.

Papa was then living and practicing in Montreal, having bought the Manor Farm, but not the rents, from his brothers-in-law Duchesnay. In 1845 Drs. Douglas, Morrin and Fremont rented all the property to start a Lunatic Asylum, in the hope that the Government would adopt it – which it did in 1850, and was moved down to its present site, Judge De Bonne's property.

Papa found that the first thing Brown did was to build a wharf on the West side of the River. Papa moved into the old Manor, and built the wharf on the East – both still existing; and then the lawsuit began to force Papa to destroy his wharf – and there it is still! It could not, and did not stop the mill.

Just obstinacy – such as your man Cross - and you have read the story. Poor Mrs. Brown was a Dupont – I think a sister of hers threw herself under a train at Little River out of her mind too. – The three daughters married, one Geo. Hart, the second Roderick McLeod, the third William Clint – all and the son dead now.

No more for the present. Elsa's cold better.

Mama

March 3 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Rev Supérieure du Sacré-Coeur

Stamped “Darnoc”, Beauport, Que

Le 3 mars 1933

Le Rev. Supérieure du Sacré-Coeur

Monsieur

J'ose vous soumettre mon projet de loi pour la Municipalité de Beauport, osant que vous voudrez bien l'approuver et apposer votre signature entre les deux qui y sont déjà.

Aussi, puisqu'ils sont vos voisins, ne pourrez-vous pas m'obtenir les signatures des Gore et Chalifour? C'est beaucoup demander, je sais, mais le premier me paraît tellement indifférent, puisque c'est la deuxième année que je lui demande – même l'année dernière il a tout-à-fait perdue la requête. Et pour moi c'est loin de monter là; aussi je crois qu'ils se laisseraient plutôt persuader par vous.

Pardonnez-moi, je vous prie, mais il me semble que nous avons toujours trop de mauvaises herbes.

Bien-a-vous

Mme Leila Guky Geggie

My poor translation:

Sir

I dare to submit to you my petition¹⁵² for the Municipality of Beauport, daring that you will approve and sign between the two signatures that are already there.

Also, since they are your neighbours, could you not obtain for me the signatures of Gore and Chalifour? It is a lot to ask, I know, but the first seems to me to be so indifferent, since it is the second year that I asked him – last year he lost the request entirely. And it is far for me to go up there; also I believe that they would rather be persuaded by you.

Forgive me, I pray, but it seems to me that we already have too many weeds.

Wishing you well,

Mme Leila Guky Geggie.

March 10, 1933 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

Embossed Darnoc letterhead
10 March 1933.

My own dear Harold

I've neglected you shamefully but have been busy, at one thing or another. For Rosina Johnstone – the late J. M.'s daughter has been trying to have her mother's expired ten year pension revived. This the 2nd year of effort, getting no-where; but she still interviews men everywhere and will not give up hope. The only thing wanting is the Mayor's consent – her late father was 14 years City Hall Auditor – but the Mayor is adamant. It would make a precedent, he says, right enough and there are so many.

Since she will not give up, and yet has as much sense as a mouse, I have been (over the phone) chief adviser, and also write what is necessary. Alas it will be my task to tell her, this week, or next that there

¹⁵² A petition to the Municipal Council to control weeds, which required 5 signatures.

is no more hope. We all knew long ago, but she will not understand any of the men, who try delicately to hint that no more is to be done. Her mother is over 76 and very delicate.

I've had my old Larouche, but he goes today doing inner lining of the Stable.

A three days storm has been on, better today; Elsa has been to a Curling, first time, and today is going to a lecture on old Quebec by Ramsay Traquair and to tea after with Aldyth Thom. Of course the Bus is convenient even on stormy days and Elsa will enjoy it. Sunday afternoon a young woman, Miss Buchanan, here to learn French – whose father and Mother are missionaries to the Bhils in Central India phoned wishing to come out, and we had a nice afternoon. Dr. Argue's daughter - Reggie Ray's wife, called Leila; was to have come with Mrs. Seddon Oliver was to have come but bad weather deterred them, now she is in Ottawa, and Mrs Ray Sr. was to accompany Mrs. O. again bad weather.

I send Lois' letters, all's well there so far. I only hope Hans' arm will be all right always. And also Eric's knee, but I can find out so little. Have invited Alfred to visit us with Eric if, as we hope, they are going to England together in April.

Mama

March 25, 1933 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

on embossed Darnoc letterhead

This is the day in 1813 that your Grandpapa received his first Commission in the Army – 120 years ago.

25 March 1933

Ladyday¹⁵³

My own Harold

So glad to get your letter last night and to hear that you are about to get some help from the Municipal Councils towards paying for your indigent patients in each; I only wish you had begun sooner, or that this arrangement was retroactive. All those people owe you already various sums more or less large which will not be taken into account. Can you not get a health unit with a nurse?

As for that letter from the poor mother of six, I pity her from the bottom of my heart – that husband is the person to whom she should read a lecture, pour eviter la prochaine; and you can only tell her that guilt of conscience for her, remorse for her and for you, would be ten times worse and for you what she ask is absolutely impossible. But what a terrible state of mind these poor women are in! I had a similar case here today, the poor tenant from the house at the foot of the hill who has had 17 children, 9 of

¹⁵³ Lady Day is the traditional name of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin (25 March) in some English speaking countries. The Lady was the Virgin Mary.

whom are living, and another coming this year – one came last July and lived only two days. She has kidney trouble, and is 45. Poor Madame Duplain, and there is no work for her husband nor son. She sent her two young girls to service and one had to fly from the attempts to ruin her of the head of the house: a young pilot, idle all winter and drinking.

But I am sending you another problem, of which perhaps you know – perhaps not.

What about Dr. Giou? Of course I know the Dougalls for years past and have stayed with them; the best people living. We have had Rev. Elton Scott in Quebec with a group of Oxfords; Bishop Williams presiding, and the Very Rev Archdeacon Scott on the platform; Elsa did not go but every one else did.

Miss Buchanan was out here for five o'clock Tea today, and is taking a house on the St Foy road with her landlady, Madame Hardy for adviser. I hope she will get together the people who will help her to make it go profitably.

I am so glad to hear at last from Eric about his plans, and to hope to see him in about a month, the dear boy, with I hope Alfred, who may allow Eric to tempt him to leave the business for a trip.

27th Elsa is very well, and looking forward to summer – cold all gone, uniforms all ready for the Dock-work, with a possibility that there maybe no such work this year! A bright sun this morning as I write in bed and Pellan anxious about hotbeds (which he does not make by the way), raises plants in boxes in the house, and puts them out into cold beds later.

Snow is going fast, we only keep fire part of the day in the furnace, have Tea by the grate, and go to bed.

Do not say the Aurore; L'Aurore est bien, n'est ce pas?

Mme Eckstein owes you so much can you not get from her some of those antiques which are of no use to her?

April 7 1933 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped Darnoc etc.

7 April 1933

My own Harold

I wrote Lois yesterday & Conrad today – it is seldom I do so well & today have got off to the Municipal Council up the road here, a petition against bad weeds; there has been so far no adoption of it here, & it only requires 5 signatures of farmers, gardeners etc. I signed, Aunt May offered to do the same so I got hers, then I was stupid enough to make sure that the Agricultural Monks at Mount Lilac would gladly sign. I do not know how many future agronomes they have in training, so I felt safe. Then look [at] the reply! Sink any principle for expedience & an easy time with their neighbors. Why their grounds, Elsa tells me, are a sight for thistles & every kind of weed & tent caterpillar. I felt discouraged but Paul Emile Bégin, who has rented my land (without buildings) signed quite willingly when he came to pay his \$10.00

1st March. Next I obtained Jos. Gauthier, Jos. Bedard who came to buy old hotbed frames. (I had none to sell); Pellan came next. Then I was stuck and came along my old Carpenter Larouche & he was good enough to take the paper up to Chalifour's, opposite the Monks, whose interference in the matter I feared, because each time I telephoned, she kept saying that she would come because she wished to see & speak to me. After she had said the same thing four days running, I had not much hope, each time it was bad weather, yet she came down to a neuveine¹⁵⁴ at the Church. And a Roumanian called Le Russe, married to a Beauport girl farming up here too. No news today! So poor Duplain came up – no work yet – I help him all the time, so he undertook to hunt Larouche & returned "pour rendre compte"¹⁵⁵. Lo & behold, he had obtained both signatures, also two more & handed in to the Mayor at once. Was that not splendid? I must write Aunt May as soon as I know the result for sure: it is good work to beat the Priests once in a way; Vive L'Aurore! And this was all done voluntarily for me, by those people for me!

I had an invitation from Adjutant & Mrs. McElhinny of the new Salvation Army Sunday to address a meeting at the New Cambrai hall in the Veterans' building Sunday night. They sent a taxi & besides the Chaffeur, one McBain, by whom we had been driven in the Autumn of 1914 to the hill behind Valcartier Camp to see the officers' wives of the 236 Batt. Col. Guthrie's.

It was after 10 o'clock before I had a chance to say a word and the ground had been well covered. So I took only 15 minutes to speak to a bunch of young people at the left front, who ought to have been in bed. They wish me to return some day. About 400 nearly capacity audience, many French & the most attentive possible, in a very nice plain, well aired & lighted hall.

Just today I've sent to town a Petition for which signatures will I hope be collected for me by different people – asking the Mayor of Quebec to reconsider the case of Mrs. J.M. Johnston, City Auditor's widow. For a year he has been deputized [by] Our Bishop & Clergy, R.C. priests, & influential citizens etc. etc – all in vain. She is 77 & ill – always frail – only survivor of a t.b.c.¹⁵⁶ large family. We can only make an object lesson of a woman's petition & deputation¹⁵⁷ with one or two speeches; show that we stand by our people at least.

Elsa is taking Tea at the Chateau with Miss Buchanan, who is going home to Toronto for Easter to arrange about her summer French school. I hope she will succeed and not lose her money because it is hers which goes into the venture.

Now goodbye my dear.

¹⁵⁴ A neuveine or novena, in the Roman Catholic tradition, is a series of prayers said over the course of nine days to ask for grace, and to deepen one's spiritual connection with God.

¹⁵⁵ To give his account.

¹⁵⁶ Tuberculosis

¹⁵⁷ Refers to making a presentation to council; persons deputed or commissioned by another person to act in his or its behalf. Leila was frequently involved in advocacy on behalf of neighbors.

Your own Mama

Tuesday 11th. This is an addition because the first letter escaped attention & was not mailed.

My darling boy, I think of you so much, at all times – talking of which, or not, I have still some pink tablets, only two or three white and just the same of Luminal. For I still take all at times, just as I think I need them.

It is 10 a.m. I've been sitting up in bed since early breakfast, writing. Our breakfast very nearly approaches the Continental for simplicity, & uniformity, but then everything is so perfect, fruit, porridge (either oat or wheat meal) & coffee. Taken at our leisure, I always enjoy it afresh – though it has no surprises – and think how fortunate we are. All being prepared at night. I just pull the little chain and Elsa comes in for her share when she is ready. Then I rise when I like or not at all sometimes – though generally before lunch which we take in the dining room.

Your letter has just come, & I am so delighted about Hans doing so well in his exams; and more than pleased at his attitude about the Toronto trip. Of course I think his decision wise, it is the “other fellow” whom one has to dread these days. But your children have the same spirit ours had – always understanding, always loving & helpful – just a blessing all through.

Lois says that Eric has done very well too in his exams & I am just waiting to hear how his plans turn out – he may just catch a grain boat, (Alfred or Frank can put him in the way of it - of course much cheaper & sensible also) & then he will sail past; no chance of seeing him at all. What joy it will be for the bunch at home!

I enclose a card for Stuart, who will not mind that it came to me from Miss Buchanan, who left last night for Ottawa to see a sister, Evelyn I think, studying music I think, then to Toronto to visit an Aunt, afterwards to return here in May. She has arranged with Mrs. Carl Rostadt (née Clara Wiggs) their business all gone to pieces Bankrupt & she bought the home which she had very much enlarged & staffed for tourists. So her venture will I hope mean no loss to her, but help to Mrs. Rostadt (who has married a decent Swedish Engineer out of work who helps about her Habitant Inn, rink etc & they have a splendid baby. She was engaged for a long time to a namby-pamby English man, George Barton, who sang in the choir with her, but turned him off fortunately. She is intensely practical.

We've just had lunch & are listening to the radio, on the window near my bed. M. Letourneau (Blackbird) sang, the Boatman of the Volga. He is courting Grantham's 3rd 4th or 5th daughter opposite; a good voice.

Of course bad roads keep you from seeing Dadie – but he must be just the same, no great change. I wrote Aunt Mary Sunday, had not heard for so long – last night a letter came from Jean. It always happens, they cross.

When I wrote of Dr. Giou, there was no thought of comparison of you, my dear, my dear – of course you've no great sins nor black spots in your life – neither has he, poor chap probably; I suppose he has not married again. It is likely only a worrying introspection about small things.

I read a good verse once "I cried to Heaven, Have mercy on me, oh my God, in agony of sinners - I'm the chief. An inner voice replied "Vanity my little man, You're nothing of the kind!"

I cannot remember. But it's by doing. It's just as you are serving your fellow creatures consciously & unconsciously, all your life. Why do you think you're not religious? It's only a mental pose, a grown up attitude of "I'm a bad boy"! When you write me of the beauties of the night, of the day, you're talking of God's wondrous world & wonderful love. Why do you not go to church with your family, set those blessed boys a good example – it means so much! Hans ought to join the church before he begins to have doubts too if Daddie always says "I don't know". It's well to teach him & them all that you do, but do more & do it honestly. Stay in with him for Communion & you will see that there is nothing dreadful or impossible in it.

Oh I'm tired – can write no more. It's a lovely afternoon.

Goodbye

Mama

April 19 1933 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped Darnoc etc.

19 April 1933

I am delighted that Hans has done so well at School & that he & his friends have had such a fine trip to Toronto, he deserved it all, but what fine chance the bunch had! We expect Eric this weekend; none of the chances materialized so he is likely to go by the Atholl, end of the month. Nothing certain though. All Immigration work stopped here for good. Thank you for nice letter & news. Weather so fine. Spring work beginning. Tenant in front has moved in. The river is wide open & only a few patches of snow left – mud will soon dry up & gardening begins.

April 26, 1933 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

Darnoc

26 April 1933

Dear Harold

Thank you so much for your letter – I’ve been a long time in reply, but have been busy. Elsa had two days I.O.D.E.¹⁵⁸ Convention, going in before 8 and returning first day by 11:30 by auto-bus. Second day yesterday she was counselled to return early because her office and Roseta’s at the Docks, Immigration is to be high-handed abolished and they wished to spare her feelings. Vivien Tremaine is already at Montreal and the story goes that for economy all the work is to be done there but we very much doubt the possibility. Trust is things are in a state of transition no one knows what, and Montreal insists on having ships to go up there. Feeling runs very high on the subject – at all events, Elsa came home for dinner. Eric had walked in previous day according to schedule and we had a quiet time, he sleeps from 8 to 10 next morning. His color is poor and skin not clear, he makes his bed still and is as nice and biddable as ever, helping in every way, inside or out, and now he and Elsa are in town preparing for his departure Saturday. Alfred still hopes to go over in the course of the summer; yet just now, tho’ he is to move 1st May out of his flat, (has to go the proprietor requires it) he cannot decide where he is to move to. Mollie is to come down to move him – Eric says Jean died of internal cancer, Mrs. Doig told him.

Now I see that Mrs. Shaw, Agnes’ mother, has also died, 82. Ah me! Friend after friend departs.¹⁵⁹

I enclose part of Madeleine’s letter – and am shocked to think of her head shaking and moving, as she describes because she at least is not old. Can you help her with advice or a prescription please?

As for me – I never have acidity, indigestion, not anything of the kind but, if I have shall take soda as you say. Thank you very much for all the tablets, and there is no doubt that they help me a great deal. Several fine days I was out a lot but now it is hard frost after heavy snow, so I stay in, and having to see to the house much more, since Eric came, in Elsa’s absence, I am now taking it easier. Pellan is delighted with three big hot beds full of plants.

I do not know whether I told you of efforts to have an anti noxious weed by-law passed in the Council. Well it was safely passed last night, thank goodness, and Aimé Marcoux named Inspector to see to its enforcement. Yes, I remember I told you – so I have got the better of those monks. The cause of delay was that there has been a Novena during which there could not be time found for a Council meeting. Just fancy that the business must wait for that.

Now through the kindness of a Mr. Grieg in Mr. Ramsey’s office, I have by telephone been getting Mr. R. to cease paying his school tax to the R.C. Panel, and like ourselves to transfer it to the dissentient.

Alfred sends over maple syrup by Eric and we send sugar¹⁶⁰.

¹⁵⁸ International Order of the Daughters of the Empire

¹⁵⁹ Leila was 79 in 1933

¹⁶⁰ Sending maple syrup and sugar to Lois and Charlie in England via Eric when he goes to visit them.

Love to you all from your own Mama

May 7, 1933 **Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold**

Sunday 7 May '33.

Dear Harold

Elsa wishes for some directions for making an Asparagus bed because we are getting plants and Pellan discloses the fact that he knows nothing about starting them. He is queer – will not hear of hot-beds, starts everything in boxes in the house, then picks them out into cold beds, no manure except around the frame on the ground, and so though he will have the same beautiful vegetables they will be too late for the early market and so for profit.

Monday 8th May. I have a p.c.¹⁶¹ from my Grandnieces, Bertha and Augusta Jarvis of Toronto who have been for a year and 9 months travelling everywhere in Europe that they were to be on Empress of Britain on her first trip. So tonight we are to meet them at Wolfe's Cove and bring them home. In the meantime two men – one an Engineer Larivière who knows you, in the Freeman Cross case – came along with shovels, a car, ropes etc etc dug \$4.00 worth of lilacs, ½ white and half purple, to plant at Lake St. Joseph at once, being apparently very much pleased with their bargain.

Tuesday. We had two nice tired girls – looking very old and worn, sick and tired of society and the rottenness of it – very thin and sallow, white hair with very little black in it, and toneless voices; Gentle and kind, but brimful of spirit. They think they will go right out to their sister who married Dr. Bedford in Winnipeg and has a step daughter, also one of her own. Their own father R. E. Jarvis has remarried and they will not live at home anymore so are utterly adrift but independent.

Please thank little Stuart¹⁶² for his nice letter. We are glad he liked the puzzle, and send them all love.

Mary Shaw is still in Montreal where her mother died and the 7 sisters have been together for a while not knowing when they will meet again. They are very much affected naturally.

Now we shall expect you and your family some of these days but hope for green leaves and grass first.

I'm sleepless and unhappy since Eric left – there's something wrong, and I was not quick enough to find it out. He's not done well in studies, seems totally out of sorts, and lacking in purpose.

Today it rains that will do good.

¹⁶¹ Postcard

¹⁶² Stuart would have been 8 on May 2 so evidently thanking his Grandmama for his birthday gift.

My love Mama

May 20, 1933 **Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold**

Darnoc

Sat 20 May 1933

Dear Harold

I have your letter of Mothers' Day, and thank you very much for it, and all your love. If it will not be convenient for you to come until school is over – why it will make no difference whatever, and probably everything will be more beautiful. Also Hans the darling can then come and I wish to see him too – all you five – wish you could bring Aunt Mary too that she might see the place. Do you think she could?

All our lilac is getting a bark disease something like St. José scale, if that is not its own self.

About Eric – I don't know – but he has not passed at all evidently, no mention of his name in the lists, and he says he only "scraped through", will have some sups etc. Seems to me only to wake up for sports and then to put all his strength and energy into them. Just sprawls around at other times, does not sit up even, I had to take his arms off the dinner table. Didn't care to go out or to town, would stand interminably with feet far apart at the window looking across the river – Sylvia too stands all afternoon sewing, drawing or writing, on one foot preferably with the other hitched up! I fear she will get spinal curvature – but one must not nag her, not interfere. He will not converse at all, but answers a few questions patiently, till one feels ashamed.

Tony Cuhasac's ancestors came over with the Conqueror, the name is in the Domesday book; he spent last summer as a bellboy at the Chateau Frontenac, very small wages, very big tips; bought four suits of expensive clothes which he did not require, and then a \$200.00 used car with which he Harold and Tommy Harrison (whose father is very rich, neither he nor Tony will ever need to work) used [to] rush from class and up to Montreal, or elsewhere, at a terrible speed, to see Uncle Alfred for 5 minutes and away.

Tony's education at the Chateau included being asked by a bibulous¹⁶³ guest "which will you take – a dollar note or what's in my pocket?" The pocket was the thing to choose because it generally netted him two to three dollars. Lots of bad education in that hostelry!

Along the edge of letter: Eric's complexion is sallow, or green, and pimply – his face thin but he says he is 10 lbs heavier.

¹⁶³ Marked by the consumption of alcoholic drink.

Along the edge of other side of letter: Easy to see why there was not time to study and has not passed in anything. I wish those two boys would not return; All the same Eric has nothing but contempt for Tony's way of passing his summer. No, I never miss my tablets – take them regularly. By the way thank you for notes on Asparagus bed; our plants have just come. Our lilac is full of San José scale!

June 9, 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

9 June 1933

Dear Harold

Your letter has just come with all of its news – good, I'm glad to hear – Muriel Grant has just left to stay at the Grants in town, and leave for Ottawa Monday or Tuesday. Yesterday Aldythe Thom drove her with us to Ste Anne de Beaupré, I was very tired, so stay at home today.

Tuesday night when retiring, we found a tall tree on fire on the hill across the brook from the Stable, and to get our Tenant, a milkman away up near the Falls, who fortunately had a phone – he was half asleep and walked all the way without bringing even a pail; fortunately we had two and an axe ready. Elsa went with and they worked a long time before putting it out. So many trees, big and small, are purposely girdled, finally die, and then a match and some dry branches easily ignite. – Today we find in the gully behind the stable what we think is a huge police dog; it took some time to phone my good friend Phileas Grenier, secretary of the municipality and he instantly sent a man to bury it. He has gone to do so, and – rashly I must think – pronounced it a deer. If so, what a pity. Those constantly baying dogs must have chased it into the swamp, and once mired, it was killed easily.

I am having the course of the brook changed a little underneath Laberge's, to prevent its encroaching towards us and pulling down big trees with much of the land. I have had to have a wharf built up under one big maple where a hole has been washed out big as a house. And to prevent refuse of every kind being washed down on to us I have to have an iron grating made and placed in the brook. All these are necessary precautions – they give my poor man Duplain some work, and like raking outside my fence, digging up weeds etcetera keep things neat and set a good example.

It's easy to be conceited, puffed up and to fancy that one is of use.

Try to make an appointment please to see that girl Muriel Grant at Aunt Mary's – She went up that day to see you with Aunt Mary – is a graduate nurse; a fine girl too.

Yes the anniversary of your graduation my son brings you to a certainly very busy and very useful, unselfish life. Thank God for it all my darling, and for all the happiness you have had in it.

In a hurry Your own Mama

June 25 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc.

25 June 1933

My own dear Harold

Monday last, 19th, Pellan asked if your peas are in flower – his are. Next day he brought in radishes so we luxuriate since & I told him how so many of your things are frostbitten. Last week we had a large very blue white Iris in blossom, lasted all the week, at the kitchen door, & it is over. Now we have six small yellow ones which Stuart Hawkins – poor chap- helped us to dig at Maizeret's, with the farmer's permission of course. They apparently grow wild as do the blue ones in the ditch there of which we have some too. And our peonies are all coming out beautifully. Syringa is out, & columbines & Elsa roves the fields for all kinds of wild flowers. Yesterday I went down myself to see the bridge across the gully between us & the stable, a big work – masonry & everything from the bottom up; & found in the field beyond quantities of a very slim yellow pea-blossom on an exceedingly slim stem. I wonder if some of you can tell me what it is? Do they all gather wild flowers for the house as Elsa does? Just now it is daisies & purple columbine – just lovely. Then the crimson, pink, & white pyrethrum daisies are very nice, & sweet briar is coming out.

This has been a week of visitors, but we always ask them to let us know first. Monday it was Mrs. Sissons & her youngest daughter Audrey, 22, nice looking & nice mannered, very "properly" brought up at Dunham in one of those expensive English schools which qualify a girl for nothing, & after taking a couple of years in business college, she can find no work, is dissatisfied, has no friend, is hard to manage & rebels against necessary house & other work, to help her mother who is breaking down fast under the burden – a family of eleven (two dead), diabetes etc etc.

Friday Miss Creau spent the afternoon, she too having to give up housekeeping & everything, her sister-in-law very ill, & things going wrong with the connections, Willis the Chemist, the Kinnears etc.

But yesterday Elsa met by appointment, a social worker, graduate of Toronto University, Carolyn Davidson of that city, & two art teachers in their annual holiday to Europe, a Miss Noreen Masters from Northern New Brunswick, and Miss Kathleen Cooley, from Kingston on Thames, England. All intensely interesting & nice, to whom, as the Calgaric arrived at 2 p.m. & was only to sail today's light, she gave a Bus ride to Montmorenci Falls & then brought here to dinner out on the verandah. Fortunately we had an old rooster slowly stewing in the kitchen, & have been getting 3 for a dollar, 12 oz lobster cans so we had chicken soup, lobster salad, & home canned cherries.

Only Miss Davidson was mentioned, in Harold Ayres letter asking Elsa to meet the ship, but the other two in her cabin came along – all going over 3rd class, but already so disgusted by dirty dishes, cigarette ashes in the butter, & frightful "salad" that they thought of paying the difference. Cleanliness is not too

much to stipulate for in any class, but the other accommodation, they had nothing to complain whatever. You will notice that the last mentioned name is very like our own Kathleen Colley. The last two paid their own way on the sightseeing Bus, but being cabin mates of Miss Davidson, Elsa asked them here. They went in at 10 p.m., Elsa having arranged with our station agents to steer them straight in town.

I'm distressed to think of Mrs. Shouldice & Ella standing so often at the roadside to talk to motorists who will not or cannot descend. Will [I] get from Freiman's two little light iron framed carpet – or other-folding seats, such as I carry everywhere to sit when necessary, only mine is wooden?

I told you of all the tragedies of the 6th, fire on the hill; the 8th a poisoned police dog, lying since March behind the stable – the Municipal Council buried it for me; & the 10th I got my nearest neighbor Lortie – who rents Aimé Marcoux field – he came fighting mad to say that his sons of 27 & 25 were of age, so he is not responsible – however he willingly promised that they will not come again on the property. Said that they thought it was no harm to put their dead dog so far from our house & that when they fired a rifle at crows which ate his corn & which they followed into our field, they had no idea that Elsa would pop out of the bush beside him.

The man is crooked & has given me trouble before, but has long been a widower with a large family, married & drinking sons; one has deserted his wife & four children who have all come home to his father for support. So far these five are fed, but no one in the house speaks one word to either, & the young woman can be seen sitting all day on the doorstep looking straight in front of her.

The bridge across the gully is finished, supported on four 33 feet steel rails from Q. R.L. & P. Co¹⁶⁴. – a fine bridge indeed & with some of the old wood we have made a platform in front of the kitchen door. Rain is needed badly, & the weather oppressive but fortunately we have little outside work, & can mostly take it easy now.

Monday evg. 26th – Your visit to us we are expecting soon, all of you, & I expect to have the grass in the lawn mown to enable the boys to put up their tent & ours if necessary, too.

I was very glad to be able to send one board for setting butterflies to Stuart & some sheets of cork, nothing else declared itself. But I have not yet prepared David's birthday gift; tell him please that it is coming too, only I have not forgotten. I wish him great success for his exam on the third July; my own dear boy. Some day if either of the boys takes up the hobby I can send them the whole little cupboard with shallow shelves for storing the sheets of cork for insects.

27th Tuesday. And I congratulate dear Hans 1000 times. Aunt May is a brick in earnest, to think of her coming all that 400 miles in two days in her car. Perhaps next year we shall have a car too; I think this new bridge will be the last outside repair we shall have to make & hope that rents & dividends etc will begin to come in better than for the last few years. Hope so at least – have had to do over the Cape

¹⁶⁴ Quebec Railway, Light & Power Company

House front just now to make it respectable & to give the Tenant a chance to rent rooms. Of course this house requires something too – hope to put in a blower furnace this autumn.

Love to Aunt May, thanks also for her coming all that way alone to Le Chalet! Well, love to Ella & everyone

Mama

The bargain was that if she came to Wakefield, I should go up there to see her. I had no idea that Aleen was away from her in a convent.

Dear Ella, I hope that you are not too tired & that you try to spare yourself all the work possible. Congratulations on Hans' splendid standing.

July 6, 1933 - Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

on embossed Darnoc notepaper

6 July '33

My own dear Harold

Your long letter came and I am glad to note that all are well and that Ella keeps sketching – what a pleasure and advantage!

So delighted about Hans' Exams and hope that David's are successfully over too by this time.

Your news about Dadie, I shall await – but shall not put anything in the paper about him this time; if Jimmy Young wishes it Miss Rickaby will see to it of course.

Dr. Gordon has called in his usual rush, with a couple of others and Elsa has gone to see the illuminated Montmorenci, so I hope to get this done for him to mail tonight.

Over the weekend I had a visitor, Delegate to Authors' Convention, Mrs. Graham of Cushing Que. Also a W.C.T.U. worker, Elsa took her to St. Anne's Sunday morning, She and I both spoke to the Salvation Army meeting in the evening. Since then I have had a visit from the S.A. Adjutant, a very fine man.

We also had my 3rd cousin Ruth (Bender) Jackson with her young husband for an hour and had a funny – and nice experience, shall tell you later.

We are just about to have our first green peas, lovely head lettuce being marketed but no price for it –

Yes, I shall probably go up to see you – and Aunt May next week, very glad she is so well; but I must get a few things out of the way first. Our new bridge over the gulley between this and the stable, is finished and fine resting on 4-33 feet rails from Quebec Power, which cost \$15.00.

Helen Young has been out often – yesterday and today, cannot sleep, eat or breathe in town, slept here all day in the cool and then left for home. Looks ill poor thing and we make her welcome any time, let her feel at home, it's all we can do.

Heat has been dreadful and Elsa has been having nose bleeding, not prolonged, nor bad but a spurt now and then. So she takes it easy in the day so do I. Ted is not well either and so everyone is tired. Willie Stobo's magnificent gift of a children's Fresh Air Camp was opened yesterday. Mama

July 15, 1933 - Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

15 July '33

My own Harold

There was a lot to do yesterday after your telegram came – I intended to write of course, however there was unforeseen interruption.

Poor Dadie, there is nothing to make us grieve for him, only, I hope against hope, that he, the last, and having always given generously of time, effort and means, to benevolent objects, that I hope he may have given something to his own old cousin Georgie Hossack, to make her happy before she dies, and to Bena! However!

We have just this morning arranged to drive out to Dadie's funeral with Dr. Gordon, from C.P.R. Station, while Jimmy Young drives with Rob Hossack, his sister Georgie, and cousin Emma McConechy – while Dr. Gordon and Jimmy return with us, so each has a chance to speak with Jimmy – that is if he will speak to them. He is so silent.

Mrs. G.B.S.Young, whose late husband was Dadie's first cousin, asked us to bring Jimmy to 5 o'clock tea. Only your telegraph – I've telephoned the few people, and written the newspaper notice, guessing age as 73 – waiting till tomorrow for more information; I know so little about him.

Evening. Carried out the program, only I find now that the carriages were transposed; did not know or think of it, leaving these details to Miss Rickaby and her nephew Vermette. Bob and Jimmy with the two girls should have preceded us. Aunt Mary would have said "what's the odds?" He Jimmy was very nice indeed to Mrs. G.B.S. Young, who was very anxious to find out from him why Aunt Bella left money to

her son John¹⁶⁵, a very high Anglican Clergyman. Was it because he was in the Church; Jimmy said oh no – anything but for that. No doubt Aunt did it to help him – a clergyman – to look after his very poor mother of 83 next November; while she thought it ought to be left to her for herself. However who knows? Women always like to leave money to men as Aggie Freeman left \$2000.00 to Rob Hossack, and only \$100.00 to each of his two sisters. He just speculates, does foolish things, and loses it while his sisters have just been slaves, and the last is going fast down hill.

Yes; I shall leave here Tuesday and be with you about eleven; there are several things to be done, because I cannot afford to allow tenants to get in arrears, if I'm not here to keep collecting she must do it. Also she must keep the two families of Laberge children from swarming over the place as they did during the short time we were absent yesterday at the funeral. Their father drinks all the time, their mother is wretched, they smoke, the hay everywhere around is long and very dry, and they hide in it. I wrote you how a fire on the hill was lit – I think by them. Altogether there is all we can do her. Our Post Office which Mrs. El. Parent has kept 28 ½ years has been changed across the road suddenly and I am afraid about our letters; so far we are getting neither Chronicle nor Gazette at all regularly, and our letters are delayed also. I feel so uncertain, but am coming all the same, for a while to have a nice visit with all of you and see Aunt May too, but not sleep at her house at all.

Sunday eve. Elsa is going in to mail letters, and I must write Conrad. I have a nice letter & snapped group from Lois, but Sylvia looks terrible to my mind just like a curvature of the spine case or T.b.c. Was it caused by the War so long before – I wonder? And neither Jamie nor Eric hold up his chin and head as Charlie does. Philip is better. Irene is nice!

Elsa has just enquired about trains 12.30 standard – wait 45 minutes at St. Martin's and reach Ottawa 8.50 standard. I prefer not to go by boat, nor into Montreal this time. Afterwards I shall see, because I must come again.

Now, I've a lot to do to get ready and shall see you soon; tell dear boys Grandmama is just longing to see their jolly faces and to have a great time with them coming home.

Good night, love to Ella and Aunt Mary

Your own Mama

August 8 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

8 Aug 1933

¹⁶⁵ Reverend Canon John Vernon Young who lived in New Brunswick was left a ½ share of Aunt Bella's house while Harold Geggie and a third man, James Stenson Bangs, each inherited a ¼ share of the house on 337 Maclaren Street in Ottawa. "Jimmy" or James Young, inherited the rest of the estate (which was quite substantial, amounting to about \$20,000).

My own Harold

You have all been so very good to me during that fortnight at your house! And I enjoyed that drive down to Montreal so much! I shall write Ella next & I should have done it first.

The 6th was Eric's 20th birthday. I wonder if the boys will write him for it? It would be nice to do so before he is to leave England. I had a nice one from him for my birthday & from each of the others too. Of course he will stop with us a while before going to Montreal. Lois says he has a great admiration for Hans which shews his sense.

Saturday morning Elsa and I took the Auto-bus to market & back – were not in very long though. That afternoon Elsa had the two Elliots, Kathleen Colley & Elizabeth Braezeale here with their work for afternoon tea. The latter was in Quebec three years ago in Sillery Convent called "Sous les Bois", teaches French in Philadelphia, & brings an introduction from one Marie Weeks whom we have known since three years.

9 Aug. A beautiful day. Elsa and this Miss Braezeale are going to Rosina Johnston's to tea; she says that her name, unlike any other, has two diphthongs & she too is of Huguenot origin, also a Unitarian. Old Mr. Nielson has died this a.m. at her home Corsock near the Quebec bridge & he will be buried of course with his family, at Valcartier. A very famous family, the 1st published for years the Quebec Gazette & served his country in many ways, so did his younger brother & others. One nephew now draws – illustrates I should say Prof. Ramsay Traquair's lectures on Architecture & all kinds of beautiful things, but there is a brother of the latter living neat the Falls married to a Mlle Lemoine (who was a very nice girl & had nice friends) but her husband & sons are a bunch of hoodlums.

10th Well! Last evening Miss Braezeale came home with Elsa from the Johnstons', we had a late & hurried tea then Matt Craig came for the evening; but in the meantime Mrs. Herman Young¹⁶⁶ came with her sister Mrs. Harper & gave me a beautiful drive to Beaupré, away down below St. Anne's. Their errand was to find out all about Dadie, if he left any property & to whom, of all of which we are so far, profoundly ignorant. Someday when you have time you will doubtless go to Maclaren St but so far you have not been free at all. Probably, as the Royal Trust¹⁶⁷ has no heed of the way salaries are being paid out, Miss Burpee¹⁶⁸ may still be there unless the Young's having taken hold are attending to their own business & have dispensed with her. Their affair! Mrs. Herman Young has told me some of her grievances about the Royal Trust here & they are bad enough, but all beyond her understanding; \$600,000 dwindled by shrinkage, her husband had a habit of buying on margin & when he suddenly died leaving Mr. Hyde to manage for his wife, and he refused, putting everything into the hands of the Trust for her & she has to pay such large fees that she has not enough on which to get along.

¹⁶⁶ Mrs. Herman Young may have been Rev Canon Young's mother. Rev Canon Young inherited a ½ share of Aunt Bella's house on Maclaren St in Ottawa.

¹⁶⁷ Aunt Bella appointed Royal Trust to manage her estate. The estate wasn't settled for years so Harold had many dealings with them.

¹⁶⁸ Miss Burpee was possibly Dadie Hossack's housekeeper.

Elsa and I have been busy salting beans – just topping and tailing then splitting & putting in a big crock alternate thick layers of these & coarse salt for the winter. She has also made a lot of apple jelly, quantities of green windfall apples. Some she has boiled with mint, also green vegetable coloring & strained it out before adding sugar, delicious for eating with roast lamb.

Hope my boys are holding up their chins & shoulders back. Thank you all for such a happy time with you. Love to everybody from Elsa and

Mama

September 1, 1933 - Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

On embossed notepaper
1st Sept 1933

Dear Harold

All right we shall be delighted to see Hans and Wilson – no trouble at all of course.

Elsa's reply from the Royal Trust to her question as to where she was to expect her legacy was just as brief – the writer did not know, as a legal question had arisen which would have to be decided before he could reply.

Did Miss Young give you any nice pictures – really?

Will you ask Mr. Holden to return to you the two papers I asked him to read, and give to you, about Kingston Penitentiary?

Dr. Clarke Hyde his wife Varina, and sister Alfretta, were here yesterday by invitation for five o'clock tea. Varina calls her husband "Dunkey" his first name being of course Duncan – but it is too ridiculous! We had a nice enough afternoon talking mostly about old times; though Varina introduced several times the name of Jefferson Davis, from whom she is descended, so Elsa says. I'm glad we asked them it was only right, and there are so few to come now, and so seldom. She is "Venie" and he "Dunkey", but Alfretta's name is not at all shortened.

I have not seen Emily (Porteous) Sergeant this year, and they are to return to England sailing tomorrow; but I am more than grateful for those beautiful copies of the miniatures.

Madame de Teissier suggests that I shall look in the Debrett's foreign Titles.

We expect Hans Sunday evening with a chum, Ken Wilson whom I've never seen, to take his entrance to study medicine at McGill, so we are to have them a couple of days with us, and are so so glad.

I have just had a letter from Eva Young who was ill and had a nurse but is now better. By and by Estelle will be the strongest and best of that family, but she will have to beware of her father-in-law's temper, and to behave herself.

I've had made by one of La Doune's daughters a nice soft little grey switch¹⁶⁹ for my hair – at least she had it made for me, a great comfort, not at all heavy.

Elsa has gone to a tea, I daresay that it is a birthday tea at Dorothy Elliot's today, and I have just had the roof and drain pipes all arranged – 3 birds' nests were found in the latter and there were many holes to be stopped up in them. One day last spring there suddenly flew three young birds which must have come from thence.

Much love Mama

Sept 3 1933 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc.

3rd Sept. '33

8:45 p.m.

Dear Hans has just phoned, is at Palace Hill & Elsa has given him directions to come by the new bridge and Viaduct – the shortest way & Elsa is sitting at the gate if that be even necessary. All's well. Oh Joy! Thank [you] so much for sending him. Ken's a beauty. Beautiful weather.

Mama

September 6 1933 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie Darnoc

6 Sept. '33

My own dear Harold

Elsa is very anxious that I should impress on you, that the boys, far from being the least trouble have been a pleasure & comfort. While Hans was with us we drove every imaginable place, & while he was busy Kenneth drove us all over too. They are two of the nicest chaps, as open to a suggestion or hint as can be – useful & frankly, enjoying their visit. Hans is half an inch under six feet & Kenneth an inch over. They have been good humored & joking about the whole exam; from what we saw of the others taking it all but one looked much older, most of them 2 years Arts. A boy called Gordon is to drive up to Montreal with Hans & Kenneth – he has been boarding with Miss Bender on Lewis St.

¹⁶⁹ Hair piece

Thank you for your letters & for all the plant roots you sent, & which we put down at once. I shall send you a lovely begonia slip, quite rare which I brought from Ayers' Cliff two or three years ago, but it is still small.

We have had bad weather, a wild storm just once Monday night, in which we had to drive back from the Falls, a Tea of Mrs. Ade Mowbray Bell. I wish that you could see the beauty spot which they have made out of rock & crag & forest. He was one of 7 sons of an Ottawa Dr all of whom were made to excel in some work & this was evidently meant for an Engineer. He was with the Transport overseas, she had money & has lost it, so is now sell[ing] insurance, & he looks for a job, but meantime golfs, curls, & drinks too much at both. Too old & set in his [ways] now to find anything except his home-beautifying to pass time. He has for assistant his wife's sub-normal brother to assist him.

Pellan has not seen the boys, has had a 2 ½ [yr old] boy operated for appendicitis – also has been at the Exhibition which has meant four days absence, some drinking doubtless, & some marketing – drinking again. However we've sent you, I think, some apples, cauliflowers etc.

I just found out from Kenneth that his Dr father is dead, what a loss to them all.

Now, Elsa says, do have common sense & realize that the boys' visit was an immense pleasure. We shall be glad to see more of them & you as soon as the rest of you can come.

Your own

Mama

September 26, 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

26 Sep 1933
My dear Boy

Here is what I have to pay for converting into a modern blower furnace for buckwheat, the old one, put in by Brousseau in 1919!

Blower	\$21.00
Grating	6.40
Aquastat	8.50
Clinker tongs	1.00
Cord	1.00

	\$40.15	
Installation	9.85	
	<hr/>	
	\$50.00	And no extras!

Adjutor Gagnon gave us these terms, he makes these blowers; the clinker tongs are his own pattern, and we are undoubtedly due an adjustable temperature and perfect freedom for Elsa from the toil she has had so long. Hot water all the time in abundance etc.

W.J.Banks quoted me \$150.00 for just the same – merci! So this is nothing at all in comparison, we are enjoying an equal temperature everywhere; very happy. So now, if you can get away, come and welcome – bring Ella, we can keep her warm and snug and the little boys or anyone else.

We’ve had Miss Young¹⁷⁰ for the afternoon Tuesday, and I went to the Devonshire House where she boards yesterday. 25 Ursule St. Really she is kindness itself in all she may say about anyone, and stands up for you Mr. Bangs¹⁷¹ and Mr. Doherty. Asked her brother for Aunt Bella’s watch and handbag, so she has both. He talked of selling David’s watch and the Creighoffs¹⁷² (sic), she would like him to keep them in the family. As you say it’s only money.

At Y.W.C.A. Elsa was driven into town by old Gagnon the tinsmith’s daughter-in-law the other day, he was there too going to Hotel Dieu for treatments of some kind. Since that he has been dragged by a truck quite a distance but is said not to be too much injured, will get over it; yet he has suffered from Angina for a long time. He spoke to Elsa on that trip about how beautiful good and charitable Aunt Blanche was, what a beautiful voice and manner she had, and did Good to the whole country around. Quite true of course, and too sad when one thinks how little was done for her.

Strange that I have not heard a word from Gugy since that funeral – of course nothing from Eric either. A card came from Muriel, but you must be indeed shocked at Muriel’s broken down condition. Mr. E.A. Evans phoned me, sympathy of course, and so sorry that Muriel had never taken things as they should be taken; meaning that she always fretted and was sad because she foresaw just what has happened – Frank¹⁷³’s early death and was unhappy – as folks say- for nothing.

¹⁷⁰ This would have been James Young’s sister. Aunt Bella left most of her estate to him, other than the proceeds of her house. Harold Geggie’s cousin, Jean Grant, thought him “quite mercenary”.

¹⁷¹ Harold had many dealings with Mr. J. S. Bangs since the two each inherited a ¼ share of Aunt Bella’s house on 337 McLaren St in Ottawa.

¹⁷² Uncle David and Aunt Bella evidently had Kreighoff paintings. Cornelius Kreighoff apparently stayed at Darnoc and painted there. There is a story of there being Kreighoffs rolled up in brown paper in the attic and when cleaning up the attic, James Geggie, thinking it was just a roll of brown paper, burned the paintings by mistake.

¹⁷³ Muriel Ryland was Leila’s niece, daughter of Leila’s sister Blanche. Muriel married Frank Daniels.

The White Ribbon Tidings says Mrs. McLachlan sent in our bill of Incorporation¹⁷⁴ “dated 1883, being herself a Charter Member but quite unable to be present”. “Mrs. Geggie of Quebec is the only other charter member at the present day and to her was accorded the privilege of cutting the Jubilee birthday cake. Addresses were given at the Tea hour by Mrs. J. Geggie who has been a past president for four years, an Honorary President now, charter member, Provincial Convener of Legislation and Petition for 50 years, the only convener who has carried on in the same office so long. She is now not only a World’s Life member but a Dominion Life member too”.

What a terrible time everyone must have had about the fire – “of unknown origin” as everyone says.¹⁷⁵ Smoking in Garages should be absolutely prohibited – I hope Ella has the ladder she so long required- and I am very glad that Mr. McAlister and Co’s efforts will help to modernize your telephone appareil, probably save someone’s life, or a number of them. I know McAlister’s wife, a nice very dark woman dark hair and eyes. I think he looks bibulous and dreadful, know him very little, Larivière’s description of me is great – but I am glad that he qualified me as “a respectable woman”; of course he was very polite to us both and bought a lot of Lilac roots in the spring.

What a help and comfort your boys are in every way, Hans going far to phone for the Fire Ranger etc. – Talking of that I promised my Convention that when I lay down my children and grandchildren will carry it on!

Goodnight, Elsa and I are going home. Mama

October 1, 1933 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

Roslyn Ave

1st October '33

My darling Harold

Tomorrow will be your 47th birthday, and I wish you many happy returns, and am very glad that you are so fortunate in your home life and family.

That my three children are so well mated and have such darling children is an unfailing source of comfort and satisfaction to me, and I thank God for it all.

¹⁷⁴ Refers to Women’s Christian Temperance Union

¹⁷⁵ Refers to the 1933 fire in Wakefield “at the end of the village, starting in Fred Hamilton’s old garage, burning I B York’s shop and house, all the way up to Earle’s house—in other words, all the far end of the village!! And of course no fire department until 1953!!” (Norma Geggie)

I have been busy during Convention of Provincial W.C.T.U. at Magog, but we were given a beautiful drive, treated as usual – every consideration, surrounded by old friends, and some new ones – not as many as we should have though, because you know that if it had not been for the teach(ings) your grandparents had given, your generation might not have been what it is. And the young women of today are failing our cause, the young men too. If they do not change their ways it will not be well for the next generation.

On me honor after honor has been showered, I was presented with a Dominion Life Membership and beautiful pearl bow pin in consequence. Also I was an Honorary President, which I declined eight years ago when on resigning the Presidency I was entitled to it. There were then still three Honoraries and I did not wish to be the 4th. Two have gone, the third is not to be long here.

This being the Golden Jubilee, 50 years, I the only Charter member present, Mrs. McLachlan the other, unable to come, I cut the large cake with 50 candles, and have the top story to take home. There was a Pageant, in which I took part and we were all photographed in our costumes. Mrs. Middleton's niece, by marriage came to carry me off to Sherbrooke – I could not go, so next day Mrs. M.'s nephew age 82 drove down from thence to see me, and I was delighted. I had known him as a school boy, a classmate of my brother. (No, not a classmate, Conrad was much too young, but they both went to the Boys' High School). He was George Armitage and had lost his right arm.

I have been a Life member of the World since 1911 – better still the work I have done for years and years – and the help of my husband and family is highly appreciated in the Province and Dominion too.

I shall write no more tonight and shall be here for two three or four days more. They wish me to stay – Mrs. McLachlan is to come over tomorrow with her nurse. We are to take tea with Mrs. John Scott – both of these are ill.

Love Mama

October 3 1933 Elsa to Harold

Darnoc

3rd October 1933

Dear Harold

Your letter to Mama came this a.m. and as she is still at 388 Roslyn Ave. have sent it on there. She has not yet set a date for returning and as all is quiet here she may as well stay a while to make the trip worth while. I don't hear of any action on the part of the Grants but suppose that Mama refers to something in your letter that she got last week. Anyway I am not doing anything and if I do, will let you know before hand. It seems too bad to urge the Trust Co. to sell securities when they are so low and none of us is starving for want of those legacies.

I hope you enjoyed your birthday and, though late, wish you many more the same. I am glad to hear that Ella is improving but imagine she keeps too busy and therefore is too tired to throw off a thing like this when it gets to her.

Have you heard anything of the results of Hans' exam. At the time we saw a little paragraph in the papers saying the results would be out the following week, and if they were published, I certainly missed them. What do you do for a car when Hans drives off to school daily or does the car belong to the other boy? Our apples are nearly all gone now. We have sold 60 baskets at .15. The children peddle them from door to door here so I've had only the trouble of packing them and handing them out.

We have not had any frost yet but it may come anytime. All our plants are still out on the back gallery and are doing very well. Pellan took up his carrots and beets today and has now gone to market with cauliflowers and radishes. His celery is small this year. He was away from Thurs. to Monday. He took in a market Thurs and also had his pension cheque so spent the days celebrating evidently. The weather is beautiful though often chilly and the mountains are all turning reds and yellows.

Eric went back to Ste. Anne¹⁷⁶ last week but we have no news of him since; I suppose we'll get cards at Christmas. People here are already rejoicing at the news of the taking over of Price Bros. by this English concern. You have no idea how many people have been affected by their "méchants affaires". Nelson Tweedell has been sued by his dead brother's children (4) for 57 thousand dollars, an accounting of moneys of theirs he invested in Donnacona Paper, a subsidiary of Price Bros. Nelson has lost his job and after a week in hospital (Rev) Matheson lent them his summer house at Lake St. Joseph and he and his wife and two children are there. Their furniture was seized and sold and flat taken from them etc. and is only one story of many.

Helen Young does not improve at all. She is very thin and green and seems to be living on milk and soda water and orange juice. She has been in bed now for about 5 weeks and is of course all alone. I try to go in sometimes but it is an awful fag to go so far and I can't do anything regular or constructive for her.

I am enjoying the radio more now since the commission is giving much better concerts than we used to get from Quebec. We have not had anything good from Montreal since about June and very few American ones till late at night. Glad the boys are well and doing well at school.

Love to Ella and yourself from your sister

The Little River Elsa Hossacks says that our grandmother¹⁷⁷ came from Morayshire! I was always told it was Aberdeen.

¹⁷⁶ Eric probably attended MacDonald College in Ste. Anne de Beaupré.

¹⁷⁷ Their grandmother would have been Agnes Hossack who married Robert Curry Geggie.

October 11, 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

on embossed Darnoc notepaper

11 Oct. 1933

My own Harold

I had what anyone might consider a very gratifying experience at Magog W.C.T.U. Convention; the only Charter Member - Mrs. McLachlan, the only other surviving being unable to travel: active on her feet due to her very light weight – but slow in mind and only partly articulate.

I was made honorary President, (due since I resigned the Presidency either years ago, but refused to be a fourth vice). Now Mmes. Sanderson and Foster having deceased, and Mrs. David Scott being very low, I accept.

I have been made a Dominion Life Member too (being Worlds Life member since 1915).

Then I cut the large cake with 50 candles on it etc, etc, etc. Everyone was kind, nice and complimentary; I roomed with the 1st Vice at Mrs. McKenna's, who motored us back and forth all the time, and gave us a magnificent drive around all the lakes and hills with wonderful autumn tints enchanting us.

In Montreal – perhaps I told you before – Eric and I found my Grandfather Louis Gogy's large oil portrait at the Freemasons Hall corner of Sherbrooke and St. Mark. It is to be cleaned and rehung – Mr. W.W. Williamson promised, but “wondered what St. George's Lodge would say to that”; because it is marked “property of St. George's Lodge”. However I shall write again soon (when he has returned from a trip to the U.S.) and enquire what the result has been – Dirty and the frame damaged it will be necessary to clean it well, if not to renovate – I suppose that cleaning will be enough though. Something of the kind has been done to the portrait of the same man, in the Chateau de Ramezay, which is now quite bright and fresh, placed low down, at the back of the Lecture Hall level with the backs of the chairs, and bearing No. 153, which I saw the last day, Thursday 5th. Try to see it next time please; it is worth while; the ears of wheat on the collar of dark blue velvet being very distinct, with a bunch of roses, of buds and forget-me-nots, and gold bullion lace, very distinct; Wheat-ears are Swiss.

I saw Mrs. McLachlan twice, and Mrs. John Scott twice, Marion Young, Mary and Winifred Bonham and my other little cousin, (one of three), Ruth Jackson née Bender – her sisters being Ethel and Phyllis.

A letter mailed by myself two days before did not reach Elsa in time, so I was not expected – phoned and then got home quite easily by the autobus, glad to be here – also glad to have been there!

Dr. Enright took me to church, Erskine to the Centenary service; he is a nice big chap – so is the Judge – and they are all just as nice as possible to me, kind thoughtful and cordial.

I found Jean Grant visiting Elsa and she is here still, both are about to go to the I.O.D.E. Tea Friday on board the Empress of Britain. Yesterday they drove to Beauprè with Mrs. Herman Young, today have

gone to the new Museum, and tomorrow to drive with Rob Hossack, Georgie and her cousin Emma. She is a quiet girl, but yields pleasantly to any plan for her amusement. We furnished some excitement, it being Thanksgiving our kitchen chimney took fire very badly; I threw in coarse salt then closed the dampers. Elsa rushed down and poured water on the flaming pipe, all along. A neighbor turned in the alarm, and in less than no time the reels were at the gate, and carried a little extinguisher into the kitchen; however we having put it out there was no need. The top chimney had to be arranged, the chimneys themselves repaired on top, and a general mess was the result.

I send Lois' last letter – and Eric's. What are we to do with him? I've written him that "Life is real; life is earnest"; that it is only because he failed at first that he has to take this year over again, and that it will be terrible if he lets his family in for a second year's expense for a similar result. He was to try for the I.O.D.E. prize – and has forgotten very soon what he promised his parents, since he writes like a hysterical girl. If he were to try from the beginning to master each lecture, the result would be success.

What Lois writes about his hands and face is true- and sad too. He is 20 and still has two English boys with him, one of the first graduated, but a new one has joined them; but it is true that he might have had just as sporting Canadians, not having seen them I do not know what the two English ones are like. His secretive ways are what I dread most – but he seems to chum entirely with Alfred, also with Frank and Ida, and there is nothing I can put my finger on. Always makes his plans and is immovable. Lois each time has expected him to spend Sunday here, each time he has not done so. At Ida's he just helps in the house as he does here, is just as nice thoughtful and dutiful.

I'm so glad that Ella likes oils so much, so much more permanent and to her a new venture, with warmth and depth in them. Give her and all the family my best love.

Eric seems to inclined towards spending Christmas with you – I hope so.

Good bye for now, my dear

Mama

November 24, 1933, Leila Gagy Gergie to Harold

24 Nov /33

Dear Harold

I write hurriedly to enclose Lois last letter which perhaps you may send to Conrad before I get a chance to write him?

Perhaps I may help you out by also sending some of your letters to him – I really fear that your winter will be too hard for writing, and we can establish a letter exchange? Of course I never can write him nearly so often as to you, and feel sometimes that I treat him unfairly. He is so good too, but duties

crowd on one, so does fatigue, and the need for lying down with hot water bottles! I dread your winter with horses and cariole – but am a bit comforted by your habit of taking Dr. Holden and others driving with you especially when you are tired and at night!

Well nigh five weeks have elapsed since poor Frank's burial – how glad I am that I found the news in the Gazette that night to give me the chance to phone you and Guky! From him I have not had a line and am so anxious, that I've written again asking him to answer. I wish to know how it all struck him, the great change in Muriel, and if he saw Blanche and Bertha etc.

I "took the Bull by the horns", and Miss Young was good enough to be the bearer of a few lines to her brother to ask him to let me buy Uncle David's table napkin ring with his name on it. The whole family has the same pattern which your Papa bought for them, I suppose in the fifties. At all events he told me "with some of his first earnings". He sent it back to me at once as a gift, with a nice note. So now if you wish some day to give it to little David he can have it – not necessarily at once.

Evening is drawing on, Elsa is in town to get some knitting from the I.O.D.E. Rooms, I had to send yesterday to Duplain the tenant from down the hill, heavy shoes and stockings – away up to Abitibi, or some such place where he went for the Government his footwear worn out, and no pay given the men yet. There will yet be an uprising I fear.

Goodbye my dear and love from us, weather is good and the furnace warm.

Mama

December 1 1933, Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

1st Dec 1933

Dear Harold

Your last letters have not been answered – we are busy doing curtains, washing and putting them up – they are thin but so filthy. Of course this is a dirty road, but in what state would think heavy ones be had we ever had them!

Poor old Miss Hale has died, my oldest friend, 96 and now her sister Mrs. Machin is still failing fast, 18 months younger; funerals in Sherbrooke in either case, and a very devoted old practical nurse looking after the latter for 14 years.

My pink tablets are finished, I still have Luminal for a while because I only take one an occasional night – and of white ones I take one every 12 hours, having still some for a while. Is that as I should do?

Please will you cut me a pattern in paper of the kidney shaped pad for my left foot, that I may try it. Do not wish to buy till I am sure; I have felt which will do.

I asked Jean Grant to send you the typed copy of an English Will which I mailed to her, that you might both see how an English Will is made and with what care, and legal phraseology the Legatees, Executors and everyone are safe-guarded. It concerns my young Bender 3rd cousins; and because Ruth addressed her letter to me Lake Beauport; it being mailed 7th Sept. it only reaches me now.

There are Wills and Wills, you see! All makers are not like Mr. Ellis¹⁷⁸, certainly not Mr. Pingree Ellen, who must have had some trouble to steer Miss Maclaren, very old and paralyzed, almost inarticulate when I visited her with Lois in July 1931, 13 months before or more. She may have made notes long before, and she could write a little, very tiny and contracted hand, difficult to read. Just look at the list of legacies to institutions and societies which are to benefit by her Will! Of course there is no suggestion of the size of the Estate either. No mention of her Australian cousins, of whom there were several, Ruth Jackson tells me. Everyone in old days went to Australia – Mama had a first cousin, McGrath, (Dr. Thomas) of Quebec, who went there and settled – she had also a young brother who went there in the days of the Gold Rush and was swept overboard on the way out, that was in 1855.

Have you noticed the report of the trial of Col. J.G. Boyce M.C. for sale of drugs heroin etc, by my friend Judge Enright? J.G.B. was a brother officer of Conrad's – his father a grocer on George St., near the head of the great staircase, served a term for Customs Frauds of years standing, and moved to Montreal. Of course this business was drink – he was down at Verdun for years and burnt out there, was burnt himself, badly too, at the fire I think. At all events it is a frightful end for a man who saw service and is not yet old. I do not know what family he has if any, but he was married.

We are having very cold weather and I do not go out, except once in a few days, where I am having the old Creamery repaired; needed it terribly, due to tricky workmanship before. Tenants threatened to leave, so Larouche is making it proof against cold.

Love from us both Mama

December 12, 1933 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold

on embossed Darnoc notepaper

12 Dec 1933

My dear Harold

¹⁷⁸ Ellis was Aunt Bella's lawyer who drew up her Will, leading to years of difficulties subsequently for her heirs.

Enclosed is Jean's letter which will interest you as containing useful information. I'm sure that you had not information that it was being lived in – had you?¹⁷⁹

Jean's suggestion of the heirs employing someone to represent them, was what you spoke of when mentioning the Toronto Trust. In that case would not it be advisable and right to inform the heirs, so as to secure their cooperation. Elsa would join of course, to help pay fees.

I carefully read that Will judgment in the Gazette and sent it to Jean as being quite informative – but the duty of the heirs' lawyer would be to make Ellis admit that she (Aunt Bella) had not been warned here that in case of her not stipulating that the Estate should pay duties, they would fall on the legatees, etc, etc.

You ought I think to keep in touch with these three Grant girls when you are instructing the man, whomever he is to represent you, and Elsa – he should represent them too, make a united body by all means. So far they have obtained and given us most of the useful information we have obtained. I wonder if Mr. Bangs has passed on to you the news Jean gave him about the Maclaren St. house being occupied? Is he slow, or has the poor chap lost heart with all the trouble and perhaps no means?

About myself, I await a reply as to whether or not I shall continue to take tablets.

I wonder what will happen about those two boys, cousins who had to stand that awful trial; they will have a hard task to live it down – and the poor little also, victim of wretched wicked parents. There are so many such in the world, and not enough help or sympathy either, given to lift them out of the slough of despond while young.

Wednesday. 12 below zero, and I have been most of the day in bed, but not all. Elsa went to the mail, a boy brings it at night.

I'll not forget dear Hans' birthday, you may be sure. Perhaps it will for you and him too, my darling.

I do so wish that Guky had gone with Maud to that funeral, he should have been beside Ryland. However they were there, and all Maud's friends, which is so far good.

Elsa is so very busy – Helen Young does very badly but Dr. Carter says it will be a long time yet.

Now much love to you all

Your own Mama

¹⁷⁹ Leila is referring to the difficulties with Aunt Bella's house on Maclaren St in Ottawa after she died. Ellis was her inadequate lawyer. Mr. Bangs mentioned below was a co-heir along with Harold and Rev. Canon. Young from N.B. of Bella's house.

December 12, 1933 Aunt May (Leila's sister) to Harold

296 Wolfe St London Ont

Dec 12th 33

Dear Harold

It is some time since I received your very nice letter and I have intended answering often but always something cropped up to prevent. I was very glad that you and also Guky were able to be at Frank^{180's} funeral. I hope it will be a beginning of better feelings between Guky and his sisters. These family feuds are so dreadful and there seem to have been so many in our family. I hope at least this one will be mended. Bertha wrote me that they were glad to see Guky, I hope it may continue but there is no telling. Maud has to be reckoned with too.

I was glad to hear such good reports of your boys' progress, they certainly are brainey boys. Is Hans in University yet?

I hope you and Ella have kept well, no doubt you have been busy as usual. I often think of my nice visit to Wakefield last summer. I don't think I shall ever have the nerve for such a long drive again. It was good to meet your mother too, about half way for each of us, which gave us a chance of meeting it is a difficult matter to take the long trip to Quebec, or for her to come to London. I wrote your mother after I got home twice but never got a line till well on in November. It was nice for her to have that visit to Magog where they were so interested and entertained her so well. Of course 50 years service to the cause well deserved it.

Our winter set in yesterday with a big (for here) snow storm. Up to then – except for a few days in November – we had lovely weather and green grass! Now no doubt it will stay.

Mary¹⁸¹ and Herbert were up the day before yesterday on a hurried visit, both are well. I am expecting Aleen home for Christmas, but she will probably go back again till June. She seems to be doing well there. Herbert is doing so well, he is immensely clever, and a very sweet disposition.

Give my love and best of good wishes to Ella and the boys and the same for yourself.

Affectionately Aunt May

¹⁸⁰ Francis Gavin Daniels was married to Muriel Ryland.

¹⁸¹ Aunt May's daughter, Mary. Herbert was her son.

December 18, 1933 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

on embossed notepaper

18 Dec. 1933

My own dear Harold

I've written myself out of notepaper and storms have been so constant that I cannot let Elsa go to town till things are better. Our roads are fine, because the snow-go sees to it but from our door to the gate is generally feet deep till shoveled out, then it fills in at once again.

As for provisions, we never lack; Paquet takes 'phone orders and delivers no matter what, baker and milk come automatically to the door. So we can stay inside and know that, even that all important evening mail will be put in the box outside each evening; while our little furnace-blower just purrs away in the cellar without giving a moment's anxiety. It cost just \$50.00 and is paid for, God bless it. People will exclaim "and do you heat all that big house?" Why not, when the furnace was made to match?

I have been able to send Madeleine about 10 yds of carpet, not new, (part of it Miss Cream gave me) – she says their floors are so cold for their rheumatic feet. Otherwise they like the house because of its big garden which enables them to have enough vegetables for themselves and to sell also.

For the Duplains in the Ryland house, I have to collect clothes from friends, and the I.O.D.E. all the time. The father has gone to unemployment camp at Valcartier, where he is fed, and sleeps on straw, (to his great disgust – straw is for animals), two months there and no money at all! However the son has just obtained work in a shoe-factory, if it lasts, and he remains there till he learns the trade it will be well. One girl is at service just across the road from home. So perhaps I shall not have to give them money for food after a while. Of course they are sober, clean and careful, sew beautifully and do put everything to use in the best way. Except that the two men just live on tobacco, the father chews – dirty pig- and the boy of 20 cannot work for smoking and only works to buy cigarettes. I had to give him up because of it.

I had such a nice letter from Muriel¹⁸² – desolate and broken-hearted as is natural but she speaks of being so glad to see you and that you and your ways are so like your father's. All of them were nice to Gugy and Maud, evidently mean to keep up the intimacy now – even Blanche and Bertha who have written to Aunt May in that sense.

But when I think that they telegraphed none of us! We might not have known at all till too late to get to Montreal. When I had been in Montreal for Convention and telephoned, Muriel answered that Frank was "doing nicely thank you, that Doris and Phyllis were in the White Mountains for rest and change,

¹⁸² Muriel Mary Gore Ryland, was daughter of Leila's sister Blanche who married Herman Ryland. Muriel was married to Francis-Gavin Daniels, called Frank, who died October 16, 1933, and is buried in Mount Hermon Cemetery in Quebec.

they were all well thank you Aunt Onie , goodbye!" Of course she may have been speaking from Frank's room!

Keep up the friendship, write, it will be a comfort to the poor desolate family. Try to write in a leisure moment, when you can write distinctly, legibly I mean. Muriel wrote that the children were all so pale and thin after those last terrible four months. I am trying to get a nice card with "Shepherds watching their sheep by night" to send them. Have asked Gogy and family for Christmas – do not expect them much though.

So glad that Eric will be a long time with you; perhaps you can convince him that conversation is a gift, the only difference between man and beast!

Also – Elsa requested you to represent her at this hearing whenever it takes place.

Now good-night

Mama

December 28, 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Ella and Harold

on Darnoc notepaper

28 Dec 1933

My dear dear Ella and Harold

How did the pudding and sauce go? – Well I hope!

We asked Gogy and family, Blanche and Bertha for Christmas – none of them could come so we were alone, took it easy, and I've been four days writing in bed on my tea-tray very comfortable. Not got around to you either till now.

A thousand thanks for just the things I required – if I did require anything – seems to me I have everything – yet that tea-cloth and napkins are just perfect.

I may forget a lot now being hurried for the mail, but can remedy that later. So glad that you have Eric, who has written me a really nice letter, if he keeps on I may have to give him a prize on his birthday. Just fancy the fellows adopting a widow and 4 children to whom to give all their cast off things! It's just fine; they little guess how much she may make of what they no longer require.

Bertha's salary has been badly cut, and she writes "my eyes seem to have gone wrong. I can scarcely see a thing. Am to see a Doctor, and will know what has happened to them. It came on so suddenly and I feel lost". If there is anything serious it will tax our ingenuity to find a remedy.

Now I am hurrying to catch the mail, then Elsa will go off to the mail. Lots and lots of letters and cards, though it is many long years indeed since I sent a card. People are so good. Our weather is terrible though – with a telephone plus radio one is better at home, where all things come.

I just wonder how your hearing of the decision on the will came off – or if it did not?

Helen Young gets lower and lower. Now Helen Price – a new trained attendant offers to come. People – women are unbelievably good patient tender and indefatigable. We have not been to town since last week no one. Our Christmas dinner is wonderfully good – did not take it till Tuesday, it will last a week. We like meat – every kind – cold and never over heat any. Fancy turkey and fowl at 20 cts and we are having good fish brought – everything comes by itself – we have arranged things so well. I have news from Will J. Hamilton of Gary, Indiana, and from our friend Ayres, the Artist who has gone “Red” – alas, and it will be worse for him and his nice wife Bess. Love to all our boys and your own dear selves. Lots of omissions please forgive them and may you all have a very happy New Year

Aunt Elsa’s love and Mama

December 31, 1933 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

On embossed notepaper

New Year’s Eve 1933.

Happy New Year

My own dear Harold

Elsa is at church, has taken in some mail and two letters to deliver. I’ve just listened to the Empire Broadcast, wonderful with Big Ben, and all the other lesser bells, music, etc. That Radio where you placed it in my west window, last Christmas Day – a comfort and such a means of keeping up to the events of every day. Now we have had Church services, Empire broadcast and ever so many beautiful things.

1st January 1934.

However, it is a New Year’s day and above all things I wish to say how thankful we are for so many things; and just now, because we just stayed here and refused the invitation to spend Christmas with you which we so much wished to accept. Even with our new furnace-blower the water pipes burst in the cellar and had to be replaced last week – and now Saturday morning the water front in our cooking stove froze and burst, after which the kitchen was inundated. Old Larouche just came in with the mail so he pried up the cellar trap and we swept the water in there, until Larouche got Pichette and brought him drunk but with some tools, and then his man came. Between them, they managed to plug up and to leave us in shape to carry on.

I wonder if you were able to say to Eric, anything which would give him a chance to avoid sitting in the smoking-cars and rooms, which are all foul and I do think this habit tends to make him more cyst to contract "fluey colds" as he calls them. Unventilated places occupied by many smoking by his own room-mate perhaps. He has become much more tolerant of that habit – I sometimes fear and wonder ----- but what's the use? As Lois says, poor Lois, "he is 20". But I am so glad that you have seen him and have had a chance to judge. I think that he has a streak of too much adaptability, which is sometimes good, and sometimes bad, and very impatient of my ideas – besides never having been careful of his associates, quite the contrary. Any tramp, who chose him, was all right. At the Experimental farm if he is sufficiently fortunate, and does well enough to deserve such a position, how glad we shall all be.

Fred Marsh, Edna and Jim are living at his mother's this winter; Edna is organist in the Baptist Church, \$50.00 per mo. And the Philip Cooks rent their house at another \$50.00 at least . Fred is out of work, but apparently not any worse in health. The boy Jim is growing up a nice, rosy-colored huge boy with a big voice.

Give Ella, Aunt Mary, and the boys are fond love

Your own Mama

Undated - Leila Guky Geggie to David

undated but sorted with 1933 letters, on embossed Darnoc letterhead

My own dear David

I wish you a very happy birthday, and many years more of happiness, with always some good work to do! So for the present I send you a gift which is to follow with Aunt's Elsa's love and mine.

You write very nicely, so does Stuart, and I wish you to give our love to your Teacher Miss Robb who takes such good care of you every day, and I hope you will do as well as Hans has done when you get to the Collegiate in Ottawa.

We are expecting a visit from all your family some time soon and hoping for very good weather then; it will have to change if so, because we have had mostly high cold winds, lots of dust blowing, and not much progress in vegetation because no moisture came for such a long time. Then last week we had a few very fine hot days. So Aunt Elsa had some friends out for lunch and tea, both on the West Gallery. However, having had twenty four hours of heavy fog and rain, everything is budding and blossoming today, Solomon's Seal in quantities, narcissus and tulips also some plum trees are in bud. So when you come I hope everything will be beautiful for you to see how pretty Grandmama's old home is where

Grandpapa used to live and to have such nice times weeding in the garden with a tame black crow following him around to eat up all the worms as he pulled up weeds. Just ask Daddy all about it and how funny that crow was sometimes.

During the holidays we used to go up in the Mountains, the same big mountains that you have behind you and we used to catch fish too, beautiful trout but generally not very big. Perhaps when you come we can take up away up there to see how pretty the place is still, but there are a lot of strange people there now, and none of the kind old friends we used to know, Browns Dawsons and others.

We have some very nice English cowslips in blossom, also lots of Solomon's Seal, narcissus, tulips and forget-me-nots; but some day I shall hope to get some of those Ladies' Slipper which you have in boggy places in your country. Just fancy too that we have been able to make scented grass grow, just a little piece, which we bought last year when Uncle Conrad, and his nice family, took us to Murray Bar.

Now please give everyone our love – as we shall be very glad to see you when you come.

Aunt Elsa and Grandmama

1934

January 12 1934 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

12 Jan 1934

Dear Harold

The end of the week is coming & I must get this letter off. Your's came & we are glad to know that you are all well but it certainly is time that the courts should give a decision on the Will. But if the house is to be sold, you will to have [sic] cash – or an accepted cheque at least – ready on the spot.

Do you remember telling us in Valcartier days – 1914 - to look out for two men, Elsa says they were the two who have lately died, Coghill & Wheatley. We did not find them.

I have just written Dr. Alphonse Lessard to complain of some of the camps for the unemployed in the National Park – lack of sanitation, one poor tenant, at Aunt Blanche's, Duplain, who had pleurisy before that & typhoid previously, is with 35 others in an old tool shed, no windows, but two trap doors in the roof which do not open. He offered to get up to open, & put hinges on; his offer was not accepted, but he nearly coughs his head off night & morning, the only door being shut all night. They have one basin & a barrel of water to wash, & all that sort of thing. Poor Duplain went there to escape starvation leaving his wife & eight to the St Vincent de Paul, but he has had to come away!

I wonder what Dr. Lessard will do? He did not help me much when I complained of scarcely any women's lavatories in our Provincial Parliament Buildings; 877 women in acres of rooms & offices with perhaps 4 or 5 lavatories in one of the buildings. Factories have one for each 25 women. The Deputy of Labor – or Public Works – tells me that they are very proud of their new building on Julia St (I think) where they have a lavatory on each flat for women. Still they would have to walk acres – there is not one within reach of the Library or Department of Education, & when the building was first made, Dr. Parmalee's plea for women's lavatories was absolutely refused.

Afternoon. Madame Prévost, with her daughter Julie, has just paid a long visit, much more lively and pleasant than usual; M.P[révost] is now a Judge.

I have a note from Mrs. Ainslie Young, (6 Trafalgar Place, Montreal) to say that Helen is to go up Sunday night for operation by Dr. Gurd for stomach ulcer, a large one, & I am to tell no one! She is to go into Montreal with Ted.

Good night dear. Much love.

Mama

January 12 1934 Elsa Gogy Geggie to Ella Geggie

"Darnoc" 12 Jan '34

Dear Ella,

I am really ashamed of myself for not having made time to write you long ago to thank you for the pretty scarf you sent. So many of my things are blue this year and all fit into the general color scheme. We have been much upset by all the trouble & fuss over our freeze up & today we have had the plumber in & visitors at the same time The p[lumber] is not finished yet of course & will be back again to stir us up. Fortunately we both keep well altho' Mama spent 2 weeks in bed. I was glad to have her safe during the cold spell but it kept me constantly on the stairs for meal, the 'phone, door etc. I have been going to the week of prayer meetings every night this week. The first time I've been in town for some years at night - & not late at that. They run from 8 to 9 & just make me miss the 9 car beautifully, so rather than wait till ten, I have been walking home. My friends are all horrified but the nights are mild and beautiful & I quite enjoy it.

I also took in Henry 8th Wednesday & the first movie I've seen since I was in England. It was vulgar in spots but well done, especially the man who did Cranmer & Cromwell & Lady Tree who was the old nurse. I am now watching for Alice in Wonderland & Little Women & am afraid I'll turn into a real movie fan in time.

We were so surprised to find out that Eric was not with you for Christmas, as we thought it had all been arranged quite a while ago.

Mama has been having such trouble with her fountain pen of late & one day I saw some Quink so got some & she has been happy ever since. It runs beautifully & never gives trouble. Before, she just had to drive a complaining pen & now it just glides along. I'm using up our supply of ordinary ink but fear I'll be long at it as I so seldom get time to write.

I am glad you enjoyed your plum pudding and that the Jelly arrived safe. Good night.

Love to all & many thanks.

Elsa

January 30, 1934 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold and Conrad

30th Jan 1934

Dear Harold and Conrad

Had a delightful visit yesterday from Dr. Marius Barbeau of Ottawa.

My Luminal tablets are all done; Elsa is so afraid of my catching cold that she keeps me much in bed, though I am not ill, She had a cold, and I was threatened with one, but it has disappeared altogether. We each take a hot bath every night, and use hot water bags as much as we feel inclined. Are these practices wrong? We never have had colds, only were threatened last week with having one each.

So I am sitting up in bed writing and she is sewing – has her machine here and the radio, I write on my meal tray, with light at the foot of my bed.

Were those white tablets the right thing to give Elsa for cough and feverishness? Aspirin, under another name?

We are just discussing your being “fed up” – horrid words - and longing for a change; so is Ella of course. This is Elsa's suggestion: why not take Ella down to Bermuda, get rooms at the Misses Rees, (3 of them, small and old, Mrs. Hill's sisters, and Mrs. Sissons' Aunts), a big fine Hotel – The Imperial” in Hamilton- and both of you have a splendid real holiday, first in your lives?

I know it means money, but better times are coming, your home is always well looked after and Mr. Bangs can look after 337 Maclaren Street during that fortnight. By all accounts work increases in your region, and everywhere, relief would not be so pressing perhaps and you might go.

Canada is no good just now, Elsa has not been out for 10 days, nor I for a good many more. You say I ought to stay here – well I am willing; My President says the same thing – she ought to know; nearly died herself a couple of years ago. Now her husband has had the same kind of

attack, loss of memory for a couple of days, then gradual recovery of that and former strength, no sign of illness.

I've written Dr. Lessard again, but could not do it properly this time.

I had thought of meeting you at Dr. Will Enright's; he lives with his mother in two lower flats – takes care of her and supports her temperance work in his life and with his means but smokes a little. A Lennoxville M.A. who worked his way through; then as Principal of Stanstead put his brother through. He's big, bald, bluff; the Judge Fred T. is nicer looking, a lovely head of white hair, fine face and eyes full of wit, sarcasm, and humor – smokes nearly all the time and has drunk very badly! Has nearly died a couple of times, so perhaps has sworn off. He's fine, hearty, handsome and has the most childish lisp. When quite little he was nearly drowned in a tanner's vat of acid, never quite got over it; used to be so thin and pallid now growing very stout, and trying to work off by hard exercises, somewhere downtown which he comes home and describes with the utmost glee, and how "a young girl in shorts" makes him row a boat etc.

He has a nice wife from Sherbrooke (Campbell), and a daughter, Freda to be married soon.

2nd Feb. La Chandeleur¹⁸³; our rent day at the Seigneuries, and I am anxious for a good collection. Just on the point of handing after to the Irvings holus bolus, the Fief Grand-Pré, hypothecated¹⁸⁴ for their \$600.00 per annum. Each time – in past years that I have tried to hand it over Homfray resisted, and resented – he does so still, but I've got beyond him, fixed the terms and obtained the consent of my niece Bertha Sutherland; her death sister Augusta Jarvis' three daughters will follow suit easily, I think; I am waiting, and have written to all. Aunt May is glad to be free of the responsibility. Muriel Blanche and Bertha are yet to be heard from, but, I do not anticipate any trouble; they could not have any reason for desiring to retain the responsibility – quite the contrary. One Jarvis girl, Mary wife of Dr. Victor Bedford of Winnipeg has to be heard from yet, and the two girls, Bertha and Augusta, who spent the night here July. It takes time to consult all, but I am fortunate in it all, they take it over, knowingly, a little diminished in value, and then we are done for good.

¹⁸³ The Catholic holiday of Candlemas, on 2 February, is a feast to commemorate the purification of the Virgin Mary and the presentation of baby Jesus. In France, this holiday is called la Chandeleur, Fête de la Lumière, or jour des crêpes.

¹⁸⁴ Hypothecation, civil law, is the practice where a borrower pledges collateral to secure a debt. The borrower retains ownership of the collateral, but it is "hypothetically" controlled by the creditor in that he has the right to seize possession if the borrower defaults. A common example occurs when a consumer enters into a mortgage agreement, in which the consumer's house becomes collateral until the mortgage loan is paid off.

Last evening there was trouble in the Woman's Jail at the Gomin, one Marie Beaulieu, accused of arson a convert of M. Rahard's in Montreal, evidently would not put away her Bible, and was terrifying the sisters that she would contaminate their good R.C.s. They proposed to send her to Fullum St. Montreal. She refused to dress, or to go. It took all day, she went up last night. But Miss Phillips, the Matron's daughter, who is now working at our Bell Telephone, had to spend nearly the whole day 'phoning to coax her. The Governor of the men's jail tried to get her to leave her work, over and over, to go up to help get her off.

Miss Phillips' mother was Matron for years, and died there – we are trying to have Miss Phillips reinstated and this may help. She has done any work there was to be done for the last 7 years, but if they need her assistance (voluntary) so much, we ask the Premier to appoint and to pay her. Our Clergy will go to him tomorrow to urge it. I'm writing Mr. Kidman with this. Elsa is going now to an old Folks concert.

Your own Mama

Went yesterday up the Village to vote for Mayor Chretien and Léon Therrien, both were elected. I was driven there and back of course.

March 5 1934 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

5th March 1934

Dear Harold

The snow and ice, tons of both, have come off the roof in the night & we are having mild days with no likelihood of being covered with so much again.

The news Elsa brought me from Church yesterday was the death of the Hon. Lawrence A. Wilson, Distiller, Brewer, owner of so many taverns, our ancient enemy whom John H. Roberts & the W.C.T.U. fought tooth & nail for years. Made a Senator because of his millions of support to a liquor government, & acclaim of late years for his princely generosity to all good objects. I do not wish to judge him – Roberts who knew him personally, said that "there was a lot of good in the man". No one may say of many whose God is money, no matter how it is made, & probably since he has had so much wealth he has been trying to atone, by giving a great deal of it – doubtless lots to the Church too.

I am always wanting something, now it is the big white aspirin tablets, which are all finished; in the meantime I take a pink one about every four hours.

Did David like my letter? You see, I wrote Stuart last time, so turn about is fair. Now Sylvia wishes for a correspondent so I shall write her occasionally of course. I wonder if you have an answer from Eric about

his prospects for the summer. If only he can be spurred to pass, & to do it well. Competitive games are killing these young folks, no time, no strength, no enthusiasm or interest for anything else.

I hope you have read "The Raconteur" (Col. Hanbury Williams, I believe) page 34 of the Fashion supplement, last Saturday's Gazette; with what he says of the Kaiser mental deficiency, & what Elizabeth Montizambert page 35 says about two new books "The Stones of Rimini" by Adrian Stokes, & John Lord Satirist? I consider Miss M., an old Quebecer whom I knew, as wonderful – so in his way is Raconteur.

Helen Young is still in this world, suffering & I have not been to see her since she returned. I telephoned Ted about her, Mrs Bishop & Mrs W H Brown occasionally.

I hope Ella is enjoying the prospect of spring.

Elsa is off to an I.O.D.E. meeting.

Goodbye my dear, love to you all

Mama

March 13 1934 incomplete Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc.

13 mars '34

My dear Harold

Uncle Herman's birthday; do you remember what a nice time you children used to have and how delighted he used to be to give it to you? He was fond of his own children & of mine too, each one of them. Your father & I were grateful for it too - & we certainly loved his children in return. I love them still, for that matter & I think that poor Gogy is as fond of us as can be. His boy Herman is too, fond of us, & has developed much better than I expected, into a business man with a proper outlook on life, however he may express it in his Englishey Frenchey way. If only he had not lost that eye – poor chap - & then had a poor operation performed on his nostrils!

Thank you for Aspirin, which I am taking – Adolphe's few little pale yellow are finished – a diuretic etc they seemed to me. Not sciatica, he said, & I think, seems well settled in right hip joint, yet on the whole not quite so bad. But I am right in bed, & well looked after; quite quiet of course, & trying to be patient – not easy.

My friend in Jeffrey Hale, Mr. E.B.Wycliffe Serjeant – French Huguenot stock – cousin Emily Porteous' brother-in-law, from Grenfell Sask., writes me he wishes to return West, thinks he's well enough – I think he never will be.

March 16 1934 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc 16 March 1934

My own Harold

Better send these things on to Conrad too – letters about Eric – better take hold of the case yourself and have it handled to your satisfaction. Lois and Charlie will be delighted and you take more hold on Eric's affection – which he has, even if it does not show. Some day we'll all be glad.

Since I saw that a McDonald boy had applied to join the R.N.W.M.P.¹⁸⁵. quite a time ago, I've been asking myself questions.

I'm keeping myself busy writing in bed – can't do enough - however it's getting to some purpose. Luck may come my way and 2 of our T.S. pupils, small brothers, have won Provincial prizes for temperance now, one of the two, has won a Dominion one. And this Province has come ahead of all the others in number of prizes won. Besides Annette Giroux of Wakefield has won a 1st too – I'm glad. [*Along the side:* "Jean and Alida Brown & Vilma Mahon"]

But Sylvia's exam paper, just come is fine – that child is clever, likes her work and does it – Please return her paper.

It makes me think - the physical exercises – is David remembering to hold his shoulders back. I hoped to make him a little cushion to sleep on at night – just between his shoulders; would it be good think you, or would it get in the wrong place and do harm?

So glad Ella has a rest in Ottawa and change. No poor Aunt Bella to visit! Oh yes – I am doing everything you say, and am perhaps a little better, skin on hip very tender though – I'm always in bed and warm.

All my love to you my own dears

Your own Mama

May 2 1934 card Leila Gugy Geggie to little Stuart

Stamped "Darnoc" etc.

2nd May '34

Dear little Stuart

¹⁸⁵ Royal North West Mounted Police

I hope you know that we are expecting you to visit us this summer and hoping to shew you all sorts of pretty things.

Now I send you a few stamps for your collection, the English ones are from Aunt Lois, but the other from Aunt Elsa.

We have beautiful Lilacs just now & we wish you to have some too so we send a bunch with Aunt Elsa's love & mine; also wish you many happy returns of your birthday.

Your own Grandmama

May 23, 1934 - Leila Gagy Geggie Notes Written on an Envelope

Notes written by Leila on envelope addressed to Madame James Geggie, postmarked Beauport May 23, 1934

"See the Temperance cross in arms of this town; how can the existence of Chiniquy be denied while that is there? I have a lot of sympathizers here, who say that in Beauport he did naught but good and that his portrait has to be restored among other Curés of Beauport. The town is a no license town ever since; there was but one attempt to get one. Endore Parent was to marry a Mlle. Maheux (?) [*Leila's question mark*] if he could get a license. I heard of it at 10 p.m. one Saturday night – your father and I went straight to the Curé Dezial, a gentleman, the man now is a tramp and hated – so next morning's mass gave the congregation sermon with denunciation, certain people had to leave the church before benediction was pronounced and Protestants were given Credit for good work."

With this envelope, is a Women's Christian Temperance Union postcard from 1923. Text on postcard "First Temperance Cross in Canada, erected at Beauport 1841. Rev. CHARLES CHINIQUY Parish Priest" Photograph of the cross and Chiniquy superimposed in one corner.

Leila adds below the text:

"1st Sept 1838 – 1st Sept 1842"

"You and Elsa will remember photographing this for me."

Accompanying these is a newspaper article from L'Information Médicale et Paramédicale", Montréal, le 5 avril, 1955, about the death of a noted Quebec doctor in 1896, Dr. Olivier Robitaille. The article mentions in passing Charles Chiniquy.

Harold writes along the edge , " This interested me very much. They can't get away from Chiniquy . Can you get hold of the book Mr. Butrber (?) mentioned? What a man he was in spite of a lowly origin and opposition of a powerful organization. The man after all is greater than the system."

May 28 1934 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

On WCTU letterhead

28 May 1934

Dear Mama's birthday 1824

My dear Harold

We have been so busy that yesterday – Sunday – was a welcome rest, a heavenly day, & we did not at all envy the thousands who went east to St. Anne in the morning for the opening of the new church, & west in the afternoon & evening. But the blinds are mostly in place, & the last of our flower-seeds sown, so we ought to have a little peace.

New front steps are being made by old Larouche, the whole being harmonized with a little paint, & the old Creamery (which was clap-boarded during the autumn) painted freshly. Everything is as fresh & neat as can be, & in a little while we ought to have beautiful flowers, with a little transplanting.

Well, I took this paper because it was to be a letter about your Madame Diotte, & am sitting on the back gallery when your telegram comes "Diotte license cancelled by Cordeau, not enough rooms. Very happy." So are we!

I enclose Mrs. John Scott's card, & you see how ready she would have been to help though, like me, she is not very well. However it's the strong principle that counts, & when children are well reared & used to active support of the same, even age is of less hindrance; I've seen too much of youthful toleration of vicious habits, & what it developed into. However – brute or no brute – cultivate your Curés who may be convinced that a license does not help tithes, nor the people, nor anything else, & preach to them that good coffee is a better & more lasting stimulant, against the day when you will find that Madame Diotte has built her ten rooms & applies again next spring. Then of course the same hope & sympathy in Montreal will be available, if you have wisely worked up yours in the interval. That is the use of organizations & why I refuse to let mine die, come what may. They are the fire station, waiting to be called in time of need, & in the meantime cultivating public opinion & if possible, seeing to the children's growing up right. And Canon Sanders is a fine old man of the old school, who does not like our meddling with the use of tobacco; says that we say "it's as bad as liquor", which we never have said nor taught. Adults will do as they choose – but why let children contract a bad habit without telling them what's right & giving it a chance.

Well I hope all went off well at Madeleine's wedding. She's a dear girl. I never forget that it was she who met you at the station that Easter you went first to Wakefield, & straightforwardly asked you if you smoked because they didn't like Dr. Ayles's habit. If she had been older, she would not have hinted that any habit of any man could be offensive – they're all so nice.

Well my dear, I've no more Aspirin. Elsa has no more migraine tablets. How much should Luminal cost? Mrs. Johnston pays 40 cents a dozen.

But we have a nice new front to the gallery, which was all worn, steps 6.3 inches long, but even then 42 inches shorter than were the others, let more light & air into the dairy.

The plants you sent us last year have grown beautifully, so have everything else. If you see your Larivière, Engineer, ask him how his lilacs grew, & tell him that I have pink Tartareau Honeysuckle & very fine Syringa, also Acacia which is unknown anywhere else, I am told – a Dr Laurin has been getting some often, to grow in rows between which he will grow rows of ginseng. He was years in a U.S.A. sanitorium married another patient – they have one child.

When are my little boys coming to see me? I enclose a triple pledge card for each of them. This is Beauport's tricentenary; I am publishing & selling these cards – his name¹⁸⁶ or face does not appear in the list of Curés - & dates have been falsified. Numbers of our people agree with me.

Mama

May 28 1934 card Leila Gogy Geggie to David Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

28th May 1934

Dear David

I wish you very many happy returns of your birthday & am sending some lilacs for Mother, Dad & yourselves all. But I am also giving you Uncle David's nice silver napkin ring which he always use; it was a gift to him from your dear Grandpapa.

I am glad indeed that you do so well at school & are to go next year to Ottawa school.

Aunt Elsa sends lots of love & we hope to see you all this summer.

Affectionately

Grandmama

¹⁸⁶ She will be referring to the priest, Father Chiniquy.

June 3 1934 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

3rd June '34

Dear Harold

I do not forget, though it may seem so, because things crowd so: for David's birthday I am sending Uncle David's napkin ring for which I asked Jimmy Young & he gave it to me. I'm very thankful to have it for the boy with our love, Elsa's and mine.

For Stuart are some stamps from Lois, & one or two from me – best keep them to present one at a time, as Lois & Charlie do. But besides that, I wish to offer the cabinet with shallow shelves which we had made into an entymological cabinet. Will you and Ella like him to have it – not a thing of beauty but pretty much home made (of home varnished) & you could revarnish to make it very nice. If so, just say the word & it shall go to you. All with very best birthday wishes!

Yes we saw all about poor Francis Gisborne's death & body being found & are so terribly grieved about it! But glad the wedding went off so well, just the same without any news having reached them of that or Dorothy. How is she doing now, poor girl?

It is good to hear all the news from Conrad & then from Lois about the interest taken in that letter of Conrad's about that letter about the supposed Icelandic origin of the name Geggie; after we knew the Scotch & the Teutonic boar's head as a crest which proved that origin. Altogether it is funny, & I have been having a Madame de Teissier des Marguerittes correspondence, which spreads everywhere, till I'm fairly puzzled.

Thursday Elsa had a nice picnic at Mrs. Neilson (Artist's widow) & a group drove her out to Cape Rouge & back but she was very tired. Today we are doing as little as possible & shall put on the last blinds. Larouche helps with that, & has mended the gallery so well that it will look like new when a new coat of paint goes on. The Creamery looks wonderful, with one whole coat already, & the Shanty is to be done next!

I wonder what will be Mr. Royal Werry's advice on the subject of prosecution of Mme Diotte? Seems to me that wholesale preaching of Temperance from every pulpit would be the thing – as it used to be; putting the burden of responsibility where it used to be, on the Catholic clergy – especially in country places. It is a question which ought not to be left to one nationality, or creed. Rather make all feel it, for the sake of the young; here a Sansfacon died lately, an abstainer – the Temperance Cross was carried ahead, & his sons were made to kiss it at the grave. See the statistics in the pamphlets I sent you?

Did you think \$400.00 enough for your lakeside cottage? You had to write off a great many bills for it, had you not? What the selling or renting of Le Chalet.

Aunt May is pretty miserable in health, I fear.

Oh I wish you could see the lilacs & smell them. I'm sending some.

Mama

June 15 1934, Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc

15 June 1934

My dear Harold

We've had rain, and on Monday a nice visit from a Mr. and Miss Hill of Edmonton, nice people the girl an architect of 39.

Your letter was very interesting indeed and in my opinion, you are all taking the right steps and have the proper attitude – mental and otherwise.

A very nice letter from Madeleine came from Father Point. She has the silver safely and a box of candy from us. Elsa could not go out just taking the latter to the boat she was caught in a downpour and soaked, had to go thence to Mrs. Machin's funeral, and in any case it would have been no use such heavy rain as we needed but had not had. But it was very sweet of her to write that way, she quite plans to get Lois to come into London for lunch or something which will be delightful.

Yesterday and all week we had rain and damp, so we took the opportunity to transplant seedlings en masse. Have sown some delightful linaria and if it comes up well you should have some plants.

Tomorrow, Saturday, Elsa is to go very early with Aldythe Thom and Lily Rhodes down in the former's car to Kamouraska just for the day and I am so glad that she will have the trip, it has been so often delayed.

I should send you Lois letter but have sent it to Conrad to be returned to you.

Monday a very nice elderly gentleman with his 39 year old daughter an architect came. We were very glad to see them.

Mama

June 26 1934 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

My own dear Harold

That was great news that you wrote of organizing that deputation to intercept Monseigneur Forbes on a confirmation tour.

Very polite and nice – that is what they all can be when they wish – but cross questioned you like everything.

What did he ask you par exemple in his nice way? – At all events you have helped your own practice too, I think, because you shewed of course proper politeness and deference to your Scotch-French Monseigneur, and all those people knew that they were much better treated because of your presence. They are much rougher with their own obedient people. However we shall see what comes!

I send a few elm tree-seeds for Cora to plant that she may have a tree growing huge some day; and a few Maple tree-seeds for Marie to show how they can grow out west and some day make lovely shade.

Poor Helen Young had a birthday Friday the 22, and Elsa took her flowers, Spinach, (that is Lamb's quarters), also a dear little bottle of Eau de Cologne, over which she enthused because it was "the real thing", and came from "over there", so she kissed and hugged it. Today she is to go into hospital if she can be got to keep her word, not intended ever to come out, but she may come out whether or not, is taking something to relieve pain, but suffers terribly. Marion is to come down tomorrow from Montreal to spend a fortnight's holiday with Ted.

27th Elsa has gone with Aldythe to help make up beds at the Fresh Air I.O.D.E. Camp at St. Foy - the Gift of Willie Stobo and his wife Mildred Fry, last year. It is to open tomorrow for 30 girls under 12.

Last Sunday evening our Federal M.P. Chas. N. Dorion, Advocate who wished to tell me that the Ottawa house¹⁸⁷ desires to honor the memory of Charles Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry, Hero of Chateauguay by placing on this house still another tablet. Of course any honor shown him ought to please us; I know he lived and died without any adequate recognition of his services as usual in such cases. He should have had money for himself and his family.

The ceremony will take place probably in August he says; you and yours are near enough to come for it, are you not?

June 28 1934 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

28 June '34

My own Harold

¹⁸⁷ Parliament

I can just feel what very sad times you are having in Wakefield with all this terrible business of poor Frank Gisborne's death - & my deepest sympathy goes out to them all. Why goodness knows how it will result for the poor old people. What about his wife? Is she living?

Last Sunday evening late, an elderly, neat, dark gentleman came in, bareheaded & alert. Announced himself as "Votre Député, Madame". I knew he was C.N. Dorion, advocate, lives up near the Falls, at Courville.

The Federal Government wishes to place on this house a bronze tablet, large, to deSalaberry's memory, & of course we can only accept gratefully. The poor man never received material recognition enough to enable him to live in ease or comfort – nor his family after him. It is our duty to help in any way possible; ceremony to take place some time in August he thinks. This C.N.Dorion is smooth & polite, knew Conrad & you at Military Hospital & elsewhere – but he is head of a gang of crooked toughs – all Conservatives. One of his minions came here years ago to buy land; gave me to understand that it was for the Ottawa Gov't, told one lie on top of the other! Made appointments which he never kept, borrowed a plan which he never returned, & gave lots of trouble.

I am having a coat of paint put on outside of our house & gallery, it looks nice too, hope you will like it, & Bring your dear boys. You ought to be here for the ceremony in August too. How can one manage I wonder.

Tell me what about Aunty's May's house, Le Chalet, is it likely to rent or not?

Helen Young has gone into Hospital & Marion has come down for a few days holiday.

Yesterday I had here Rev. W. Rahard, of L'Aurore fame, his wife, a girl from Yamachiche & a wee child Marguerite. Also his assistant M. Courier, both former priests – they were brought by Rev. Phileas Roy of St. Peter's Church Limoilou.

Now goodbye dear, & much love

Mama

Will you please send all these on to Conrad; no more time.

September 3, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Page missing

3rd Sept. '34

Dear Harold

What do you think? The foregoing letter was never mailed – and the ceremony in question never came off; we do not know why either.

Eric arrived Saturday driven by Tommy Harrison, who has been very good natured, I must say. You did not come – and oh I'm so glad – because it would be such a disappointment. Guky and Maud have not come, and we are delighted because we do not need to confess to them what a fizzle the whole thing has been.

However we prepared, tidied up the house, had the flags once more in their stand, back of the hall, against the door, and wrote visiting card-labels on the different exhibits, etc. etc. Eric arrived...

Pg 2 missing

...while it means a lot of work, with constant calculation and planning.

Tomorrow the Historical Monuments Commission, from Ottawa has decided to unveil a large bronze tablet which they have placed at the right of our entrance, to Col Charles Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry, Hero of Chateauguay. There already is one high up over the Hall door, a large stone place in his honor. At the side of the entrance gate there is a tall one on an upright. So this will be the third. I hope we shall have a fine day, though it rains heavily now. The whole village is celebrating, stringing flags, and they have gone to the trouble of giving patterns of maple leaves two sizes, the golden fleur-de-lis two sizes and also a black cross.

[*Along the side of 1st page*]: Sat. is going now 4 p.m. and absolutely nobody has come??

Mama

September 6, 1934 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

on Darnoc notepaper

Newspaper article pinned to corner: "Stuttering Traced to Chemical in Blood"

My dear Harold

1st Can you obtain any information for me about this clipping – I am interested for the sake of the O'Brien family. The father – a bad stutterer has three children the same, and can find no cure.

When I wrote you Saturday I wished you to get it Monday morning – forgetting Labor Day. Eric had just breezed in, (we had not expected him till Sunday) and we were cleaning up the front gallery after the placing of the stone – no bronze tablet – to de Salaberry. Its weight is 85 lbs and a value \$100.00, its placing had cost me not a little excitement and trouble. The contractor who came to place it, I would not allow to enter because of his partner having lied and cheated me, pretending to intend to buy for the

Ottawa Government land from me getting a plan two years ago which I have never been able to obtain. Needless to say I never sold, and it was all a political job.

Then I obtained this (small) piece of work for my own men, Larouche, Sansfacon and Duplain.

We had still a lot to do, preparing for the unveiling ceremony Monday – little did we know that it would never take place.

We do not know why – not a soul came, no one wrote, and in June Judge Surveyor in our hall talking to Adolphe Marcoux, (Pres. St. Jean Baptiste Society) and us, fixed the time 3 o'clock Monday 3rd September. We knew no more – nor do we yet.

However we had several drives with Eric in Tommy Harrison's Car saw the decorations etc. etc. As soon as the fixed hour had passed we gave them a good meal, sent them off with sandwiches cookies etc, to pick up three other boys I think, at Quebec, Shawinigan and Grandmere.

We have waited – and now I have written Judge Surveyor to ask for an explanation and apology. Had their plans been changed we should have been informed. Of course I understand that the Committee disagreed. Beauport was quite right, I heartily agree, to celebrate the Tercentenary of Giffard, and without Government Aid, that has been done a Square Stone placed on a corner near the Church, inscribed on which a statue may in future be placed. We are told that Col Cruickshanks President (or Chairman) of the Commission was in a bad humor, would not allow the claim of Giffard but fixed on de Salaberry. So our Federal member Dorion told us.

We are glad that Adolphe and his Society carried the day for Giffard, but Judge Surveyor should have notified us.

There were masses galore, and banquets – pageants too, and we saw them, Monday night after the boys had left. Very good under the circumstances with only a month to prepare.

Now I am full of other affairs; but – that loose page in my last letter belonged to Conrad I think. I had mislaid it last time.

I read all you say – and sympathize – I can see how hard it is on you and poor Ella, and how you have to get away, and yet cannot go far. A haven of rest must be found at times.

September 8 Elsa Gogy Geggie to Harold

Thursday 8th September

Dear Harold

Many thanks for your purchase of those two bonds for me, which I should have acknowledged long ago. I am sending by this mail a card to Greenshields Box 810 Montreal asking them to get to work. I sent

them an accepted cheque for 2001.30 as you told me to do and have never heard a peep from them since. I had no Ottawa address, you know, and the dodgers you sent me had, "Address all correspondence to 810 Box Montreal", but I told them you had probably bought my bonds through their Ottawa office (if any). Perhaps they sent them to you for all I know but it is a worry till it is all straightened out. I have my registration receipt of course. Have been carting in baskets of apples, plums, corn etc. against the first frost which may come at any time. Have had the furnace going since Monday and keep the house comfortable and have such deep hot baths at night, but last a.m. at 12:30 I had to get out of bed to chase cows out of the garden again. Glad to hear from Hans last Monday altho' he could not get in to see us. David looked so well, we thought too. When you can let us know Hans' address and phone no. we'd be glad; we just might need it some time. Love to you and Ella You must miss the boys so much but look forward to their return each week end.

Love to all

Elsa

September 10, 1934 Leila Gagy Gergie to Harold

on embossed Darnoc notepaper

10 Sept. 1934

My dear Harold

I have your budget of letters from Conrad, and one also from Lois which I enclose; she is at home again of course.

I was glad too of a chance to see Eric, very restless for one thing. Tommy Harrison's car was useful of course, enabled us to see much more than we should otherwise have done and there was much worth seeing; the floats and pageants being very admirable, considering that they were all prepared in a month by M. Villeneuve ptre. and Mme. Henri Belanger (née Jeanne daughter of old Mousse Giroux).

Here, at Three Rivers, and Gaspé the festivals were so religious that everyone like us got out of the way of them.

Our bronze plaque was not thought of – evidently the local Committee and that of the Historic Monuments Commission disagreed; the former insisting on celebrating Giffard's arrival and put up a fine pedestal near the Church, on which in future a Statue will be placed. So, not a soul came our way though the plaque is well placed.

Now about Hans - I cannot help thinking that he will have a poor chance, unless he has someone to go over his work with him, to see just what he has made of studying alone. Is there no one you know who can run through the subjects with him in the few days now left?

When it is decided that he is to go to Lennoxville, I shall give him an introduction to Prof. Vial, a fine chap; clergyman, son of a clergyman, we knew his parents – a dear nice mother, a talented father, two boys and two girls, all well. I suppose he is the lonely one alive.

Love from us both to you all

Your own Mama

Please send me the odd page of a letter which I enclosed to you; I am sorry but I have a mislaid one.

September 28, 1934 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

On embossed notepaper

28th Sept. 1934

My own dear Harold

Your nice letter has awaited a reply too long, and in the meantime I have had such a nice one from our dear Hans – (I return his letter and card, with many thanks). His letter to me I send to Lois; and think it so good of him to write so soon.

Lots of things going on here, can you believe it, those Pony Brand Cantins¹⁸⁸ do not wish for Aunt Blanche's field, nor mine, but Aunt May's for which they offer \$5,000 only – huge, 27 to 35 acres. She refuses unless they offer much more, and our Mayor Chretien came two days ago to threaten that as the place is required for the development of this town, if Aunt May refuses what they offer, taxes will be raised to the highest legal limit. (Do you know how much that is?) That nice little Architect, (the late lamented Dr. Rousseau's son) has taken it in hand to promote the sale, so is going back and forth. Aunt May insisted on having them referred to her, so I have done so and may not know much more, till something definite is done. I hope they will give her price, and that she will sell and be satisfied, also that they will build something worth-while – as they all say they will. There is a misunderstanding in the meantime as to how much land they require, and I have to drive down with Rousseau tomorrow to see on the spot and measure so that no mistake may be made.

In the meantime I had a young man, - Jean Pineault – son of a Matapedia Dr. who married a girl I used to know, Irene Murphy. He is running a furniture factory where Robitaille's Distillery used to be. He and his wife wish to rent this house – or buy it – no money for either of course; so told them it is not for renting and not for sale except for cash. They thought to get in other people etc. etc.

¹⁸⁸ Pony Brand Essence & Syrup Co. Ltd. Quebec Canada. Among other things made "Pony Brand Marshmallow and Candy".

Elsa is just recovering from a cold and we picked crabapples, made jelly yesterday. What a nice thing it will be if Hans can remain – I know Lennoxville since 1875, a beautiful locality the Rivers St. Francis and Yamaska (is that latter name right?)

Now I must close Elsa is off to the mail. I've just had a S.S.¹⁸⁹ teacher here from Charny, another from Limoilou to teach the Temperance Lessons from the S.S. paper, encouraged by money prizes won last spring.

Love Mama

September 30, 1934 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

On embossed notepaper

30th Sept. 1934

My own dear Harold

Your forty-eighth birthday will be Tuesday and naturally I have been thinking of you a great deal. Your gift – and Ella's too – because you will share and explain it to her – will you not – as you read the old French, is going "Robert Giffard, Premier Seigneur de Beauport, and les Origines de la Nouvelle France".

It is very interesting indeed, especially the chapter XXV, "Mariage a la Guamine", the story of which I read long ago in (I think) the Presbyterian. Writers from the U.S.A. and elsewhere, are constantly examining the old Jesuit Records for strange tales. When I took Currie White and I think Thorp Blyth to see Laval University in '97, we found a man, so engaged there, who came from New York and MacMillan's Magazine.

When I think of this property and the possibility – even probability of its passing from our hands for ever, it makes me sick. Yet it is well that each branch of the family, wherever it may be should remember Beauport and Darnoc. So I have one of these books for Lois and Harold too [she means Conrad]. The author belongs to one of the old families, is a clever lawyer lost because of drink. Having been in the office of the late J.E.Bédard he might have been in the shoes of the present Judge J. A. Prévost had he only been sober.

Saturday – because those Cantin Bros. of the Pony Brand Essence are the worst business men I ever knew – I had to get them to over the ground and to measure it Saturday. It was pouring rain and I sat in M. Rousseau's (Paul) car while he and the two brothers did the tape measuring. As I thought their calculations were entirely out; they wish for all the land they can get and will only pay \$5,000.00 now for about 14 arpents (32,4000 sq.ft.) they offer just the same as they did for 28 arpents. While – if Aunt May refuses – they are inclined to take mine. I think she will refuse, but I fear they will not give me much for

¹⁸⁹ Sunday School

mine which contains not quite 8 arpents however I need not sell unless I choose. We shall see how hard a bargain I can drive, for it would be nice to have money to pay off a lot of things and they certainly think one of these fields is necessary for them.

Elsa is just going to town - I have no more pink nor white tablets large, but plenty Luminal. I certainly am pretty well, and Elsa cold has quite disappeared. Her eyes have been tested yesterday by Stuart Ramsay, (on a visit to his parents), he says a slight change in her glass will be sufficient for the next few years. Her dental has been also repaired - Dr. Lemieux - same old man, who tells her that he used to be so sorry for us when he was young "des Protestants".

God bless and keep you and yours, my darling son. Love from Elsa.

Your own Mama

October 11, 1934 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

On embossed notepaper

11 Oct. 1934

My dear Harold

Many thanks again for the bottle of medicine for Elsa – she is well, and busy, but everything outside is finished and done I think – double windows washed and put on, flowers all in. Today snow is falling with rain at intervals, the house very comfortable, coal all in without any dust or trouble.

Tom Geggie accountant is a son of Rev. Andrew, who was your father's 3rd Cousin I think. But the Rev Andrew had also a nephew of that name – other nephews also.

Dorothy Elliot – who teaches five year olds at Kindergarten, has just been sent one, called Kirby who has a vaccination certificate dated in 1930 and signed by you. Funny is it not?

I have had no pills of Aspirin or Aspirin phenacitin and caffeine for a long time past, my hand also foot are torpid and aching.

Well Aunt May has not replied to the letter which the Cantin's did not write. Therefore at some time they and I have to come to an agreement. They are not business men at all. However after I had given them in writing price they just tell me by phone that after they have arranged for the Railway siding etc. then they will come here to see me. I have also told our Municipality that I am willing to sell for \$8000.00 – as I wrote Cantin. They just go on with their preparations – so I shall go to Montreal Saturday or Sunday feeling confident that nothing will happen in my absence – unless it happens before I leave – otherwise things can wait my return.

All that you write of Hans is a delight to us, and will be to Conrad and Lois also – the dear boy has indeed done finely and I wrote him. But some day I shall send you, for him to see (perhaps at Christmas) some

of my poor brother Conrad's last Lennoxville reports, with a piece of the old purple and white hat band that he last wore – treasures of my dear Mother's to her last days.

I send you a picture of Lois, Philip and Sylvia enlarged lately which you are to keep – unless you have one like it or which you like as well. Also Lois' last letter with news of her tenants – Talking of which our tenants are much more satisfactorily settled for the winter, the Shanty with a young man having three children, and just remarried.

Pellan has lost his head; I wish you were here to get some of the beautiful endive, upper half of the garden full – about to be frozen. I eat all I can. But since he has rented last May a house and garden up near Mount Lilac, he is badly affected by the division of interests. Also he has a Legacy from Guernsey which, instead of banking or converting, he just keeps locked up in his trunk as it came. There is nothing to prevent someone coming in a fine day and carrying off that trunk, while he waits for his funds to rise in value.

We are trying to make an end of – at least I am – of handing over to my sister Augusta's heirs her Fief Grandpré. Had an "assemblée de parents", the other day on which were Elsa, myself, and Florrie, Matt Craig, Robert Hunter, Mr. Sirois and Thos. Webber. There will be another, it is very tedious.

Something funny. As I told you (?- good knows perhaps I did not) Mrs. Oliver being dead now, and Mr. O's brain softening – doesn't know Florrie sometimes. He just wonders who she is. Well Marina chose it as a fit time to get a passport and start for England. Florrie is made to see after all the Estate - a large one – her father, and Mildred Powis legacy from Aunt Tilley on Dauphine St. Their maid, being sorry for Florrie, whose birthday tomorrow will be, (46) has used her list of girls whom she usually invites and telephoned everyone of them to come to tea, given by her, Appoline and so Elsa will go and Appoline will tell all the usual white lies to keep Florrie from leaving home till they arrive and give her a surprise.

Is it not fun – but they all love Florrie.

Oh, Stuart Ramsay's examination of Elsa's eyes, changing her glasses just a little and giving her a lotion and iodine for the lids has been so successful.

Webber is a tenant across the Highway from us. Decent chap from Montreal. Mixed his marriage and if you only saw!!

Now goodbye and love

Mama

October 16, 1934 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold postcard

Y.W.C.A. Dorchester St. Montreal 16 Oct. 1934

Came up last afternoon because of two Scots friends, Misses Smith and Howie, travelled parlor car. Waste of money, I do not like the heat and stuffiness; they sat all through in hat and fur-lined coat, but I was glad to see Westmount station.

W.C.T.U. Convention opens at 1 o'clock, I hope to stay here, like the freedom and meals; just what you choose in the Cafeteria. Church, corner of Drummond and Dorchester, could not be more convenient – lasts 16th, 17th, 18th – will not be large but shall see many old friends.

Left things at home all comfortable for winter and Elsa about to have a quiet time sewing, an afternoon in town when she wishes. We see nothing of Pellan for days – he lives up the village and has another garden too; this one is full of beautiful lettuce, endive, etc about to be frozen.

Thank you so much for tablets.

Did you safely receive Robert Giffard's book and programme enclosed

November 28, 1934 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold postcard

26 Nov '34

Your letter just rec'd. We had all kinds of specialists for our water system. Then Elsa got Odianna's plumber son Lucien to try the level of the stove and anyway to raise it a fraction on the far side; since which all has gone well. The floor must have sunken a little, but even a very kind city plumber who suggested several other things did not think of that special defect.

Now the stove smokes like mad; we've had it and the pipes also the chimney, all cleaned – hope the condition will be relieved.

Elsa is going to Tea at Marjorie Craig's this p.m. Teas there are a rare event, and they are far away of course.

That man Ward from up Thetford way – of course his name was very familiar; so was that of Jim Buck, as a bad man and troublemaker. Wonder if he is related to the present outlaw who has just been released. Poor Prof Vial – never strong perhaps; he has only a niece living.

Dear David's % in Algebra is jolly good; so much depends on a good start.

Elsa heard the O.B.E. lady – very disappointing. However her shortcomings were the opportunity for Dr. Delaney to call attention to some notable advance on this side of the ocean.

Mama

December 6, 1934 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

On embossed Darnoc notepaper

6 Dec '34

My dear Harold

I could only send off one letter yesterday but through it you will get some news, and this will tell you that the Sheriff's sale of Fief Grandpré will take place at 11 a.m. Monday 10th, at the door of St. Léon Church. I leave here by 7:20 C.P.R. train for Louiseville where Notary Lesage, (who goes from here tomorrow to his father-in-law's in that town), will meet me. Both of us will wait a few minutes for Notary Fair (of Fair and Cameron) on the down train from Montreal with whom, and the Sheriff we shall drive up to St. Léon's.

After the sale lunch at M. Fleury's I shall return to home here by the afternoon train, to sleep in my own bed. I shall try to have some one snap a camera at us on the church steps, for I call it a momentous event, and worth keeping a picture of it if it can be done; even if I take Elsa's camera with me.

If the season were better, and your work less exacting you might have met me yourself; even a week or two ago it would have been all right. Repeatedly there have been delays in spite of me, but I am glad that at all events there is a prospect of knowing soon how it will turn out.

On my last trip I have lost my old shabby address book with many cards, memoranda etc etc. quite a disconcerting loss indeed – I do not think that I left it at the Maples.

I invited Eric for Christmas, but he refuses. I am not surprised either, as in Ste. Anne's and Montreal, or between the two, and the help of Tommy's car, he and they will probably have a festive time. Lots of friends by this time besides this Grandmère girl whom he calls Bunty - Gertrude Marsh likely to spend some of the holidays in or about the same place too. No relation to Quebec Marsh family I am glad to say. Only I wish he would not make excuse of being unable to leave his studies at Christmas. I should not wish him – none of us – would wish him to continue through holiday time. Better slacken the bow then and begin fresh afterwards to tighten it. I've never seen Gertrude but evidently his Uncles have. His picture is too old for him; and the girl writes a pretty fine hand besides being pleasant in her way of writing and wishing to help, in one way or another – for one reason or another. Probably we shall have her here next summer.

Rev. and Mrs. Roy looked in last evening very much pleased about Sanderson contentment at the Finlay home. Their little girl Phyllis, who was undergoing treatment for neck glands last summer when you saw him, is going to school here daily and well. Elsa gone to a sale at the Y.W.C.A.

Our man Webber has moved into town – only had the house for the summer anyway; left window and door panes smashed and place required Larouche fixing up a whole day.

Now my dear I shall close and hope Ella and you, boys and Aunt Mary too are well. Too bad about Maud Thomson's face so badly "mussed up" – what a classic phrase for an American Judge to use! Yet we require all the United States to be as strongly our friends as we can make them, do we not.

Much love

Mama

December 12, 1934 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

On embossed notepaper

12 Dec 1934

No dollar, this time.

In last night's paper, death of Jimmy Young's sister whom you know. Elsa is going to her funeral today.

My own dear Harold

This is just like a glorious spring day, sunshine, but very cold outside I think; it was cold yesterday too, and the day before when I was at St. Léon¹⁹⁰. I had risen about 5 and had a quiet breakfast in my room as usual, so was quite ready when Lorenzo Sansfacon came with his comfortable car. Warmly dressed, a fine sun shining into the car all the way to Louiseville, as the few working people dropped off at "Larette", (as they call it) Lachevrotière etc.

At Louiseville M. Lesage, of course, met me, we waited ten minutes, too for the down-train, for either Notary Fair of Montreal, the Irving man or you; then proceeded to St. Léon in a large and comfortable can belonging to M. Hector Béland, (Mr. Lesage's father-in-law).

It was only a few minutes, by a road I had never used, coming out across the face of the Church, then we spent a few minutes at M. Fleury's¹⁹¹, found them well, Madame better than she used to be, but poor Mlle. Louise, his sister, pitiful. Her father left her very well off but she did not marry, so when her brother did, she lived with him, her sister-in-law has pretensions, and high blood pressure, plus kidney trouble, so has taken things easily always.

Therefore Mlle. Louise reared a family of ten, only two girls, (there were four others who died in infancy), Mlle. Louise has lost all her inheritance through gambling in stocks – not her doing of course – her brother has lost nearly everything the same way, and she has become more and more a slave, does not sit at the table even. Her head is sunken between her hunched up shoulders, her feet full of corns

¹⁹⁰ St. Léon is a little community past Trois-Rivières, close to Yamachiche. It is 181 km from Quebec along Autoroute 40; now a 2 hour drive, it would have been a much longer trip for Leila.

¹⁹¹ M. Fleury was their agent for the Seigneuries.

and bunions, perhaps even fallen arches, yet she drudges along with no hope and no consideration shown her.

After a few minutes we went over to the church steps, three or four hangers-on gathered around, one had a large picturesque biscuit pail on his arm, but I could not at all induce him, (whom I specially wished for), to stay for the snap-shot photo. Facing east, a beautiful warm Sun shone on us, no snow at all. I stood beside M. Lesage, Notary Fair not having come; the reading of documents took a long time, and M. Béland, the father-in-law, was ready after a while to bid \$10,000.00 the original value of Fief Grandpré. Presently one Americus Coulombe added fifty cents; and as the quarter hour drew to a close the father-in-law added another fifty cents; so to him Fief Grandpré was knocked down for \$10,000. I was not quick enough, so the camera having been clicked twice, I said “you keep the fief for yourself”, he assented, so I said “come to the Presbytère, I shall introduce the new Seigneur to the Curé”. It was stupid, but gave me what I wished for, an excuse to see this Incumbent. So he offered his arm in his handsome fur coat, and we went next door, saw the old man, whom I had formerly known as Vicaire, made the presentation in due form, which he barely noticed, and thanked him – as I have always done – for reading our notices before the rent days and urging his people to pay promptly as a duty etc. etc. Nothing at all even respectable in his appearance or manner; his predecessor had some manner[s], and was quite intelligent, chatty too.

We went to M. Fleury’s, while the documents were being prepared in his office with lots of tobacco smoke – M. Lesage uses neither tobacco nor liquor – I sat with Madame, Lucille and Marguerite – the papers were brought in and I signed. Then Lucille played and M. Lesage sang the Toreador song from Carmen. But M. Béland then declared that he had bought for the Irvings.

Well after dinner I was able to talk to my old friend, Mlle. Louise Fleury, then agreed that I was tired, and allowed myself to be tucked in up on Lucille’s bed, for a three hour sleep. I was awakened to go with M. Lesage, then to his father-in-law’s, M. Béland, being well warned not to tell the Fleury’s that I was to be given “le thé” – because the family is in deep mourning for an aunt, and it would have been a scandal to have a function of the magnitude of a tea!

Well, on entering Madame Béland – a very nice, not at all old, woman curtsied, and in a few minutes, an up to date tea-wagon, etc. was wheeled in, and the Lesage baby, Pierre, a year old came. Later we had supper; lots of nice looking cold roast pork of which I took none, eggs, a pan-full fried, and carrots around the dish, canned cauliflower, homemade good fresh tea, and canned corn on the ear, bought and abominable, with nice buttered toast, quite a nice meal for me.

Béland is a large, and rich, landowner, has lots of cattle and breeds ‘coons. His son-in-law had on a magnificent new coat, I asked what it was worth and was told \$250.00 to buy. Lesage’s wife brought home two skins to make herself a neck-fur, a gift. They came home Pushman, I preferred my return ticket in the 1st class. A baby, no-one’s own, being eternally danced up and down, passed from one to another, talked to and about, is a nuisance.

I forgot to say I had a lemon which on the train, I rolled hard, and asked that two glasses of lemonade be made for my lunch. It was a blessing too, and we had boiled to rags chicken, breasts only – steak too, and two desserts blanc mange and vol-au-vent, all as usual exactly at the Fleury's, every time I've been there.

Fleury himself is old for his age, 65; Short but is mean looking, a big nose that's all. Then unmarried children – just imagine – the eldest, a lawyer, at Shawinigan, it was he who at the very first took up my suit against the Censitaires¹⁹² and then after a long, long time gave it up, could not afford to make enemies. He drinks all the time, I'm told – it is even said that his misconduct has prevented his two sisters from marrying – “several times, oh yes, oh yes” – Lucille the elder such a fine girl as everyone agrees, “c'est une fille parfait”, and she certainly has all qualities and accomplishments. Marguerite, more up to date, and a bit cheeky, but a fine girl too, both are organists and lead the choir – perhaps Lucille is the organist. I know I have gone with her on a Sunday afternoon to practice the evening hymns. Then they are certainly accomplished house-keepers, after their own fashion.

I saw two of the sons, Armand, and Paul who is established at Yamachiche as a Notary, his mother and sisters go turn about to keep his bachelor establishment – but he is drinking sometimes, I am told, and it is he who expects to succeed his father as our agent – much later tho'. He is in bad health – small, thin, and pale. Everyone is depressed since their failure in stocks. Yet they have a good farm, a fine house with a furnace, as you know, heated with wood so I suppose it is hot-air, very hot in the first flat, but no heat in bed or bathrooms, no hot water up there, a terrible lack indeed.

They have beautiful cattle, and sheep and a Creamery – had to have a lot of their cows slaughtered for some glandular trouble, but the flesh was good for the butcher.

Elsa met me in the train and I have been in bed ever since; not at all ill but indolent, no inclination to move; so yesterday I lay still and today I am writing on my breakfast tray.

I am grieved to hear of your infected toes – have often feared for your fingers, hand-nails or drag-nails, my own son.

Enclosed \$1.00 and my card – ask Hans to please get flowers for Frank Vial, the dear old chap, always so fine, kind and high-principled – head in the clouds though. Such a fine mother, and sisters two of them, a brother Willie no longer alive- and perhaps another much older whom I did not know. Their father, handsome and talented took services at Montmorency, and called here on his way there and back often. I think he has just a niece now, née Blanche Roe, married.

¹⁹² The seigneur divided the land among his tenants, known as censitaires or habitants, who cleared the land, built houses and other buildings, and farmed the land. The habitants paid taxes to the seigneur called cens, and were usually required to work for their seigneur for three days per year, often building roads.

Remember if I go about alone, and on this trip, it is because I insist – no fault of Elsa’s. But so long as my mind is all right and I feel independent, I do not wish to be followed around especially as it means double expense.

Love to you all my dear ones

Mama

1935

January 1 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Lois Gogy Geggie Chaplin

New Year’s Day

1935

My own dear Lois

To you my first born I begin the first letter hoping that it will find you in health & happiness, which will carry you all thro’ the year, which – perhaps – may bring you home.

It has been difficult to find time to write, a good deal to do, a habit of going easy & rising late, after an early cup of coffee made at my bedside, & then often lying down in the afternoon.

Elsa went to Church Christmas morning, walking part of the way & skipping out before the end so as to catch the lower line tram. Thus we had an early lunch cold turkey – eaten hot the day before, reheated pudding, & vegetables. It was near evening before we opened our parcels, & yours were – I can assure you – very much appreciated. Dear Philip & Sylvia I am longing to see. I just wonder how they will like & fit into Canadian schools – am very anxious about it indeed, but I do hope that they will find news are lots of fun. Hans is delighted with Bishop’s College, & chums with other boys who use no liquor – only one of them smokes a little.

We were glad of the rest – Elsa had washed a pair of thin curtains each evening, & stretched them in the back hall each morning & then lifted them out on the gallery so by noon they were ready to put up. Of course I do unimportant things all the time. So when Harold blew in Thursday, just before lunch, things were not too bad, only a bit dusty, because during the night, the dairy window had blown open & the water pipes being frozen, we had Lucien Richard (Odianna’s plumber son) & Elsa busy thawing them. We got things tolerably into order & just sat around; such a pleasure to sit & chat with the dear chap, who had come much less early than usual. By & bye we found the reason, he had gone around the city, seen some doctors & arranged for me to go into L’Hotel Dieu two or three times a week for X-ray (or some other ray) treatment for my left breast in which there has long been a lump. It is not exactly painful nor does it increase or extend very much, yet it is a little sensitive. So Elsa & I went in with him, saw Dr

Potvin (a brother-in-law of the present Judge Prévost) & was put into the hands of a young Dr. Payeur, & a mère as nurse in nun's habit, by whom I was laid on a cushioned table, (only my dress removed) & the upper part of my clothing turned down on the left side. I was covered with large sheets of lead, coated with dark brown rubber leaving only my breast exposed to the rays which – my face being specially covered, I could not see. But it was heavy. The light cannot penetrate lead, & they are not quite flat, all slightly concave, one way. My nose was being flattened – the sheets were about ½ an inch thick – so I had to turn my head aside & settle myself as I had to lie motionless, hands on each side for 40 minutes. The room was of glass, doors closed, I was alone, I could hear Harold & Dr. Payeur talking softly, but the time was very long; each ten minutes Harold came in to tell me how time was going – at last there were only 6 minutes, & very soon it turned off automatically – snap. Then I found I was hardly able to stand & the dear boy has paid for eight treatments.

This is Thursday. I am going in again to L'Hotel Dieu for a treatment.

Elsa went to a Tea of Pauline's at the Chateau Frontenac Monday. Only four Dorothy, Jean & Elsa; yesterday she went to a very big mother & daughter tea at the Elliot's – I begged to be excused, very deep soft snow; there were about 24 present, & because of snow as well as enormous traffic, cars were congested & Elsa was quite later getting home. However when my hand was tired writing, I lay down on the sofa & slept. Then Rosetta telephoned to wish me a happy New Year, her brother Eddy has gone to New York to see if some eye specialist there cannot benefit him.

I think I have more Christmas cards than ever before, though I never send one

Today the Sunshine is brilliant & the weather mild – my trip to town will be easy. Lorenzo Sansfacon will be here at 2.30 to take us in. There is no question at all of operations, only of stopping the increase of whatever the small growth is, which has not put out any tentacles (so to speak) under the arm, nor at all beyond the middle of the breast, or the nipple.

I presume you will have received my letter about Marjorie and Matt Craig, & sincerely hope you will see them before they return. The children – five, are getting on well. Elsa heard from Mrs. Woodley yesterday at

Here, I've had to stop to send \$200 to the poor Duplain's in Auntie Blanche's two upper flats; no wood. Unable to pay rent, 10 in family, scarcely any clothes, or food, no fire, what can one do but help? He has a day's work at the heavy snow on the track, but that will not be paid for a fortnight, & by the ttiem there will be more need. I hope there will be lots of snow to keep him - & others – busy.

Now this is not much of a letter but just to wish you all a happy New Year, good health for you all, no colds for Charlie, & may his throat like maple sugar.

Your own Mama

January 29 1935 postcard Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie

Tuesday

Dear Harold

Mama seems to be planning to go to Montreal for her conference next 5th & 6th. What do you think of it? Would it suit you later to meet her there instead of coming down here, or do you think she should not go. I find her just about as she was when you were down. Spent all last week in bed as it was cold and uncomfortable. She does not know I'm writing you. I settled with Hotel Dieu¹⁹³ yesterday but Payeur wants to see her about the 15th. Shall I send the receipt to Conrad or you? We are as usual & glad of a mild day again. Eric & this Gertrude are talking of coming down for Easter but this is still a long way off. Love to all the family from us.

Elsa

January 30 1935 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

My dear Harold

Lois has sent a money order for 2.00 L her contribution towards all this expense for L'Hotel Dieu, which Elsa has added & completed the payment of your Bill, so here is the receipt, with a million thanks. Come whenever you please, so long my dear! Great minds think alike, & I've had just your idea, of going up to you for two or three weeks after all this dreadful renting business is over, when everyone is trying to cheat us in every possible way, promising what none of them mean to do. It takes both of us to tackle them. At present we have a great time with phones, letters, & people giving false names & addresses, just as they did last year & the year before.

When it's all over, as you say, Elsa might have a trip while I visit you, the Grant's, the Enright's etc. I should enjoy all that, because by that time there is no fire¹⁹⁴ to worry about, Pellan will be at his garden, Bégin will be in permanent 3 year possession at 127 across the way, & each other lodging settled for one way or the other, please God.

Poor Mr. Oliver is still there, two nurses, & no chance of selling the house, though houses are being burnt & burglarized everywhere, as this would be were we to leave or be known to be absent for long.

Well, it's settled the Marsh's have got Lois' letters & full approval, congratulations etc. Gertrude & Eric are to visit us at Easter, while just now, I have a letter from her, going to a dance at MacDonald Friday evg 1st Feb. I wish she could come here en route, no time I suppose, & it's such a three cornered trip, by Three Rivers. She writes a beautiful bold hand, & appears to have plenty of good sense & good feeling.

¹⁹³ The Quebec City hospital where Leila was receiving her radium treatments.

¹⁹⁴ No need to keep the fires going to heat the house.

Elsa is busy sewing – the machine in my room so more cosy & I stay mostly in bed. My hand & foot are the same as ever, troublesome but yield to hot water bag & rest. My neck is better, perhaps because of hot water bag, hot baths etc. Sometimes – but rarely – a little darting pain in my breast, then it's gone.

You will soon see Jack Macdonald, & will I hope find him well - I am so grateful for his going to see Lois, Charlie etc.

Weather is fine & Elsa just going up to the mail. I am writing in bed, but well; about to lie down now & have a snooze. I keep on the stretch all the time though I stay here. Still I look forward & try to plan but these next weeks there will be so much arranging.

Love to all our dear ones, Ella & Aunt Mary,

Mama

How about Birdie Robb?

February 6 1935 **Aunty May Gagy Hunt¹⁹⁵ to Harold Gergie**

296 Wolfe St

London Ont

Feb. 6th '35

Dear Harold

I have been wishing to send you a few lines for some time, but time seems so short & I am always so hurried! I just compromised on cards at Christmas intending to do better later. I hope you, Ella, & the family are & have been well. I hear of how things go with you from your mother every now & then. Hans, I believe is in his second year at college. How time does fly! & what of David? I believe he is in Ottawa at the Collegiate, & Stuart, of course at school. Your mother wrote me that you had been down to see her because of that lump in her breast, & that she has been taking radium treatment at the Hotel Dieu. I wrote but have not heard since. I hope it is not very serious, but it sounds very like tumour or cancer. I would not, of course, mention such a word to either her or Elsa but I can't help being afraid, both maladies growing so common. Don't tell me if you would rather not, it cannot help anyway.

Mary & Herbert have both had the flu, are recovering now. I could not go to them as I have Aleen dependent on me this year. She is a greatly improved child & I am glad not to be alone & she is doing so well at school & especially at her music, to play at a school concert this week. We both have been quite

¹⁹⁵ May Gagy (1859 – 1945) was Leila's younger sister; she married Herbert Hunt.

well all the winter. Al has not missed a day of school so far. Of course you have seen about our kid-map case. It appears to have “put London on the map”. They have been pretty quick at rounding up the culprits, if they have the right ones.

I hope Ella keeps well. Please give her my love & also to yourself & plenty of it. Say “Howdie” to the dear old cottage when next you pass. I do love it still. How is Mde. Gauvreau?

Aunty May

April 7 1935 Aunty May Gogy Hunt to Harold Geggie

296 Wolfe St, London, Ont

Apr. 7th '35

Dear Harold

I have written your mother twice & got no reply, I wonder how she is keeping. The last I sent was a fortnight ago, or perhaps 10 days. When last she wrote she was expecting another x-ray, but I never heard the results. Once I wrote, some time ago I wrote to Elsa to make enquiries, but your mother herself answered & I did not hear from Elsa so there is no use my writing to Elsa, so I am writing you, perhaps you can give me some news. They say “no news is good news” but I am afraid in this case it is different, because your mother is so plucky I can just imagine her suffering in silence & not letting anyone know. If I could dispose of Aleen, anywhere near her school, I should try & go down to Q. especially if your mother was any worse. I might be able to help Elsa a little & be some comfort to the invalid, but it is hard to know what to do with Aleen. Mary’s home is out of the question, first M. has enough, too much, responsibility, & 2nd Bernard doesn’t like the child, jealousy no doubt, & no need for it as she will never take Herbert’s place, either financially or any other way.

I hope your family is well, scattered as they are now, you would be anxious if anyone was ill. You & Ella must be lonely & find the house large with only one small boy where you used to have three (of various ages). All are well here. I hope you and Ella escaped the flu. It has been very prevalent here, but I & Aleen escaped; Mary, Bernard & Herbert had it some time ago, but no bad results.

I shall be glad to hear from you, & meantime, with love to Ella & yourself,

Affectionately

Aunty May

April 5 1935 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

5th April 1935

Dear Harold

This letter from Lois has just come so am in a hurry to get it off to you. I am so glad they are really coming and that Charlie will not be left behind but be off on a trip himself. It is a splendid thing they were able to sell the house & have that business off their hands and everything in order so as to get away. It will be great to have them here again.

We suppose you are being held up from day to day with your work but will be glad to see you anytime. Mama is as usual but delighted with today's news. She tires easily but spends lots of time lying down or sleeping.

Do you see that the Quebec women are to take their plea for votes to the King at the time of his Jubilee, considering that he gives freedom to his criminals he mas as well do something for us!

The days are bright and sunny but the nights still quite cold. The snow is melting fast and the road all down to the asphalt between us and town. I have walked in to church for the last two Sundays almost dry feet.

We have had some maple & tire¹⁹⁶ and they are both very good.

Had a long letter from Jean Grant in which she talks of that Maggie Tait having put her money into an annuity & now living with a nurse, very comfortably for her keep & getting meals etc. Seemingly a good arrangement for both.

Love to all from us both

Elsa

April 23 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie St Georges Day

St. George's Day¹⁹⁷

1935

Dear Harold

¹⁹⁶ La tire: maple taffy.

¹⁹⁷ April 23

I have your letter written while sitting by moonlight in the car, waiting for Hans & teddy Stone to bring a horse to drag you out of the mire.

I am indeed sorry that after very nicely telling Mr. McAvoy that the Congregation cannot pay him \$150.00 more than his present salary, & incidentally do not wish to keep him, even at the present stipend, you broke down, lost your temper & destroyed the whole effect. That, losing your temper, is like my losing mine, a terrible danger, & means if not controlled – the tendency, I mean – a possible softening of the brain, or some other infirmity of the kind. We must both endeavor to say what is necessary without flying off the handle; no matter what happens we must keep our own self-respect & a clear head. The danger is too great to risk & we must not fall in the estimation of others, no matter what happens, for the sake, above all, of home & family.

Well – I've not written because we have been so busy. Eric arrived with Gertrude Marsh Thursday the 18th by 10 o'clock train; Elsa went in to meet them, and they arrived very quickly, because he had arranged with Guy Hamel (dentist's son) who was taking a short special course at Macdonald to meet & drive them out here. Guy had "his girl" too, so with Elsa they were five but there were not introductions, we had support & retired.

Gertrude is a nice girl, fine brown hair, put up in curling pins at night so not so expensive nor injurious as permanent waving etc. Good bright brown eyes (perhaps a little far apart), nez retroussé¹⁹⁸, & good skin, with a wide mouth, very fine teeth, & smiles mostly. Her body & hips are very thin, she is pretty tall & quick in movement, wears most of her clothes very loose which hides her thinness.

Friday they went to the Falls & returned; Saturday Elsa took them both to the Chateau Frontenac for Tea & dancing; Sunday Elsa walked to Church & they took the cars to the Cathedral, both coming home by train together.

Monday – yesterday – Eric pruned all my apple & plum trees, for which I am very grateful indeed – I did not know how to get it done at all – now I shall be able to hope for some good fruit. He also brought me a quantity of old shoes, socks, trousers, a vest & sweater, which ought to help some of my poor people very much & I am also very grateful for this.

They both took the 5 o'clock train yesterday, Elsa having driven them in with Lorenzo's taxi, & a very pleasant visit is over. I call her a very nice girl, who does not say very much about her home or people. Mother is "Scottish" from near Glasgow, her father from London; they belong to the Laurentide Co. but some years ago her father built a house for himself, as they decided they were to remain there, & they attend the Church of England although their children were allowed to choose for themselves at 16 – that is how they chose.

¹⁹⁸ Snub nose

Needless to say, Elsa and I were very busy indeed – Elsa more than I of course, but I was not fit for much; they were not a burden on our hands nor a responsibility; took pretty well care of themselves.

Because his appendix has been (as he calls it) “back-firing” lately, Eric is, by his parents’ instructions, when the term closes, to take charge of its removal – further than that he has so far no prospect of occupation for the holidays. Something may turn up yet, & he hopes it will.

I am all the time at my wit’s end to find work for people; that poor Duplain, with his family of ten, & his wife crying that he will go out of his mind, that they are all afraid of his moroseness & temper. I write & ‘phone everywhere & try to get his member of Parliament to give him a share of patronage work, at the new Post Office up the road, at the Dock, or the Harbour Commission, all in vain.

Mrs. John Scott has just written to congratulate & thank me for the fine sheets of signatures I sent in to Mlle St Jean to the petition asking the King for his sympathy on our condition of inferiority in this Province. Mrs. Austin will doubtless have been doing the same work as within 3 weeks 9,000 signatures have been collected to be bound into a volume to be sent to their Majesties for 6th May, & to be presented by Lady Astor.

Pellan arrived & began to clean up his garden yesterday morning, Monday – so that is settled – Elsa has spoken to him but I’ve not done so yet, not been outside. However the covers of my porch swing have been dyed & I’ve sewed them on, also my little portable seat so I’m ready.

Yes I’m sorry dear Hans must go so far but as you say he’s better in residence.

Give dear Ella my love. I hope little David is holding up his head & shoulders. David’s report (enclosed) is very good indeed.

Love to everyone,

Mama

April 30 1935 Leila Gogy Gergie to Harold Gergie

30 April ‘35

Dear, dear Harold

Quite true – I’ve neglected you dreadfully but truth is we have both had a rush & I’ve fallen out often, yet had [to] lie down & rise again. We are all excitement just the same – what do you think? Conrad is coming – alone – about the end of May; a day in Ottawa, a day in Montreal; five in Quebec. About the end of May, & wishes to take in the Medical Convention in Atlantic City. No definitive dates yet, but they will come later, as before, we shall never be without knowing where he is from start to finish - he sends us such particular details. I just wonder if he will take in any Oxford group work on the way or here

I sent his letter at once to Lois, & you shall have it next. I admit that this exchanging of letters takes more distinct memory than I have.

Imagine what a happy year this will be for me, when I shall see all my children & most of my grandchildren. Sometime in the year you & yours must come down, just when it suits Ella best. Then perhaps, I can go up to you at any odd time as I can make plans for it. My head is full of things I still wish to do it I can.

Saturday 2 April, our place was over-run by surveyors, Pinel dit Lafrance the assistant whom I saw, Brunelle I did not see, the Chief.

The Island Bridge to be finished in July, requires a broad outlet, & one project is to build a highway from the Lake St. John Station on St Andrew St, the Palais right down to the Falls by the beach passing the mouth of the Island Bridge & continuing down to the Gulf all the way. There are two or three different plans, but one road or another is needed so we are due to sell somewhere though not a sound from the Pony Brand Cantins ever since. Once or twice I've consulted Rousseau the architect; he had no news either. Meanwhile a Bill through Parliament has been projected to empower our Municipality to buy & rent to the company at a low figure, without taxes to exempt the Pony Brand Co from taxation for a certain number of years till it gets well on its feet.

In the meantime the rest of us property owners would have to pay higher taxation. All this means that a lot of businesses will be going on all summer, a busy summer for us but it may solve many problems too. At the present moment all our property is rented – nobody paying except Edmond Hains to Blanche & Bertha. He will likely come tomorrow to pay.

Gertrude is a nice girl but probably shyness – said little. They talked back and forth to each other often & we learned more that way. She is nice looking & sensible, fine head of hair which she curls at night on pins, better than destroying it by hairdressers' hot irons. Good eyes, brown like her hair – a little wide apart, eyebrows which very narrow & arched look plucked. She uses a pale brown powder on her face, not nice & paints her nails a faint, shiny pink. Fine well kept teeth, is very thin (narrow hips) but her face is not too thin, only her clothes are all made very loose in consequence.

Eric has a bad complexion, pimples all over which he scratches, with none too clean hands all the time. All quite comprehensible when one hears Gertrude say that their habits – those of his group are so reprehensible. They come storming in to breakfast always late – “hide all the toast which they know is cold”. She when new watched the antics of this group but it has never varied – then they order more hot toast, eat what they choose in sight & go to class. At noon another kind of boorish conduct, class again; he drinks no milk, dislikes their tea & coffee. Everything is bad he says. He never stays for dessert, they all rise & go down [to] the town for a supplemental meal. The way Tommy & he did here, after a fine appetizing meal, rushed off in their [car] somewhere for hot dogs. Apparently Eric has bolted his food, gorged in season & out of season, rushing back & forth all the time. Studied till 3 or 4 a.m. constantly. Gertrude wondered at their conduct at first, till she saw it never varied. Just hoodlum manners, occasioned she said by lack of variety in food, but she & her companions ate it, explaining that so much

cream toast at night was a way of using up so much wasted [by] these rude boys in the morning. His defence was "well they can't afford to give us good food at 9 cents per meal." I know they complained in the same way at Dover School in England, "meat & stodge" they called it then! Certainly it is well for families which can keep at home & feed their own children, small & big, even if a home lunch has to be carried.

Gertrude was very appreciative of meals here. Eric ate heartily all the time, both praised Elsa's cooking, at least Gertrude did & just wondered how she could do so much so well.

Elsa met them at the train, Guy Hamel (who had taken a special course) had been retained with his girl & car to drive them all here, late train Thursday so Elsa came too. Friday they both spent in town running around outside; Saturday took them into Cathedral, Basilica, Library etc, then to Tea & dancing at the Chateau & home by tram. Sunday Elsa went off on foot early to Church, they followed by car but had arranged to go to the Cathedral, meeting her to come home at the lower line station. They danced a little that evening by radio & both regretted that time had gone so fast. Decided to leave by 5 o'clock train Monday. Eric in the morn asked if I should like him to prune trees in the garden – I was delighted & he got through it all in the forenoon, while Gertrude stood by. Besides this he brought me four pairs of old trowsers for my Duplains etc, some socks of which has ripped the feet & is reknitting them for Madeleine Broome's son Harold, whose mother's hands are too rheumatic & useless to permit of her doing them.

For all this I am very grateful, both pruning & clothes. He has written very nice & grateful letters & so has Gertrude. Both appreciated our invitation, showed it, & Gertrude has sent me beautiful roses, tulips, pussy-willows & ferns. Not necessary but very kind indeed.

As Conrad is coming, do you think of getting him to do Eric's appendix?

[Mama]

May 3 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

3rd May '35

My darling Harold

I'm writing against time before Elsa is to start for the mail in the village – it's a town with a Chambre de Commerce – Fire Station - & now a post office in course of construction, with mail delivery in prospect!

Frances McCollin 2128 de Lancy Place, Phila. blind from birth (who is a grand-daughter of an old friend of mine Fannie Spink) writes me: "If you are interested to hear my SEXTETTE for STRINGS is to be

performed under Josef Stopak during the National Broadcasting Co's Music Guild Program over WJZ (760) on Monday p.m. May 6, 2.30 – 3.15. Of course, we shall listen!

May has begun well, money for rents promise to come finally, \$30.00 already yesterday.

I've very fine letters from Eric & Gertrude, Lois too; trouble is I sometimes forget to enclose Lois' letters to you – too bad. Now I do not think Eric told us just at what date he would be free from MacD¹⁹⁹. He has a wart or something like it on the bridge of his nose; can you do anything to get rid of it. And oh! Dear me, if it is his digestion which is at fault to produce such a complexion & pimples – I hope you can give him rules to govern his foolish habits of eating. There is no question that he could sit still & take proper dessert instead of breaking away from table – because a group of other hoodlums does so – to go to finish his meal in the village. And he always looks as if he had lost his last friend.

Sylvia has taken 94 out of a possible 99 marks in Music Exam.

A teacher from the old Boys' High School, Titcomb, born & reared at Lennoxville, to arrange for a bonfire Monday for King's Silver Jubilee 8 to 8:30 Monday 6th. I was alone & went with him to see the spot upper part of Aunt May's field near the barn, rather above it. So that is settled for I shall tell the Mayor or rather the Secretary of our Municipal Council, suggesting that the people may come to sing around it as was done by students & others on the occasion of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The Manège²⁰⁰ Militaire is full of training men new uniforms, & everything is stirring. Of course the firemen will be also on their guard but fortunately they will not keep up the festivities late at all.

Eric brought us a lot of old clothes for which I have been begging a long time - I was glad to give four pairs of trousers, a vest & sweater to the Duplain family, & I hope to goodness that the head of it is to get work, more or less permanent in the Harbor Commission. I have spent three years trying to get work for him somewhere, anywhere.

Socks Eric brought, Elsa is reknitting for poor men who come to the door, just very big holes in the feet & quite long in the leg. Shoes, four pairs, we give out, one pair today to a poor man walking in rubbers. So we are busy & cannot do enough to help everyone.

Time's up.

Mama

May 12 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

¹⁹⁹ Macdonald College

²⁰⁰ The Armoury

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

Mother's Day

12 May 1935

Darling Harold

Elsa has been trying to induce me to go up to Hochelaga Co. Convention, she knows that these events always make me restless; common-sense finally prevails though. It is no use to neglect home duties at this season, one pays for it later, a double price as the summer goes on.

Today Elsa picked me a delightful bouquet, of pink & mauve hyacinths, with a quantity of the pale cream & yellow Dutchman's Breeches which you children planted years ago in the hedge; they thrive and increase so fast. Dog's tooth violet is there too, lots & meadow rue – while every one of the plants you brought last year is doing well; including of course several of the Aquilegia Canadensis you & I brought from Montmorenci that day, we with your wee boys measured the lower fields for Cantin of the Pony Brand. By the way he has not returned but our town of Beauport is not in favor of his plans to get the Municipality to buy from us then resell to him with long term to pay & exemption of taxes.

I trust that the plants you took home then did well with you. There is another plan now, surveying all over – in fact, three plans, to widen our existing high road – too expensive because of so many houses to buy; with another plan to widen the lower road through the fields all the way to connect with the Island of Orleans Bridge & a third to make a broad road along the beach from Quebec for miles going East.

We have no definite news of Conrad, none of Eric either but the Bonfire for King's Jubilee was fine, we had three different days over it, Scouts & Masters, a Rover Mr. Cartwright Engineer of the Q.R.L. & P²⁰¹. our neighbor at Montmorenci. We fed them fine ginger cake with raisins & nuts, had a great time.

I've had great palavering with an Abbé Gauthier of Dom Bosco Home about getting Duplain work; the religious man is a powerful help so I trust at last poor Duplain is at work today. How we have been deceived & trifled with by the political bosses - it's a shame!

How many schools & school-rooms (or class rooms) have you everywhere[?] I wish to send the W.C.T.U. one of the enclosed for each room. Our High School Superintendent tells me he never knew an Anti-tobacco to Minors Act existed, gladly put it up & lectured on it as one of the Scouts told me – such a miserable little rat! The trouble is to have them each framed cheaply to keep them clean. Wonder if celluloid would do? Several I put up some years ago framed with glass have disappeared. Only one remains.

Mama

²⁰¹ Quebec Railway Light & Power Company

May 16 1935 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Mrs RCG Geggie²⁰²

Addressed to Edmonton but redirected to Wakefield

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

16 May 1935

If you can catch Conrad anywhere in time, please tell him I wish he should telephone when he reaches Toronto, Aemilius Jarvis (my nephew by marriage) whom I shall wish him to see – his second wife, his two sons, two daughters (my nephews & nieces) & his grandchildren. Very kind & nice; I've just had a letter from A. himself who lives a little out of town, but everyone knows him.

In Montreal, I shall wish him to see my niece Bertha, Mrs. Louis Sutherland 105 Drummond Apts & the Enrights 388 Roslyn, Muriel & her sisters of course, all in telephone directory. Our weather here is very cold.

Love to the girls.

Grandmama

May 24 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold and Conrad Geggie

Victoria Day

1935

Dear Harold and Conrad

We have put up our flag early at the gate & the weather is fine, if cold. I am quietly in bed writing reports to go to Winnipeg Convention (Dominion) next week, and the different provinces have been late in sending in their reports, three of which have not even come yet.

I wonder, for instance, if any efficient teaching is done, or if sufficient teaching of Foreign-born citizens is done before naturalization papers are in every case given.

²⁰² This was Agnes, Conrad Geggie's wife.

We are very glad indeed that Eric has been so well looked after – he writes – such a nice letter, of being in a wheelchair²⁰³. Elsa says she never even saw a wheelchair nor had her feet on the ground before she was called on to walk down all those stairs to the car, before driving out to Wakefield. Where were the attendants?

All the same she had the flag scientifically unfurled at the gate this morning & has Pellan with his man Vandal busy arranging things in the garden, including undoing some things he has done all wrong. Not having seen him all winter long, & having made no arrangement with him for this summer has perhaps done him good. Seeing that Armistice Day he came home by Street car, landing up at Church Station very drunk, wandered all over the fields, must have fallen on the tracks, cut and bumped his head, lost his overcoat. He reported being robbed & beaten, but it was all untrue, everything was found, & he took all winter to get over it! So he has felt very uncertain about his reception this year; besides the garden here which he felt he might have lost, he has another as big up near the old Ryland property on the back road. So he comes & goes I have very little to say to him myself. Elsa does most of the communication between him & s; so he is not sure of his position so is pretty careful.

We are feeling very happy this year while awaiting different family visits, so much different to other years. If only that chance for work in Canada for which we hope would come for Charlie²⁰⁴!

The evening train from Montreal to Beauport pulls into the Union Station about 10 o'clock; our local leaves the Q.R.L. & P. Station just 5 minutes later; so that is the time it will take to cross quickly from one to the other.

Weather has been very cold & is so still not at all like a usual month of May but things are growing just the same, peas, beans etc all up over the earth.

The new bridge to the Island of Orleans is very nearly ready, so land surveyors are everywhere over the place (our place) looking for a new road which has to go through our property some place or other.

When Conrad is in Montreal, I should like him to phone Mrs Louis Sutherland, (née Bertha Irving of Toronto) to ask when he may call – she is 6 or 7 years younger than I. I should like him to see her son William (only child, about 40) married to Harriet Birks & their two boys. Also Col. H. Wyatt Johnston, another cousin, (married Beatrice Lyman, & twins Ursula & Tudor), lives 4 Gage Road. His mother, Mrs. J. Wyatt Johnston, widow of the good & talented Dr. James W.J. who attended Lennoxville pupils & my poor little brother Conrad during his illness there in 1874-5.

By Eric's letter, he is at Bena's & doing very well indeed. How great a hero he will be. Do not neglect to let the Grant's see him too. We shall expect to see Conrad Monday – Tuesday – by what train?

²⁰³ Presumably after having his appendix removed as mentioned in an earlier letter.

²⁰⁴ Leila's eldest daughter, Lois, and her husband Charlie, had been living in England for years but had plans to return.

Love and kisses to you all.

Good night.

Mama

May 25 1935 Leila Gugy Geggie to David and Stuart Geggie²⁰⁵

Stamped "Darnoc", Beauport, Que.

25 May 1935

My dear David and dear Stuart

Your birthdays both come in this beautiful month, & I have not forgotten, neither has Aunt Elsa, how kind & good you have been, & how well you have studied, which makes all who love you very happy.

First place we are happy because you are truthful, honest, & so thoughtful for dear Mother & Dad, & like your studies too.

Enclosed is a one dollar bill which please change & take half for each of your birthday with our love. We hope to have you down here again this summer too, & are very glad to think that you are having Eric with you tonight, also dear Uncle Conrad. How jolly it must be for you all to be together, then Uncle Conrad will come here to tell us all about you.

Fortunately the weather is very fine, & our garden is getting on very well; everything is looking very pretty, & our yellow double tulips in bloom.

On the King's Jubilee we had a troop of Scouts out here, who built a fine bon-fire on the hill in Aunt May's field, & as soon as the Beacon in Quebec was lit the torch was put to our fire. The whole neighborhood gathered around & sang God Save the King. That is, I mean to say the Scouts & their friends sang while neighbors looked on wondering & occasionally throwing a stone into the fire, until it was extinguished with water.

The next day there was a great mess to clear up but Gerard Gingras did it all very nicely, he being the nearest neighbour, & anxious to get the quantity of fire-wood which remained.

It was on this same hill that in former times, on occasions of rejoicing bonfires were built, when good Queen Victoria had her Jubilee, & when her son King Edward came to the throne, the Father of our present King. So that being a sloping hillside, visible from the City, is the Beacon-site.

²⁰⁵ Stuart turned 10 on May 2, 1935, and David turned 14 in May that year.

Mr. Titcomb, a High-School & Scout Master had come out to choose the site & arrange about things. Afterwards Mr. Cartwright from Montmorency took charge – being a Rover & an old officer of the Great War; a very fine chap too.

Now all Quebec is in great excitement about the visit of Lord & Lady Baden Powell & their two daughters. Aunt Elsa will go in to help serve at the banquet, & we hope to have here to visit us a nice little Guide, Rosemary Marsh from Grandmère, a sister of Gertrude who stayed here with us at Easter when Eric was with us too. That is if there are not too many things going on in the City to prevent Rosemary coming out here. I am very much afraid there will be – for the whole city is buzzing like a hive of bees at swarming time, & we may not be able to get the little girl away.

We are both looking forward to seeing Uncle Conrad²⁰⁶ with the greatest joy & delight, it is so long since he has been here & we are so lonesome for our dear ones who are away such a long time. Aunt Lois²⁰⁷ will come in August with Philip & Sylvia! What joy & delight.

Goodbye for now, dear boys. Give our love to everyone & Mother a whole lot more, from Aunt Elsa too.

Your own Grandmama, Leila G Geggie

May 31 1935 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped “Darnoc” etc

31 May 1935

Dear Harold

Conrad arrived safely Wednesday morning, & looks very well; that afternoon Elsa & he went into town, she to a reception at the Chateau Frontenac for the Chief Guide, Lady Baden Powell of Gilwell & he to look about the city. Elsa had been in the evening before, met the train on which were the Guides from the Ste Maurice Valley, hopped on board to speak to little Rosemary Marsh, Gertrude’s young sister, & off went the whole train to the Exhibition grounds where Elsa spent the whole evening & got a chance to drive into town with the Sutherland’s before the Crowd rushed out, so she arrived here in reasonable time, also being in a private box with Mrs. C.R. Whitehead of Three Rivers, she saw everything to

²⁰⁶ Leila’s eldest son, Conrad, lived in Edmonton but was visiting.

²⁰⁷ Leila’s eldest daughter, Lois, had been living in England for years but was soon returning with her husband and two of her children, Philip and Sylvia. Eric, mentioned earlier, was another of Lois’ sons, a bit older and going to school at Macdonald College close to Montreal – so these were all other grandchildren of Leila’s.

advantage, even if she was tired. She found Rosemary a very nice shy little girl & was so glad to have such an informal chat with her.

Monday afternoon a terrible fatality happened out here. Our Dr. McKay died in the winter, his widow has sold out to a new Dr. – Maurice, son of Hector Caron of St Léon, with a young wife & child of 5, Roger, who was killed by an auto at his own door in the block of the Provincial Bank up the road. So Elsa has had to go there, so did I last night. But Conrad & Elsa had been in town all afternoon, yet he has done a whole lot to help & this morning the three of us washed & put on all the double windows in the upper flat²⁰⁸; tomorrow we are to put on this lower flat.

Yesterday was warm to hot while today is quite cold, but there is a great deal to do all the same. We enjoy having Conrad with us, & he is going off to Mary Barrow's this afternoon – whether Elsa goes in too, or not, I do not know. She has just said no. Possibly Conrad will stay in quite late, as he is going to Mary Barrow's, who [is] going up in her car to visit her sisters for two weeks, starting tomorrow morning.

Here we are enjoying Conrad's visit to the full; he is still as peaceful & willing to help us – perhaps he may dig up our asparagus bed – as Pellan has never been willing to do – manure the bottom plentifully & transplant the corms. So we hope he will still [stay] till Thursday of next week, not only because of doing things, by any means but because it is so nice to see him sitting around or going around as if the dear chap were about to stay; while of course we know he must go just like anyone else.

Crossed out: Tell the girls we are ever so grateful to them & you for lending us their Daddy even for a little while.

Love to you all,

Affectionately, Mama

June 1 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

Saturday

1st June 1935

My dear Harold

²⁰⁸ Referring to the upper floor.

I have been watching the papers for days. I do not know what has happened to lists of those who have passed this year; they do not seem to have been published on the usual plan. At all events I take for granted that Eric has not succeeded, poor boy, & am very sorry indeed. If that is the case – as it may be, he was more or less bothered by that poisonous appendix of his, I dare say, at the time [of his] examination. I wonder it was not taken out after that Christmas at Wakefield. Thank goodness it is out now.

Seeing that Eric is with you, it may be just the chance to take up the matter at once with Macdonald, & see if you & he together cannot arrange for him to get off that sup²⁰⁹ at once. I know that Eric will be sensible, realize that failures come to everyone & are even sometimes an advantage as teaching one a lesson. I need not say anything to you about it as knowing much better how to handle the matter than I. Eric is now on the way to being better than he has ever been, much more fit, & quite willing to try again. Perhaps too he will have a much better chance because of his chums being all scattered & surroundings quiet, not at all distracting.

I am anxious about Gertrude who will be so much affected, & the boy must realize that since he has sought her affection & engaged himself to her everything he does, or does not do, affects her. He must put aside his own feelings & be a man, an unselfish one. Many men are so selfish that they forget how much they owe to the feelings of the dear girl who is waiting. I have written him before. I hope he will keep writing regularly to his parents, & be brave enough & manly enough to write them the whole facts – also to write Gertrude. He is about to make good yet – a failure, a terrible fiasco did not ruin Conrad, nor any other man who had any grit. It is just a chance to shew how one can overcome adverse circumstances. The boy is a fine fellow & bound to find a way to earn a living. “Never say die!” When one is knocked down, why, get up again, & start forward. So I am trusting our dear boy to be frank with himself first, then with his fiancée & parents. “Do not let circumstances beat you” is what I wish to say to dear Eric, & I hope he will listen.

Just let me know when you are coming to meet Hans, & if I can get away I shall meet you. Have not had a letter from Eric for a long time but when he did write, his letter was very kind & nice. We were very glad to have Gertrude & him at Easter of course, & shall be glad to have them again. Only just now there is need that we shall see if we can do to help them.

You see, we require our asparagus bed dug over, & I have several things to do for which I require that auto of yours. And I have come to the conclusion that Elsa ought to learn to drive, with a view to some day owning a car, because that day is coming.

I shall expect to hear from someone in a few days, & then we can arrange when & where to meet you. Whether to just go up & return with Eric by way of Grandmère or not. So far I have been much required here but dear Conrad has helped so much to get the blinds all put up after Elsa has washed them, & he has also put away the double windows, done lots of little helpful things, so the whole place is looking

²⁰⁹ Supplementary exam

nicer for his activity, even fixing up electric lights & even a bit of housework; tonight by the way he is darning his own socks after washing them.

Of course I wish impressed on Eric that if he has failed – as he has told Gertrude- badly that does not annul his promises nor hers. That the world cannot stop just because of him – he has to stay with & help you driving & all the rest till it is thought best for him to come here. His responsibilities & duty to others, his parents, you, me, everyone, are just the same; we all have to stand failure, loss ,disappointment of every kind, stand still a moment, ask God to help us, & go right on with the little duties, or the mighty conflict no matter what it may be. He is no exception to the general rule.

If you can by correspondence or otherwise make any arrangement for & with him at the College, by correspondence now & viva voce when you & perhaps he, come down as to when he can take a supplemental, surely that is possible. Why, then, we can settle when he will come to us.

About my going up to you – well, I cannot tell – it is so hard for me to make up my mind & to keep to it. I'm just too tired to think or stick to anything, except some plans here, about which I am busy & for which my presence is required absolutely. Everything is rented – everyone in residence for the coming year – but to get them to keep paying is the question. One man is giving \$1.00 a week, keeping his wife & 3 children on \$7.00. Has been out of work since Dec. Another is giving me \$10.00 at a time on a debt of \$130.00. A third gives me \$10.00 too but is also 3 months back, & a fourth, in the Cape House, having only got work on the first of May, having been idle three years, & had few lodgers. Everything looks smiling, tidy & well. Elsa's hard work is over. So perhaps while things are humming, I shall go up. But it is so much easier just to lie in bed, do my writing, & take things easy as I am now with Conrad taking his breakfast beside me as you do when you are here.

Conrad & Elsa are going to Church & we have found that while there is no noon mail going out (Sunday at all events) the Chateau must send down any letters mailed there before Church. They reach so rapidly; so I count on your receiving this tomorrow morning.

They are just starting off. Elsa looking so fresh & nice in a pale blue suit & navy hat!

Love to everyone,

Mama

June 4 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc 4th June 1935

Dear Harold

Your letter of Sunday night & sequitur just come – I'm so glad & we both wish you & Ella to come straight here instead of going anywhere else. You know she could stay in bed as I do & lie around, & I bet you could both have a better loaf here than anywhere else. Do come & stay. We never have anyone; it's as quiet as a mouse, shady & cool. Will you not come & see how quiet one can be without any fuss of cooking & meals?

I had to talk about going up the other day, for the sake of making a reason for calling – I've no idea of moving, only of staying quiet, unless I must go up to get Eric & bring him safely down. But if he is to come by way of Grandmère sure and certain, why I'll wait here; but if he is likely to desert the car somewhere & go adrift, of course I must go up.

I am writing to Gertrude & she will know probably; but in case of doubt shall call her tonight - & please let us expect you & Ella soon for a long rest; it would be a real pleasure!

I think tomorrow will be McGill Convocation, by Friday complete lists will be out & by that time one can surely enquire about results & Eric himself will surely realize that he must mention his prospects, & on his way down, call at Macdonald to see what remedy there is to be found. Surely a chap not condemned to stand by a failure without a chance to retrieve himself? Since his operation he may have a much better chance.

I'm sure you are worried & tired, as well as Ella & need change as well as quiet where there are no responsibilities.

The garden is all done, Conrad has helped put on all the blinds, so that is over & the garden is growing well. As I told you before all the tenants are doing better & I've had some money from each & nothing is vacant; we are looking forward to good – or at least better times, & to sale of land for a lower road.

Only we must see to Eric & make sure that he is true to himself & to those who love him, & so not let himself be beaten by a failure, a trouble which must be overcome, only it's not to occur again I hope.

It is so nice to have Conrad here just sitting around quietly, reading, writing & taking a trip to town. Yesterday Walter Pfeiffer was married to a nurse at 11 a.m. in the little Hospital Chapel; the Nurses gave then a wedding breakfast; (the Bride's sister has replaced Miss Imrie), & as they started to drive down to Eboulements they stopped here to see Conrad & us, for a few minutes. It was nice.

What I think obstacles Conrad overcame before he reached his present position – why everyone needs courage – try to make sure of Eric & let me know when he is to start. Phone if necessary. I may phone tonight after hearing from Gertrude. Please question Eric about his health closely.

June 6 1935 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

6 June 1935

My own dear Harold

Conrad left last night by the midnight train for Ottawa to meet Dr. Troup, then to go on to Toronto. I did not think to forewarn you, as – through Dr. Troup – you will surely know all about it better than I. If not a mistake, he is trying to increase his number of examinations for insurance companies. Am I correct? Surely there must be a limit.

Enclosed is ten dollars to pay for license of car you are so very kind as to send me, also for gasoline - & please say if I ought also to pay for Eric's driving license? I shall gladly do so; of course it is only right when I get so much, & Elsa can be taught to drive also, because sooner or later we must have a car of our own, as my feet are not becoming more useful, good enough for a while in the house but no more.

Elsa keeps busy & Conrad – dear quiet chap, put on all the double windows for her as she washed them, he brought from town nice tacks, white with large flat round heads, numbered, so that there is one on the window frame, one of the blind, & one of the double window, quite low down all of them. No more worries with carrying windows back & forth till you get the right one.

We have decided to send Jamie & Irene ½ a dozen fish knives & forks to match their set which Lois & Charlie got. The latter will see to it & they are to be got over there. To be married 29 June.

Just while I am writing comes a box of salmon, as much as we can use in two or three days which Conrad had ordered; first we have had, though I've fussed over it, but missed the time all along. Conrad had some at Mary Barrow's fortunately. I hope you & Ella will come in time to have salmon with us; especially as we, at long last, have found a firm willing to deliver fish at the door. Elsa had to go to town each time & carry it, generally spoiling coat & dress in spite of all precaution. This is a discovery which will give us great comfort henceforth, because [when] poor old Charles Bouchard died a few years ago, we lost our fish supply. He always had the best choice & so fresh, delivered from his cart at the door in ice. Do come while salmon is on, because I want to give Ella a rest & treat of best fish.

By the Gazette we see that Edward Chaplin, Charlie's eldest brother, 68, has died in Hartford. I was just thinking the day before that if that happened, Charlie would be very sorry indeed. I do not like Alfred's look at all, terrible thin, white, & with the appearance of just keeping himself strung up to the top notch.

Since Conrad left, Elsa & I have just slumped – a rainy day & the delivery of the salmon freed Elsa of any trip to town. At Church Sunday, Dr. Gordon told Conrad that he could not come out to see him having no car. And at the Church door Elsa & Conrad ran into Mrs. Sharples & her son William who is a very eligible bachelor in Grandmère who showed a decided liking for Gertrude Marsh. So she being voluble & expansive rushed up to Conrad to ask if he was the father of the young man who had collected the nicest girl in Grandmère whom she had hoped to get for her son. He must be well over 30 & with a good position in the mill there! Gertrude had just recently written of the same lady having told them how

popular we were out here in the country, how only a few years ago troops of young people used to come out here to dance and spend the evening. Why only Monday King's Birthday, Conrad had a chance to see 7 of them, including Willie Snaith's nice wife, Ethel, who came for afternoon tea. The arrangement is- if they ask to come, or say they wish to come, in the morning (because they, or we wait to see what the weather will be like), they bring refreshments. But if we ask them, we provide, except tea, coffee, sugar & milk (& cocoa for Kathleen Colley who takes nothing else to drink). Except this bunch, we see no one, & they are so very welcome, & seem to like to come. When they came Monday we had just bowed out – Walter Pfeiffer, & his bride just married that morning & on their honeymoon to Murray Bay. All nice interludes, of course, & enabled them to see Conrad, & him to meet them once more. Willie Snaith is working in town for the present as a "business adjuster", just now in a shoe-store, & due to leave in a week or so more, unless he gets more work here. As for the man himself, he is very much as others are & got on quite nicely with Conrad too.

Now here's an invitation, a second one; of course we wish for you & Ella for a long quiet rest. But will you please, bring – or send us David for a long rest cure, just as long as he wishes to stay? He is quite big now & would not be lonely I'm sure for a month or so, & I'm sure the change will do him good – a lot of good.

We shall doubtless hear from Eric in time. At the end of the season there are always 3 to 4 weeks during which no one knows where he is not even his parents – but the first year was worst.

Elsa has just told me, from Dorothy Elliot, that her cousin Will Sharples is not such a catch, having depended too much on his Uncle Arthur, who died suddenly & got nowhere ever since, been out of work a lot, & changing around like everyone.

Sunday evening – Elsa going to Church will mail this – I think yesterday was Aunt Mary²¹⁰ Grant's 84th birthday. Willie Snaith drove his nice wife out yesterday afternoon & while she sketched he drove me to the Cemetery, to see Mrs. Harper, & to get some fish. After tea he took me way up to Laval. I think they will leave Quebec in a day or two.

Now you understand I would rather break in on your nice rest this week. Another week will do.

Mama

I'm not enclosing \$10.00. Have no news from Eric yet but all is doubtless well.

Dr. Troup has written me the nicest note & I am very grateful indeed.

Love to dear Ella & just take care of her for the present.

²¹⁰ Aunt Mary was a younger sister of James Geggie.

June 25 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

25 June '35

Dear Harold

Things have been so crowding that I've neglected you; but I never forget, even if I do not write.

We had a hectic week Sat. 15 to Sat. 22nd, but all the same I had four drives – just fancy! Went twice to the Grand Museum to which you must come some day & twice just driving with Eric. He's just as kind & charming, well informed & observant as you know * & ready to accept the slightest hint as to work or anything.

Today he is relieved; fancy that Dad of his just wrote "we must change your motto to Phoenix" & try again but in the meantime I've sent your suggestion about Guelph, which I think capital, if they agree.

Elsa & I have had absolutely no time to write & now I'm doing this in the car while Elsa & he have been buying salmon & things. Eric says "about the car", he will write – I say it's doing fine!

About Conrad – we have no news either but if he continues to write as he did with us, he is hardworked to keep up his home business & when he reaches there we shall. He saw my breast & found it all satisfactory. So do I, not very much reduced in size, certainly not increased, no sensation etc etc. He went to see Payeur who was away & to be at Convention Atlantic City where they would meet? He saw Adolphe, tried to see Archdeacon Scott & was at Sep Barrows.

We, Elsa & I, were knocked out Sat & Sunday – Migraine for her & sur-ménage for me. Both of us now all right with better weather & conditions. Yesterday we had a wonderful sunrise, after lunch, sitting on the back verandah, when with a manly step a tall, handsome chap came around the gallery – Ryland Daniels. Blue eyed, a real Ryland face & direct straightforward manner, he spent the afternoon & stayed for tea – drove us around all the farm – no Eric did that because Ryland's car was too small. All the luck, such a very fine chap, who spent his first year under ground in a gold mine.

So sorry about Hans' poison ivy; we know all about it indeed.

Certainly the car is a great pleasure & privilege. I go all the same & just sit in the car, glad to see people & even motion again. Am getting permission for Eric to get scientific works – Entymology, from Parliamentary Library. He is working finely chopping wood, mow[ing], mended the fence where people stood to break down lilac. Everything he knows how to do & is ready. Now he is happy, first letter from his father since results are known. It's fine weather now & I'm going in for an ice cream – so love to everyone from us all –

Mama

July 8 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Monday A.M.

8 July 1935

My dear Harold

All's well with us, only Eric's headache, persistent for a week, he says, since he drove down to Lake Beauport last Saturday, has resulted in my sending him just now to see Adolphe.

The car is in the garage across the way, to be taken out only when I require. Yesterday Elsa & he drove to church. Dr. Gordon & others were very nice to the boy, who used the St [street] cars Saturday night to go to movies – went off for a long walk last night, after walking all the afternoon too in a vain attempt to get rid of his headache.

He is as nice a boy as can be; as amenable to the least suggestion as anyone could wish, only we try to make him smile or seem cheerful – once he said, "I suppose you think it a whale of a joke that I should have failed in my third year." Of course, I do not, but I'm sure that is not the whole cause, so sent him to Adolphe just at lunch time today; he returned with a report "my blood pressure is low & my pulse is slow" & a bottle of the same old hydrochloric acid Dr. Parke used to give your Papa & the whole family. The moral effect was immediate, instead of feeling that he is a poor boy away from home, he knows he is being looked after, as you looked after him so all's well, & he is more cheerful having taken one dose.

So do not worry about us except that he ought not to get more money unless I know.

Goodbye my dear – and how is Ella? Less tired I hope.

We are well.

Mama

August 22 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

22 Aug. 1935

Dear Harold & Conrad

Lois, Eric, Philip & Sylvia have left the morning of Tuesday about 9 o'clock, for Grandmère, Shawinigan etc as I gave you the programme in my last.

The car is heavily laden with all Eric's impediments, to be left at Macdonald on the way – so far so good, since they will drive the rest of the way freer.

Friday 23. I could do no more tho' I wished to send you something, it will go next time; but I've been busy! Here's Lois' letter of report, satisfactory - & Cora's specially for the boys. Is it not beautifully written?

We had such a rain storm Wednesday evg, a real tornado & yesterday a report came that the river below the Ryland garden had been completely blocked with & by the makeshift wall built last year to retain the property sold by National Breweries to one Ulric Belanger who is building dams & a saw mill; damage done everywhere. Another stir up about the Pony Brand, who wanted to buy when you were here last year; nothing practical as usual.

And I find that the road department has again changed its mind about the road from Quebec to the Island Bridge; intends now to run between our lower road & the railway line. So you see everything is uncertain & needing taking up again. Young Rousseau, the Architect – nice chap whom you met, is my ally, wants the work which has been promised him, his plans all ready & he cannot get those brothers to move. They beat the Dutch for unreliability.

This morning coming from the mail, Elsa brought with her Adolphe's boy & his sister Cecile, the latter quick graceful & slight, good looking too; but Adolphe's quite the reverse. Both were nice though, asking for British stamps, & to them I gave the morning, showing them things & explaining. What they did not know! Never at any school had learnt any English. Never knew of Conrad's having studied & travelled with Adolphe or our different generations of intimacy, not even that only a fence divides our properties behind their house, however they do understand some English & went away very much pleased evidently.

Elsa & I have made a good job of the folding leaf table on the gallery, my hands alone, not being strong enough to drive screws into ash. Shall be so glad to have it ready for the family return.

We have news from Lois & expect more (letter mislaid) but their visit to Grandmère & Shawinigan has been highly satisfactory. She is in love with Mrs. Marsh, as I was sure she would be, a mother like that is the greatest treasure.

Now my darling, Elsa is going to mail & I to take a bath. I'm so tired.

Your own
Mama

August 28 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

28 Aug 1935

Dear Harold

Before I forget, will you please send me the Fifth volume Christie's History of Canada, & the other little legal pamphlet of D.R. Barry's (of Bryson, Que.) lecture in Montreal long ago about Papa, if you have not already sent them to Conrad?

Mr. J. Newbold, Librarian of the Trans Canada Press, 357 Bay St, Toronto asks for them for issue of "Canadian Who was Who" 1875 – 1935.

Lois's letter & yours have just come, & we are so glad to know they are safely with you, & that the two families fuse so well – as they should. Your boys are, all three, so fine, and ring so true. But Sylvia is a totally different specimen from anything we know here in Canada; Stuart has good taste all the same, to take a fancy to her – so has she, good taste. All these few meetings will draw our children closer together, & draw the English ones more strongly & surely home, thank goodness. May the day come soon, & may each learn something from the other.

Our weather has been changing, strong, cold wind & storms – a torrent the very day after they left - & the Beauport river breaking its boundaries. Today again rain & wild winds' I want to keep fine weather for them when they come.

Love Mama

September 3 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Ella Geggie

Darnoc, Beauport, Que.

3rd Sept. '35

My dear Ella

I am sorry indeed for all the sadness that has come to Ruth & Reggie, and those who love them & I hope sincerely this fit of amnesia will pass without further ill effect. In any case it will cause enough of anxiety & uncertainty in both families & their surrounding friends, to worry about unless it passes off quickly – as I hope it will.

A cable from Charlie came yesterday: "Durban 1 Sep. Good passage well love Chaplin". I wrote to Lois yesterday about it, to Frank Chaplin's address 4411 King Edward Ave, on the chance of her being there now.

Just imagine yesterday there was pelting heavy rain here, Elsa was telephoning to the Elliot's in town, where bright sun was shining, telephoned Hossacks at Little River – bright sun there too. So a carter, Paul Emile Sansfacon, shewed us on the road at Mastau, a row of dwarf cedars where he found sunshine on one side, & heavy rain on the other all the way to Beauport.

We had a short visit from Dr. Bazin's two sisters, Mary & Lydia, who came out at 11, had lunch, & we drove them back to their New Northland boat at 3 o'clock. So glad to see them after so many years & all its changes. Their mother lived to be over 90, a great [sic] & was very bright even up to the last; now they are going down to Labrador for a long trip. Fortunately the weather has been beautiful & I hope will be so the whole way as bad weather on water is awful.

I told Lois about Aggie MacLaren's surprise visit, Monday last & our having gone with them to shew Montmorency Falls, where we had 5 o'clock Tea at Kent House – not nice though we had to say so, of course! – to see both Golf Clubs from the outside, to the Hossack's at Little River, then to see the Habitant Inn forsooth – after which we conducted them out to the Battlefield Park & Earl Grey Bastion after which they drove us home by moonlight. Next morning they went down the Saguenay, & have now I suppose reached goodness knows where.

And we are suddenly in September, beginning to pot our flowers for the winter, canning tomatoes, making apple jelly, & next it will be preserving plums of which we have white and blue.

Our Bégin is getting on pretty well, but markets do not bring much, & I am able to keep a watch over many things, & to help, just now seeing to the obstructions in our brook caused by Laberge's big sons who undid a carefully made stone wharf to make a dam which defeated my object of course, & has to be undone to re-make the wharf. Then in the Beauport River, where some new people have bought & are building a wood mill, a torrent in the storm last week has caused great havoc.

We are wondering when Hans is to return to Lennoxville, & Stuart, as well as David is to go to Ottawa.

I hope you are taking care of your health, my dear, & keeping well. All our English people have been enjoying your hospitality & we hope to see you again here sometime soon

Love to dear Mrs. Shouldice & all of you

Affectionately

Leila G. Geggie

September 6 1935 Leila Gagy Geggie to Ella Geggie postcard

5 . 9. '35

St. Alban's [?]

Dear Ella

In case I have not another opportunity to write tonight I send this card to tell you that we arrived safely last evening about 7.20. It rained most of the day but we enjoyed the trip. We had a blow out on the way to Ottawa & had to buy a new tyre there & were late for lunch at Bena's but she did not mind.

L.G.

Please tell Harold that I posted and registered his parcel. It cost .49.

September 12 1935 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie Thursday

12 Sept. 1935

Dear Harold

We are indeed enjoying the company of Lois & her dear children; busy as bees they have all been helping. Yesterday all the blinds came off the double windows were washed & put on. Many hands make light labor, also autumn sunshine brightens the days, & makes the house cheerful.

Both boys cut & chop some wood between times & they have helped pick apples & plums, blue & white, for market tomorrow. Wish you were here to get them too, will you have them if we keep them till you come? You are welcome, & we shall be so glad to see you both, can easily keep you overnight for as long as you can stay without any difficulty at all. Have had many visitors lately, but the people whom I wished most to see, my children; my cousin Emily (Porteous) Sergeant from Golder's Green, Eng, came just a few hours too early & had no more time to spare. Who knows whether we shall have a chance for them to meet next year or not. Emily is decidedly old, her husband not so, only 65 & a retired schoolmaster, very English, of course.

Now goodbye dear, the children are all going to tea at Mrs. Johnston's & to do a lot of messages.

Lots of love to yourselves & the beloved boys,

Your own

Mama

Adolphe is not well - trouble with his eyes etc.

Sept 17 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie postcard²¹¹

Dear Harold

We are expecting you of course. Please bring your rubber band for testing blood pressure. Elsa has had a slight eye haemorrhage. Dr. Vaillencourt tells her it is due to her general health – probably high blood pressure so we shall require advice.

Mama

September 24 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

24 Sept. '35

Dear Boy

Elsa & I have had a quieter time & she is still holding her head up & resting, but went to town with Eric Saturday, brought out a few things then he went off, about eleven o'clock & the car must have made good time to catch up to you at Three Rivers. I should like to have seen his face. This is Gertrude²¹²'s birthday, 21, I think, of course they will be having high jinks today. Well a body can only have a 21st birthday once! She's smart & a better student than he of course, if he would only keep at it, instead of chasing every dream that comes into his head. Think of wishing to study Greek, because he says there is nothing in last year's course which he will have to take over again! Then why has he failed?

Monday – yesterday – a letter came from Irene & Jim, with a note on the envelope to keep & read if his mother was gone. So here it is with its news.

Today is cold & wet. Elsa goes to Tea at the Elliot's. Now I must close.

Love to Ella & all the children.

Your own Mama

Here's Bégin bringing up a load of wood; tomorrow it will be coal. Then we shall be all in order for winter.

Elections are stirring up people; I've signed a petition got up by Cardinal & Priest to ask that there may be no liquor & no money.

²¹¹ Postcard of Le Chien D'or - Quebec

²¹² Eric is Leila's grandson, son of Lois. Gertrude was his fiancée (although he didn't end up marrying her).

September 30 1935 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie

Monday 30th Sept. ' 35

Dear Harold

Thank you for your card & news of Eric. We have still to hear from him but are glad to know he got to you with the car. Your card was mailed from Macdonald so he got back too. Too bad about Reg but suppose it is a case that can be properly looked after in Ste. Anne's or some such institution. Terribly hard on Ruth & all of you of course.

I, following your advice, phoned Mrs. Ramsey & she expects Stuart down the weekend of the 5th so has booked me an appointment & will phone me later. If you want to write him to me I can take it in & give it to him as a letter either to him in Montreal or the Mother here may be mislaid or overlooked.

I am writing at the ends of my arms so as not to stoop or look down & with the left eye shut. I have not sewed, read, or knitted at all but do the necessary cooking for our meals which is very easy for two. We have had a very quiet week with no visitors and both enjoyed a good rest. I get to bed very early each night as he advises keeping away from lights.

We had a cable from Lois yesterday from Princes Riboro, Geggie, Quebec. Safe home. Chaplin. Dated from there at 2 p.m. yesterday. They seem to have made a quick trip & escaped all these tropical storms we hear of elsewhere.

We sold our last basket of crab apples Saturday & now have just two baskets of the large apples for our own immediate use.

So you are to turn over another year Wednesday²¹³. They come & go & leave us feeling just about the same but there is no doubt they leave their mark even if we don't acknowledge it. Many happy days anyway and love from us both.

Elsa

September 30 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

²¹³ Referred to Harold's upcoming birthday.

30 Sept. '35

Dear, dear Harold

This will be your birthday letter, & stupid as I am, I ask again, have I given you Cambray's big thick book of the old Manor house of Beauport? I think so. But in any case, I send you as soon as you say, if or not, you already have the photo taken by Edwards of the old lead plate found in the Gifart Manor, sometime after it had been burnt, 2 Sept. 1879.

Elsa is being careful & we are having a necessary rest. Neither of us can be sufficiently grateful for all you have done, especially for that last visit. Lois may not have told you, & she has not said much at all to me, on any subject, except a very fervent few words of thankfulness in Eric, because you have such an influence – “& he needs it” she said. He has been violently resenting his parents' refusal to let him travel, earn his own living, “rough it”, go to the ends of the earth, etc. My one advice all summer to him was that he should tell them, & then do a good year. So it seems they both consent on that condition – but with Gertrude a few miles away, at Les Cèdres, I am not so sure. We all hope for the best.

Many happy returns of your birthday, darling, & not having written Conrad lately, I must wire. This is their 20th wedding day, 30 Sept. 1915 – I'm so glad we did not go to the wedding, they had so much hoodlum show! He had arrived from the war the 20th & Papa had died the 2nd. What a month! And what a ministering angel Agnes²¹⁴ had been through that dreadful August when dear Papa was so patiently slipping away. What should we have done had you not been there during that time; Ella too was doing without you – everyone was making sacrifices for us, who needed it so much too.

I often lie awake & wonder how we struggled through not knowing where Conrad was. Then when you & Ella left Saturday night & next day the Hesperian was reported lost.

Now goodbye – Elsa is going to the mail.

Love to you all, every one of those dear boys.

Your own

Mama

October 15 1935 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped “Darnoc” etc

15 Oct. 1935

²¹⁴ Agnes was Conrad's wife, and was a nurse. She helped to nurse James, Leila's husband, as he was dying.

Dear Harold

While waiting for your reply, I wish to say that while Elsa shall be in Hospital, I wish to remain in Ottawa myself. Aunt Mary is always ready to give me a bed, & I have several things to do while in the City. At this season, under present circumstances, it is not difficult to leave here, given a little time to plan & prepare. And we are beginning at once to do it; Elsa is plucky & not fanciful, but all the same I encourage her to whistle or sing lest she may in time lose her spirits. There may even be an excursion about Thanksgiving.

I return your dear boy Hans' letter, a very fine one indeed, will all his snap judgements due to his youth. You will see how sea-sick Lois was = you will see by her letter written on board ship, mailed at Plymouth; that letter Conrad will return by way of you.

After your leaving we had no trouble to dispose of the remainder of fruit, made about \$15.00. Since that, our Siberian crabs²¹⁵ of which we gleaned one beautiful basket, made us some of the most delicious & beautiful jelly. Bought dark blue grapes, very sweet & made such juice!

Stuart Ramsey's prescription for Elsa is very unpleasant to take. Turcot the chemist warned her but she is agreeably surprised.

You will be sorry to hear that your friend Macalister (Public Utilities Commission) has lost his very fine wife – I have known & liked her a long time - & my heart aches for him, poor man, she was young enough to have lived a long time yet. Their only daughter (Mrs. Fenson, same Forest Research business as Charlie) is in London, to remain of course & he alone here.

16th Last night Elsa came home from a meeting, entered just when Rosetta Joseph phoned to ask her to motor to Three Rivers with her today, to an I.O.D.E. meeting. So she left here at 6.15 to meet Florie, Mrs. Guy Simpson & Mrs. Henderson née Glass, all to drive away together, meet a lot of people & be home about 10 this evening. I was very glad indeed; it will be for her such a pleasant change.

Saw in newspaper that Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Waycott are in town visiting Dr. & Mrs. Delaney so I 'phoned her at some length, it was nice to hear her voice after so many years. But they had driven to L'Ile d'Orleans this morning, & were then starting to New York. I wish they had just stopped here for a few minutes on their way.

Well! Elections are over & apparently a Provincial election to come. A poll in our Shanty was very convenient for us. I had every opportunity to see, also through the 'phone & papers, as well as Radio, to realize how orderly & apparently without bribery or drink, the proceedings were carried out. The church has its full share of credit for that, also Women's vote had a great influence. To see every woman over 21 vote like a veteran is beautiful; even ill or old women who required a special horse-vehicle to reach the poll – so they made their desire known & were sent for. No need any more to make a fuss about it,

²¹⁵ Crabapples

(if only Taschereau will someday realize that every woman has voted, so he may as well confess himself defeated. Nobody is the worse & public order all the better. Women, (candidates, wives, & others), while canvassing for votes, circulated a pledge to be signed, emanating from the Cardinal's Palace, & following up my correspondence with the Rev. Jules Laberge two years ago. It is all very satisfactory that we should strike it off so fortunately, taking time by the forelock, as it were, & realizing, as nearly as possible, the object so long desired of a peaceful polling day without liquor or bribery. We W.C.T.U. women deserve our full share of credit for having taken time by the forelock & worked towards that object! May [we have] the same success at our suffrage work²¹⁶.

Added by Elsa:

Thursday

Dear Harold

Your letter just in. Your plan suits us very well and we will go by it. We expect to leave here at 1.30 Sunday and take the train all the way as the Snaiths appear to be full up, spending an hour from 6 to 7 in Montreal and being in Ottawa 9:15 Sunday night. Mama is now writing the Grants too so that any appointment you may make for me or any message you have you can get me there. If we do not stay with them we will phone any way they will know where to guide you in finding us. It will be so nice not to have to go into hospital entirely & be finished with the whole business in a short time. I am expecting to be whitewashed but there is no knowing what they will find.

We are getting in our coal today & I am sitting out on the gallery in the sun writing. It would be nice but they are all burning leaves and it is smelly. Rosetta Joseph drove me (& three others) up to 3 rivers yesterday to an I.O.D.E. convention just for the day. We left at 7 a.m. and got home at 9 and had a beautiful day & drive. Mama was quite all right when I returned so I am glad I took the chance. I am taking Stuart's prescription today and have no ill effects apart from a runny nose.

I see your affairs are clearing up very slowly. It is of course the only way. It would be such a mistake to hurry in such an important affair. Poor Ruth, Ella & the old Gisbornes. I do feel so much for them.

Love to all,

Elsa

²¹⁶ Women had the right to vote in federal elections but not in provincial elections in Quebec (not gaining the latter until 1940).

October 22 1935 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Tuesday 22 Oct 1932²¹⁷

Dear Harold

We arrived very tired indeed Sunday 9:15. Jean met and brought us here.

Yesterday Elsa kept her appointment & certainly was delighted to see dear David walk in; until she was called. When she returned the dear boy had gone of course, (it was six o'clock).

She is writing you & we shall be glad to see you if you can come. We shall be just as glad if you will let us go straight home, after she has that tooth root or stump removed – for he seems to find nothing whatever the matter – of it we were well aware that it must come out some day. Lemieux in Quebec who took out the others & will have probably to rearrange her teethplate to fit them. So if you will say nothing at home – just come and then we may leave. And please remember we have money to pay for all this. You come into town often, & if you do & we can spend some time with you & leave tomorrow evening it will be all right. Only we wish you to feel satisfied that Dr. McNabb has done all you wish. That is our object that you shall be content with all the findings

The weather has been beautiful. Two letters from home have been forwarded today. From what Dr. McNabb says there is nothing at all the matter with Elsa, therefore she has just to get over her eye-trouble by the rest cure. Therefore the sooner we can get home the better, if only we can just see you first for a little while. I think it would be barbarous to disturb poor Ruth, when we really are in such a hurry at all events to return home where we are much required.

I have made application to Beauport Council for substantial reduction of taxes because we are getting no rent. I'm representing Aunt May & the Rylands in the matter & I ought to be there.

Yours of yesterday just came. My dear I'm sorry you are so tired, looking after everyone.

Mama

October 29 1935 postcard Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

"Darnoc"

29 Oct. 1935

My dear Boy

²¹⁷ Leila dated this letter 1932 although it is written on the back of a typewritten letter to her from Secretary of Quebec Provincial WCTU dated Oct. 19, 1935 expressing sympathy that she was not able to attend the convention.

We came right through Montreal taking sleepers and arriving in our own home 8.30 to find everything in order, especially poor pussy. The weather still perfectly beautiful & Pellan busy digging artichokes.

Inside of 15 minutes Elsa had lit the furnace, I had made coffee on the little electric; after which we both slept until noon, when the house was as comfortable as ever & Elsa is feeling ever so much relieved by the work of your good Doctors & your dear self.

We are ever so grateful to Ella & your whole household for the rest in that beautiful & peaceful home, for the magnificent drives in your lovely country & all you & yours mean to us²¹⁸. Cannot express our thanks to your darling boys – perhaps Stuart will send a root or two of English wallflower.

This is my 54th wedding anniversary – at 7 a.m. at St. Matthew's & we took 8 a.m. car to Three Rivers.

I shall write Aunt Mary. Elsa is in very good spirits, so much relieved.

Your own Mama

Oct 31 1935 unfinished Geggie aunt to Harold Geggie

10 Monkland Ave, Ottawa

Oct 31²¹⁹

Dear Harold

It is over a week since I received your letter and I have not answered. I was delighted to hear from you and only too glad to let you have any "old" letters etc to read and copy. The strangest thing happened – the very day I got your letter & had just finished reading it when in walked Elsa! I got such a surprise and said "is Harold with you, I got a letter from him." But she told me about her mother and she coming to Ottawa and were at Aunt Mary's, expecting you in town any day so she said she would take the black bag with her and give it to you. Really, it's so long since I had the bag out of the trunk that I found all the letters mixed up. A number of the "Blyth" letters etc along with the Geggies – Hope you could manage to piece them together all right. If you want to keep any of those sermons, do so, Harold, for I have some here kept in my jewel box that Aunty gave me. The Grants could keep some too if they wanted to.

²¹⁸ They would have been there about 2 weeks while Elsa was having some medical appointments in Ottawa. They planned to stay the first part of the time with Aunt Mary (Grant) in the city but obviously the latter part, while Elsa recuperated, at the Maples.

²¹⁹ Undated although likely 1935 shortly after Leila and Elsa were in Ottawa briefly for medical consultation for Elsa.

Sorry I did not see your Mother. I phoned Nancy, & they have gone home. Do hope Elsa's eye will improve. She looks well otherwise. I enjoyed her little visit.

Glad to hear all your news about the family. Your sons are growing up, Harold. It's a grand thing to know they are happy at their studies. Marjorie is taking a business course now. Love to Ella, how I did enjoy the lovely verandah afternoon tea she had for us. Love to Aunt Mary too. She's a wonder at her age.

Our Douglas has such a nice wife, a bright happy girl – funny to have Douglas married! They are ...
[unfinished]

November 3 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Stuart Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

3 Nov. 1935

Dear Stuart

We have both been pretty busy since we came home, early that Tuesday morning, having taken a sleeper & our streetcars, then our taxi-man Lorenzo Sansfaçon home.

Aunt Elsa went to the garret to turn on the electric current first; we opened the shutters, she fed the cat & lit the furnace. By that time there was coffee ready on the little stove in my room, & after drinking it, we both went to bed.

By noon when we wakened, everything was quite comfortable & we have got on very well ever since, being very busy however our poor flowers were pretty dry & quite glad to drink a lot of water, looking quite well now.

I wish to ask if you will look in Mother's little work basket on the table outside our room door, to see if I left in it my silver thimble when I was using it. Please look for it dear, it was very careless to mislay such a treasure as my own Mama's thimble.

I wish to tell you how often I remember the beautiful sunsets Daddy & Mother showed us those last evenings we were with you, & the vast extent of crimson, gold, blue & green that we saw all across the sky on the way to Pagan Falls & back. You live in a beautiful country, my dear Stuart & we all admire it as we remember those evenings.

Aunt Elsa's face & jaw are becoming less painful each day & the cheek down the gland of the neck look a better color, less bruised. Aunt Elsa & I wish to thank you for all your kindness in bringing up coffee & every little thing you did for us while we were up there in your nice big home on the Gatineau, because we love you all, & were glad to be with you for a little while & everyone was so good to us.

We had a quiet trip home on the Pullman Sleeper, & found the house all right; we opened the blinds, turned on electric power, lit the furnace at 7.30 a.m. Had hot coffee & then went to bed till noon, by which time everything was nice & warm, we two were rested & able to take up life where we had left it with our duties here. So by degrees Aunt Elsa & I settled down to our usual tasks, expecting winter – which has not come! On the contrary the grass is still green, the days still mild, & I have had a visit from a man who stutters, a Court Enquirer, for information about heirs of Wm Mark Maclaren (2nd Governor Maclaren of Quebec Jail) died in 1895. There are evidently 3 small legacies coming to his heirs from poor old women to whom he had been kind. One was his housekeeper Léa Frenette; another Mary Cassidy – who died a long time ago, & a third Mary Anne McGibbon (or McKibbens who died L’asile St Michel Arcange (Beauport Asylum) in 1906). The good men do “lives after them”. Even a small legacy will be very welcome to those nieces of Mrs.[?] Maclaren.

Now it is 7 a.m. & I must close this letter. Give our love to everyone, Aunt Mary & Cousin Birdie too! I shall write dear Mother next. Aunt Elsa does not write.

Your own

Grandmama

November 5 1935 Leila Guky Geggie to Ella Geggie

Stamped “Darnoc” etc

5 Nov. 1935

My dear Ella

I hope you are resting more after all your strenuous summer, & that thing will go along more easily for you.

Yesterday I did a stupid thing – not the first either, by writing Stuart a card about my mother’s silver thimble, name & date on it, which of course I value & thought I had left in your little work basket, while taking “a stitch in time”. This morning I noticed an old pocket-book bulging, & there found my thimble; so my conscience troubles me unmercifully for so worrying [you] unless the dear boy was wise enough to say nothing about it. I had put it back extra safely & so gave a lot of trouble for which I crave forgiveness.

Friday the earthquake at 8 minutes after one a.m. awakened Elsa but not me, because I had just put out my light, so she told me in the morning, & then by radio we got more extensive news of its doings, also the ‘phone & all the town people wishing to know if we had heard it. What we did hear though, very well, was the swearing in of “I John” the New Governor General, who afterwards with his suite went down to Chateau Richer to spend the night, I suppose at Lefrancois Hotel, evidently wish to get away to quiet & far from the city; then in the morning they all started for Ottawa for the grand reception there.

From their pictures, about which they are apparently very gracious, Lady Tweedsmuir is much more of a personality than her Lord. She stands very straight & he quite leaning over to one side with a hand in the pocket to which he leans.

Our weather has been quite warm, several days of heavy fog & again today; but the grass is green although most trees bare of leaves. The white berries look nice now on snow balls. I wonder if Stuart would like a tree quite small of them, the waxy berries are so pretty.

I think Elsa must have had a queer dream just as she awakened this morning imagining that she had brought home Nancie's cat George – after the King – a very prettily marked one indeed, but she awakened calling out to me about it. Her jaw is less sore every day, at all events, & things are going tolerably.

Charlie was to be in England yesterday & I am so glad to think of him as being home once more. I am sending a few of Lois' letters to Aunt May who will return them. There is so much news to write that it is sometimes very puzzling & yet interests all the family.

I think I wrote Harold of a visit last Wednesday of a M. Jacques Gosselin, a stutterer somewhat looking for in information about Wm. Mark Maclaren, Governor of Quebec jail who died in 1895 – his father having also been Governor before him. There are three different small legacies coming to his heirs, from poor women who had passed through the jail & whom he had so befriended that when in old age they had accumulated a little hoard they remembered his kindness. The Bender girls, three of them, will probably, if we can make necessary proof, benefit by these small legacies. One is Léa Frenette, whose [*who was his*] housekeeper for years, to whom he left what money he had for life. She died in Los Angeles. Mary Cassidy is another of whom the Bender's never even heard; & the third is Mary Anne MacGibbon alias McKibbins, who lived & worked at Montmorency, & had to be put into St. Michel AcrAnge Beauport Asylum, 5 years before her death in 1906.

Now Elsa will take this up to the mail. Love to you all.

Goodbye for now. Affectionately

Leila G. Geggie

November 6 1935 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

6th Nov 35

My dear Harold

It is longer than usual without a letter from you; hope all is well.

Last evening after hot bath, Elsa told me she thought her eye felt better; this morning she confirmed it & we are very thankful indeed. We owe it all to you my dear, as we do about everything – all of you help us so much in every way. Then of course she has been careful & obedient, hard as so many things have been, especially about stooping. Then her friends have been so good, asking her out much more than usual, so with what housework she could do – mostly cooking, she likes that best, & I do many other things to help.

What a terrible time the Seifert's have – Beth at home nursing Milly, always a mental & physical wreck, getting all the time worse, & likely to die soon. They have moved out of their big house which they cannot sell into a flat for the winter. May in Montreal in Western Hospital dying, paralyzed from the waist down, being a trained nurse she knows her condition. Then Bertha, who had always been May's chum (as well as sister), visiting her every day, when leaving one day just put her head against the window in the street-car & died; no sound or sign at all. Then Mrs. Sidney Legallais Langlois, (only sister of the five who married) is far from well either. Of four brothers, three are long dead, so Harold goes up to Montreal every weekend to see May in hospital. Harold having to [no] work at all now (Birks contract with him was only for five years), is just lost. A very fine son, Harold, too, at McGill & an outrageous daughter (Eric says) at McDonald, they have only one little schoolgirl at home. So with all this sorrow & uncertainty they are going about together a good deal in their car.

Did Eric tell you that my nice flash-light has never been seen since Mr. & Mrs. L.W. Campbell were shewn through this house by Elsa & him in October? Eric always said Mr. Campbell took it away, of course he did not. All the same it is very queer how these things do happen & twice over too.

But this autumn when Mrs. Jones of Sherbrooke came with Misses Jackson & Jacques to see us leaving their car on the gravel near the hall door – they telephoned from town to say they thought only fair to tell us that a 2 lb box of chocolates had been taken out of their car, so you see someone does meddle with things at our door, sometimes may even step into the hall to take something away.

I wrote Hans the other day a few lines, as I wrote Gertrude & Eric each sometime before & I have had such a fine typewritten letter, long & containing so much that was kind & nice, from Mrs. Moses Roback, whose husband fell dead in the street a little while ago – it has gone now – the letter I mean, to Lois.

Now I am about to write to Mrs. Craig, Matt's mother, in Kilmarnock, Scotland.

I have advised Lois to make her Christmas gift to Aunt May of Oxo soup cubes, or something.

Our new Bishop Carrington, a New Zealander, speaks of feminine suffrage as a matter of course, & as having produced no great upheaval there. It struck me over the radio as being almost contemptuous. Why should a man consider that the fact of women's voting should be expected to produce some great change in a country, when all the efforts of men can do so little to make things better? Why should we be expected to prove ourselves any more than they? One would – I would – have expected a man of his

cloth to think of the right of a woman to say & to do things, instead of being forever condemned just to be & to suffer from seeing men able to do things in which she should be helping. However it's coming! Our French Canadian women vote willingly & unemotionally but as unfailingly as do the men.

I wonder how Betty & Bill are? How Ruth & Reggie are?

Did I tell you winter has come down just as quietly & with as little fuss as one can imagine - & my Chrysanthemum, which grew from a bouquet Dorothy Elliot gave me last year, had 15 fine blossoms. I've cut it down & it's all sprouting again.

Love to you all my dears,

Your own Mama

November 11 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

Remembrance Day

11 Nov. 1935

My dear Harold

Beautiful weather continues, no snow, mild weather, but such fog on the river! Nights soft & balmy with rosy beautiful sunsets.

This morning Elsa went alone to the service at the Cenotaph which was short & chiefly marred by the chatter of people unimpressed by its significance. There are always enough of that kind of people, who spoil for others that which they are too senseless to appreciate themselves.

Elsa is pretty much her own old self, brave & cheerfully active. Saturday she went into town to a birthday Tea for Rosina Johnston.

I must tell you that hearing nothing lately from Fleury, I phoned the Seigneuries Commission, only to find, as I quite expected, that the whole work in triplicate had been long ago finished & sent in. He was not about to miss anything.

Saturday the young cousins came down from Montreal, Bert T. Jackson & his wife Ruth Bender. He had business down here, loading a ship with wheat, & took the opportunity [to] enquire into that story of Mary Cassidy & Mary Anne MacGibbon etc. As you say, it is all fiction, except the beginning, Léa Frenette, Wm MacLaren's old Caretaker, about whom we always have known, now in an asylum in Nappa California, to whom he left a life-annuity, the principal to return to his niece Louisa M Stevenson

or her heirs these three girls, Ethel Bender, Ruth Jackson, & Phyllis Bender. Bert found the man, (Jacques Gosselin, who came here to me) in a room in the Parliament Buildings with several others, all of them trying to make a large percentage out of newspaper advertisements for heir of vacant estates. So it's all ended in smoke – except Léa Frenette, Maclaren's old housekeeper, now in a mental Asylum in Nappa California which legally returns to these girls.

Fri. 14. Now today there is a M. Prévost (mother was a Duchesnay, her father an immense man like a stuffed automaton, solemnly used to parade Grande Allée, accompanied Daily by Samuel Staunton Halt, Usher of the Black Rod, a tiny withered specimen – a cousin), well, this man wishes to come Monday or Tuesday to see this house with a view to purchasing. We shall see how they like [it].

A very mild day – Pellan has sold some of his artichokes, 60 lb bag at \$2.00 – is having them dug, bagged by his little boys, & an out of work man. We gave the three hot cocoa.

Elsa is off to town – does not stoop – says if she does everything goes black. Will go to see Vaillancourt & see if he will even show an interest in her eye. Is sending Stuart Ramsey his fee & writing fully.

I hope you are all well – while I write am trying to get Feminist Broadcast of Mme. Pierre F. Casgrain at 1.45, hope it will come. We cannot get most of your broadcasts.

Love to all of you & your bonnie, charming boys. The Craig children say Eric is the finest ever, talked to them as if they were grown up. They are fine children, who know what's what, being well trained. Much love from us both,

Your own Mama

November 22 1935 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

La Ste Cecile²²⁰

22 Nov 1935

My dear Boy

I enclose a few letters to interest you. Am writing on my knee as I listen to Mme Gosseline of Montreal on Women's vote.

²²⁰ Ste Cecile is the patron saint of musicians; celebrated on November 22.

Rosetta Joseph is to come out to get some large parsley roots to bear green all winter. She will take us both in, my 1st time of leaving the house since I left you the 28 Oct.

Elsa has just received a note from Stuart Ramsey who has received your letter, is satisfied till he sees her at Christmas.

This is another beautiful day which we enjoy – we are remarking bitterly these days how few of our people keep their word. A M. Prévost, mother was a Duchesnay, has phoned several times about wishing to buy this house – always says he'll phone before coming. It's happened several times & then does not follow it up. Were I apt to go out much it would be awkward but I am always here & ready - but "he cometh not" she said! It's the same about everything. Everyone breaks his or her word!

I am trying again to get the top of the hill – on the high road at the end of our garden lowered so that water may drain off naturally without inundating our cellar, garden etc.

Tomorrow Elsa is to go to Lévis with Aldythe Thom; they are to patronize a Bazaar or sale over there for the church.

How are things going & is Ella getting a rest now that there is not so much agitation in the air? Give her & Mrs. Shouldice also the darling boys our love – both of us.

Love specially to you, my boy,

Mama

1936

January 10 1936 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Friday 10 Jan 1936

My dear Everybody at the Maples

We are well into the New Year, are we not? And have had fine weather, not much snow even yet, & Elsa rejoices that we are well into longer days & no storms have happened yet, once or twice high wind at night. And we've been festive indeed. Mrs. Heightley & Bert a Sunday P.M. (& since that he has sent me two Magazines with his fine article on Germany in one, & on Czechoslovakia in the other. (Shall read them when I have a moment to spare!)

Then Marjorie Craig came straight [from] the Rotarian Lunch – a family affair where they had very member's children, 5 of Craig's. Next Fred Stain who has developed into a quiet sensible businessman – Travelling Passenger Agent at & from El Paso, Tex.

Yesterday Rosetta Joseph phoned that she was leaving town to see us, would Elsa meet her at City limit. She did – but had a long wait till Rosetta stepped off the car then they walked out. But before they arrived it was 4.45 – just in time for tea. She left at 6.15, all their meals are late, lunch at 2.15, dinner at 7.15, breakfast 8.30.

Next week Elsa will join her here & walk to Mrs Cartwright's at Montmorency – house where Muriel & Frank used to live. I'm so glad! Rosetta & she worked together (Rosetta over her, an overseas V.A.D²²¹, a fine woman), for all the 16 years at the Dock here they thoroughly understand & trust each other, better than all others. And the Cartwrights US are College women, he a war veteran, very nervous & a scout master. The year promises well. Elsa is in good spirits & health, we are managing the house quite well – but not the tenants, shall have to change some! We have no slack time. Elsa sleeps well, not heavily.

Have been phoning Edmond Reed's wife, mother & Miss Bacon, Aunt. They have been in Quebec 35 years, just fancy. Elsa saw Edmund the other day, just as deaf & moody as his father (almost), would not have spoken had she not stopped him. He has two little girls, the elder Shirley a trifle taller than her mother, & Cicely not much less.

Just fancy my nieces, Irving, are beginning to write, today Diana Clifford, her husband a war wreck, writes for her father Homfray who had a slight stroke last year, affects his right hand & he cannot write – he never could speak plainly since I knew him as a young man, seems like a cloven palate. He was educated in Germany & could not pass examinations for some special position so returned to Canada. Diana says she has a son at Trinity College going into the Church, over 6 ft tall, called Irving; Diana is 17, very tall; John 13 weighs 150 lbs. Is it not dreadful? That's only three & I know there is another if not two. And she, the mother, who writes is caring for her father who was never amiable. Poor thing, father & husband both crocks & scarcely any means on which to rear them – a boy of 150 must require a lot of food. Why are the children now-a-days so big? Is it because they are so often fed tomato, orange & codliver oil when young? Enid Brown's child[ren], girls are monsters, while Edna Marsh's Jim is 130.

We have had a long letter from Bert Grant which must go to you when it returns from Lois.

Talking of Lois, I'm so sorry Jamie & Irene decided not to spend Christmas with them – nor even with their other parents, & yet neither is far away, & the reason they give - is none – that they will not be there next year. So both parents will miss them again! Lois mentioned the certainty that Sylvia too will be away from them at school next year! Oh! The separations for them are beginning early.

Haste.

²²¹ Voluntary Aid Detachment (?)

To everyone much love

Mama

January 13 1936 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

13 Jan '36

We have been telephoning Mary Barrow to ask about a report in the columns of some paper; she reassures us having had a letter from Agnes to say she & her children besides another child, had been in an auto-accident on a bridge, no one hurt however.

The Newspaper man gave the facts & asked of course usual questions, if they were any relations of ours etc etc.

Elsa was badly broken up about it till I went down to find that the occurrence happened some time ago & Agnes herself had written since to say it was all right. Only we did not know at all.

Mama

January 21 1936 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

231 Jan 1936

Tuesday

My own Harold

Yes – I thought I had told you Stuart Ramsey was well pleased with Elsa's recovery, said "just go on doing the same for the next four – or six- months & you will not have anymore trouble". And it was then 4 months.

We are very grateful to you, to the Grants, & all who have given us a helping hand, in our great trouble & anxiety, now fortunately disappearing.

Our good King George V is dead! This morning Elsa put up on the flag pole at the gate our best flag at half mast, to be replaced, if the wind rises, by the old ragged one. In doing it she came back to the house

when she saw Alphonse Vincellette passing, returned to finish when he was gone; this because she remembered how, during the Boer War, he & Boissonneault (old Alexis Derouselle's son-in-law) used to cure & swear at our flag!

Now! Elsa says tell him facts: Stuart Ramsey examined her eye, ever so long, though he had a room full waiting; he said these injuries generally leave lots of debris, as they heal, but in this case there are none at all in front of the vision, some at the side & front which are fast disappearing, so she is taking another course of the potassium iodide he prescribes. So!

Last Wednesday- that is the day Jeffery Hale's gives to probationers – Patricia Marsh was brought here by Elsa who went for her took her to lunch at Kerhulu's, then to do a few messages & brought her home, gave her a good tea & took her back. She thinks she can come by herself tomorrow - hope so! She's nice, & unaffected, liked the food – says everything tastes the same in the hospital, but is all the same enjoying skating every evening on a Rink nearby, young even for 18, & frank, each girl has a room to herself, she seems to chum with a Henderson girl who goes to Trinity so I suggested she go with her also there. She is C. of E.²²² anyway; they are not High but a very friendly congregation at Trinity, much more advisable than St. Matthew's.

We expect Patricia again tomorrow. It's good for Elsa to have a fresh young thing to run about with for a while, even to put her in the way of making other friends in Quebec, the Craig's, Elliot's etc., Marjorie being a nurse herself & attending classes of all kinds at Jeffery Hale's. I only hope she will not pick up detrimental fellows on the Irish Rink to which the nurses go every night – so good for their health.

You will be very much amused that Mrs. Moffat-Clow, our Irish Presbyterian splendid lecturer, knew Betty Miller in England, met her in Calgary; then I sent Agnes & the girls to see her; she was staying with a friend of their's anyway, & going to the same church. Is now coming to Quebec, will speak in the Baptist Church at their meeting – for the League Against Alcoholism rural Dean Sanders, 1224 St Catherine W. Montreal.

Elsa is off to town now, lots of messages to do & we all send lots of love. Hope Ella keeps well.

Love to each of them from us both,

Mama

January 31 1936 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

²²² Church of England

31 Jan 1936

My own Harold

I am very proud of my dear little Stuart, & his manly attitude about his tonsil operation – none of us can fail to feel glad of his bravery – he himself & will always be better and stronger for it.

We have been putting out our flag each day, according to instruction so has Héliodore Laberge – or rather he put it out first day, & there it is! Elsa saw to ours herself, very carefully, & during the 3rd day's storm substituted the same old mended one which have had all through the S. A. war²²³ etc, when it so attracted the ire of some of our neighbors – until the day of the King's funeral when we put the bests one, bought in Sept. 34 when the unveiling of the plaque at our door was to have taken place & did not.

There are to be changes, are there not? This address of the Queen Mother to the people, & the mere mention of the coronation of Edward VIII in the Dominion is astounding. At all events, one is given to believe things will be maintained pretty much as they are, for a while at least.

When I send Lois or Conrad's letters, please just put your name in the upper corner as I do, before passing them on; I am being a bit confused & if each of you does the same, it will right things.

I've been getting no money from Bégin, who is very evidently useless, so must change him. He owes \$350.00, has 6 cows, 2 horses, & hay to sell so hope to get all the money in time & some soon.

The Ryland house I must have repaired, & have a prospect of invalids, a retired Dr., his wife, & an unmarried son of 35, a Druggist & Chemist, with a maid & a nurse or two. Coté.

Cape House, trying to change there too, but nothing much settled yet. Making an attempt to have taxes lessened there - & here too for Aunt Blanche's property, Aunt May's & my own. Aunt May is impatient, pays \$188.00 tax & received only \$60.00 rent – terrible. The Council holds out hope of lowering it but I've no hope – just talk & procrastination. Election for Mayor tomorrow, & the following notice has just been handed in "Grande Assemblée au poste de Pompiers, ce soir vendredi à 8 ½ heures, en faveur de la Candidature de M le Maire Albert Chrétien – Venez en foule vous renseigner avant de voter"²²⁴. So I shall drive out in the morning to the poll to vote for another.

So you see my hands are full - & the weather also roads good enough. Elsa had a 'phone Wednesday – a holiday for services after the King's funeral. Dorothy, Jean, & Florie came for the afternoon - very pleasant. The latter's father still dragging, has not regained what he lost during his illness in the autumn. Pauline could not come – her mother Mrs. Sutherland only just sensible lying there for a long time, her father was in hospital for a few days, is to return there in a few more days for a while. Kathleen Hall's mother ill a long time too. Our little Patricia is much nicer, we think, than her elder sister Gertrude,

²²³ South African (Boer) war, 1899 - 1902

²²⁴ "Meeting at the Fire Hall this Friday evening at 8:30 p.m. to support the candidature of the Mayor, M. Albert Chrétien. Come out in crowds to inform yourself before voting."

because she is unaffected. Eric has passed his exams, but what of the results, we know nothing – do you?

Yesterday Elsa & Florie spent the afternoon at Mrs. Thom's – very pleasant too.

Poor Conrad, how near he came to tragedy.

Goodbye, love to you all,

Mama

I send letters belonging to you.

February 3 1936 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

3 Feb 1936

Dear Harold

I think you have Lois letter of the 17th, another has come since the 21st but she does not wish it sent on though I can tell the facts – Gertrude has broken off her engagement with Eric, & so far as I can see did it just before his exams – as if she wished to ruin his chance of passing. That is the gist of what Lois tells me, & she does not regret her one bit – is glad – “no reason, has just lost interest”. Another fellow & a big Packard car!

But where I am puzzled is that she has written me since, as if she had made it up again saying she was glad his exams are over & had thought of driving down to see him with a friend only the blizzard was so bad it might not be safe. It may be she breaks it off every now & then just to punish him for some of the rough, rude things he has done to her – because he does those things if [he] chooses. Once when he had asked for a second dance, she rose, saying, yes if you mean to dance this time (in allusion to his having walked all over her feet) he caught her by both shoulders, shoved her down into the seat, went off & left her. You may say it is not true, but he has a bad temper, dances badly, & like many young does not want to be properly taught – they all think they can just pick it up. We know that in that case they learn at the expense of their partners - & she has had one or two foot accidents.

But what Gertrude means by her next letter to me, I do not know – sent it to Lois just the same – for she is terrified he will just leave MacDonald as he wishes to do, especially if his results are bad.

1. I have since Christmas, been eating smoked fillets & some stewed hare. Do you think I ought not to eat these things – oh yes & some Bologna sausage à l'aile?

2. Besides which I've only 5 Luminal tablets left.
3. Now there is something worse – tomorrow I am leaving at noon for Montreal, for Minwinter Conference which meets at Y.W.C.A. where I intend to take a room, so as not to have to go out night & morning. Then meals in the Cafeteria upstairs, good nice meals too. I may be invited elsewhere, but so far have no intention of going out. I've written to ask Eric to come to see me at the Y.W.C.A. I also told Muriel I should [be] there, don't know whether she will come or not but dear Doris is likely I think to do so & meetings are informal from 9 a.m. to 5 or thereabouts Wednesday & Thursday, & that last one ends with a very informal 5 o'clock tea.

Here it's the very mischief with renting everything, first spring I've found a good demand for some years so I must hurry home. Cape House, I have what looks like a promising tenant; Aunt Blanche's too, & also this farm, but oh my! the number who telephone, do not wish to give name or address, generally say I'll come tomorrow or tonight & never hear again! Still things look much better than they have done for quite a while.

But I do not know what to think of Gertrude's conduct, unless she wants revenge – shall make no difference in treatment of the little [sister perhaps?]

I am returning a letter which belongs to you, from Madeleine; thank you very much. Certainly they were very kind to Charlie, & he is just the chap to fit in & appreciate it. Charlie is shy too, but always understanding. I wish Eric was anything like him, but he certainly gave us a terrible summer while here & Elsa was just victimized. He would not go to bed at night, came home at all hours & then stayed in bed & apparently asleep till 10 or 11 generally. If our friends did not suit him he was rude to them – well there were occasions when he tolerated us & our friends. Once I asked him "are you at all like Bruce?" his Uncle Edward's son, who has given no end of trouble in just about the same way. He finally agreed, "I suppose I am. I hope he will come to see me in Montreal." He has an allowance of \$4.00 a week, it goes on candy etc for his sole consumption, for anything he chooses, no time till it's gone & never thinks of his debts.

I cannot rest for thinking of how Lois is breaking her heart about him lest he has gone wild. However my letter has gone & I've done my best- Alfred is kind but so afraid of meddling or of speaking or letting anything out.

I hope we shall see some MacDonald results in the papers, since Gertrude says "exams are over" but the course goes on till I think April.

Good news for you about the reduction in years of medical study at McGill although months in the year are increased.

You are very good to give me the boys' pictures; I shall have them framed in a row together, as Elsa has those three over her bed of Conrad, Charlie & you, so nice.

Also Aunt Mary's pictured framed with her mother & Grandmother will look well.

Now love to you all my dear ones,

Your own

Mama

February 9 1936 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

Sunday morning 6 a.m.

9 Feb 1936

My dear Harold

My trip down was uneventful. Elsa was at the end of it & we taxied home again, & so much satisfied at the time we spent together, especially with the people whom we saw. I wish to hand them n to you, though they are no longer close relations, some of them, like Ruth Jackson & her sisters Ethel & Phyllis, (half sisters of Graham Milloy), all descendants of my father's second sister Maria Elizabeth who married William Stevenson (Scotch), Shipbuilder of Quebec.

Yesterday I did not even dress, just stayed in bed, read some of the accumulated papers, & am delighted to see that Canada has its first Woman Engineer, Miss Esther Rabkin of Alberta University, of whom Dr. J.H. McLeod says "She was an excellent student & had the courage and strength of her convictions. Her qualities & abilities are of the variety possessed by few who enter the university".

Weather has been good, & last evening I kept my appointment with Madame Piché who wishes to rent the Cape House, & M. Coté for the Ryland house down the hill; having promised both to 'phone Saturday night. The first is bilingual, has two children & has been 12 years a tenant of Leonard the Paper-hanger. My present tenant has made a bad failure, I must believe largely because they spoke no English & were not business-like. Must get the house in order and the Coté who wants the No. 2 down the hill is just an ideal family; he is unmarried with a good Chemist & druggist business, lives Cyrille St, with his old parents – invalids, requiring one or two nurses at a time. The broad galleries all around are ideal. So I have to get that house in perfect order too, to rent at \$25.00 per month; lots to do in two months, but everything in good train to do it properly, especially as I had promised to 'phone last night, & did so; therefore all's in good train for renting those two houses.

For my own farm here things are not at all so good but I'm doing everything possible & advertising with good chance of making the best of it, once more. So many wanting to buy, but not willing to pay, even when they could do it, only to pay on the rental system – quite useless; however there are still 2 ½ months.

We are both taking things easy. Elsa may go to church & mail this. Many things I wished to tell you. One's that Jamie & Irene are expecting a baby early in May; a lady doctor has been secured & Irene is in excellent health.

Special love to Ella & Mrs. Shouldice & 1000 thanks to you for meeting me in Montreal.

Your own Mama

April 5 1936 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

Sunday a.m.

5 April 1936

My Boy

My pink tablets & white ones are coming to an end, so are the Luminals.

This is Communion Sunday; I am going to Church. The weather is fine & so was yesterday. The sore patches are quite healed, thankful to say.

I hope Ella is better than usual & still more – this spring so glad she takes pleasure more & more in her artistic work.

Wrote Eric yesterday to emphasize that we expect Hans & him Thursday. What if you, Ella & the boys were to come too to fill up the house for Easter? Can you do it?

Now this is private: Eric does not wish us to know; so Lois does not wish me to tell but I have suffered & regretted keeping silence before against my better judgement & my medical sons should know, above all that the minx just dropped in between trains to break off their engagement "because she had lost interest in him". Finally confessed that it was because Pearl, a twin of Patricia, had had fainting fits – or fainted - & the "Company Dr." who never did more than graduate & take a position, told her these fits were hereditary. So! The noble soul of course forswears matrimony! He is trying to make her reconsider. We know a handsome big car stands in the way! So you will likely be asked for advice.

Mama

April 9 1936 postcard Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

9th Apr 1936

Fortunately we are to be alone. Elsa has a cold & a rest will do us both good. But we are so sorry about Eric's bronchitis; it's a horrid habit to have & Charlie has always had such a dreadful throat, at times laying him up completely.

It is not weather here & now for sick people or colds – a strong cold wind & hard frost. Our new tenant Roy came in to replace Bégin - & Mme Ubidon on the Cape – a fine prospect for Aunt Blanche's house if I can only land him – well off good pay, a friend of Edmond's, everything to suit 6 little children & his name is the same as Prov. Premier.

Wish us luck.

Love & Happy Easter,

Mama & Elsa

May 8 1936 postcard Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

L'Hotel Dieu

8 May '36

Am taking 6th treatment & Dr. Payeur says I had better continue three treatments next week. Today the heat was for the first time pleasantly felt on foot & shoulder.

We have those dear photos on the sideboard, so pleasant to look at & they are holding their shoulders so well. Thank them very much & Ella too, delighted that she is better; hope it will be a fine year for you all.

Busy trying to rent that old crowl²²⁵ Pellan played a trick, did not come so I am trying to rent, may be better off in the end.

Eric wrote me yesterday, "I start my hitch hike today." Do not know why he does not try a bicycle. So he has gone.

Love Mama

Elsa of course is here with me. It is a fine day.

²²⁵ Scottish & Irish, a stunted or dwarfed person.

May 15 1936 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

The \$5.00 for your electric heater.

15 May '36

My dear Harold

This might even be a November day, cold rain, high wind – so I am staying in bed, with occasional risings to do special things, or direct old Larouche.

Perhaps I have already told you, everything is rented, including the house down the hill, Ryland House, which I was frantically advertising. Now the people are in, 10 children, their still young parents & a grandfather; good farmer people from L'Ange Gardien, who borrowed money & finally lost their farm but have not lost their industrious habits. Eldest son hired at the Asylum. The eldest daughter hired in town to pay the rent & the rest to work my garden at the Ryland house for eleven months. I've had to take off \$15.00 & lost one month because of Pellan's crookedness, not being willing to warn me that he would not return. So! For eleven months I am to get \$20.00 per mos. They have all their seed for this year & instruments of agriculture, so are hard at work – will also make the little part of the garden I require for me, & the produce will all be my own, no thanks to Pellan because I charge them nothing for this part up here. The \$20.00 rent is all for the Rylands – very much delighted I am too! Having had their house advertised 6 weeks, in vain – now every day I have two or three telephone applications for it.

If I can only steer things straight this year!

Best of all Edmond has taken to these people of his own kind from perhaps, his own parish, L'Ange Gardien. He can be the very foul fiend of course, if he will - & he hated the Duplains, as they hated him.

I have written Hans yesterday suggesting that he come to us for those few days of which you speak, between end of studies & graduation. We both hope he will come; there is Louise & Harold Seifert's boy, already at McGill, a nice fellow we hear, perhaps can get him – about the same age. The girl, Betty, not so nice, at MacDonald for four years.

About Eric – not a word as to his direction – "I leave today on my hitch hike" is all he wrote, the 7th May, on that subject; first hint I had that it was not to be some trip by water. He always said "ports unknown" & I took it to mean he had, like a child, been taken by the advertisements, meant to attract, of "vagabond cruises". Fortunately he confides more in his mother, & has heard of a job in a Western Creamery, & of something else- I forget- perhaps a farm, something outdoors at all events.

We are finding that Pauline Sutherland, her brother back to his Church of the Nazarene, an outcome he told us of Primitive Methodism- is even much more bitter & scornful than she used to be – which was

quite bad enough. Her father, whose constant companion she was, going & coming from the office etc, had decided that his pension would be soon due. Her mother gradually going as her sisters, called Fowler, had all done, gradual paralysis, lasting a long time, they, her father and she, were to travel leisurely and to see things.

And we, lookers on, knew for a long time that he was on his very last legs. The very last evening the Doctor – Delany – told her to go home to sleep, his heart was a little better. She was called before midnight & he was gone. Why do Drs say such things? Except that the girl had her work all day, then the house with a maid threatening to leave because she was sick – a day attendant & a night one for her mother. Her father & she counted on his good pension –now her mother gets only 1/3 of it – their rent is too high, \$70.00 a month and in spite of advice she has been spending & paying, instead of waiting to see. She cannot see how good friends have been to her, Dorothy Elliot especially, & Connie Buchanan of Lévis, superior to her in length of service, standing between her & Dr. Percival who is – to say the least – incomprehensible. We are all sorry for Mrs. Sutherland & Pauline too! Mr. S. had his lease registered to prevent his landlord from breaking it for five years. Just think of it.

I enclose a few leaflets of which I am finishing distributing 3,000 – surely Wakefield has lots? Bill for Suffrage to come up the 27th, sponsored by F. A. Monk, a connection of ours; we all have some hope of winning this time, the 11th. Weather will surely be fine by then. I've missed two treatments this week at L'Hotel Dieu because of weather – almost November & pluvius²²⁶.

We've had crocus, snowdrops, English cowslips, hyacinths, besides beautiful roses Elsa got at Paquet's \$1.60 per doz with money Conrad sent for all the family. You are all so good, my dears, & candies etc too.

Old Larouche is fixing up little things for our tenants, new outside stairways being most important & we have had a call Monday from Dr. and Mrs. Gordon – he had not been here for over a year - & she had just arrived, evidently stirred him up. They are all against fraternities at College, just as we are! Not the right spirit to be fostered at all. Better to associate with everyone than make anyone feel shut out by snobs, & lonely!

The place looked so lovely, old Larouche had been raking & Elsa clipping the overgrowth, things are so green.

Now love & goodbye,

Mama

²²⁶ "Sender of rain", an epithet of the Roman God Jupiter.

May 29 1936 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

29 May 1936

My dear Harold

What can you imagine that I am doing all this time, to neglect you so!

Well, we have been going triweekly to Hotel Dieu then twice last week, 9 times in all but not at all this week because the Machine made a short circuit. Next we had lots of spring work & stir – have now rented everything, losing something on each. Last of all was Aunt Blanche's house, advertised a long time in English & French papers, now rented at \$20.00 per mon., loss of \$60.00 per year, & then tenant only comes in 1st June, loss of \$60. 20 \$80. Terrible. Everything depends in the same way on whether or not they pay & there's no knowing!

However Wednesday, you know was the day for the Bill for Women's votes to come up in the House – Mr. F.A. Monk carried our Banner, but the Premier, as usual, was late, they all were. Quarter to 4 when the Premier led the way in to the Chamber, then Prayers & fooling around took up a long time. Our Man, Mr. Monk, not particularly forceful nor audible; the last two speaker Dr. Paquette of the Lake St John, & M. Rochefort of Ste Marie, Montreal, were most sensible. All the same numbers (including Cohen & Bercovitz) had been constrained not to vote.

We came home tired, & have been since busy at home. Larouche came & we got windows washed & put on - all the same everything is cold & wet everywhere all this week. Your lovely maiden-hair ferns are coming up beautifully, narcissi, tulips, cowslips in blossom & aquilegia all blooming.

Enclosed Lois' last letter to forward. No news of Eric or sign of his standing in the papers.

How are you & yours' doing?

Much love

Mama

June 5 1936 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

"Darnoc"

June 5

I did just as you said my dear. Of course you are wise and right.

I hurt my lip the other day, Tuesday, struck it, & am ugly.

Yes- Elsa & I shall try to go to Lennoxville for Hans graduation, so do not be surprised.

In a hurry now, a friend takes this.

Love to you all

Mama

June 11 1936 Leila Gogy Geggie to Conrad Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

11th June 1936

My dear Conrad

Not having written you for so long I am starting tonight with two letters just come from Lois. Please return them via Harold.

We have been very busy indeed, & all kinds of things going on but we are all patched up at last in a sort of way, hoping to last a year at least.

Mr. Stuart Oliver, who has been mentally & physically ill, at home, for at least three years, now has some glandular trouble. All the time they have two nurses, night & day, two maids, & are for the summer out at Neuville. Marina has been ill but is now better however on Florie all the responsibility rests, & it is heavy indeed. Must be 6 or 7 years since Mrs Oliver first became ill & there has been no respite at all ever since. Stuart often runs down weekends to give a hand, though his father does not know him, & resents the interference of that man, often does not know his daughters either.

The 2nd of this month Mr. & Mr. Wm Reed had a Golden Wedding anniversary, Mrs. Fothergill suggested & Mrs. Harvey carried out the details of a purse which when presented amounted to \$20.00 with which we are all delighted, I even think a little more may come in yet. Mrs. Reed is inarticulate, & pitiful but his wife is still handsome & charming. They live with Edmond, his wife & two nice little girls out in Quebec West. We met there dozens of old friends, Archdeacon Scott, Canon Kelley, the Bishops etc; it was very pleasant, & had a visit from Mrs. Reed & her elder sister Miss Bacon the next Saturday.

This being Lilac week we are very glad to have had a good many visitors; yesterday Mrs. Thom & Aldythe, as well as a Mr. Andrew Fleming, a Scot, who has Dr. McIntyre's place in the arsenal. We have had Dr. Gordon & sister out the very day after she arrived from Kingston, he not having been here for a year. He looks very well & just as handsome, also dignified as ever. Last Sunday Matt Craig, Marjorie, their four children & little niece spent afternoon & evening with us; we had not seen him for two years. He is as thin as ever, or more so, busy, popular but he has his troubles certainly, as anyone who reads the papers about investigations can guess.

Adolphe is not well, has been away again this spring – fortunately he has a wealthy wife who can take him away to travel when he is on the verge of a breakdown. This gives or has given, other Drs. a foothold in Beauport, a number of them. Among these are your old friend Petitclerc, who lives in the house in which Jules Bolduc & family once were. There are a couple up towards the Falls, nearer us is Dr. Maurice Carou, (son of Hector Carou, sometime our agent at St. Léon, Hector Carou himself now paralysed); when a child you operated on an ingrowing toenail for him. Another is Dr. Ferland, the baker's son up the road, & we have also two nurses, one a Metropolitan, & the other a Hospital nurse. So you see we have developed of late in every way.

You have been telling us about your government doings – but what do you think of us with M. Taschereau superseded by Godbout now, & all the terrible revelations of peculation²²⁷ everywhere.

Mary & Helen Shaw came to see me quite a time ago, we were very much pleased to see them, & I have been thinking of going to Lennoxville to see Hans, the dear boy, take his B.A. but of late I wonder if I shall or not. I was there with my brother Conrad in June 1875; he died following 1st May – Papa 11th June, six weeks after, & I began my service to the Estate which is not yet ended.

Sunday, 14 June

Talking of which – you say you thought I had done with the Ryland Estate, & so did I, when at the heirs' request I handed it over to the Crown Trust for them. However shortly after Frank Daniel's death, the Crown Trust returned it to me explaining that he had made no arrangement about it. Verbally, Mr. Hobbs who was in charge of it informed me that no one in Quebec would touch it – not enough in it & Montreal is too far away. Of course I found that they had been collecting only what I sent from Edmond Hains, who refuses to do business with anyone except me, also Dom. Tex. Div²²⁸. – very little on all of which they charged 4 p.c.²²⁹, Beauport Taxes not paid, running up interest etc etc. Now I arranged with Ryland Daniels, a very nice chap, last autumn that he is to take over from me whenever I say – but he never could give it the attention on the spot which it needs, without which it will not produce a revenue. Of late I have had to evict a family 9 years there – no chance of paying²³⁰. Had some dreadful applications to my constant advertisement in papers of both languages; losing a month & lowering the rent by \$5.00 - \$20 instead of \$25 for this year; I have a good Chateau Richer family of 13 – perhaps, I have never had a worse year, less money coming in & more trouble²³¹. 20 Mount Carmel St was terrible, had to pay business tax- I think \$280.00 to avoid interest of 5 cts per day; also to free the tenant's

²²⁷ Embezzlement

²²⁸ Dominion Textiles Division

²²⁹ Percent

²³⁰ This would not have added to her popularity in the community but she was a strong business woman and did what had to be done.

²³¹ The Great Depression began in 1929 and continued until the start of World War II in 1939. Its height was in 1933 however Leila's difficulty in finding tenants who could pay the rent is a reflection of the economic situation in the country and the world.

furniture which I sold for \$400.00 to the present tenant, she pays \$50.00 rent this year - \$75.00 the next four years & \$10.00 monthly on furniture till it is paid up. The best I could make of a bad bargain!

When Mary Barrow came with Helen, she spoke of your taking a boy next – at least asked if I think it is too late. – Why no! The girls would be charmed only they would spoil him, unless they could be made to understand that women have to bring up heroes.

When we went to Switzerland, I went to choose for you a Gugi boy for you. Those I saw were all grown up, peasants working, stockingless, with sabots in the field, fair with a warm tint, healthy, but careless about teeth. We only spent an afternoon & I realized you must be there, both of you, to choose. I do not know if there are any others, there was a second family but we did not see them, sad to say, we were tied to time. What think you of reviving the old name?

We are delighted to think of Hans possible visit to you. He is everything fine & brave, bright & lovable. Eric too you may have – goodness knows, he is so unsolvable, does not know what he wants, except whatever he has not, & is not a wise chooser of friends.

Communion Sunday – also Fete Dieu. Writing on front gallery; Elsa has just been loading a car with lilacs to decorate Baptist Church for Children's Services. Mildred & Willie Stobo's request. Ted Rattray & his wife at Montmorency are to drive us in & out. Our fondest love

Mama

June 15 1936 Leila Gogy Geggie and Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie

15 June 1936

9 a.m.

Dear Harold

The deed is done – I have sold to Wilfrid Cantin, Pony Brand Essences for \$3,000.00 payable in two months, that end field of mine (below the track and Island road under the hill. Extreme eastern boundary) reserving the right of passage & to take water. Sitting on the front gallery, a beautiful morning & two weeks of lilac bloom just about over – Mayor Chrétien has just gone away with paper (two month's option).

Yesterday – Communion Sunday – Ted Rattray & his wife (he is so nice & considerate with a gentle manner) drove us into town & out again. Mrs. Rattray, president of Y.W.C.A., brought out with us a young, bright woman from Halifax Convention of Woman's Council whom she had brought to Church too. On entering the Car & hearing my name she said I am related to Mrs. Geggie – Violet Smart, of the Minimum Wage Board, today going to Montreal, next day to Ottawa, then to Wakefield (the Maclarens

at Buckingham first), to see Uncle Joseph White's grave. She has married, 7 years ago, John White a widower of 250 Government St. Victoria B.C., half brother of Currie White. You will certainly see her, tell Mrs. Shouldice.

After lunch evidently Ted took Mrs. John White to see Montmorency Falls then brought her here for tea after which Elsa took her in to show her the King's Bastion & Park etc.

This morning Elsa has gone in again to shew her some sights while I wish to tell you how delighted I am to hear of Hans prospective visit to Edmonton! It will do him a world of good but Cora & Marie more, to have a big boy like him in the house & what an experience for them & him too. Besides which Eric may get there too sometime – if he ever gets anywhere!

My new tenants & farmers still promise well, but I have to keep them up to the mark, because they consider that signing a lease to pay the 1st of the month in advance means nothing, they can pay when they like. So my Jean Charles (whose one baby is called Jean Guy) gave me a n.s.f²³². cheque the 15th the very first month – the second, another cheque & flew off the handle when I sent him up to cash it himself that I might take the money for use at once. However I think they are finding out I mean what I say, & they have to sign.

I wrote to Conrad a birthday letter – the 18th is his, & A.M. Gordon contributed good – the postage not thereby increased.

Lilac is all over today, & hawthorn begun. We were glad to be able to give so much lilac for today's procession – quantities, & driving round town we found lots. Mrs. Thomas her two sons, who used to be our tenants, came out for the afternoon [to] pick it for evening procession. Another bunch of strangers came too & broke up our Sunday too. No lilac to be had although we offer always to give roots if they will dig them up. No one wishes to grow it, nor apple or fruit of any kind because of children stealing.

Arthur Sanderson, now in the Finlay Home, knocked down by a car, is in Jeffrey Hale likely to die, so that's the end of that family! Rev & Mrs. Roy were here Saturday to tell me about it.

Now dear, goodbye, love to you all, & there is no decision yet about Lennoxville. Shall let you know.

Mama

Written by Elsa:

Dear Harold,

I find Lennoxville is hard to get at and to come away from but if we go it will have to be at 3 p.m. (standard) Wednesday & spend the night there as we arrive 8.47. then we would have to leave again at

²³² Not sufficient funds

6.20 a.m. Friday to get back at noon. If Mama goes a& you can't meet her I'll have to go too, but if your plans work out & you can get away I'd be glad of a wire Wednesday before 12 as we would have to leave here early. It seems very difficult to make any plans but Hans can look out for us and Mama will be there if not both of us. I have found out that a taxi would cost about 440. & there is not direct bus connection & we'd have to spend a night on the way. All for 150 miles only.

I have been taking Mrs. John White (Violet) around last night & today and saw her off for Ottawa an hour ago. She wants to see the cemetery in Wakefield where Uncle Joseph is buried and will probably motor out with some Wm Maclaren's who are the Ottawa Paint Works Co Ltd. Will either phone you before going out or see you when she is there. She is from Victoria B.C. Her husband John is Currie's half brother. Our lilac is just over and was not so good as usual due to those late frosts and the age of the trees. Many of them are dying out and there is such a lot of pruning needed which they will probably never get. We only sold .10 worth this year & had much stolen and broken each night. Early yesterday I gathered huge bunches from shady places and gave it to the Baptists who were having a flower service. Wm Stobo always sends his car & chauffeur out for it, & then later gave plenty more for reposeoirs at St. Paschal & St. Patricks, Grande Allée. It kept me busy & the weather was very hot.

We had a Mr. White, a scoutmaster with five boys from St. Matthew's troop on their way to the falls Saturday a.m. I had a fresh cake & they waded into it & the lemon syrup & then went on their way.

I suppose we need not be surprised if Eric happens in here someday but perhaps he had enough last year.

I hope we may see you & Ella in a few days & then probably down here after as the salmon is in season again.

Love to all, Elsa

September 8 1936 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

The step on the back stair has been repaired.

8 Sept. '36

My own dear Son

This is your father's birthday 1838²³³. Uncle Herbert²³⁴'s was the same 7 or 8 years younger though. Today the rain is pouring & has been heavy all night – we trust you have had it better – my! My! How miserable it will be if Ella & you have such a downpour!

We have not been out, but Elsa took an afternoon off & lay down, while I lay on my swing & had an unexpected but semi-occasional visit from Gerald O'Brien, one of my non-smoking, non-drinking boys, 15 & handsome, just got into Dominion Arsenal, to do easy mechanical work loading cartridges. Then they are sent to another building for powder. He's very childish & frank, brings me other non-smoking boys too, Irish or French.

This morning, rising late, we found on the kitchen door-step, two melons, a gift from our Rhéaume gardener; shall try to ripen them more, but are very grateful indeed – have never been on better terms with our semi-tenants & all our neighbors. However it's a nice feeling.

Found this morning what we were searching for, several notices of death, or thanks for sympathy; enclose two or three (extending over a course of years) to shew how customs have changed.

The longer visit of the part of your family which could be spared from home, almost Ella's first holiday, has been a great delight. As time passes we hope to see you oftener.

Love to everyone from us both, & only hope your weather, since you left, has been at least endurable.

Mama

October 1 1936 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc 1st Oct. 1936

My darling Harold

Your birthday comes tomorrow; I shall never forget that cold, windy, dark night after my long misery since May, kept indoors all summer, at Polycarpe Grenier's house across the road, which we had rented for 6 months of summer.

Aunty Blanche officiated with a neighbor woman, & Dr. Parke only arrived with Papa half an hour or so afterwards. Quite my fault for delay, & Aunt May had had a party that night over here, the Racey's, Alexia Vial, Jennie & Maggie Watson etc etc. Mrs. McVey, good old soul was the nurse, & I had been across the road to Mama's here early in the evening, with Papa, a frightful wind blowing, cold & bleak, got a fright when a rat of some kind ran across the road almost between our feet, & immediately after a boy's hat blew off & across the road at us too – the wind was a furious northeast one. And the day before I had cried myself into a shivering when a drenching cold wind felt pitiless while I knew Papa was

²³³ Leila actually wrote "This is your father's birthday 1936 – 1838." James lived 1838 – 1915.

²³⁴ Herbert Hunt married Leila's younger sister, May. He was actually 15 yrs younger than James.

walking home in the dark. We had a hot bath & hot clothes ready for him when he arrived & a good supper.

My! They were hard times, without telephone or cars. Yet when we were burnt out in 1882, May 16, I think, there were a few phones because when Mr. Chas. Richardson at the Tannery saw our fire, he 'phoned Papa at Ross & Co. 92 Peter St. which was No. 4 & I remember MacWilliam Confectioner on John St. – same stand as now, was No.1.

I had been ill since May probably because when we were moving out²³⁵, I came in Cyrille Chamberland's old bus, he was drunk & beating his horses unmercifully, so sitting close to the front I took the reins from him & drove part of the way, then surrendered them to him, & holding the whip used it myself if I thought necessary. Dr. Belanger at the Asylum was available & he sat beside me [*as I was*] crying, until Dr. Racey was got, & he put me to sleep. The rest of the summer I moped about in a darkened room afraid I should lose my baby²³⁶; had to be coaxed & kept out of doors. Martha Stevenson & her little boy Charlie who had no home, took me out into the sun as much as possible, but I had had phlebitis when Conrad was born & was afraid of that too. Martha was the Grandmother – née Maclaren – of Ruth Jackson (where we had lunch last winter, you remember), & had a terrible drunken bad husband. I remember sitting perched up on a high window waiting for Papa one night, in the dark, & heard his step very late on the wooden sidewalk. I was so delighted, & she said bitterly, "you have never known what it is to dread the sound of his step". Poor Martha – we did all we could to help her & the children, taking eggs & vegetables, & Mama sending a big crock of butter in the autumn!

We've been very busy since Sylva Childe left – very- just seizing every fine day to bring in tomatoes etc, then to wash double windows, & getting a Sanfacon son to put them on like lightening he did it, all round the gallery in about half an hour for 35 cents. I can tell you our present people are the best yet, & our vegetables just fine – everything right & done up to time – only [*Elsa*] has migraine today, so took pills & is quiet in bed, had some soup for lunch & will take this to the mail. Has been going to town & doing messages, but went also to a tea at Kirk-hall, Mrs. Massey, (you remember they used to live at the Falls, husband & son both suicided long ago), a little twittering woman, came up to say "my niece Jean Jamieson is to be married 2nd Oct. Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul Montreal, Mrs. Love cut the clipping out of the Star about a month ago & sent it to me. I sent it to my sister, because we are all so delighted, & of course you have an invitation". Elsa's eyes were wide open, & the woman went on to explain why they were so delighted, "because she is to marry Mrs. Geggie's grandson, such a nice fellow".

Elsa was not struck too dumb to deny the whole affair. No one more unreliable than Mrs. Love has ever been, & is much more so now. Mrs. Massey – well not much better, also a good kind little soul. Still we were perturbed, a name like Cap-something, the clipping had been at once forwarded to some relative & we may know more tomorrow, or even in tonight's paper. But she told them she hoped the

²³⁵ I think they may have stayed in town at the Cape House on Mont Carmel during the winter so James could get to work more easily, and then moved out in the spring. No wonder she was so very opposed to alcohol although that belief was probably well entrenched by then – reinforced though by experiences like these.

²³⁶ She would have been about 4 months pregnant in May.

Jamieson's could support them for Eric had only been two month's working. She replied why no, because they had lost all their money.

Dr. Johnson's letter went to Conrad, & by the one from Lois now enclosed Eric is not to be married tomorrow. So Sylvia is at Cheltenham & only Philip comes home at night. Almost all their family gone. Perhaps life will be easier & like Ella & you they will have more time to be chummy, & to drive about together. Many happy returns to my boy,

Mama

I am enjoying Nellie McClung's book. Can only do a page at a time though for I am too sleepy but ... the name Shouldice. – The McClungs were our neighbours while we were in Edmonton with Conrad & Agnes. She was so nice.

And I've not said a word to Ella & Mrs. Shouldice. Give them my very special love.

October 13 1936 postcard Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Cowansville, Que.

13th Oct. '36

My dear Harold

In spite of everything, here I am. Came in last night on the Boston train, (or rather on the Montreal to Boston) having left home by 1.30, & not left the Windsor Station but was given the use of the Travellers' Aid both for writing & telephoning.

I left Elsa well & things running smoothly – as hours passed, could not overcome the urge to get here, so made my slight preparations & have had an uneventful trip, seated with two nuns & the brother of one. Tried to phone Muriel, there was no reply. Have had an excellent night & all the others very comfortable, staying with Mr. & Mrs. W. Craigie & 6 children. Arrive today. Wrote Elsa of course & Ryland Daniels. I suppose we disband Thursday night.

Love Mama

Lovely weather!

October 29 1936 Leila Gagy Geggie to Ella Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

29 Oct. 1936

My wedding in 1881

My dear Ella

Here I am safe in my own bed in the early morning & having passed through Montreal with dear Hans help all through, never having left the Blue Triangle except to take lunch at the Y.W.C.A. Hans met me on the dot, right at the car – saw me off the same way & always as cautious & careful. Indeed I've good right to be proud & happy because of all my super-fine grandchildren, & to thank their parents for rearing them so. Therefore I am ever your humble debtor for your daily job of dragooning your darling unselfish three into just what they ware. So! Please accept the complement & thanks.

Since I came home, I've been busy doing writing and clearing up things, just telephoning etc & well satisfied with my trip, but thankful to be home again, with the assurance that the W.C.T.U. is on the upgrade thanks to the good, true work of such women as your Wakefield Union, of which we are so proud.

Were I there, though, for any time, I should ask that nice shy daughter of our hostess that day to come up to see me occasionally; she is far too shy & retiring for her own good.

Ruth Jackson did come to see me that afternoon, & was with me when Hans arrived to take me to the train.

Mrs. Ainslie Young drove down in a car with Mrs. Ivan McCarthy, (daughter of Mrs. Johnston whom Harold saw when he was down & who has since died). She was coming to take home her children from school at noon, at the very moment I was having my lunch at the Y.W.C.A. Having told Mrs. Kelly at the Blue Triangle just where I was going, Mrs. McCarthy walked into the Cafeteria & gave me my letter, saying Mrs. Young had such a terrible cold, & the day was so shocking so it was that Mrs. Young had decided she dared not get out of the car, nor could she wait, because she had to take her own children to lunch. So there was no use going downstairs. All too bad, but there was nothing I could then do. I know how terrible Mrs. Young's colds are, & how constant.

However I had accomplished all I had aimed at, except to see Eric, & in business hours no use & certainly no time at all, but he tells Elsa he is coming down with his Chief to see about business, to talk French, & take him around.

I shall ask both here – but not to stay – his Chief will pay his expenses of course, so we need not worry except to be nice etc.

Now my dear, it's a beautiful sunshiny day, my room is all lit by it, & I've a lot more letters to write. Elsa is going to town as arranged, & I've arranged with Jean Charles & some of the other tenants.

Love to Mrs. Shouldice & all of you dear ones

Leila G. Gergie

November 4 1936 Leila Gagy Gergie to Harold Gergie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

4th Nov. 1936

My own dear Harold

I have your letter & have thought of just putting your bonds into your name, & Conrad's into his, as if the home of each was in this province, & you could take charge of both. How would that suit – of courses things being so designedly tightened up probably there is no chance of any one of us all escaping income tax. So far neither Elsa nor I has paid any because we receive so little income. This year however she will have to pay a tax; when she received Aunt Bella's bequest she paid \$109.00 succession duty in both Ont. & Que. No joke is it!

Have you seen in last night's Gazette the article about Dr. Reddy of that hospital where you spent so many months in that hot summer, was it 1910 when you followed that disobedient patient out into the streets of Montreal, late at night trying to induce her to return to the hospital, & were upbraided by some young girls for being in such disreputable company. You ended by giving them my last letter to convince them of your bona fides & the responsibility of finding some shelter for your patient of whom you never heard again.

Did you get your gusty temper from Dr. Reddy? It makes me so sorry, because you never got it from your dear good father? But since you must inherit that form me I am very glad to be planning to ease some of your troubles when you have this money that is to come from the Seigneuries. I fear the traps have been so well set that it will be traced all the same – unless I can live five years more as I hope to do²³⁷.

You see I really owe Lois four thousand dollars which she gave me in 1916 turning over to me that sum when Mr. Frank Ross gave her an equal share with each of us. Then she gave Aunt Agnes \$1,000.00 & a couple of hundred to other things or rather people. About the same time Charlie gave to Bert Allan & Hope Grant \$500.00. Did you ever hear of such munificence? It is true that he had received from his father's brother then the fruits of hoarding & years of misery spent in discomfort. That same old uncle had also pulled their father out of bankruptcy years before, & left no trace whatever of whence the money came. Munificence again; for the poor old man, Uncle John, never married, never apparently had

²³⁷ Leila lived about 11 more years. She died in Nov. 15, 1947.

a home, only a few rooms, one or two, moving about chased from each by a fear of gas fumes & asphyxiation. Of course then his hoardings were divided between Edward, died a few years ago, Alfred, Frank, Molly & Charlie. Now it has all shrunken. Alfred has his grain business little more after buying & selling that beautiful farm at Rougemont. Frank has nothing but his house (if even that is unencumbered), for he says it costs him, Ida & Frances, who teaches very far away, \$27.50 per month to live. Therefore he makes every effort to keep Eric who sleeps in his dressing room all over, making a little in the business by odd extra work, to pay for his washing, & car fares etc. Ida makes three lunches every morning, & Eric has his supper out two nights a week, when by his Chief's arrangement he takes special lessons in technical drawing at the Technical School downtown. He snorts when Elsa suggested his applying to his father for money - & said no emphatically. I got all these facts from her, & relaid [*sic*] them on to Lois, thinking it better than to endeavour to supply the need myself. Better to teach him to rely on his parents & confide in them, rather than allow him to pinch, stint, & go with crumpled laundry, while Lois writes that he has written a nice weekly letter, about nothing of course.

Frank of course has sunken his last dollar in a gold mine is away out somewhere there & brings home a fox skin – a wolf skin & talks about his fox-ranch, his wolf pack as if he were a millionaire. Ida to Elsa threw up her hands & said “money, I’ve none! We live on our boarders, Alfred, Eric, & Frances until Frank’s gold mine pays. Of course I’ve to work hard. Thank goodness I’ve good health!” While Frances says “the gold mine can’t pay too soon”. So that’s why they coax Eric to stay with them instead of going to the Y.M.C.A. thank goodness, “where all the gangsters get cheap board”. That “rotter” Tony Cahusac is there selling Insurance, came back from England got a job at once. It’s not a job either – Poor Eric, nursing a grudge against his parents, when if he told them facts instead of gay, frothy stories, they would be so glad to support him yet not willing to give him spendthrift habits. He cultivates an increasing grudge against Jim for having gone straight ahead & plodded to where he is – work, wages, wife. His parents never loved him. Oh my!!

Elsa will have about \$700.00 to invest about the fifteenth to reinvest, asks for suggestions? I say try to find someone with an old bond to sell with good interest.

Matt Craig’s wife has a bad throat, festered ears, in Hospital. Is wild with M.D.s etiquette, the trouble is M.D.s do not understand pa[*tient*] ignorance & agony.

Mama

December 28 1936 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

28 Dec. '36

My own dears

The year is nearly gone & it is good to hear of your family & all those boys, including young Wilson who may be a help to you or someone else someday. Oh! That great, grand old Esculapian oath! What it means to everyone on this earth – to those just coming in, & the poor wrecks going out of it! And how they have carried out that oath, the greater number of them, at the cost of comfort, health, & often of life itself!

Oh thank first Stuart for his beautiful calendar & we saw all the constellations the dipper, pole star, & star in the East – shall write himself when I can.

Ella's towels just beautiful & the thing always needed.

David & Hans. No time at all. No news from Eric hope he will be with you, sent him socks & tie.

Conrad & Agnes plan a tremendous trip leaving girls at school, as they spent summer at Scout Camp – a Dr. in charge, a good maid in the house, & a school teacher whom they like for company. They go to laving 10 Jan. Mex. Frisco etc & getting to Montreal & here for a few days – more details later.

Goodbye & love to everybody. Thanks without end. Did not leave home Xmas Day.

Love Mama

Your envelopes are just the thing, always ready.

December 31 1936 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Stamped "Darnoc" etc

31st Dec. '36

My dear Harold

Your envelopes will of course be a boon to me, & I shall hope soon to know that you are having the electric heater for which you will find so many unexpected uses - & your children are now too big to tumble over it – as I feared they would do when younger. You can always place it on a bench or common table anywhere!

I shall hope Eric is with you, not having any news since so long ago; we sent his gift from Edmonton, parcel to Frank Chaplin's, & our small one too, they are safe there. Am glad of his assurance that his pay would increase in January & that he is taking night lessons prescribed by his present Chief at Technical school in evenings.

Enclosed came from Lady Aberdeen; please after you all see it, pass it on to Bena Watt, who will wish to shew it to her sister Aggie Maclaren & others, Aunt Mary & her girls etc . These now annual letters

always contain so much that is unique & interesting. I am so delighted that the Women's Council has lived in Canada, in Ottawa, Toronto, the big cities, of course, but could not be kept alive in Quebec. Of course I like Quebec because I've always been here, but I see its difficulties – why should I not, living as I always have out here. But I never do, or can forget, that no neighbors anywhere in the world under the same conditions could be better than mine, or kinder.

Dear Ella's towels are beautiful & welcome, just the kind I always use – also Conrad & Agnes sent me a beautiful blanket dressing gown, a nice pale mauve. I have a variety for different times & purposes. Half the time, I may just get all my things on, with a dressing gown on top, then sit in my bed writing. If anyone comes, off goes the gown & on goes the dress – so I'm ready.

Wait till I tell you, Grantham has owed me money ever since we went to England in '31. The other [*day*] I had a very polite talk & I recalled to his mind all the circumstances, which he admitted. Then I said "about this season you are funds – will you pay me the full amount \$58.00?" He said just as nicely as pie, "Yes I will next week". And yesterday I got it all! So glad!

A few days ago, a M. L'Abbé & wife came to enquire for the shanty, want to live cheaper than in town, asked him \$25.00 per month. Grantham had given me \$27.00 for it once. Oh yes he wants a big garden, garage, seclusion, all the rest. But fruit & vegetables will be worth a lot too. At all events people are enquiring, & I've two at least, of my tenants, a year in arrears. The fun is this man is the very constable with whom you & I chased the crowds from the beach perhaps three years ago. Provincial police under Colonel Léon Lambert.

Weather is very bad, wet & slippery. There is at the Cape House, Peter, Dr. Swan's son of Duncan B.C. whose mother was here last Christmas, very nice she was – the Dr. Delany's have him in tow – all R.C.s you observe but he will be here Sat. afternoon for 5 o'clock that's all yet, & visit the nun so it's easy for us. Not seen him yet!

Tell Stuart his picture is beautiful, with dipper & pole star in the sky, & the star which led the Magi with the two little lighted windows. It's hung right at the foot of my bed.

No more time.

Happy New Year.

Mama

Listen did I tell you? Conrad & Agnes leave Edmonton 10 Jan, make a big trip to be here a few days in Feb & back home the 10th that month.

1937

January 6 1937 Leila Gogy Geggie to Stuart Geggie

“Darnoc”

6th Jan. 1937

My dear Stuart²³⁸,

Your beautiful picture hangs at the foot of my bed where I can admire it all the time, with the snow-capped stone fence, and the constellations looking down on the beautiful in the snow. I see it first thing when I wake, you may be sure as the sunlight touches it up beautifully we like it.

We are very glad to hear that you are going to a real school this winter – and listen my dear boy we both hope you will study hard and try to get to top of your class because you have not had a chance at cousin Birdie’s; no classes there.

But we wish to know how soon you will get to the top my dear, as it certainly does require work to get anywhere near head of class.

I have heard what grand fun your houseful had at Christmas time, so many boys all together , very fine – but now it’s over for a while and we shall be glad to get an account of how you like school. I know the teacher, met him last summer – when he was kind enough to come upon the gallery²³⁹ for a chat, and I gave him two nice copies of the Anti-Tobacco to Minors Law, to teach children of the present day how much modern teaching condemns the use of narcotics of all kinds. Long ago Sir Walter Raleigh brought it to England. He might have been better occupied – I think it was he who brought potatoes too – which was more sensible after all.

So- Ho! Ho! Ho! And a top class boy - in time, of course, but try to get to the top, my dear!

Grandmama and Aunt Elsa

January 8 1937 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc

Friday 8 Jan 1937

²³⁸ Stuart would have been 12 and away at school where he wrote to his parents of being lonely.

²³⁹ Veranda

My dear Harold

Yours of the 6th just came and I wonder if this will reach you 'ere Sunday – I hope so.

First thing: Eusebe is the way your boy's name should be spelled; not z at all, though he might write it that way.

Horrified at Aunt Mary's having Erysipelas, (perhaps I've got that written wrong now) but it's a horrid thing, if I'm not mistaken. Poor Mary. When I think of Aggie MacLaren telling me last time she was here, that she can not go to Aunt Mary's funeral, not a word said about going to see her alive, or popping in to see her when she is sitting there all alone! Try to see if she will accept your car and you to drive it there someday.

We've had an awkward time this winter and autumn, too busy – but I did not worry over you because of those two good women, Ella and Aunt Mary to look after you, knowing well all the importance of medical care – better than I do. And now you are well again, you do so well and wisely to look after getting sleep. I must have put Conrad's letter with his programme into Lois' letter instead of yours. Of course you will see them both easily and I must let you have, now, his trip. Conrad and Agnes leave home 10th inst for Vancouver, Seattle, Mexico, Panama Canal, Havana etc and New York, by the President due to arrive in New York, about 1st February; Montreal, Quebec for a few days and so West to reach home about 15th February.

He has a Dr. to replace him, a good maid, a school Teacher whom the girls like as companion for them in the evenings to live there. That was the bargain when the girls went to camp last summer in British Columbia.

I find that Capt. Gilman whom you accompanied me to see in the office of pensions, is very sick at St. Anne's; was probably there even when we were trying to see him that day at his office. We saw in the papers lately, the death of the Dowager lady Aberdeen, not my friend but a Mrs. Cockayne, whom my friend's son married though he was her son's friend at College, and 22 years older. I think the boy she married was also weak-minded and got into serious trouble all over!

You doubtless received that enclosure from Lady Aberdeen with the lovely enclosure, just in time to take it yourself to Bena the other day, as I asked.

We seem to be surrounded by nothing but sickness and death. Now it's the youngest of six Murray girls in Watertown, Mass to be interred in Mount Hermon; of the remaining three, one is nearly blind, the only one of 7 children, married and with a couple of children. The 2nd very old, is quite crippled, so only one, next older than the one who is to be consigned to Mount Hermon can come.

Perhaps I told you a while ago, a Mrs. Holmes died in Calgary, widow of the elder son of my later sister Bertha. Bertha Grant, a neighbor sent me a paper – has been very good always. I had a letter from Laura, youngest of two girls who has a voice and works in a Bank but was visiting Conrad and Agnes just before her mother died. She wrote me a letter full of superlatives and sorrow, nothing concrete. Now

her elder sister, who was too delicate to work, writes me she is to be married to Kenneth Ryley, Senator R's fourth son, but will never desert Laura! Probably to be married in March – will let me know. Neither girl is very young but so vague, does not say the chap's age, occupation or means etc. Her name is Everetta, and her eyes are bad. Her brother Bill, postmaster at High River, as his father was before him. We saw these two girls, that brother Bill and another on the homestead in 1924. My I do wish I could find out if she has any chance of happiness, poor girl. They have had so much misery always and the fact that the man's father is a senator makes no difference.

I shall enclose a rather nice cut of Conrad taken about the time that chap Parres was ill and our boy prescribed.

Love from us both,

Mama

January 14 1937 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Darnoc, Beauport, Que.

14 Jan. 1937

My own dear Harold,

I hope you are all well, though the boys are scattered; it must have been a roaring time while it lasted. You are lucky people though and happy too.

I do not know which way to turn, what with efforts to get the women of Quebec the right to vote – and trying to look after our own affairs. Had I not Elsa to keep me cared for I do not know what would happen. I ask women everywhere to beg their men – it is votes that count – to besiege the M.P.s to give us the vote. It has to come now if ever! And between Mlle. St. Jean, Mrs. John Scott, Mrs. Arthur Reeve and me, we must do the rest. Mme. Cosgrain does not count, but thinks she does, wife of a Senator.

Through Canon Jules Laberge I have the ear of the Church. Through Mr. and Mrs. Quart, Duplessis organizers (such a clever woman, Adolphe Marcoux, member for this county)- well I think we ought to succeed. It's common sense and fair play is it not?

Lois being farthest away, as Conrad's letter came in I sent it to her first – but you ought to have it soon – and of course he will go to see you, no doubt of it. I took down his dates too hurriedly but it will be all right dear.

I've been busy, so has Elsa, but we think of you all the time and hope you are growing better. Believe me – you eat too fast – bolt your food. Be careful, even now when you are stronger. We are so glad you have Eusebe to drive you – roads have been shockingly dangerous, accidents constant, but otherwise the winter not at all bad, only locomotion dangerous.

Dear little Stuart, so willing to help, but that piece of ice on his foot might have broken it. I hope he likes his school and I do not think he will be too anxious over his studies – as all of us were – oh my, the strain it was with all of you, and all our other anxieties, how did we, in the old days, ever get through and how did we survive until now? God’s hand and the good habits which were instilled into us.

There are better men now-a-days, than there were then, on the whole – I’m sure of it. But the women are often very selfish, I find, on that account.

If Ella and David come to Montreal it will only be for a weekend, I suppose, by excursion to shop, Saturday, and return next day.

I do hope Aunt Mary will be better soon. Jean talks about her diet and how she hates it – forbidden sweets, I suppose.

Oh that Peter Swan, nice, dark, quiet boy – no tobacco, no beer.

I am doing great work with my anti-tobacco to minors law. Never know what one can do until one tries – even at my age. I’ve not been out since I saw you, but with pen and phone things happen. And my neighbors are good!

Did I tell you, surely I did, Grantham paid all up \$58.09 due since ’31. Was I not pleased?

An appeal from Red Cross for help for the starving people in Saskatchewan – it’s terrible.

And my niece – no grand-niece – is to be married the elder of two, Everetta (or Eneretta) I never know which and all she says is Kenneth “Riley”, 4th son of Senator Riley”, what does he do for a living, etc etc and what are his habits etc etc.

Having seen you comparatively lately, I feel that I ought to let you rest and then what would be better than for you to run down about 10th of February to be here with Conrad and Agnes? You could even return with them because they will have to go to see Aunt Mary especially if she is still there.

It would give Agnes MacLaren a chance to make up a little for her neglect. Because of something Aunt Mary said to her when Thorp – a deaf and bungling man said the right place to put Aunt Aggie was into an old womans’ home.

Aunt Mary is not inspired, as a rule, and some of her children are not either – perhaps no one on earth is – but that family is well meaning, and it’s my dear husband’s family. Uncle David was perhaps the limit for not considering the feelings of others, and of touching each of us on the raw spot. We all of us need forgiveness, sooner or later, and when Agnes told me that day she ran in here with her “ young people”, she told me she could never go to Aunt Mary’s funeral. Repeating it again and again, one could not help wondering if Aunt Mary would be physically fit to go to hers if she had had a motor accident on their way home, quite possible.

If the winter goes on as it does now, there may be motor roads open even then, and with dear Hans in Montreal it is very natural to feel inclined to come that, to bring Ella too, but they Conrad and Agnes, must go there anyway. Why not both of you come down to meet them. Of course I've had, left hand cards from Mrs. Trotter, whose son Moorsom – not Archie the soak whom you saw and whom I knew as such a charming girlish youngster, all the way up – has had a little baby girl called June Gillespie, and her poor grandmother is delighted. And Ethel (Edmunds) Myers is coming from Chicago to see Dr. Gurd's daughter who married a Missionary called Collins, both coming home on furlough – their baby having been born dead. – I have another friend to whom this happened and she at once adopted an infant. Such a brave, wise plan!

Your Madeleine did not overlook me at Christmas – so kind because I've failed so many! In every way this year time was wanting. Sudden calls for help and an absolutely sudden death, we were both glad to rest – unfit to do anything else, and the glare ice made it impossible to go out or unwise. If Elsa had a fall and broke a limb what would happen here? As it was our turkey, cooked the door before, lay untouched. Elsa had such a fit of "migraine" and I was glad to eat a few oysters – probably better for it too.

15 Jan. 37 Just as I thought – a letter from Conrad has just come in giving dimensions for Grandfather R.C. Geggie's old desk – I wish to get one for David, it may correct his shoulder tips from curling over, a little exercise with very light clubs or dumb-bells might have a like effect. As you were tall for your age, so is he and we were not sufficiently careful.

Shall 'phone Mary Shaw again to see what later news she has – might be just as well at this season if he did stay over and rest in a nice climate. They both require a change and idling around will do them no harm, only good.

Dr. McClung of whom he speaks as replacing him, wonder if he is son of Mrs. Nellie McClung whom we met; their next door neighbor who wrote "Clearing in the West", which you gave me and I've just finished; such a fine, every day live as it describes.

Here's Elsa ready to go to town and in a hurry. Goodbye. Stuart will write to Cora and Marie, I suppose.

Love to you all

Your own Mama

January 19 1937 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

"Darnoc"

19 Jan 1937

My own dear Harold,

Does Hans know nothing at all of Eric, or is the boy still in Montreal even?

I should have written long ago but do not like to start a hue and cry to frighten that shy bird, of or from whom I have not heard since 1st Dec; or thereabouts. Sent him a pair of socks and tie, always address to Franks King Edward Boulevard. But dear Lois always seems to sense the uncertainty and told me he was likely to come here or to you for Christmas. I had not asked him because we felt we came to feel we could not stand it. Now I wish to know, if he is in Montreal or not? Perhaps Hans can find out without asking any questions of anyone else. He has the habit of retiring into his lair in self-defence, and providing himself at this season with an alternative; yet all along we have been told in this month of January he was to have increased pay etc. I wonder, and do not wish to be known even to have asked Hans.

Did Ella and David come to Montreal last week, I wonder, or is it to be next week?

And I am so glad you have been taking good care of yourself, to as to recover well – I'm not anxious unduly about you dear, because I know so well every intelligent care will be taken, also that you will be sensible, being surrounded by kinds of medical intelligentsia!

I have been very busy and am still for a long time appealing to everyone, with sense and feeling to call upon our government to give women of this Province right to vote. To Jules Laberge, M. le Chanoine in the Cardinal's Palace I have written, sent him samples of our Anti-Tobacco to Minors Act in both languages, pledge cards etc., etc., as samples of the work we W.C.T.U. people have done ver since 1874, 62 years, during which it has spread to every civilized country so we have a powerful World's Union.

Now Mrs. Jane Reeve, Franchise Supt. Has sent out letters to every county, except those she and Mrs. John Scott judge are "too French"! But gracious that's just where I get in as Legislation and Petition Supt. to write to Canon Laberge, my old neighbor, and Anglican Canon Ernest F. Roy of Levis, a very old friend too, his wife a fine woman of the W.C.T.U. in Sherbrooke long ago – he is brother of Rev. Phileas R. Roy whom you meet each summer here, and they are sons of Rev. J. J. Roy, all three bilingual like us of Huguenot extraction. Of course, Mrs. Reeve whom you met last winter in Montreal at one night's meeting is English, almost Cockney. I'm work[ing with] my friend J. J. O'Brien too for publicity, etc., pulling all the wires I can.

Do you like that little Calgary newspaper clipping of Conrad, an unaware nice picture? Keep it for your boys. You see how uncertain his plans are.

No more time. Just rec'd of Sunday morning. Love Mama

January 26 1937 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Wednesday 26 Jan 1937

My dear Harold,

You have probably received from Conrad about the same news that has come to us so can realize how disappointed we are to have missed their anticipated visit. They will both, Agnes and he, have a change and rest from the sometimes tiresome climate and routine.

I send you a copy of Eric's report from Dover College, when he left to come, with us to Canada, which I turned up yesterday, that you may see how satisfactory it is!

I still believe, as his Mother does, he will develop in time, and to profit by the practical choice he has now made, and the course at Technical School prescribed by his Friend and employer. I am only anxious – because, he all the time wrote his pay would increase in January. So trusted to hear – his hopes have been fulfilled. I know, Eric gets himself so busy with all his activities!

Now what I really fear is that he has had influenza, or throat trouble to which he really is subject. Business ought to give him a better and more manly outlook, which I am expecting and a realizing of the "give and take" necessary in what, I imagine is to be a kind of partnership of two young men. How I hope this will materialize and soon too – of course I know business men and medicos are entirely different, but each need the other through life and though it is difficult to join in the same way that confrères do, one cannot expect it. Business habits, hours, and regularity are what he required, it seemed to me, the necessity for "getting up and at it" in the morning. Then with the programme he gave us he would be taken right away from student life, so I hope to hear good news in some way soon. He owes you, and all of yours so much already that he ought to keep in touch, at least by telephone; he always enjoyed your home and its atmosphere and cousins ought to keep in touch as they grow up lest they fall apart as Conrad describes in his enclosed letter. Fancy this Hobert Currie Geggie White, not knowing that he had escaped from the Hesperian, or that Aunt Mary was still living! Yet he is in touch with Agnes Maclaren and could have asked about Aunt Mary at least, instead of taking things so for granted about one's nearest relative with whom the family used to be so intimate. Why Aunt Aggie was a mother to all those Blythe's and Watts all thro' Aunt Annie's long terrible illness. Aggie must be a strange girl!

Now the weather is and has been just lovely except too icy to walk or drive safely. Elsa has several falls – in town – without any hurt - only some dark bruises. I am trying to keep up Suffragette Campaign –

Love to all, Mama

January 28 1937 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Thurs 28 Jan /37

Dear Harold

Weather is lovely. I've not been out since I came home from Wakefield. Elsa sits in my room where I stay, generally sit up in bed to write and she brings the sewing machine. Take Aspirin, 3 times daily and do not seem to require Luminal; what say you? What is the reason [for] a queer feeling of moving and creeping and crawling inside my skull, going down from the top left side to the base near the neck? Then

I lie down, try to sleep, and generally awake better. I am eating no meat, generally milk soup, or vegetable, such as pea or bean –lovely beans flageolet²⁴⁰ soaked overnight, codfish poached with mayonnaise and tomato relish mixed once a day at noon, all kinds of vegetables, two or three daily or more, smelts, tommy, cods etc, at night salad, lettuce, and celery with bread and butter. Breakfast, orange or grapefruit and coffee.

Awaken very early and read or write, look out of the window and see Jean Charles come up with the milk; he is so industrious also quick, systematic, and reliable. Shovels our snow, cuts our wood, and is very agreeable, only was to have paid \$15.00 a month this year but continues to fight against it, as he did last year when he came. Was to have increased to \$15.00 this year but will not do so now. Not fair but I must probably stand it. Also he strains and chills (with running water day and night) our milk so we only get the morning's milk at night, so the cream is never thick as it used to be long ago. Everything promises well if our two tenants opposite, 125 and 127, could get better work to pay up a years arrears each all would be well.

February 1937 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Written on the back of a W.C.T.U. newsletter entitled "Clip Sheet for February, 1937" about Frances Willard.

Would you circulate this among your own people? The Union will have copies of their own.

Miss Willard and Miss Gordon stayed with us when you were babies, that is when Conrad was, and I was recovering from phlebitis and we lived at 20 St. Denis Ave, the Cape²⁴¹.

Where our Dr. Wm. Marsden came Sunday morning saying "Madam, I have come to pay you homage in the only place in which a woman should be seen; my principal will not permit me to be present this afternoon when you speak from a public platform."

He had been a dreadful drunkard & became a Temperance advocate

February 8 1937 Postcard Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

YWCA Montreal

8 Feb '37

²⁴⁰ Flageolets are tiny, tender French bush type beans that are very popular in French cooking.

²⁴¹ This would have been in 1884/5. Conrad was born in June, 1884.

Hans met me on the spot . We've had tea at this cafeteria and now he will mail this and one to Elsa. He looks splendid and in good Thank you for dear Conrad's letter. He is in bad shape, I fear, but we must hope for the best. After his experience at Yprès, it would not have seemed that we would have had him so long as this. But I must try to fix things up so as to go west in the spring. Just now we are very busy indeed, to change tenants and get things into shape. Sorry things are so hard just now for Ella and you – wish I could help. Love to all my dear ones. Shall have a busy two days. Mama

February 11 1937 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold and Ella Geggie

Blue Triangle Residence

Dorchester St. 11 Feb 1937

Dear Harold and Ella,

I trust things [are] better than they were indeed, because I am, thanks to our two dear boys, having the time of my life. Two days solid convention after Hans met me at the Station, but the last day, yesterday Hans took me in Teddy Stone's car to see Ida at 4411 for a few minutes, very satisfactory. Last evening I had a very satisfactory evening talking to John Kidman whose report I had spent 5 ½ hours reading on the train. No travelers aid in sight. But I managed to [persuade?] Rev Burgoyne to give us 17 minutes address and have passed on the Prisoners' Welfare report to Eric to his great delight. That boy is a wonder all the same, and for originality of direction beats me. He is now teaching a class of girls, giving a course about Grecian worthies or anything they seem to need and studying to keep them [from] claiming their teacher does not take trouble enough to interest them.

I wonder if he is about to ask me to see his kitchen planning layout at all, just watching to see! He looks well and quietly content, not busy, not the restless creature he was at all.

I owe Teddy Stone such a debt for lending his car to either boy, each day to take me about all the time he does not use it. I see one or the other – morning, noon and night, nothing could be kinder, more natural and flattering, as well as unaffected.

Today Hans took me today to see Ruth Jackson and her sister Ethel; tonight Eric and I are to dine at Mrs. Young's and after that the third sister, dental mechanic, Phyllis, is to come down here to see me. Then an unexpected and unknown Mrs. Fife, pretty deaf with an ear disk held in front of her, came to see me in my room, after a long interview ended by taking me out for a cup of tea. Just around the corner found a delicatessen store, where we had delicious tea and the most perfectly golden buttered toast followed by grapefruit pie.

As for the weather, nothing can be more magnificent, even if streets are dirty; and after the violent thunder and lightening storm the night I arrived.

Finished up by visiting Mrs. Wyatt Johnston at 25 Bellingham, and doing some writing now. Shall write to Lois too, and am far behind in my work still - But came in to find Fyles waiting for me. Was more

delighted than anything else to hear all about his children – little boy of 8. Lost his place just when his wife died, but insurance, (very high because his work was so perilous) took care of him and the children.

I am really having the time of my life and thanks to Elsa who is attending to renting 2 houses opposite us – nothing else worrying. She tells me to stay as long as I like; really it has been a very ideal visit so far. Knowing too how things are well in hand at home, I am taking it easy where there are so many interesting things to do.

Now good night. Eric awaits me. Love to Ella. Hope things are better.

Mama

February 12 1937 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie

Friday

Dear Harold,

I have your letter today. I anyway will not claim to know more than Mama got from Conrad's letter leaving you carteblanche to act as circumstances warrant. I understand Hans has been very attentive and am so glad. I have no news today so Mama may be home tonight. I have some war loan coming due 1st March quite a lot and want to know what to do. Would it help Conrad with his insurance companies to see to it for me? Will write letter later when Mama home.

Elsa.

February 13 1937 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold and Ella Geggie

Blue Triangle

Montreal

13 Feb. '37

Dear Harold and Ella,

So glad to hear your staff is coming back to normal and you may have a better time – as I have been so sorry to hear of the state of affairs.

My two grandsons have vied with each other to make my stay comfortable, take me out for meals etc., etc. Now I am leaving this evening, glad to be returning though we have had beautiful sun and weather – also good meetings, very good indeed and are hoping more, to learn soon the vote has come to

women for good. One reason I am so hopeful is that men are giving so much help and sympathy. Gogy's son, Herman, has undertaken to interview 5 different M.P.P.s and Ministers, and so do many other young men, a good sign, I think.

By the way, Herman seems to be doing very well – he has been a good student, is not a Forestry Engineer and Land Surveyor, due to come up to Quebec for the future, he has been in Gaspé a couple of years, is not in Rivière du Loup, due when finished there to come up.

Our meetings Tuesday and Wednesday were very good and encouraging indeed, attendance good indeed and addresses by several outsiders, especially Rev. Bourgoyne of the Prisoners' Welfare. John Kidman came there also when Eric just came in; so Eric was much interested and I gave him the Prisoners' Welfare report. He takes such interest in people and their troubles.

How to revive and convince people of the need for Travellers' Aid workers is our anxiety; country places to put those who are going to town in touch with the city? To have a woman at home to whom intending visitors to the city would give their names and date of leaving, that they might be met. Could it be started in Wakefield – or rather, can it be done there?

Even a shut-in such as Birdie Robb could do it if the community knew – would get her a book in which to keep records specially ruled and money for postage, not connected with a church, but undenominational – a few women able to contribute a dollar or so once a year, and collecting for her news of those intending to travel. Speak to Mrs. Ruddick about it; she may help others.

At this Convention I learnt that the Member for Magog, M. Beaudry prevented a license to sell liquor there. Am writing to him for particulars – shall let you know results as soon as possible.

Enclosed a slip about Gordon Pfeiffer – you need not return – but he spoke at a Kiwanis dinner lately vilifying Canadian painters so they are fighting bitterly. He's a beauty anyway, serves him right whatever he gets.

Sunday night at home. Hans took me to the train at Park Ave.; I like it, shortens the trip a good deal. Elsa met me promptly and we drove home for \$1.00 – never so cheap before – a Radio Taxi – different Co.!

So I have had a very useful and enlightening trip, delighted to have had so useful an experience. I love my lazy home but whenever I leave it an experience very well worthwhile is the result! To see Hans and Eric is fine – two fine chaps, in different ways, the latter wearing again his signet ring which that girl had been wearing. The subject was not mentioned in fact the boys just talked of what they chose and I did not touch any unwise subject. I did not ask questions.

Goodnight. Mama.

October 3 1937 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

On Darnoc notepaper

3rd Feb '37

My dear Harold

Last night the first letter came from Eric, two months to a day since I heard last! He is in high good humor apparently but there is no indication of his salary or prospects being improved. Letter enclosed for your comments. I replied at once and Elsa is now writing the information Eric requests to let him go on with any plan he is concocting. At all events his letter is cheerful and we imagine that "Little Tich" a very nice Agricultural Student at "Mac" who will graduate next summer is concerned. His mother, a widow at Ste Anne's, has two other boys (one only adopted and a problem). When Tich graduates Eric may plan to lease him our farm – the boy is in love with it – Well and good, we shall see, why not let him play with the idea at least for the present?

When we were having Tea at that Old Homestead Greek Café, Tich came at my call and I spoke to him. He spends every summer at the Chateau, earning an immense sum which pays for his education and helps the whole family.

Lois has sent last night three very fine pictures of herself, large – one for each of us – you and Conrad shall have yours as soon as I can do them up.

Of course of all your news from Montreal there is not a word to be repeated, you see Lois says nothing!

I intend D.V. to go up to Montreal Monday night for the two next days midwinter Conference. I shall warn Hans that I shall be at the Blue Triangle, 1124 Dorchester just opposite the Y.W.C.A. – phone 4.4555 – also shall tell Eric – and have Miss Urbanovich, Travellers' Aid, meet me too. She's a great friend of ours, Elsa's - used to be one of I.O.D.E. dock workers and strange to say learnt English from a Scotch girl.

We are very busy about many things, only have one of our little houses opposite to rent so far and wish to raise the rent.

Thank you a thousand times for your letters from your members of Parliament. I wrote Herman who is at Rivière-du-Loup – he is to speak personally to four different M.P.'s whom he has to deal with, is heart and soul in it. Hope to succeed, so many are working, now is the time.

If anything prevents my going to Montreal, shall let you know. Mrs. Judge Enright has written me so nicely – they were always so kind to me – always. I wish Hans to know that family especially the Dr. – a splendid fellow, old Bachelor.

No description will do justice to our lovely winter – and our Jean Charles is so obliging, so quick and thorough.

Au revoir and love to you all from us both, Mama

1938

March 28 1938 Elsa Gogy Geggie to Harold

Clarendon

28th March 1938

Dear Harold

Mama seems pretty well now though still stiff. Tuesday when I was doing her hair I found most of the top of her head was all bruised too. She seems more forgetful of names and things and keeps asking the same thing, every now and then. I don't want anything to impede putting through this partition etc. now. I spent last week at home only coming in Friday to see Lesage. He hopes to have everything ready for this week. Binnie writes that everything has to be settled at one and the same time and Lesage remarks "Well! Mr. Binnie did not need to tell me that." He refers to handing over moneys, insurance, policies, bills etc. before they give us a quittance! I have just been at the bank and now have their Dom. Tex. etc. stock to give Lesage. I am almost sure Mama will resign her executorship in favor of Holiday as she knows and likes him and is satisfied that Ryland will not have it. Binnie has at last rewritten the whole deed and we and Lesage accept it since there is "no essential" difference and we want to speed things up, not hinder. However it seems very fair and well worded, saying Mama wishes to give it up. She is to keep all deeds, relating to the property and that till Bencie²⁴² and Bertha are married and provided for, no division can be made and they are to have the income.

I received your heavy parcel Saturday last containing my new \$500 bond, 18 shares each of Power Corp and 6 & 9 shares each Steel and Coal which you returned. I have made up the book as far as I can, and it looks as if I should get between \$850 to \$900 in the year. Thank you very much for all the care and attention you have given to this when you are always so busy. I am enclosing my cheque for \$2.75 as it looks as if I still owe Green Shields \$2 and the rest will cover your postage to some extent. Also return some papers of yours which evidently got mixed up.

Valentine Oliver is here today and I'm going to the Colleys to see her a little later. I want to find when that Ryland is to be married.

The contractors are busy on the Ryland property again and have ripped up most of the dyke Romeo Parent built last year along the Beauport river (Ryland side) to make the highway bridge. The dump which is the road is approaching from both sides now and crib work, cement mixers etc. are all over the place. Must be off now as I don't want to be late.

²⁴² Leila's sister, Blanche, had four children, Blanche, Gogy, Muriel and Bertha. Bencie appears to have been the nickname for the junior Blanche.

Love to you all

Elsa

March 30, 1938 Elsa and Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc 30th March 1938

Dear Harold

At last we can report progress, I think. We have an appointment with Lesage for three today to go over (and approve and sign) all his papers. If everything suits Mama he will go to Montreal and have them complete everything Friday morning 1st April. Mama is in bed this morning and will rest till lunch and then we'll get a taxi and do it with as little fatigue as possible. She seems well enough but very stiff and very depressed at times, but I think that if we get safely through this business now, she will have a great load off her mind and be able to take things much easier.

You talk to Hans taking a motor trip for the summer. Ruth Oliver did that last year. They went to California and up to Victoria and back by Canada. They (4 girls) started off in a new car with \$200 each and had many experiences, but I know that the father of the girl who owned the car was quite well off and kept sending her plenty of money. Valentine is here now and I'll have a talk with her. She says that it cost \$300 for nearly 8 weeks but boys could live differently and they tried to visit all towns where they had fraternity connections and relations, not only a tour to get there and back. Will finish this from town today. *[Elsa's handwriting]*

Dear Harold

Mr. Sirois' Office

We have spent the afternoon here, and I have just signed the last time giving over the Ryland Estate to Mr. H.H. Holiday of Dominion Textile, a very nice man whom I know well and shall assist in the way of information if he asks.

By Friday Mr. Lesage in Montreal will get the three Ryland's signatures; no formalities whatever but he will see all three girls.

I know you will be happier and glad to know that I am free!

It is a relief – the law says I am over 70 – yes I am.²⁴³

Now good night – God bless you all – I'm going home now.

²⁴³ Leila is actually 84 by this time.

Mama

[*Elsa's writing again*]:

Mr. Lesage has asked for an appointment for 10 Friday a.m. If they can't see him he will wire you tomorrow.

E.

April 5 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

On embossed notepaper

My own Boy

Shall be so glad to see you – in the meantime am enclosing Muriel and Ryland's letters; they wrote at once and everything is signed.

Only they – having as they said, or as it seemed- none of the yearly statements which I always sent, one to Muriel and one – sometimes two – to Blanche and Bertha, I sent all of mine. Two missing I'm sorry to say – however I'm sure I shall find them some day – they are here. And I must write to get them back.

I am well enough only my energy is all gone – none left. Summer time will help though. No news of sale of property, and poor Aunt May cannot be got to remember to return two leases she ought to sign and return for Edmond Hains who rents her property too. Fortunately she gave a power of attorney to M. Sirois when she was here last summer, he can settle up things, but she forgets, keeps writing me the same thing over and over again, also apologizing for Christmas omissions. It must be very hard for poor Mary.

The weather is very beautiful indeed still and we are thankful. One man who came to see our property only says it is too dear – will make no offer; L'Orquet was his name.

The Tançrède Avarð's make no sign yet.

Well for this weekend we expect you, dear.

Mama

April 20 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold postcard

Darnoc, 20 April 1938

So glad to get your letter. Friday morning Mr. H.²⁴⁴ phoned and came that p.m. Was glad to give a full afternoon; "those Casual people" – that prospective bridegroom just phoned from Montreal to ask "if

²⁴⁴ Mr. Holiday of Dominion Textile who was buying the Ryland Estate

he would look after their Estate here for him"? Little thinking he consented, the Court order was issued and now he must. But he opened his eyes when he saw all it meant and I fear it will mean expense to the girls. This a.m. Laurent Bélanger came to speak about high road, bridge at the dam, wharf at foot of the garden, with intersecting drains etc that the wild river may be kept in its course and the garden not all be washed away as it was two years ago. He had to get rent from me, also I had rent collected for him – Elsa has opened for me joint account of which we spoke, and we've had to communicate each day since, but all is settled well. L.G.G.

April 21, 1938 Elsa Gogy Geggie to Harold

Quebec 21st April '38

Dear Harold

Thank you for your letters of this week. Mr. Holiday spent Good Friday afternoon with us and we seem to have cleared up most things. Yesterday I had a visit from Roland Belanger about the work the voirie²⁴⁵ is doing to the bridge on the main road and I referred him to Mr. H. and then phoned the latter to tell him that. The retaining wall along from the Ryland house to bridge belongs to the Roads dept. and they have to repair and keep it. Holiday can't know these things, also when they deepen the river as they should from all the earth and stones the water is carrying down, from these repairs, he should make them build up all along the edge of what was Uncle Herman's²⁴⁶ garden, from road to stable. Holiday is shocked at all that is expected of him and I enjoy piling it on. He says Ryland just phoned and asked him to see to collecting those rents for the family. I'll enjoy leading him a dance and make him see we were busy. His present idea is to get a list of the censitaires²⁴⁷ (900 odd of them) and what each pays and check Fleury!!! We laugh.

About Aunty May I'll do nothing I think. Her lease is now made till '40 or '41 and we only take in \$30 twice a year and that is quite easy and have no other responsibility. As for sales Mr. Lesage is looking after settling with the Voirie for her and under her orders and we don't know even how he progresses. We have quite enough to see to our own. Mama asked him yesterday to try to see what they will give us and get this suspense over but we don't care what steps, if any he will take for Rylands or Hunts. He has been away till yesterday, since last Thursday. Hope you have been able to ship Aunty May's syrup to her. I had a letter of appreciation for the sugar.

Holiday is also to see about true measurements of 2 big logs still on the property and protect the family rights in the lower river where the road is being built, also they have come to no arrangement about damages to the rest of the property altho' they have accepted \$1400 for land taken to build actual road. He says he is busy as it is the end of their fiscal year. He had no idea what Ryland was asking for.

²⁴⁵ Road Maintenance Department of local council

²⁴⁶ Herman Ryland.

²⁴⁷ From the feudal system. Also known as habitants, who owed rent or dues to the seigneur.

We have no knowledge of their personal bargain with him of course.

Mama gave herself a bad black eye Monday when she tried to move her hot water bottle from her left to her right side while lying in bed and her wrist turned on her and the heavy end of the bottle fell right into her eye socket. It is improving now but looks awful and is painful she says.

Love to all

Elsa

Have just today opened Mama's new in trust current acct with \$280. So glad that is over too.

April 29, 1938 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

"Darnoc" 29 April '38

My own beloved son, (but no dearer than 'tother one)

It's a wet morning and cold, but I have my little heater on the bed and have had my orange – coffee, and a big consciousness that you've not had a [letter] since goodness knows when! But nothing has been happening; the two Creamery lodgings – what a blessing it has been that I built them up a bit at a time to furnish me with loose cash – are re-rented to the same people. The terrible Pécard's – a Court Bailiff who I was warned would never pay, have paid all up within \$3.00 and I've got so much arrears that I'm ashamed of myself. I'm talking nonsense.

Elsa warns me the high tide in the swamp is up to the new highway and we've got none of that money yet. In time that swamp will be filled up level as it ought to be, a good thing too, just following Papa's policy of letting the tides fill it up. But I wish you could see what we look like in the meantime with our broad acres filled up with roads; yet each has been bought bringing some money – only not a cent yet from this one, quite overdue. It's coming though and will pay my taxes. It's just wonderful how we get along!

Now Elsa is at last willing to accept a deed of "La Cabane". The house her own dear father bought the year she was born in it '88, and Aunt May was married so famously.

Muriel, Blanche and Bertha, having each year got a statement of their Estate from me, have apparently kept none. They were loose, type written leaves done by Mr. Moir, and after him Robt Hunter, (wasn't I lucky to have such witnesses). So I had to lend my originals to my nephew²⁴⁸ (who has gone on his wedding tour till July). So now I ask for their return, to find Mr. Binnie never had them, and my gay young Bridegroom has apparently gone away locking them up in his desk. Well I must wait till then.

²⁴⁸ Gugy Ryland

Now don't rage about it, take care of your temper, it needs it. This is my affair, and so far I am on top with everything right on my side, even their business men satisfied! If I've made some mistakes, they are my own!

But I am grieved to death about Jamie's poor Irene, and baby Alison! However Lois and Charlie will begin to know the joy of grandparents.

And now I must finish.

Love to you all

Mama

May 5 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

On embossed notepaper

5th May 1938

My dear Harold

I have got over the May-day troubles, and am glad to see you also are making good progress. Only Sunday night did we rent the Shanty, "La Cabane", and that by the month, to be terminated on a month's notice, either side, \$25.00. Once before for a few years we got as much – no house to be had anywhere in Beauport. But we had a terrible family this past year, yet got every cent!

Such a sad case a well educated, nice woman with a terrible family, a big girl gone away, five awful boys, the eldest paid the rent, and I had great trouble training him to behave properly – succeeded. Father drunkard, a broken down, palsied, half dying crowl²⁴⁹, with angina, yet could threaten me with an action for damages. The poor mother crying and helpless, while all the masculines drank. Down the hill, years ago a bad tenant, leaving without notice, put the sister of this woman, a real lady too, and a scoundrel husband into that house also, just a bad a drunkard and a fighter also. Once he locked me into Auntie Blanche's big drawing room, while his wife banged at the door, in vain for admission. I made him pay too! But the two men, brothers-in-law, live to torture two good sisters one dying of cancer, or worse, and the other weeping all the time, helpless and crippled, dominated by the husband, his sister and father, and tortured by five bad boys, who support the family, and well trained by a better father might have been worth something.

They're gone – and I've a respectable couple, and not more to do for poor dear Auntie Blanche's people.

²⁴⁹ Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Scot & Irish: a dwarfed person

Elsa is in town today, and I write on the gallery in the sun close to the door so as to hear the 'phone. Am suffering less than I was, and Jean Charles is settled for another year after a great fuss about nothing. I rented at \$15.00 per month only the farm, no lodging. Then he would only give \$13.00 1st year, last year got him up to \$14.00. Same row again yesterday, told him he could go – so he gave in. Also was able to get the appraiser from the Expropriation office to pay for his damage, a great deal of it caused by broken bottles thrown all around the fields which he claimed of course would maim his cattle. I hope everything is settled.

When David goes over I wish him please to remember to ask in every new place for people called Bickley. A man here whose father came from England is very anxious to find anyone of that name.

I am so glad your cottage will go well, better pleased still Ella is well and plans for the future are progressing. So glad Madeleine and Brighton are coming and hope Dorothy is getting on well with her fine boys. I've not written her yet – it's terrible – I cannot walk much better yet. But if I can stay out every day like this I may [be] better soon. So glad about David Rouleau – it's a good beginning.
Your own Mama

May 9 1938 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

On embossed notepaper

My dear ones all!

Your candies are delicious, as very usual, and accordingly appreciated. So were Conrad's flowers – and I decided to take Lorenzo to drive us over to Charny to see the Mountains and Parson's, latter woman very ill and dreadful looking, with a tough family of 13. Do not expect to go again.

Poor Aunt May writes to ask me what to do, and for help to get a rebate on taxes paid before land was taken for road; she really wants a rebate in taxes.

We have just now a nice letter from Madeleine Brighton; they will dock at Sillery Cove wharf for a very brief space, 23 June, just in the midst of Eucharistic Congress just when no one can go through Upper Town at all; it is so thoughtful of her to write, because we can then go around through Lower Town to the big boat. Shall write them to Father Point to be on the look-out, for probably I shall have to stay in the car. At all events we shall have the pleasure of seeing them quietly for all the attraction will be on the Battlefield's Park.

What do you think of coming down to meet them and travelling up together? Would it suit you? If so, we shall be glad! And bring anyone you like.

Have both been busy; those terrible Picard's having left such a filthy and smashed up shanty, last spring flung all their big upper furniture in through the roof windows. 1st May, flung it all out the same way smashing everything they could and leaving the hangar still full; am now notifying them it must go by tomorrow. Fortunately Larouche and Sanfacon boy were ready to take right hold of roof and everywhere to repair as the poor woman had three babies, a year apart, did some very necessary

washing before painting. Elsa is so practical and quick, she can keep track of it all, even if I am in bed. Still the worse for wear, I could look pretty decent, till I – myself – let one of those big bottles of hot water fall on my left eye, on Easter Monday, I think. The whole of it was I've been a sight to see with terrible black eye, only partly disappeared this last week, so I've been anxious to go there - but not again.

I am bothered about Eric, but it is always the same; does as he likes and plans, and does not tell his parents, even when asking advice, what the matter at stake is. How many times has he spent the money he was supposed to earn for his microscope – forget the other name. Told me “by chance, last year he was up in the mountains somewhere near Lorraine Hughes”. That is, he must have run up there every spare minute, and now she finds hospital training does not suit her social pursuits – has probably been fired for breaking rules etc. I fear we shall not see Lois this year. Her work of grandmother is beginning.

Mama

May 18 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

On notepaper

18th May 1938

Dear Harold

Will you please remember, I have no more tablets either large or small, - well very few at least. I find about enough for a week or more.

Was about to do a lot of things this week but have done nothing of any consequence. Am just wondering if Jamie will push for his transfer to the branch of the same business in Montreal for which he put in a plea, the first year, I think.

If poor dear Irene is better of her dreadful boils, internal and external and phlebitis, she will with her mother and babies be going back to Lois and Charlie very soon for the summer, and I can well imagine Charlie and Lois delight to have a chance to feel they are really grandparents of two sweet little girls! Were we only nearer I could pull down, from the garret, a dear little white bed you all used and even two cradles. However I am just hoping, by this time Jamie has applied for a transfer to Montreal for which he applied at the first. He will realize Irene and the babies ought to get away from that climate for good and all – surely he will!

In the meantime, we realize here, there is no nearer prospect than ever of selling this property; all sorts of speculators wanting the house and a piece of land which would destroy for renting the rest, for which, and the stable I get regularly \$15.00 a month.

As things now are that \$15.00

The Shanty now rented at 25.00

The Creamery now rented one side 15.00

The other side, at 10.00

Make a nice monthly rental \$55.00 if it all comes in regularly. The worst of it is any one month drops off. I have one in arrears since the autumn and shall probably evict. What else can I do. My terms are always in advance and they get behind month by month, till the second year it's no use. Yves Prévost has just threatened to sue three such tenants, and got me \$150.00 each, one a real cheat, swore he had not a cent, would have to pay usurious²⁵⁰ interest after during three years he had promised me \$5.00 monthly and given it once. Then I found, my tenant in town had driven out here and broken his little boy's leg without knowing it at all. Got all the hospital expenses and \$450.00 for damages an automobile accident of which - even afterwards - she had no knowledge at all. Well I got it, Fancy Cape house tenant passing by here; a little boy running under her car, from our Shanty and having his leg broken, simple fracture unknown to the perpetrator. She being well insured, (such a useful precaution), paid damages so I got my arrears of rent which he declared he could never pay!

I have still one, lazy wretch, who will not work, but I must find means to make him pay too; thinks he is worth a high salary, too good for ordinary work.

Being on the spot is half the battle. That is how I have been able to hand over the Ryland Estate in such beautiful condition. \$1.00 arrears and all perfect tenants Edmond Hains \$206.00 a year, including garbage, and extra water for a milkman's stable, invariably paid in advance 6 mos. and two or three days; including lower flat only of Ryland house, which at his own expense Edmond has altered and done over beautifully, paint and all. Upper flats, garrets, and a little bit of garden beside the wharf \$241.00 every month from the tenant upstairs Rhéaume, \$20.00 punctually every month, finest people, and no deduction for damages or anything.

Today is the finest, Elsa is off to town to do a lot of things. I've just written Conrad too he will send you Lois letter in which she says Irene ought to be able to sail for England in July, so that she must be a hopeful case now. I do hope by this time Jamie has tried to get his transfer to Montreal now at once.

I only am thankful the dear baby Alison should not have been sacrificed with all the trouble!

Goodbye Mama

May 19 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

On notepaper

19 May 38

²⁵⁰ Usurious - greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

Dear Harold

Here's Lois last letter to go to Conrad, you will be having the other from him about now. The object is you two medical men should have the news about Irene promptly. Of course you remember, do you not how her English nurse was prevented by lumbago from keeping her engagement. Then at some critical moment every light in the Hospital went out leaving them in darkness quite unforeseen and unprovided for; and scurrying for tapers a candle, anything; Irene was courageous, but goodness knows what may have been unseen or overlooked. However Jamie was fortunate to be taken into the hospital in the Convalescent ward, and able to be all the time with Irene. However if the verdict is as the Dr. thinks, and she may take the steamer for England, they will have to part for a long time. At all events it's all better news and hope even if they are lonely, poor young things. Oh I only wish his transfer to Montreal would come through, there would be some hope then!

There is definitely no chance of selling "Darnoc", several people want to know, just how cheap we shall sell just to speculate. So after interviewing them, we are repairing to "La Cabane", roof needing great repair, all to be put in order and painted. Two young families, one on each flat, \$25.00 for the whole, we never got more. The old Creamery, two big families ought to bring \$15.00 each. It's only a question of paying or not.

Just as we are here, the collection is easier, were we away there would certainly be loss. Nearly every one of our tenants buys new, heavy and expensive floor oilcloth to be paid on time, or an overstuffed Boudoir set, or sewing machine, so the rent is the last to be paid. One has to watch closely. Between Elsa and me we manage easily, only sometimes we fail altogether.

The trouble just now is to get paid for the right of way, no matter what we do, the money does not come at all, though M. Lesage does his best – there is always an excuse. Yet Aunt May writes as if we should have it at once. What does she know about it? She speaks of the other years, and similar experience, saying this is so different. However I'm on the spot, and I know, we certainly shall have to wait, but the money is sure, worrying will not help.

Lois has asked if we pay taxes for the beach lots; no, not all. We did pay rent, until I paid off the whole capital, or perhaps, it was interest. However it was the last thing before I was married. We did not marry as long as any old debts remained, waited from 1876 to 1881. And your dear father helped me all through his life, helped us all to the end, and was so good to Aunt Blanche and her family, always.

Goodbye Mama

June 17 1938 Elsa Gogy Geggie to Harold

Friday 17 June '38

Dear Harold

Just a hurried few lines to let you hear from us for the week end. Mama is as usual, always tired, sleeping a lot and dissatisfied about it. Of courses she gets very little done any day and then wails

because she is so useless. She has had quite a busy week. We had Mrs. Geo. Harvey and her English friend Miss Webb in on Monday and F. Oliver with her and Miss McLintock and Mrs Cartwright from the falls Tuesday.

Wed. we went, by invitation to the opening of La Maison Fargues, 92 Peter St. as a museum by the I.O.D.E. There was quite a nice little crowd of people we knew who spoke to the Mater²⁵¹ and we both enjoyed seeing the 5 rooms that have been furnished, with loans from Quebec families – as nearly as the 1680 lady would have had it. We sent in our spinning wheel and an old pine chair. The two bedrooms are lovely with a spool bed, a four poster and a de Lotbinière cradle which hangs from posts as Mary Hunts did. You must see it when you come down. It was opened by Tweedsmuir – My but he is a miserable snipe. We then bought our first Gaspé salmon, had lunch and then came home. Now we prepare to meet the Empress next week. If Ella wishes to send a letter of greeting to Madeleine she can address care of us here and we'll take it out. We wonder if the traffic will be much upset by the Congress?

Your summer house sounds lovely. We have been painting a bit and yesterday sent off Conrad's and Mama's old carpets and the front stairs and lower hall runners to be made over. This is a Toronto firm and the samples the man showed us are lovely. Not a bit the same as Therrien's , in Ottawa, much firmer and bleached and then dyed the color one chooses. We are to have them back early in July. I had the Paradis girl in today for a day's char[r]ing²⁵². Now that the old man is dead I am to have her each week and it will be a great help. A motor car hit a truck in front of Edouard Parent's two nights ago and then climbed their stairway and came to rest rampant wedged between a tree and the gallery, six passengers and none hurt.

Hope all are well. Have had no news from Conrad for some time.

Love Elsa

June 23 1938 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

"Darnoc"

23 June 1938

Dear Harold

A letter from Conrad says leaves Edmonton 1st July, south thro' U.S.A. Calgary, Chicago and Windsor, Toronto. 11th Leaving for Montreal, spend a week there, Quebec about 20th, stopping at Wakefield on way home – will notify you of course.

²⁵¹ Latin word for mother

²⁵² Cleaning

Meantime Mary Johnson is sending us Dr. and Mrs. Tew, with Mr. and Mrs. Braden, no dates given; so today as we go to see Madeleine and Brighton, we leave a note tacked on our door and shall hurry home.

All our neighbors are shocked we are not taking lodgers for the Eucharistic Congress, everyone in the place is doing so. Just now, I am listening to the Mass on the Radio.

Forgot to say we're going in to meet the ship but fortunately our way will be free round by Dalhousie St., all the tremendous crowd being in Upper Town and in the Battlefields Park etc. Eating our lunch on front porch in the shade; heat very great indeed, and a book agent comes to worry us!

Have just finished and Empress is whistling as she comes in a full hour early. But here we are at the dock, Elsa gone on board, having phoned Bridgeford, Brighton's old friend, to be on lookout. I just wait in the taxi and get Madeleine to come take a seat beside me to chat. No shade here at all so this taxi will save me walking and sun too.

How good a thing it is to know Charlie is coming- I'm overjoyed. A sight of him will do Eric more good than anything else!

Elsa says unless that young Swiss has broken some law of our country none can touch him. But as you say jealousy and spite can finally ruin him. Better get away to where his competition cannot harm or spite the former employer he ought to know that too. Tell him we are glad to help – what's his name and address – tell me please.

Goodbye Mama

July 1 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

1st July 1938

Dear Harold

Enclosed is Lois' last letter with still good news; Charlie will get excursion rates for his trip, and I hope for great results.

Dear David will have a wonderful trip too; the world comes nearer all the time since even in his boyhood - he will see so much of it. Until I was 21 I had not ever seen Three Rivers or Montreal, but it's all right now. Perhaps on David's way back, we may see him as he goes through. While he travels he may pass thro' Eastborne, or Bournemouth; Lois has address of cousins Sandilands in first place, and Campbell (Mrs. widow Alex) to whom a beautiful window is erected; they came out to Lake St. Joseph for their honeymoon, but did not even remember our name, nor where we lived. He was killed early in the war. Also Lois has the address of Miss Sandilands at Eastborne on the sea-side.

However he will have a lovely trip. You will remember cousins Stevenson; one who was Graham Milloy's mother, she afterwards married Bender and thereafter died. But her husband's brother, Fred Hugh

Bender's death appeared in Wednesday's Chronicle, burial at Belmont Cemetery R.C. next morning. Elsa and I took auto-bus at an early hour Thursday and were in the Church way out John St. One daughter, Phyllis, with her brother-in-law, Bert Jackson, had come down with the body.

The defunct had renounced the R.C. Church from his 12th year; but an aunt and uncle here in the city were bound the proprieties should be observed. An important Judge Choquette, the family was important in its day. A catafalque²⁵³ was waiting just inside the front door, 25 candles, and black drape. The coffin – grey- was brought in rushed under the black drape, where it remained till removed in the same way, but the priest and three acolytes came from the back of the altar, said a low mass there long with some responses from the Gallery overhead. The dreariest scene. Then carried the banner and incensor, also Asperger, came down and plentifully used both on the pall over the coffin. In the process the incensor fell noisily, and there was soon after from the Altar, away at the back, a little noisy singing, then the coffin retracted from under the pall was replaced in the hearse.

But at Belmont Cemetery all was made up for, a beautiful automatic arrangement covered the grave. Artificial bright grass lined the edge; silvered rods framed the grave, with big knobs at each corner. The grey coffin placed in a green grass covered shell was automatically, noiselessly, and without touch of hand lowered. The canvas bands withdrawn and the earth thrown in, after the mechanical part was removed.

We said goodbye and came home to have lunch, and rest on swing and back gallery.

We were sewing and writing, a neighbor came Mme. Bouchard, a Lodger too, to see us, the flags and curios. The Lodger, Mlle. Coté, had travelled nearly everywhere, (being a nurse), in Europe, South America etc. And immediately after, Rev. P.R. Roy – big, stout, kindly man whom you have met here. He had two or three cars full of young people, who roamed around. I told them to take lots of syringa etc. and off they went, pleased too but being careful not to trample any of our young seedlings or plants.

We finished the evening quietly and went to bed, beautiful weather throughout. Today there is a beneficent rain falling.

Mr. Roy had a cousin not 60, Charles Roy a business wizard; when quite young he devised a plan for making a fortune, developed it, took in his relatives, retired at thirty and has travelled ever since. Mouth full of hideous gold teeth; wife dead, one daughter between 20 and 30, travels with him, was to leave today for Gaspé, to take the round trip. Another kind of insanity: fancy choosing to have no home for himself and young girl, who will probably never be content nor domesticated.

²⁵³ A raised bier, or similar platform, often movable, that is used to support the casket, coffin, or body of the deceased during a funeral or memorial service. The term originates from the Italian *catafalco*, which means scaffolding.

Fancy, Mary wrote Elsa quite some time ago, asking her to induce me to give up collecting Edmond Hains rent. Her mother then wrote me she had asked Mr. Holiday to collect, and he had accepted. All right of course. She added "of course she would pay him". Well – why should I mind – just answered her letters (because she worries if I do not) but did not allude to that subject. Now comes another letter, saying "I've changed my mind – Edmond and you know each other so well, you may as well continue together". It's a joke! Mr. Holiday speaks no French, Edmond cannot write, he brings his rent each 6 months. Poor Aunt May, if she does change her mind I do not care. Mr. Holiday having to have a translator after all these years and years.

I know this letter is a mess and I've made you understand how terribly lacking in dignity or reverence that funeral was! Shocking.

Also in his two or three weeks final illness how much expense for travelling up and down back and forth! Now it does seem that the property they always understood belonged to the dead man, is all in the name of a brother. A big tangle.

Goodbye, my dear

Your Mama

July 5 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

"Darnoc", Friday 5 July '38

My dear Harold

I hope Ella is standing the heat, which has been oppressive and humid. Elsa stands it badly, especially the latter, but does marvels all the same, providing us with the finest vegetables for the table, grown bien entendu, by old man Rhéaume from the Ryland house, which ever [since] '92 has provided one tenant upstairs, and Edmond down. A great advantage, and was very terrible to engineer, and to stick to, when Edmond fought them and insisted I should turn the upstairs people out, and they vice-versa, as you know.

Really, for vegetation this year surpasses any. Raspberries in our garden have surpassed any other, large fine and abundant, we got the canes first from Mat Craig, and have given away every year, they are more abundant and larger than ever, lasting longer too. Of peas and beans we eat all the time, cabbage etc, etc ad. lib. And Elsa picks herself all we require and to give our char women, the Paradis girls who on account of their old father's long illness and death had only put in theirs a month or two ago; plucky too since it was so late. We have green peas and purée aux pois, with milk. We eat little meat but milk soups of many kinds instead – good for us both, and Conrad, the last day he was here prescribed for me some more radium for my left breast. It has taken all this time, on account of the wriggling ways of the sisters, a treatment yesterday was the first and I am to take another today. Tiresome I can tell you, however, I have begun and go on till he says stop.

Many things of that kind in their creed, with which one must count, but in some ways they are kind, yet one must always remember and doubt! If we sell our home to them, have them for close neighbors for ever, we must remember their pretences and pretty fibs – a different community but similar policy always!

A letter from Charlie this a.m. He hopes to coax Alfred to go over with him; it will do the poor lonely old chap ever so much good – but Charlie him[self] sees no better chance of him returning with his family alas! However something may take shape.

Elsa is becoming a wonderful executive – always was of course, and thinks of everyone around. She will be much alone this summer. Dorothy, Jean and Florrie are going to Atlantic City for a few weeks. However our former neighbor Mr. O'Brien has sent us some very interesting people from Minnesota, formerly, all from Europe, with his charming wife and two young daughters, he is an artist occupied on large works requiring a quiet place to paint historical canvases.

WE know you and Ella must miss your dear boys and shall be glad when you come down to get David. What a lot he will have seen.

As soon as the Nuns say anything shall let you know.

July 5, 1938 Elsa to Harold Clarendon Hotel

5th July 1938

Dear Harold

Am enclosing Lois' latest, which speaks for itself. I shall meet Charlie but am suggesting that Mama stay at home for it is very tiring especially if the weather is hot. We have no idea of Eric's plans of course but he may turn up here before the boat docks, either with, or without warning us. I'll have a letter at Father Point also and try to get Eric to do the same. It should of course be sent Co. C.P.R. 140 Peter St. Quebec with a please forward to Father Point. We expect him to stay at least overnight here and I suppose it will make a difference if Eric is here. Then if he goes to Wisconsin he may want to get that over and see Mollie, Frank, and Alfred before he has his visit here. Will keep you posted.

We've had quite cold weather but the sun is now out and it looks as if we'd have some heat again.

Mama is pretty well. Doesn't sleep much at night and then spends most of the day asleep on the gallery. She keeps mislaying all her possessions and keeps me busy hunting them. Yesterday it was her glasses gone since Saturday, she said, and today a \$2 bill she thought she had slipped in some empty envelope.

The Joke on Aunty May is good. She took her onerous affairs out of our hands after Mary and she had both written stupid letters begging Mama to consent to give it up. She then asked Mr. Holiday to take over. He consented after phoning us, but saying he was reluctant since he was a very busy man! We

thought it was all decided and along comes a letter from Aunty May saying she had changed her mind, and had cancelled her arrangement with Holiday and would we continue to act for her as usual. Lesage, is of course arranging about her highway affair and all we have to do is take in \$30 twice a year. She gave no reason either time for her actions!

I saw Jennie Luke Elliot here 2nd July. She and her husband had motored down her old 82 year old aunt to stay at the Penneys, on Bellevedere Road, for a month, while they go to Maine for a holiday. She says her son now 22 went to that Powters' camp for 10 years but is now working in Montreal.

I may not get the tender to see David off but we both wish him Bon Voyage & bien du plaisir. On his return we can all meet him here.

Mr. G.B. Ramsey died yesterday a.m. he had only been sick from the night before altho' we could all see him failing this last year. He was in his 81 year and Mrs. is slightly older.

Much love to all – Elsa

Conrad and family were to set out 1st July and will visit you on their way back. They will be here about 19th or 20th.

July 11, 1938 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold

11 July '38

Dear Harold

Your fern planted beside our gallery is beautiful this year, as I covered it during the winter with sapin branches from the Eucharistic arch at Laberge's last summer. Beside it are some huge ferns from our own beach.

Next thing is – do not worry about what I do for Aunt May. Edmond just gives me rent each six months and I send it on! Mr. Lesage is her agent and has not yet got a settlement for her. Elsa and I have been since last 3rd Aug. trying to get two gates for ourselves, and at the same time she had none either, why on earth I should not include her, poor Aunt May, because of her absence she does not know her tenant has no gate either. For Heaven sake let me be human to my own dear sister; because of her mental weakness increasing, she requires such common decency and help! I do things – and so do you for strangers, why not more for my own. Stop this attitude of hectoring me for nothing, I am still fit Judge of my own duty, and pleasure!

Now – because of a thunder, lightening, hail and rain storm, the night dear little David passed down the St. Lawrence, Elsa did not go down to take him some fruit on board to him. However his letter will have met him in his cabin, it had gone the previous day thank goodness.

Now we expect Charlie Saturday evening probably; in the meantime a sudden (sic) from Mrs. Finnis, (Effie Turner) our old neighbor of Ursule St. long ago. On behalf of Labrador Mission [a group] of young College men from England and Scotland, having arrived, a fortnight or so, too soon, just when everyone

leaves town, could we let them camp in one of our fields? – She had no idea a cow-pasture would be unfit. Naturally we put them on the lawn between us and Laberge. They come and go – have all their numerous luggage in the nice clean cellar, and kitchen, run up and down to the bath room and things are just as when you were boys. Being bound to camp out being fully outfitted for the Labrador Mission field doctors, Medical Students etc, they have the whole lower flat to themselves, are quiet and orderly.

Now we wish you to run down if only for a day or two to see it all including Charlie, whom we did expect Thursday but find he can only be here Saturday, and Conrad with family later. He remained in Toronto while they are now in Montreal. Do come if possible.

13 July we shall have the Paradis girl also Yvonne to help things go, so it is fine, if only the weather was a little warmer.

Today appears preparing to be finer, and Dr. Gordon yielded to our invitation to call on our young men, only two on view. They go and come all the time, some staying with people and we're never sure who is in or who is out. Three wedge tents on the lawn and visitors coming and going without disturbance. Big iron bench is carried out to the tenting place, and they keep marveling at the kindness and hospitality of this country. In my visitors register the names so far of

- 1 John Mulligan, St. Andrew's, Scotland, graduated in 1920, lecturer in Anatomy – rather odd.
- 2 P. Anthony Brown, 4th year Medecine Brothers
- 3 Chris Brown Glasgow, artist
- 4 Jock Rushforth, 1st year Medecine and Arts Edin St. Andrew's
- 5 Pat Russel
- 6 Duncan Patterson very Scotch
- 7 Matt Smith Yorkshire

A third brother Brown was out before on the Medical Mission; so the others know what they face. Father makes cornflakes, so they tell us much better than Kelloggs. They all eat it with our Jean Charles' milk; have brought with them the finest provisions bought very cheap; special prices for them, only get milk and bread here and the Paradis do their washing at home. A big Edam cheese, crimson rind, a ball about 8 inches in diameter very odorous.

Today has turned out beautiful indeed and hay is going in fast; not well cured though as Edmond's used to be, left too long on the grass and wet over and over.

Elsa is having the time of [her life?] with the boys offering to do anything for her, chopping wood, and a dead apple tree.

Will you come to spend Sunday here even? We do wish you to see these men, so many medical, but all maintaining they are ready to do any kind of work whatever till the autumn. Mulligan is the eldest, and not really good looking, hair receding and very red-faced. The funny thing is no one has ever thought of

asking if he were married, not even Elsa. Yet I find him different, so much old. Several are Scotch and wearing beautiful kilts swinging as they go – beautiful kilts.

Do come for Sunday.

Your own Mama

July 18 1938 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold

Monday, 18 July 1938

Mama²⁵⁴ died in 1893

My own Harold

So glad you saw Conrad and also I suppose to see him again.

Your summers are always so very busy, but healthful and happy too with Ella so much better than she used to be – if only Reggie does not give trouble, or get sick on her hands. She will be tired.

Charlie came Saturday morning; Elsa met him at the steamer from England, and while we were at lunch on the gallery, Eric stepped out of the pantry wire door. We all four went for a drive 'round Ile d'Orleans in Mollie and Maitland's car for which Eric (on instructions) had gone.

Last Monday forenoon Elsa had a 'phone from Mrs. Finnis (Effie Turner who used to be our neighbor years ago on Ursule Hill), asking if we would take to camp in one of our pastures 7 young men of the "Scottish Grenfell Medical Expedition". Elsa answered we could put them on the lawn between us and Laberge's. So there they are to our great pleasure ever since, their city friends inviting them constantly to meals, drives, Bridge, and dances. Never know how many are there, or away and they are nice chaps indeed. Hope to be able to give snapshot, and their names. They are College-men except one "farmer by profession"; Dr. John Milligan, North of Ireland is their leader, Lecturer on Anatomy. About, perhaps forty perhaps, graduated in 1920. Very silent – they "all under contract not to talk, or answer questions". Have the best and most expensive outfit and food, all bought at reduced prices. Are buying milk from our tenant here, bread etc in the village, know enough French to get washing done by the Paradis girls etc. By the way, their old father, being just dead, his daughters are glad to come to scrub, wash etc, so we get lots of help, thank goodness. Then Yvonne (Edouard Parent's daughter), will come every day as soon as they are gone, because Conrad, Agnes, and the girls come the next day. Hope they will stay longer than before, but Quebec is very alluring, the Gwyllum Dunn girls, the Rev. Crowfoot daughter from the Cathedral and goodness knows who – phoning "be at the gate at such and such an

²⁵⁴ Mary McGrath

hour” and the girls are outside on the dot, so are the boys. Tomorrow it will end, so they are due to sail to work till autumn. Then be gathered up to go home.

Weather is beautiful, plans all suit us, as each party is ready to come, so each is ready to go.

As we have had our old floor rugs, nothing but rags, made in 1904, sent to the Continental Rug Co., Toronto, a Jewish firm, I have a lovely grey rug for my room, a much handsomer one in two tone green for Elsa’s, and a flecked grey with brown for the lower hall. She has painted all the furniture and radiators a pale silver enamel, so pretty. Some day we shall get the rest of our old rugs done over too. No more time for today.

All our love Mama

July 19, 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc 19th July ‘38

Dear Harold

Charlie was met at the dock Saturday a.m. by Elsa; he looks well and happy.

While we were at lunch Eric stepped out of the pantry door, on to the gallery. Had come in Mollie’s car, are going first to Ottawa and you. Think they can stay overnight with you, has business of course in Ottawa. We still have our campers for Labrador with us, they are busy packing to leave this morning; by New Northland for their station at Labrador.

Tomorrow we expect Conrad and his family. Things fit in beautifully and this year we have Rose De Lima Paradis coming regularly to scrub regularly ever since a month, also Yvonne Parent to come every day while visitors are here. Never were before so clean tidy and ready for such unpremeditated influx into kitchen and cellar, all full to overflowing.

Thank[s] a thousand times for that beautiful candy, so enjoyed. Love

Thermometer up to 70 at 1 a. m. Love Mama.

July 20, 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

20th July ‘38

My dear Harold

Thank you so much for your good wishes etc., but I’ve been so busy no time at all. I think I told you of the telephone from Effie Turner, of old times as our neighbor on Ursule St. ‘phoned, and gave us the Grenfell Expedition – 6 men under Dr. John Mulligan, Scotch from North of Ireland, camped about 10 days on our lawn, left yesterday. There was running up and downstairs; both kitchen and cellar full of their goods, and the lawn with beautiful silk tents, sleeping bags etc. They took passage yesterday for two months hard work, and all Quebec was busy entertaining them.

Tonight we were waiting up for Conrad's arrival (on the verandah). Just now Mary Barrow has 'phoned to ask if they have arrived. Immediately after they did phone to say they had just stepped in passing by to say hello to Legs and her.

We are all excitement but shall have no trouble. Yvonne Parent will come to us every day to help. While one of the Paradis girls comes too. We have lots of cherries, which will amuse the girls but birds are stealing them all. There are raspberries too in the garden.

I should have written long ago, but with so much going on in the house could not find a moment.

21st Just now, am writing on the gallery in the twilight. We have had two days to tidy up and get rested and are very eager to see them.

Yesterday a letter came from Jamie; if what he expected came to pass Irene is now on the sea on her way to England. Lois is also expecting her, Mrs. Stainforth, and the babies with great anxiety.

We have a stir all the time, but things have been well spaced, and fallen easily for us.

Agnes is such a quiet gracious woman, soft speaking and not excitable; the girls with confidence and poise, so unlike those we know, just what Conrad needs in every way!

Thursday – We are to go for a drive and for 5 o'clock Tea to Mary Barrow's, not the stiff routine family Tea Sunday night we have had for some years past, so much nicer.

Forgot to tell you we went to call at the Island on Mrs. C.E. Porteous (née Drury) of Lower Province timing it so well we just went across to Cousin Emily Sergeant as you did once with us. The first a cousin's widow; the second, that cousin's sister. Mrs. Porteous is a sweet gracious woman who has lost grown up children, under all kinds of sad circumstances. A son no comfort to her, married to a R.C., and her only daughter in a wheel chair, nearly died, again last winter. Love to you all my dear ones, from each – glad we shall see you and yours later.

Mama

July 22, 1938 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

22 July /38

My dear Harold

Hope you are all well and very sorry I've had to neglect you however we're all well, and like your family very glad to see the whole party even for a few days.

Yesterday Héliodore Laberge appeared with what has been the best offer yet for our property. A community of sisters from Africa for a rest and recruiting house. We may close but no time for details. He went all thro' the house which is tidy to beat the band now thanks [to] Léonie (Edouard Parent's

daughter) and Amanda Paradis. One to scrub Fridays, the other to wash dishes and make beds etc every day.

Yesterday we went for a long drive round town and for tea at May Borrow's before a long drive to the bridge, today to the Museum, but I've stayed here. Agnes is to stay from now till Sunday night at her sister's.

The girls are as nice as can be, Marie my favourite a dear child. Conrad is pleased proud and happy in his new medical partnership.

Goodbye love, a lot to you all

Mama

July 26, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

St. Anne's Day

My own Harold and family

I have to ask your forgiveness for neglecting to 'phone, my last letter (enclosed), but have been so terribly busy, being driven about by Conrad and family, who are now to leave us Thursday afternoon for Montreal.

Agnes has to have teeth filled there, to hear some clergyman Sunday, to give an opinion as to where he will suit Edmonton – must be young. So I take it they go on to you after that; Agnes appealed to me today to help her get him to see people – to give himself some trouble for Adolphe, Archdeacon Scott and others. He insists no one remembers or cares, etc., etc. Just as he did before.

Today I went to Dr. Turcot, head Aurist and oculist at Jeffrey Hale. Mary Barrow says he is chief man here, and to see if there is anything to be done for my ears. Agnes was good enough to come, hold my hands etc., during the unpleasant operation – am to go back in a fortnight. I am not deaf he says but need a little care for my ears.

Conrad says I must take some more treatments for my breast, from Drs. Potoin [?] and Paiment.

Think you may expect Conrad etc. about Monday so far as I can expect.

Here they all are, come from the Island, and all going away for the night except dear Conrad.

Goodbye, please forgive my negligence etc., etc., etc., no senses left.

Mama

July 29, 1938 Leila Gagy Geggie to Conrad

5 p.m. Friday 29 July 1938

Dear Conrad

We miss you, and your dear ones so much, but know, all the same, it is inevitable and we follow your trip as you go with great interest.

Today we have terrible rain squalls, coming up suddenly and hope you have none. I have been rushing to save things from storm on back gallery, so forgot all on the front till after lunch, so found all my writing materials soaked and soiled. Result they are all spread over the porch, living [room] etc. to dry.

This letter came from M. Sirois²⁵⁵, who – his office tells me - had left for holidays at Murray Bay, so he had not much time to spare yesterday, any more than we. I 'phoned and explained – Mlle Boutin said he too left yesterday.

Tomorrow forenoon I have an appointment with Dr. Payeur himself, and one with the African nuns and Madame – or M. Héliodore Laberge; I'm sure the girls have never heard a name like that!

Am also waiting anxiously for news from Lois, who was to give result of her interview with Dr. Pochim about Irene's health. Mrs. Stainforth and the babies were to arrive yesterday in England by the way, and poor Jamie's feelings must be very mixed, while his loneliness troubles me very much.

His father was able however to persuade him to stay with the company, and he has reaped the reward, increase of salary and great sympathy.

Altogether we have a great deal to wait for these days, to wonder about too, while tentatively I've given warning to the tenants across the way for 1st September, resolved to build if we see chance to sell – are asking \$30,000.

Elsa is about to phone Mary Barrow tonight to learn how you got off etc. as it is too late for you to receive this letter before Monday.

²⁵⁵ Written on back of a letter from Sirois, Sirois & Lesage, Notaires

"28 juillet, 1938

Mrs James Geggie

"Darnoc"

Beauport

My dear Mrs. Geggie:

I am very sorry that I missed you and Dr. Geggie this morning. I missed you by a few seconds only, but I understand that you had a pressing engagement.

I would not like you to think I deliberately neglected to see you when told that you were in the Library. You know me well enough not to believe that.

Kindly express my thanks to Dr. Geggie for his visit, and believe me, dear Mrs. Geggie,

Respectfully yours,

Jos Sirois "

Next morning did not phone, too tired, such a confusion with a storm of rain, in which I neglected all my writing materials on front "gallerie". We have to get ready for visit of nuns and M. Héliodore Laberge, this p.m. So after I come home from L'Hotel Dieu I shall be busy. I've given my nonpaying tenants warning and intend at once to remodel the Old Creamery (if Héliodore Laberge considers it worth while), for our own residence.

So we have a very full day before us but get off these letters to you and Lois, but we have had such a delightful visit with all of you and are so grateful – no regrets, or "no complaints" at all! Only I must tell you I wish you to treat your dear father's family as well as you do me. They all deserve it; Aunt Mary Grant, Jessie, Jean and Nancy – (in mistaken order in Ottawa; Bert and his fine family, each when in their vicinity. Bert especially has had such a struggle to bring up his motherless family, in poverty and heavily in debt, mortgaged always, struggling each of them for a bare existence. Now both boys have married, while the girls are keeping the family. All brave and uncomplaining.

I shall not have time today to enclose my letters, too rushed. But Lois has now Jamie's Irene with babies Leila and Alison, had no maid when she wrote.

As for us – we miss you greatly – only have no leisure to think. Please do as I ask about all your father's people whom he loved, even as he loved us.

Another hot day, but each thing must be attended to in turn, and we know not yet what unexpected ones may turn up.

Edna Marsh went to Gaspé with Muriel McNaughton and Jim today.

Goodbye my dear ones,

Love from Elsa and Mama

July 30 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Conrad Front page missing

P.3

build if we see chance to sell – are asking \$30,000.

Elsa is about to phone Mary Barrow tonight to learn how you got off etc. as it is too late for you to receive this letter before Monday.

Next morning did not phone, too tired, such a confusion with a storm of rain, in which I neglected all my writing materials on front "gallerie". We have to get ready for visit of nuns and M. Héliodore Laberge, this p.m. So after I come home from L'Hotel Dieu I shall be busy. I've given my nonpaying tenants warning and intend at once to remodel the Old Creamery (if Héliodore Laberge considers it worth while), for our own residence.

So we have a very full day before us but get off these letters to you and Lois, but we have had such a delightful visit with all of you and are so grateful – no regrets, or "no complaints" at all! Only I must tell

you I wish you to treat your dear father's family as well as you do me. They all deserve it; Aunt Mary Grant, Jessie, Jean and Nancy – (in mistaken order in Ottawa; Bert and his fine family, each when in their vicinity. Bert especially has had such a struggle to bring up his motherless family, in poverty and heavily in debt, mortgaged always, struggling each of them for a barely (sic) existence. Now both boys have married, while the girls are keeping the family. All brave and uncomplaining.

I shall not have time today to enclose my letters, too rushed. But Lois has now Jamie's Irene with babies Leila and Alison, had no maid when she wrote.

As for us – we miss you greatly – only have no leisure to think. Please do as I ask about all your father's people whom he loved, even as he loved us.

Another hot day, but each thing must be attended to in turn, and we know not yet what unexpected ones may turn up.

Edna Marsh went to Gaspé with Muriel McNaughton and Jim today.

Goodbye my dear ones,

Love from Elsa and Mama

July 31, 1938 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

My own dear Harold

We were so glad to receive Ella's nice letter which was just in time before Agnes Conrad and the girls were leaving, the very day they left indeed to visit you and looking forward very much to the visit. You will I am sure be very much surprised to see what fine big girls they are and how well they all look – except for trouble Conrad has with his receded – or shrinking gums' preventing distinct speaking and requiring constantly holding teeth also holding his mouth a little crooked in an effort to keep teeth in place.

Florrie Oliver (and Edna Marsh, with her big tall Jim) who came out the very day and just a few minutes before Conrad's party left for good, told me in an aside her brother Stuart has the very same trouble, and his Dentist tells him nothing can be done to help that condition of shrinkage of the gums. Now my teeth were taken out June 1887, when I was nursing you, and I did without any until the spring of 1888, I think; gums becoming in the meantime very hard indeed. True, I had a time getting used to them, mouth very sore. I continued returning to Dr. Ross until one day he flew into a rage, accused me of scraping them myself, refusing to touch them again; quite unjust and untrue of course.

So I had to go to a French Dentist, on John St. who had a great reputation for teeth making, but not for filling etc, so he made me a new set for \$18.00, using the same teeth as before, and I've had little trouble since, though Elsa has had some, apparently over now. I found if my mouth was sore, a Seidlitz powder generally put an end to it. It has struck me Conrad's having been gassed at Yprès may have

something to do with it? You will be prepared, when Conrad comes, to notice at once. Of course Dr. Ross drank badly.

We have been very lonely since our party left, but had an appointment with Sister Philippe Joseph, Superior of African White Sisters' Kenya Colony, South Africa who duly came yesterday Saturday by appointment with Heliodore Laberge, our neighbor, Architect – He had come last Monday afternoon or evening, knowing how long we have been trying or rather advertising to sell.

Together the three with Elsa went entirely through house garden etc., satisfied - more than satisfied with everything except the price. We ask \$30,000.00 and now put it into M. Lesage's hands to get for us, as near as he can to that sum. With the new paint and paper in entrance hall, up the stair along to bathroom, clothes closet, down back stair to foot – the whole place looks very nice indeed. Stairs banister etc. being all well polished and brown rubber stair pads put on.

The stable, barns etc. being all rebuilt anew three years ago. Elsa has kept the front gardens looking [sic] and I shall be glad indeed if we can get the dear girl away from the slavery here, at the same time plan to have Heliodore examine the old Creamery building, as to remaking it all in one lodging, ground floor bedrooms, etc., at the same time planning for grates in each side ground floor. To both non-paying tenants I have given warning to vacate for 1st Sept., in any case. The nuns who have only been given with which to purchase the property, \$20,000.00, have to submit our terms to South Africa first and get a reply, giving our price of \$30,000.00. Heliodore and they know we have had many other offers, from communities also; while he makes the terms no commission for him from either party. Then we shall of course give him the remodeling of the former Creamery. Only fair, we can divide furniture etc., move what we keep for ourselves across the road to the new home, which may be called New Darnoc. Taking with us marble shelf in bathroom, rack in pantry for brasses, and hall-hat hanger besides door knocker. Iron benches of course and aim to give one to each of you four.

Lots of things to settle and divide of course, lots of things to do, but no time yet.

Just now, I wish to say how pleased we were with David's nice letter from on board ship, something the one Harold describes; so glad too, Elsa did not get started before that terrible storm.

I began last week treatments with Dr. Turcot of Jeffery Hale's for dull hearing. Agnes came with me and was ever so kind and useful during the distressing treatment and saving poor Elsa from having to do it. I am to return in a fortnight, also renew appointments for Xray application at L'Hotel Dieu so as to get them finished before winter, when travelling is so much worse.

I wish to ask if you will let me send you cherry stones, having saved them for that purpose that you may distribute them to neighbors at home, up at camp or anywhere else for planting such fine fruit!

Now love from us both

Goodnight

Mama

August 2 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

2nd Aug 1938

My own dear Boys, and Girls

I had a dear (sic) last night, very welcome indeed, and a message through M. Lesage, to say the Sisters Philippe Joseph, of Kenya Colony, and another who comes from Montmorency Falls and is a Mercier, (while the first is a native of Three Rivers), had been to see him.

Perfectly satisfied with everything they had seen here, after having visit[ed] several places in the near neighborhood, they are only empowered to pay \$20,000.00

However Mr. Lesage says they are likely to Telegraph – or wireless- in which case the matter will not drag, and with moderate management, we plan to hand over by 1st November if this deal goes through - But I ask \$30,000.00 and mean to get as near that sum as possible, be the property worth it, every cent as Héliodore confesses – so do they for that matter, only stick at that price, as they must until they get permission to increase. He, Héliodore has been the greatest help, entirely and openly on our side, in fact on both sides because he knows two other Communities have wished for the same, because also the whole village wishes for the nuns thinking also we are tired of the place and ready to escape.

Elsa assured them we might travel somewhat, but Beauport will always be our home, at which they seemed astonished. Yet even now if either of you boys, or Lois and her family, wished to retire here, you should be welcome to the whole place – only say so – or any share of it.

For our two selves, if this goes through, our plan is to employ Héliodore to examine our former old Creamery, with a view to remodeling it into the most commodious dwelling full size, with oil furnace in basement to be safely left in winter if we could travel, or wished to go to town. Using the whole two flats, with linoleum on floors, cupboards and each device which would lend to convenience, and keep us ready to entertain anyone who comes probably upstairs, while we occupy the whole lower flat ourselves, if necessary.

However, once for all, probably, if any of my own children wish to live here, to retire and rest, let it be said and I shall never contemplate sale.

A letter just come from Aunt May says, as usual, she has not received her tax account, she would like to get it regularly, does not know amount. So sad, for she did get it and did write before to say she had not. Did get me also to write asking for rebate on last year's taxes because of sale, and received reply, her case will be considered next year etc. Mary - for her had written before and must have a bad time.

We continue to have showers without warning every day or almost, but occasionally, thunder lightening and hail, also I am interested in planning how to arrange for most of the time.

6 p.m. Just now Elsa has returned from Mrs. Harvey's who has been very ill and is to go to the sea-side.

And now have entered, a Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, with two daughters, artists, we are to give them 5 o'clock tea on the back gallery. Bye-bye my darlings, Mama

The Albinson's artist and family, are so charming, 3rd generation American original Swedes; have been three years in Rome and elsewhere in Italy. Has been doing Murals there and elsewhere; now wishes to settle here and send the girls to school, are Protestants, original Lutherans, his name Dewey Albinson, speaks languages. Has done a Mural for Calumet of Indians etc. Are refined and without alcohol or tobacco, having evidently all kinds of nice traditions and habits with similar manners. If possible we should like to rent them one of our smaller houses; just now it is hard to say only we have tenants in the Shanty and may require the other for ourselves where they are not paying.

In preparation for possible sale of this house, for \$25,000, which is what our whole property ought to be easily worth – we have taken down the marble slab in the bathroom, also the handsome hatrack in the front hall - are taking off also the narrow bracket for brass trays in the pantry – suggest anything else of which any of you think.

My yellow bedroom set is for you, and shall be done over first by Guerard in Lower town.

I gave Conrad the dining room sofa and two small arm chairs to match, which have already been all done over. That is only a beginning, must know first if the sale is to go on or not! So long my darlings all.

Love from Elsa and Mama

August 15, 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

15 Aug 1938

My own dear Ones

Your going was all too soon; let us hope the return is not far off but by that time Stuart will be back at school!

Can you imagine though, we had scarcely gathered ourselves together, when Elsa answered a knock at the door – Mr. Geo. Armitage from Sherbrooke, a schoolmate of my brother Conrad at Quebec High! Not as old as I, quite, whose good, talented wife I had visited in June '37. She was a wonderful singer, their home magnificent, he spent lavishly on it. Fancy ordering \$60.00 worth of raspberry canes that year, and this year he had to let the town in to pick them, although his wife had countermanded half of them!

He is terribly deaf, has all kinds of hearing devices, which (to the torture of his friends) he keeps packed up in his hand bag.

Although his poor wife had slipped on her kitchen floor and broken a small bone in her ankle, she drove to Convention at Cowansville to bring me home to dinner, took me for a long drive after. She died suddenly three months after; last September I think.

Then I was witness to his perfectly inhuman treatment of her, raging all the time, and rushing away shouting, she could not follow as he vociferated. Of course we gave him tea and tomato sandwiches – to his young driver too, and were only relieved when Rev. and Mrs. Roy, with their Organist Miss Handly had popped in on their way home from evening ‘Service’. So we had scarcely time to think until you must have been far away – till next time.

Your boys are all bonny and fine – what a treasure to have them growing up so straight mentally, as well as physically. Nothing weak kneed about your Papa’s grandchildren; thank goodness he knew it too; Dr. S. was just as fine too!

Yesterday we went to L’Hotel Dieu, as usual for the 6th treatment perhaps only two or perhaps four, more. It was terribly warm and exhausting, Elsa took occasion to lie down in my little dressing room meanwhile, and was thereby a little rested.

On return home we received from Charlie at Father Point the documents we had lent him to read.

Just imagine though, the old Carter Sansfacon who, with his son, had driven us in Saturday had died at home Sunday quite suddenly, alone with his old wife. Second or third brother to die that way; yet the son drove us yesterday again. We had not known of the death! ‘

1 p.m. M. Héliodore Laberge’s son has just handed me an offer from the Soeurs Missionnaires d’Afrique, offering \$30,000.00 for the whole property – which never was for sale. Elsa has to go to town, so she takes in the replay to M. Lesage to say the whole property never was for sale; only between the high road, and the Railway to Ste. Anne de Beaupré. She gives us only 3 days to reply. Each time, I reply at one, all the same.

Fine weather today. Thank you for prompt card. Love to the Aunts and to all friends, our tall Stuart also – Shall try to meet David

Mama

August 18, 1938 Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

18 Aug 1938

Dear Harold

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for your nice triple visit.

Many happy returns of your wedding-day, for which I have written Lois too. She must be so overcome by all her family coming home; then in spring Jamie is to come home on a 3 month long vacation. Who knows after that what may happen because he may come to Montreal branch of oil plant.

We hope Charlie may some day return to Montreal too; only must not tell any one, lest it might spoil his prospects.

After constant and heavy rain, fine weather has come. Elsa and I have been busy but are glad you had a good trip home. The visit to the Commons was nice; all those cementing of old friendships is so grand, nothing like it, I think. Stuart Oliver too, anything like that enriches one's life. I've so little now-a-days of old friends in Quebec and no one I ever see out here. However of pen friends I've Mary, Hannah, May Webb in Southern States.

Love Mama

August 18, 1938 Elsa Guky Geggie to Harold

"Darnoc" 18th Aug. 1938

Dear Harold

Glad to hear that you and family got home safely. It was awfully hot here Monday and Tues but then got quite cold.

I had my cheque from the Bank of Canada Monday, for \$2081.80 and shall be glad if you can let me know what to do with it. I now have \$2531.59 in my account but always want to keep a bit on hand for emergencies. We may have a big emergency if the White Ladies come up to our bait. Their first offer for the land bounded north and south by the highway and tracks was \$20,000 which we refused. Second offer \$25,000 also refused, because she coyly slipped in the words "toute votre proprietie" so now we await a 3rd offer of – for the part only that we have for sale. Lesage whom we saw yesterday thinks it will be \$25,000 and we'll probably close – so here's hoping. Will let you know.

Many happy returns of tomorrow²⁵⁶. What lots of things have happened in those 24 years, and how many weeds have grown up around us since then.

We have only 3 more treatments to take at the hospital. Mama has found them very tiring yesterday and Monday and we'll be glad when it's over.

We certainly enjoyed your visit and hope you may be able to get away again soon, we may have plenty to do.

Love to all

Elsa

August 24, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold postcard

Darnoc 24 Aug. 1938

²⁵⁶ Harold and Ella's wedding anniversary, Aug. 19, 1914

Be careful please to address David care of Robt. Reford Co. Ltd. Pter St. Ouebec City, adding please forward. We gather his ship will be in sometime Saturday – shall be glad too, if you can come, of course!

An appointment with Turcot today for my ears. Weather changeable.

Ted Rattray brought us in. Absolutely no news.

Mama

August 24 1938 (Undated approximately) Elsa Guky Geggie to Harold

Dear Harold

I have just written a letter to David and it will meet him down the river. Hope they are having a good crossing. We have no news of Conrad and family at all since they left you. Glad Ella heard from them in Winnipeg. They were due home 14th and it's too bad we have no news yet. The slippery nuns are also keeping us on the hooks. Some day it will be decided I suppose but Mr. Lesage advises patience or they will think we are anxious to sell! In the meantime all our tenants move out, or are due to go 1st Sept. The two creamery ones are not paying and will be no loss but the Shanty was paying \$25 quite well, but we were so uncertain in May that we rented to them by the month and now she has given us notice. There's nothing we can do about it but accept. Got 8 fine booklets of yellow transparents two days ago. Had to pick them all, as we had so few and they are all being stolen.

We are enjoying a beautiful day outside but the nights get quite cool and it is easier to sleep.

Had a letter from Aunty May. She and Aline are away for two weeks at Bayfield Ont. And are liking it very much. She says she has such trouble writing at all as her poor hand troubles her. When she was here her hands were both very shaky.

Mr. Lesage is still hammering away at the Prov. Govt. to settle Aunty May's claim.

Love to all

Elsa

August 25, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

25 Aug '38

Dear Harold

The box of candy was very good indeed, thank you once more. Laetitia is due, I am just told, 4 a.m. Sunday.²⁵⁷ We are to meet him of course, though Elsa says not, and put out her tongue; meaning she will go alone, see if he requires money etc.! She sits across the tiny brown table at front gallery, writing

²⁵⁷ Ship that David is on.

him now to that effect. We shall see! Who knows how it will be. He must have wide opened eyes by this time, the darling, and I long to see him. She – the ship - may not be nearly so early.

My A.P.C. pills are again nearly exhausted, if you please; a way they have and we have a fine day, yesterday it was cold indeed, and I went to Dr. Turcot, with Elsa, then to Chateau St. Louis to see Mmes. Young, F ?hott, née Scott, and Annie Jack Thomson; for a cup of tea after the nasty throat, ear and nose treatment; came home after.

Strange to say no news at all from those African Sister Missionaries. M. Lesage says nothing to do but wait till they make their minds up to a worth while offer, because none of us wishes to throw the place away and every one knows it is worth anything to such people. – So far they have, you know, made no offer at all, which they must do surely. Their last stipulation for the entire property was monstrous, never had been even mentioned before, on either side.

Mrs. Young sends you all her love, and looks well – came down to the baptism in St. Matthew’s Church of one of the Papineau girls’ first baby. Mrs. Conner of Sherbrooke – not spelled as my Grand-mother’s was, though after all I remember, in her wedding certificate it was written 3 different ways, by her father in his Consent, her brother and herself. Therefore she was under age when she came to this inhospitable country, poor girl, only 18 – to Yamachiche, Three Rivers etc, and that was certainly one of them.

You must all be pretty busy, getting ready for school days and only dear big Stuart to help.

We cannot help wondering those nuns do not make any sign at all, however it is in good hands, M. Lesage and Laberge, both of them convinced of the worth and fitness of the place for a Monastery and for every purpose they may contemplate, for all time. Good luck to them and the dear old

Just now as I sit writing, a bare-headed tall girl stopped at the foot of the steps, on the gravel to say “je passe pour une messe”. She had a heavy brown long coat; not modest for a girl to go out in her dress; even a very young one. You should see the nuns and old women pulling down little girls sleeves at the wrists!

Our two Shanty tenants, sisters-in-law quarrelling amongst themselves, have given warning, and we are getting anonymous telephone enquiries about the house, which we do not notice.

To the old Creamery people, not paying at all, we have given notice, and advertise the former. At anytime we may hear some news – shall let you know at once.

Be not anxious about David, who may be delayed by fog, which comes in every morning.

Love to you all, Mama

August 28, 1938 postcard Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Chateau Frontenac Quebec

28 Aug '38

While at lunch today we saw the Laetitia sail up, & our Lorenzo arrived, so a leisurely drive took us to where after a short wait the boys came to us. First thing struck us they carried themselves so well. Shoulders well out and were so jolly. Quite appreciated Alfred and the babies²⁵⁸, talked so freely. Had money in plenty, but we changed some for them, talked very engagingly – preferred to investigate for themselves, and described the children and Sylvia very engagingly. Next thing chose to investigate with other chaps, and the first thing was a submarine in the Basin.

Weather beautiful and we all enjoyed meeting!

Mama

Sept 4 1938 postcard Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

4 Sept 38

Hans duly phone this A.M. – as anyone could expect – no means of coming over here this morning, roads impassable after Cyclone or whatever name fits. They leave for Montreal after lunch.

We have a furnace fire, Elsa has a birthday tea at the Chateau, Jean Elliot's invitation, and we are even getting Gazette a day late; today Saturday's makes up for none Labor Day.

Were glad indeed to hear from the boy, who says Eric has got through so far so good.

Mama

September 8, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

Dear Harold

We are busy gathering vegetables, plums (only a few of these yet), transplanting flowers, etc., very busy. Weather fine, and not so good.

Yesterday Elsa phoned Lesage, who replied he has a letter from those sisters to say they having written to Algiers are awaiting a reply; and an opinion from M. Héliodore Laberge that they have not looked anywhere else (and he knows) and will buy.

In the meantime we can do nothing of course but wait and quietly get ready here. While people come all the time to rent, again last night a young couple to rent half the Creamery in a month when they are to be married. Both tenants therein owe a years rent and will evidently have to be evicted forcibly .

Renting does not pay us – better finish off the building comfortably in a large living and upper half flat to save me stairs.

²⁵⁸ Alfred was Charlie Chaplin's father and the babies presumably Jamie and Irene's babies, Leila and Alison, who were staying with Charlie and Lois in England.

At all events it looks as if the arrangements will take time. After the tornado, and loss of life under Montmorency cliff all those remaining are being evicted so houses are at a premium and so it behooves us to do things. Evidently tenants are not willing to pay.

Today is fine and some white plums edible, blue ones not so. A cow got in to the garden last night. Our corn was very good but finished now. Other vegetables good also, tomatoes all in, flowers potted for winter too.

We were pleased to hear from Hans by phone Monday; he really could not have come over in the state of the roads. We had Miss Marion Long Toronto Artist here Tuesday and she had to deroute several times after going through deep water and being turned back.

I was amused that Dr. Hubbard sent me a message and I was too much flustered to say much obliged. Of all these people I've known the grandfathers and mothers; I have always liked them, his wife, Connie Sewell, who is an invalid, and her late sister Graham Sewell, Shuldham Hill's first wife – I scarcely know him.

Elsa is just written to Greenshields who has not acknowledged her registered letter containing \$2,000 odd dollars for stock.

A fine day at last and love to you all – the Serjeants from the Island are booked for England for the 16th. So till then we must be prepared for a call – and they do have a gift for choosing the most inappropriate time for returning our call, made the first week.

Love to you all.

Now Lois is so busy with two babies whooping cough etc we do not hear often.

Mama

September 12 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Monday 12 Sept 38

3 p.m.

Dear Harold

The answer, the offer has just come – twenty five thousand, no more. M. Lesage has just phoned me.

I have said I will reply in two days- but shall accept. Am getting the tenants out this week, and shall begin tomorrow by getting M. Héliodore Laberge to see the Old Creamery building, as to its possibilities for our future dwelling; working as quickly as possible. Glad to see you anytime!

Mama

September 23, 1938 postcard Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

23 Sept 1938

So glad to receive yours of yesterday as we shall be to see you whenever you can leave. As for the painting of Laval (Grant's), that was settled when we knew you desired it; yours of course and when you come we must see about some plums and apples too.

We also have had a terrific storm and constant rain, but are busy indoors too. Léonidas has just come to make estimates for necessary changes here, painting of halls etc. has made this house more attractive – but fancy it is now a question of the feasibility of painting on top of paper or taking it off by wetting and scraping.

Thanks for practical suggestions.

Love Mama

October 8, 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Darnoc, Beauport 8 Oct 1938.

My own dear Harold

Having sold this home and property, received five thousand dollars on account, I enclose a cheque for that amount, with Elsa's love and mine, hoping and believing it will give you a little return for all the anxiety and losses which so often are your daily lot.

This is the same amount I shall give your brother and sisters soon as the balance is paid within a year or so, meanwhile interest at 5 p.c. will be paid – not a bad investment, for the times, is it now.

This weather has been beautiful, for about a week, Elsa is busy getting her little house 113 ready across the way in which to put furniture; changing position of grate is the biggest, and the bath – after that there is only painting to make it fresh and counteract tobacco smell. No money to be wasted though for summer residence only probably.

Now I may have hampered or disappointed you, unknowingly, by writing Dr. Marius Barbeau about our flags etc. when you had spoken of perhaps some other department, and M. Gustave Lanctot had already come here to see about them? Your idea was to have them differently disposed of; and there has been a strong appeal made for Quebec claim, all the actors being in this province, and residents all Lower Canadian.

We never considered taking money for any of them, only placing them for safe keeping of course. And we have – as you know- now a fine, and probably as safe a Museum as can be built. Give me your opinion please.

Days are beautiful, flowers, chiefly yellow, abundant, but Elsa has been having nosebleeds, a very bad one last night. I gave her Luminal and she held the nostril till it clogged and used yellow Oxide. Not knowing what better to do we are going to Dr. René Turcot today.

Lots to see to and this nosebleed is no fun. I wonder what the cause can be – if you write about this be careful because Elsa always reads family letters coming from the mail. Only I wonder, know Conrad's years of trouble that way ended after he got rid of that tape-worm, however this will finish my letter today and I am going with Elsa to Dr. René Turcot . Luminal is no harm for Elsa under the circumstances, keeps her from hurrying and worrying so much as usual, does it not and perhaps has some effect on nose-bleed?

Just about to get lunch and go off to town with her for a change. We have many things on hand, but on the whole are getting on fairly well, our people around here much delighted at the idea we choose to stay here in summer instead of in town, or going to Angleterre.

Mama

October 17, 1938 on scrap of paper Leila Guky Geggie to Harold

17 Oct 1938

My darling boy

I've endorse[d] this cheque back to you, 6 mos interest with many thanks; if at the end of that time I require it, I shall ask you I promise.

Just now I am giving, not taking, and shall be glad to see you – plus your car, especially the latter, about 1st Nov. when we can begin to move.

We have men and can get more too.

Mama

October 20, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold [letter 1]

20 Oct '38

My dear Harold

Enclosed Lois' very satisfactory letter, after all her troubles; she is pretty plucky and getting on at last, with Irene really improving, even if slowly – courageous too, a happy, dear girl instead of moping and sad because of all she has endured and may yet.

Real British pluck I call it, and everyone in both families giving a hand.

Philip is coming home for weekends, under the circumstances will be a blessing to them all! The children are all so good, and he perhaps especially though not so quick as the others.

We accept your offer gladly to come about first Nov with your car. You shall see what a nice unpretentious house Elsa's will be even before we put furniture in; which you can help us do. Then to be here to see your own and Conrad's furniture off. Do you wish yours addressed Ottawa, or straight to Wakefield? Unless intended to be done over in Ottawa I shall address it to your home.

When Conrad's and yours are off then we put some to go to the rooms in town, the rest to our Cottage; our job will be much simplified indeed.

Love from us both. When you go to see Aunt Mary, she is very lonely please read her enclosed piece of Lois' letter to interest her. Mama

20 October, 1938 Leila Gagy Geggie to Harold [letter 2]

Early in the morning, before the break of day!

My own Harold

We are getting along! The men plasterers etc. will be out of our Cottage in a day or so. Cut firewood stores are all moved out of our cellar to the big garage and shed old Guillot and I reconstructed close to its back door, from the stable which stood so far away at the end of the lot.

Certainly by end of the month, you and your car will be very useful to take us back and forth to town. By that time we shall break to Beauport the news of our moving to town for six months, although we have established our permanent home here. Then we shall have the key of our City flat, where repairs are being made for us now. Two rooms renovated etc; Elsa and the Landlady (or rather Concierge I suppose) having met and come to an agreement, (a few days after the lease had been signed) about papering.

Sunday. And so you and Hans, dear boy, plan to come to our assistance. Now much more jolly indeed of you two, to conspire so to come to our assistance even to come to our support, moral even if not actual! You shall both be welcome, your car will go back full, I think! We have dusty work for you both, so better bring in your car an old suit of clothes each, besides that you are wearing.

Perhaps if you can better see M. Gustave Lanctot (or phone him at Kirks' Ferry, or elsewhere) – I shall write him today in any case to put on him the responsibility of the flags – since, although Dr. Marius Barbeau came here and saw them with Abbé Maheux of Laval I think.

What I wish is to put on the Department the onus of transportation, also giving us a good photograph of each.

Having had unofficial requests from Quebec Museum on the plains, it is just as well to settle the question now to avoid further complications.

I am mailing with this an official letter to M. Gustave Lanctot, Deputy Minister of Archives so really you have no further responsibility and will in any case have no time –

So Goodbye. Shall hail your coming with delight.

Elsa and Mama

November 8, 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold

Nov. 8 – 1938

Dear Harold

As I told you yesterday, Elsa's Kodak was just hanging in its usual place, only she had hung her coat on top of it.

Conrad's letter enclosed, you see how their weather is cold and inhospitable, while ours is still lovely. However the day of the eclipse the fog was terrific, so accidents were many, and into the night as well.

Our home across the way 113 is nearly ready to lock up for the winter, and the men will leave it by end of week.

Last finishing to the work of the Railway gate has been put, we put between Aunt May and us, but she has not been paid yet. Too bad it ought to be done long ago, only she says "no use to fight the Government, better take what they offer". However we are very diplomatic, and do not "fight" the Government yet we are, for her getting about \$3,000.00 more than they offered.

Surely your load of furniture did not take long to reach home; was it in good condition too? Wonder when Conrad's will be in Edmonton.

It will be some days before we get into town for good, though we go into the lovely Sunny flat. But we are ? about fixing up across the way. This p.m. Elsa is having loads of earth put across the front to raise it and then sowing grass seed. That house too is just all we hoped for in a simple pretty style, comfortable and bright inside. In the spring the gallery will be widened, also the front painted brown, a new hall door and new white fence made.

Rev. P.R. Roy, his wife and her mother came for half an hour Monday to see how we are advancing, and before leaving bless us. We appreciate these unaffected people's interest in us and are always glad to see them.

There are many small things to do, though Elsa would willingly pitch everything and go. I sympathize and am not what she thinks, but really all the care of a life time cannot be pitched in a heap in a minute. Really I have things to do which must be finished properly. Brigadier McElhiney of Salvation Army is to come for a lot of things, skis, heavy snowshoes, only fit for ? and new settlements. I did consult our Dr. A.M. Gordon of St. Andrews, but he lacks decision of character, is not at all practical. We do love him but McElhiney is quick and all alive; so is Mrs. Brigadier, but talks too much is too prosy. The daughter is fine too and can all help us.

We've had the water turn off at 113 so as to be careful. Every day some of the architects come to measure pipes etc.

Now how are you and all your care? Is Ella really better? I have an animal drawing book to send Stuart. Hope you will get to Cooper St. some day with news.

Elsa's love and mine, I wish she could have a little patience know it's not easy.

Enough for now.

Mama

November 13, 1938 Leila Guky Geggie to Ella Geggie

224 Fraser St. Que. City

Sunday night

13th Nov. '38

Dear Ella

We were so pleased to get your news. Hope dear Stuart will like his drawing book. Hope you are all well.

You may think of us being fully installed at 224 Fraser, as having had one whirlwind day, yesterday, and waited so late for mail, we drove past C.P.R. Station at 6:20.

Wish you could have seen our tightly packed car with Lorenzo driving as usual. I had a small round table, held by my feet, we had box and parcels also food parcels – neither of us could move much, for [fear] of spilling milk, cream or tipping over something.

The fat carter boy was tired of running up the long stairs with heavy parcels then down for more.

As soon as possible we got to bed, everything tidy and in order thanks to dear Harold's whirlwind days with us.

Our rooms are beautiful and simple, and today we are simply eating and sleeping owing to the whirlwind day yesterday. Cannot describe it to you now – only time to say this, offer to buy Cape House also consideration, construction of a fire escape there to cost \$325.00 all to be decided in at once and together – am consulting Mr. Holiday of course.

Hurry - love to all. Mama

November 13, 1938 Elsa Guky Geggie to Harold

224 Fraser St

Sunday 6 p.m.

Dear Harold

Just a note to say we came in here last night at 7:30, too late for the mail here, but after waiting for it at home. We brought in a small round table for the radio and lots of other bundles. I sent out bedding to the wash and brought in the blankets so we'll not be able to sleep there again. Intend to cover the piano tomorrow with the spare room mattress but will leave Mama hers so that she may be able to lie down any time when we go back. Both of us have had hot baths (without the effort of stoking) and a good night's rest. Mama talks of keeping the key till 1st Dec. and going back daily but is already saying she will have to stay here till the mail comes tomorrow. We have had a quiet comfortable [day] and are both better for it.

Got your wire etc. So sorry you are not well. The week you put in here was enough to kill a horse anyway. Don't bother coming down and I'll try to get Mama to leave the garret to the incoming tenants. Saying, "Well, if you are in a hurry to take over the house, take it as it is and say nothing." However she just gets terribly mad if I say the least thing.

Had a letter from Conrad. He did not want an iron bench but a card table! Too bad, as Mama had promised that to Lois and we keep the other. Baillargeon's bill was \$74!! \$15 for Conrad's \$24 for yours and the rest for us, 8 hours at \$3.

Anyway we did it and in fine weather. Today we have rain and we have no rubbers nor umbrellas!

Love to all Elsa

November 24, 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold St. Roch's Hotel Quebec

Thurs 24 Nov '38

Dear Harold

We left the flat this morning after breakfast and got out home to look for a couple of things we had to have. The house is all broken open everywhere and we made no stay. Already the drawing room has scantling²⁵⁹ for a partition put up to make a narrow apartment in which is the grate.

East end gallery all gone, end of roof, etc, nothing of our house left but front stair not even a banister to that. We stayed a minute or two – went over to Léonidas to whom we have keys and instructions for winter – he takes care and responsibility for us and we have no more need to go. He has our address telephone etc. etc. Came back home for lunch, after Elsa made some purchases necessary in Joseph St. Léonidas a perfectly reliable person and always has been very willing to serve us. Of course he and his sons earn a great deal every year from us, and will have to finish the spring our 113 for us.

We are probably to sell the 1st May our Cape house to form part of a large rooming house to be built by a Syndicate. M. Lesage has it now in hand, and the Rylands' again will have their share of it all of course.

²⁵⁹ A small timber used in construction.

Aunt May sold years ago, brought the houses both to sale and a division; finally sold the one she had bought in, after living years in it.

Strange everything comes together. Some years ago I had an offer of \$15,000.00 for that house, but Frank Daniels opposed so we refused - it was for a big rooming house – so it is now.

I think we can get more this time – if not we shall take the most we can get of course; Good for the Ryland heirs, good for us; unless the offer is too ridiculous when of course we shall refuse. Have obtained a short delay about fire escape, until we settle – two or three weeks, which ought to be enough.

Sun. 26th Thursday a 'phone message from Louise Seifert inviting us to tea was pleasant. Perhaps it was suggested by my having sent Hope Glass some antique dresses for children's plays which she is very clever in getting on. Of course we had a scrumptious tea, and very pleasant evening. Harold came for us, and brought us back – also Beth Seifert his eldest sister was there – leaving next day to spend winter in Toronto.

Last evening we went to see the play at Cathedral Church Hall, packed full, and I saw so many people I've not seen for years. Find Eddie Joseph (blind) has written a play too – he was in the audience also and his play is to be performed next, I think.

I do not intend to make a practice of going out this way in the evening, but this is a new departure and a great pleasure for Elsa, who had quite given up going out in the evening. Nothing was worth going out at night for, she said, and getting back there so far and so late.

Strange to say old Dr. Parmelee is engaged to Miss Tanner Lea, great is the fun made about it, but they were always great admirers of each other; I think Jean Grant knew it when she was on a European trip, on which they were too.

Of course we have a Telephone of our own here, it is 2 – 4660 – but you know it!

I enclose clipping about Eddie Joseph's play, saw him there tonight with black glasses, all the family I understand has studied Braille, and teaches it also to anyone who needs to learn – I think he taught Fred Marsh for a time. However Fred ended by going to Blind Institute on Louis St, there learning such independence, he can now go anywhere alone with his white stick, and head in the air.

A lovely week of sunlight – some snow.

Mama

November 25, 1938 postcard Leila Gugy Geggie to Harold

25th Nov. 1938.

Have probably paid today our last visit to Darnoc, as it used to be. Everything is changed and gone. Léonidas has key and charge of course for the winter, no more to be done there except to 113. The

other sale on Mont Carmel will apparently go right through, no change till 1st May though and M. Lesage has it all in hand. We went last evening to Louise and Harold Seifert's, had a very pleasant evening indeed, were driven there and back.

Shall wish to buy Ella's sketch of that house to be all demolished.

Love from us, Mama

November 27, 1938 Leila Gagy Geggie to Ella

224 Fraser St. Quebec

27 Nov 1938.

Dear Ella

I've been trying daily to write you, but sleep too much, just doze off and have to lay it aside and lie down: accumulation of weariness probably. However we both are enjoying things here, Elsa especially, comes in and goes out with so much freedom, we both like our flat better and better daily, are able to keep windows open back and front, day and night. We enjoy very great freedom, for the first time in our lives being able to run in and out in a few minutes – at least Elsa does, I have been going to our Notary's office, and out home but it's ended now. No fires to make here.

I'm so pleased about that connection with Government House, you and Elsie will enjoy it as something different; those Tweedsmuir's are so easy in their manners, one takes to them at once, and is so sorry for the Governor, cannot help seeing he's a wreck in health.

Mrs. Graham's being there when you met her, was because she is an Author, writes a great deal and publishes everywhere, yet do not know how she finds time; has done some little booklets of plays, I take six at a time and give them to young people to practice and produce. She has long been our W.C.T.U. Provincial Secretary, also Editor of White Ribbon Tidings, which I send Harold, Lois and Conrad. She's Sec. of Provincial Union too. A great worker, and the way she picks up and helps young girls too! While our W.C.T.U. Conventions are on it's hard work reporting, yet very few papers take any notice, so her work is thrown away apparently – not paid for either by us, only part of her work.

Did you read that story I sent Harold, of Mrs. Miller, a Dr's Widow, who has used the money her husband left her for a campaign for total abstinence because of her own young son becoming a victim of intemperance? She has gone from extreme Maritimes to Victoria, got thousands of names to petitions, next thing will be to get the best man to present them in Provincial, and Federal Houses too.

Harold will remember the Welch family two fine sisters, Florence and Emily here, but brothers who lost each his mind, father had done the same. Two of these are near us, we've always known them, just big, fat, and childish; one came on a message, they can do that kind of thing, but sisters have to support them, so sad! One was here today but the girls have to look after and support them – hard work. One

sister in Montreal is guardian and Companion to a wealthy mental defective, has travelled a great deal with her for years; name of third I've forgotten.

30th Nov. Another sunny lovely day, we have tickets for St. Andrew's supper in Kirk Hall and are going, after that shall call a halt – I at least.

Can't say whether that sale of Cape House will go through now or not, it's just trembling in the balance at the present moment, in M. Lesage's hands, too many issues at stake, thought it best to leave it with him.

Elsa is well, cheerful and happy, gets out when she likes and does messages. How pretty that piece of heather is!

Love to you all from us both

Mama

December 22, 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold and Ella

224 Fraser St. Quebec

22 Dec 1938

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!

Dear Harold and Ella

Thank you each for your letter. For me I cannot think, nor do much (except routine, a little house help), but write, plenty of that. Elsa sees so practically, and bit by bit, to everything else, and the postman comes all the time.

We've evaded all Christmas engagements, shall go to Morning Service, and perhaps tea at the Chateau by ourselves quietly? I never feel rested, can always lie down and sleep, don't want to go out, but Elsa goes for long walks, and is glad of the chance. Last night went for a long one, said she felt in the house as if she would burst. And I'm happy left to myself, and my letters which come in numbers many times a day; such a happy year's ending, with obligations fulfilled, ever so many!

Just received from Beryl Child- Bonner, news – Cyril is with her ill, anaemia and recovering from operation for haemorrhoids. To my knowledge he's had these for years and years – must be very ill indeed with no one unselfish enough to give him proper consideration nor home; plus probably some few faults of his own besides – who knows, poor chap. I'm dead sorry for him and his one eyed son...[large ink blot across page].....sister & re.....a day or two. His.....is Humphrey.

Just rec'd letter from Mrs. Dr. Swan of Duncan B.C. ..who is in England with her husband who is taking a study course.

We enjoy our small gallery, front, also back, from which we survey the decorated trees at our neighbors. We have plenty of decorations high up – many have been stolen we see.

Have had lunch with Miss Welch where old Miss Henderson boards, 89, very near here.

Excuse haste, blot etc.

Mama

December 22, 1938 Leila Gogy Geggie to Hans, David and Stuart

224 Fraser St

22 Dec 1938

Dear Boys²⁶⁰ One, two, three,

Merrie Christmas to you all, and though we never write, we hear news of you constantly, and it always rejoices us. Your progress is good, just what we would like, and choose for you ourselves.

We are happy because of you, and because you carry on the family tradition to shun alcohol, tobacco, and frequenting places where they are – as much as possible.

Telling the truth, being truthful, honest in word and deed, goes without saying, and doing unto others as you would have them do to you.

Happy Christmas we know you will have, and shall be thinking of you.

Aunt Elsa and Grandmama

1941

February 14 1941 Leila Gogy to Harold Geggie

14 Feb. 1941

135 St. Cyrille St.

Quebec

²⁶⁰ Hans would have been 23 yrs old, David 20 and Stuart 13 at this time. Leila was 84.

My own dear Harold

I'm not worrying – truly because you know how, & the means to take, & are surrounded by help and care. Even Eusèbe returned fully knowing in a hazy way, that was the wisest course to take. The prospect of Hans possibly being committed to leave in June, was what drove me daft, the possibility of his not being able to stay. Knowing as you do the straits in which Ella's poor father was, before you came to his aid and to how much worse you would be, with everyone gone to the front if Hans could not get out of it now, you can't wonder. Ella herself needs all care and watching you can give her; but if Hans can stay, all's well, of course. You will be a mighty help to him, without unduly injuring yourself – different duties can be so apportioned etc etc. All's right now, & I have only to sit tight here, where things are to be done also – the worst is so much helpless waiting - & so many deaths – but I realize how fortunate it is that though I cannot move much I can remember & have M. Lesage at the end of the Telephone & Fleury of St Léon our life long Agent in close touch also, lots of delay, but time was, & not so long ago – when I did that tumble downstairs, for instance – when I was so scared lest I might not live to see things settled properly. However they were & we're in such good train, there could be little danger. I hope for a settlement from day to day now.

The pleasant business Elsa is going out a little more, knits with three different groups, we had them here yesterday, not all able to come, for different reasons – only 8 – neither Rosetta, Dorothy, nor Jean nor Florrie, but these meetings are held every week, at one or other house & work taken home, done much better than during last war, so no waste.

We have anxiety about Guky, stubborn of course, living alone, often over-eating & unwilling to let the Company repair his house. Says they just wish to take it from him & if they did not do the work while Maud was alive, they shall not do it now. I write him often, Herman & Juliette go up each weekend, & try to keep things straight but are themselves to go so soon to New Carlisle.

I am so glad your affairs are in such good train, my dear; it's the best news ever! So love to you all & Madeleine. Love, lots of it, Mama

February 21 1941 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

Friday Feb. 21, 1941

135 St. Cyrille St

Dear Harold

Tuesday morning Elsa phoned Adolphe's home - he had gone but his wife undertook to find him & in less time than it takes to tell, he was at our door. I had just stepped out of my bath & he injected into my neck a wee capsule. Tomorrow morning he is to return to do another, so prompt was he. The

inoculation has already made a change & I hope the second will do more good! We are very grateful to you both; & I've had a dear letter from Hans about his coming to help you this coming summer. This makes us very happy & I do hope you will have needed help. Eusèbe too is evidently there to do his share.

Maude Thompson announced her intention of coming to see me, then quite forgot, of which I was so glad, because of my sore face. But she is all excitement about Dr. Gordon's leaving, etc etc, wishes to see if any of the Congregation knows anything new on the subject. Seems she was one of my Cousin Emily Porteous Sarjeants, who she says spent with her the week before the wedding with poor old Farel Vinet Calvin Serjent²⁶¹ who now reads the lessons & otherwise helps in Trinity Church which is low enough to suit him; good thing in his bereavement to have something to turn away from his sorrow towards; & at Xmas holidays he actually went out to see his other brother in the North West, whom I used to visit in Jeffery Hale's Hospital – now he's taken up his two classes of wee boys at Q.H.S²⁶².

Elsa is making our Income tax acc & I have enough to keep me feeling I am useful – every now & then something else crops up too for me to do.

I hope your school is progressing to the satisfaction of all concerned, & cannot help being daily thankful for dear Stuart's being with Ella & you, a help & comfort, probably learning just as much – for he's a good student. Can or could you get someone to talk good French to him, an hour a day even? Just to rub the corners off.

Nothing from England this week at all, but we may have letters very soon a bunch, there are delays unforeseen of course. Florrie²⁶³ & we keep sending parcels, she received a Cable at Christmas, "Love Cheese". So the cheese went at once. You asked about Dr. & Miss Gordon, going in the autumn we believe.

And now my dears all, another time. Mama & Elsa

Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie February 23 1941

Sunday 23rd Feb. 41

Dear Harold

I had Adolphe in again last night to inoculate Mama & today she is quite dizzy. It had the same effect after he picked her Tuesday but we are hoping it will help the trouble. This time she has one on the tip

²⁶¹ Unsure of correct spelling – Leila spelled this various ways as she did here.

²⁶² Quebec High School; this high school still exists, belonging to the Central Quebec School Board, and located in Quebec City. It is one of three English-language high schools that serve the Quebec City region.

²⁶³ Florrie Oliver who was a friend of Elsa's and would have been an aunt of my Auntie Ruth (Oliver Geggie).

of her chin & one on the big muscle just to the right on the neck. She says the corner of her mouth is sensitive today and we are hoping it is not another. All together she feels pretty miserable but we are doing what we can²⁶⁴ and she has every comfort here including hot baths and small spaces. We are hoping for news from England each other day. Some woman here heard, by radio recently, that we would not have any mail for five weeks but no one else heard it altho' they repeat the story; we all hope it is too definite to be true. Anyway no one knows when the five week's began. I'm glad to hear what you say of the Aylmer fruits & hope they will be delivered safely. I sent another parcel²⁶⁵ Wed. containing sugar, cream of wheat, cocoa, tea, cheese, 2 cans lobster, 3 sardines, some oxo & some rice, the last three to fill up spaces.

I have both our income tax affair made out. It looks as if we would each have to pay \$22 odd, but Geo. Colley tells me we did not need to pay the \$38 provincial tax on the "Gift tax" last year, so not to send a cheque with Mama's statement but just refer them to last year's payment. He suggests that as the quickest way to get a refund.

So glad you have Anna & Dorothy²⁶⁶ here again & that all the sisters may be together for a while. I understand it is a long time since Dorothy was here. I wonder if Will²⁶⁷ will come up from Hartford just to see everyone, if only for a day or so.

Mama has had two nice long letters from Hans and is so pleased to hear from him. I am glad he likes to write for she certainly appreciates hearing from him.

The fine weather continues & plenty of snow has been melting in the sun in the last two weeks. Soon we can look forward to spring & as you say bad roads. Adolphe's son is in the Flying Corps & is training at Fort William just now. He is 22, called Jeandron ?? The eldest Jean was drowned at Lorette years ago. His nephew, Laura's only son, is in the Ordinance here, having come back at the outbreak of the war to rejoin his regiment.

I was in Church this a.m. but there were no soldiers as the H.L.I²⁶⁸. has been moved east- left Tues. & no one to replace them yet.

I had a visit yesterday from a Capt. & Mrs. Boyd who want to sublet for the summer. They [want] to come in in June. He is from Winnipeg & in the Dental Corps, BUT I'm making no arrangement yet. The reason I took this flat was for Mama's comfort & I would be foolish to tie myself up to

²⁶⁴ In Leila's letter to Harold the day before, she said nothing about feeling miserable, probably not wanting him to worry, although Elsa would have known the truth.

²⁶⁵ Sending parcels overseas, probably to their sister Lois who was living in England with her family.

²⁶⁶ Anna and Dorothy were Ella's sisters – the Stevenson girls, who were all raised at The Maples in Wakefield. These two sisters lived out in BC.

²⁶⁷ Will was the only Stevenson son; he lived in the U.S.

²⁶⁸ Highland Light Infantry

moving out, if it does not suit me to do so. It is so convenient that I feel sure it would be snapped up any time I'd give the word.

Love to all, Elsa

Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie undated on a piece of brown paper bag c 1941

Wednesday

Dear Harold

Am in town doing lots of messages so forgive paper please. Thank you for the bonds \$11.25 rec'd two days ago and now in my safety deposit box. Today we have the S.U.P.T. letter from you. I've asked Adolphe to come in, Mama is very itchy & I use that nupercanal cita²⁶⁹ you gave me constantly & fuller's earth²⁷⁰ for a change. She has big scalds under the breasts – small patch on back & neck.

April 21 1941 Leila Guky Geggie to Harold Geggie

135 St Cyrille St Quebec

Monday 21 April '41

On embossed notepaper "Darnoc" Beauport Que

My own dear Harold

You are doing fine work, & Mme Diotte cannot afford to go to jail, she will pay her fine if it's \$1000. But you must see to the flue in your own house which has to my knowledge taken fire more than once, else someone will see that it takes fire when you & Ella are away & really burn up your beautiful house. What a dreadful thing if you lost it, what should you do, nothing could compensate you for that, & I've seen the thing very nearly happen, & Ella had such a terrible time pouring water down that old stove pipe hole in the upper hall, as she should never have back to do again, a terrible danger. Do as I ask & tell no one – not even Ella herself – I've often wished to tell you about this but do not wish Ella made

²⁶⁹ A local anaesthetic agent used in the 1920s-1930s. Among the most potent and toxic of the long-acting local anesthetics, current use is generally restricted to spinal and topical anesthesia.

²⁷⁰ Any fine-grained, naturally occurring earthy substance that has a substantial ability to adsorb impurities or colouring bodies from fats, grease, or oils. Its name originated with the textile industry, in which textile workers (or fullers) cleaned raw wool by kneading it in a mixture of water and fine earth that adsorbed oil, dirt, and other contaminants from the fibres.

nervous. That Mrs. Diotte will have revenge if she does not leave the parish & set up somewhere else, or even then.

We are so delighted to have rented this flat so well, you know that it's pretty nice, & it is to this Lieut.-Commander Everett Shaver whom Conrad & Agnes sent. So we are bound to furnish it so nicely for them, & they are giving us our price. I do not mean to be extravagant but all the same, we mean to give it to them nice, clean, fresh & bright, & reap the reward when we return to take it over in Autumn with so little then to do for us. As you say winter's over we are anxious to get at the garden so are glad to hurry home.

Last evening, Sunday, we asked to Tea, Cousin Emilie Porteous' widower, also Teddy Young, & were sorry to find the former has failed mentally a great deal: used to be allowed to read the Lessons in Trinity Church & is so grieved because the new Rector is doing it himself. Fortunately Mrs. Porteous persuaded them both to stay over here, & now he has to stay. It is likely & I hope he will die here & be buried with her in Montreal But Ted & he, who have known each other for years, had really a good evening here, & tea a sit-down, comfortable one, after which the old man went off to church, while Ted stayed later.

C. Guky Ryland came down from Shawinigan, took Elsa in his Car out home & they brought in such a useful load we were glad to get it, because tomorrow Mrs. Gould, our Landlady, takes her furniture away & we are to furnish for Conrad's friends the Shavers. So there will be a chance for us to get out home quite early in May. It is summer there now, Elsa says, & beautiful while it is almost too hot here even now.

Hon. Adélar Godbout, plus the universal Anti-liquor movement is to be thanked for your Mme Diotte's fate! Everything here is still politics, but let's be thankful for this movement. We must strengthen our Temperance forces, Bands of Hope etc, until we clear up the Liquor disgrace of this Province. If you do not receive the Quebec Temperance League's monthly Newsletter. Mama

To be continued in our next – treatments slowed by your advice.

April 24 1941 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie

135 St Cyrille St

Thursday 24 April

Dear Harold

I am in quite a turmoil but feel I must get news off to you tonight. Today's letter from Lois enclosed. Will send on her booklets later. Have just packed a box 2 lbs sugar, 2 tins sausages, 2 lbs "old English" Kraft

cheese in wooden box, maple sugar (small) & some candied orange & citron peel in the cracks. I hope it will get there safely. Isn't it wonderful what she has done with my first two lbs cheese?

We have had Mrs. Gould in each morning packing her belongings. It's been a nuisance but now she has everything ready & awaits Army trucks & soldiers Tues. 29th 1 pm. I have arranged to have some things from here taken out & others brought in the a.m. of the 30th. Two days ago I went out at 7 a.m. & assembled things & now we await two [word?] beds etc from Eatons. I've house cleaned everything here & have my curtains up & just await her absence to get the floors waxed before our things are moved in. Gogy appeared unexpectedly Saturday & we went out and got my carpets & I've cleaned them all with her vacuum cleaner before she got away with it, & rolled them up.

I don't know if Mama told you we have rented to Lieut Commander & Mrs. Shaver. They move in the 5th & we out till 5th Sept. I find we may not be able to have a 2 party line because they "have not the facilities"; when I pressed for a real reason I was told "The national defence comes first!"

So sorry to hear of Aunt Mary's condition but glad she does not suffer. Hope it will not be long drawn out as it can only end one way for her.

This morning is one great business but it should be easier in the fall. It seems Sheila Grubbs wants to be called Geggie & calls Conrad & Agnes Mummy & Daddy.

Glad your school affairs are going well. Mama's last treatment tomorrow. We should have the 10th Monday next but am too busy.

Love to all,

Elsa

April 28, 1941 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

135 St Cyrille, Quebec

Friday, 28th 1941

My own dear Harold

It's near the weekend & this letter has to reach you ere it ends, just to say here are letters from Lois etc & we're busier than ever. News in the papers terrible, astonishing & goodness knows what's coming etc.

But Adolphe has been here twice, promptly to break a little neck off one of your capsules & inject it. The result has been good enough & soon it will be all right, not hurting, diminishing & he's well satisfied – also very satisfactory indeed.

There's a lot going on, enclosed letters will shew & you will hear later great [sic].

We are preparing & reaching a very much more satisfactory arrangement with Mrs. Gould than we ever thought. But I hear warning of the near approach of settlement of the Seigneuries money for which we have waited so long in vain. Also of certainty that on our beach below the far fields will probably be built such far-flung wharves, docks etc, as my poor Papa used to predict in the old days – told us he would never live to see – of course not. The war is bringing everything to this side of the world we must be ready to accept it & I hope to see it settled before I go.

Love to all your dear ones & you, a whole lot to Stuart & you!

Love from Elsa & Mama

May 2 1941 Elsa Geggie to Harold Geggie

135 St Cyrille

2nd May '41

Dear Harold,

I have yours of a few days ago & thank you. I am glad you decided to send my school bond later as we're all upset here now. Mrs. Gould moved out as planned Tuesday after puttering around here every a.m. last week. Fortunately I had brought in dishes, carpets, pots & pans previously and the new beds arrived Monday so Mama was not uncomfortable at although all the going & coming fusses her and makes her irritable. We finished at the hospital last Friday after 9 treatments & now he wants her to see him in 6 weeks which would just be about the 10th when you come down. I brought in my load of furniture early Wed shutting the door after the men at 8:55. They picked me & some baggage up here shortly after 7 a.m. so we were through fairly early. Yesterday the gas stove & dining room set Mrs. Parr (Mrs. Gould's mother) is storing here came in & we are pretty well settled now. I had done all the ceilings, walls, windows & curtains before so now I've just two more floors to clean & then wax. Tomorrow & Sunday I have to go to Beauport to light fires & heat the house against our moving in early Monday afternoon. Lieut-Commander & Harriet Shaver then take over till the 5th Sept. I have a lot to see to at home. The fence all across the frontage is falling down & two sections have completely disappeared, & with their large families the tenants want fences; for myself I'd remove them all! Then we have to put a railing

around the gallery of one of the creamery houses & carpenters are hard to get. We also have a wall crumbling in the yard at 20 Mt. Carmel & I had to see to having it repaired. It is to cost \$150 or more & is in a dangerous state now. The garden is crying out for attention etc. etc.

We went out with the knitting group to the F.W.B. Rhodes yesterday & had a very pleasant time seeing all Lily's spring flowers hidden away in corners where she carted earth from the woods & put in lovely hepaticas, dogtooths and trilliums & ferns & also has daffodils & hyacinths too. The grass is very green where it has been raked – everything out very early this year. I took Mrs. Shaver with me and she was delighted. She was beginning to think Quebec was all narrow streets with houses rising out of them & apartment & boarding houses.

I have not yet been able to get our gas stove connected so the plumbers are all busy but hope for better luck tomorrow. As long as we have it for Monday when we hand over it will do but I'm not saying so. We will have to go back to a rural phone in Beauport & have 10 or so on the line again. Up to now we had a two party with Dr. Ferland & it was very good. The reason now is that they "have not the facilities now" which being translated is "National Defence" has first claim on all services.

Must go now. Hope you can come down in June. We should be comfortably settled at home in a week & hard at other work.

Love to all

Elsa

May 16 1941 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

Friday 16 May 1941

On embossed Darnoc notepaper

My own dear Harold

Glad indeed we are to learn there is even a chance of your being here about middle of June. I do indeed hope to see you then. The boils are better, gone, been using talcum powder profusely for heat rash under breasts, but all better now.

Day after day we're busy & sit on the little front gallery which is not yet mended. I write, Elsa knits, & every afternoon soldiers ceaselessly pass from Valcartier to the Kent House Grounds. A company on the opposite side – a space and then one on this side. All afternoon. Elsa and I exchange "thumbs up" signals. Heavy trucks loaded, ambulances, etc pass & every day it's the same, being habituated to route marches; tin hats, are warm too, yesterday they lay in numbers on the grass inside the Convent Gate opposite.

Lovely weather, too fine, no rain at all, the earth parching. We are having heavy fogs each morning. I suppose some of the water sucked up from the St. Lawrence etc does drop on vegetation etc.

We have asked for Sunday, our nice new Tenants Lieut-Commander & Mrs. Everett Shaver – her name is Harriet, for a change and they seem pleased. Both of them very nice, except strong smell of tobacco.

I am having a great to do about Cape House back wall, partly fallen. Mitoyen²⁷¹ & the representative, old notary retired, Baillargeon, has undertaken to see to it, all kind of Mitoyen problems but he came out again yesterday, a thorough conscientious gentleman, giving me the facts, discovered against his own side! Very fine. There go hundreds of soldiers still & an ambulance corps & truck just picked up a poor chap who reeled & fell. But still sultry weather prevails & no rain, it may come at least & K sultry nights may be here too – no sign of it yet though.

Have had a line from that nice boy Clifford Kerr whose mother I've known so long at Escuminac but he's been sent to Toronto, best for one who speaks no French.

We are getting our garden a little into order now, & have repairs in two sides of old Creamery undertaken, but worse luck, not begun. Wish they would for our Tenants become rebellious if it continues, so far everything has been harmonious of late, no empty houses to rent, or likely to be.

Elsa has been to a few Red Cross & other meetings at each house, never refuses to go, until yesterday, but you see we have a lot to do her now. It will be a treat when you & dear Boy come next month, such a change, & I fear you feel it too. But it's best, & we are so glad you have had a fine visit from Madeline & Weary, & the repurchasing of the Gisborne house.

Beauport looks very pretty, very green, & the Convent opposite so tidy, a beautiful new fence, same still & gate ditto freshly painted.

Well, my dear, we are waiting & send love to one & all, hope the little Brighton baby continues to grow and do well.

Until we see you all here again may all go well & love to each & all. I'm tired.

Love from Elsa & Mama

May 23 1941 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

23rd May 1941

²⁷¹ Refers to wall dividing two properties.

My own dear Harold

Being much better, I am up all today; Adolphe continues the “picques”, & the spring advances; last night there was a frightful rainstorm & blackness, no thunder or lightening. But it cheered up the whole country & today there is a great difference, green grass & the trees all out in leaf. I do hope when you all come for Hans’ License, Lilac will be all out that you may see it in all its glory again. We may seem ungrateful but we could not have stood the isolation, weather, etc. much longer & I was trying to steel myself to endure it all the same, yet feared it would become impossible. Those good nuns saved us from having to say we could stand it no longer. And at least it was not from cowardice & not to leave the beautiful home to ruin, as I had always feared. Today those sick nuns beautify & tend it, as best they can, & I’ve been over twice to see all the beautiful fruit they are growing, how they work diligently, at every sort of thing, even turning masses of Beads, almost pounds of them, into Chapelets²⁷² by someone. So innocently the Sister said, “I pretended to be indifferent & asked what do you think we can do with such [a] mass of mixed beads? So I got them all for nothing”. Evidently such an artifice!

Beatrice Grant from Calgary has taken a ticket to Quebec for her holidays. I’ve just written to ask her to bring Nancie down, both to stay with us. That girl has always had to stay at home & must feel the difference terribly. I’ve not yet been able to write her nor anyone. Now I feel so much better today, for the first time, those “picques” are doing me good. Adolphe has begun the second box, & I hope I shall be better.

Elsa is very tired, has been digging over the garden. I cannot prevent her but that tramp Simon (who is all we can get) just digs over the ground burying all the weeds. But he makes it easier for her to go over again then she is satisfied. Otherwise she never would be, her work is so fine, it’s a pleasure to see, & to enjoy the fruit, etc etc.

Enclosed I send you two reports in same column of Mary M. Miller’s success, so glad of it, but I do hope she will spur our Sylvia on to some ambition. She too is choosing her own career & ought to do her best. I fear she’s a dawdler as she ought not to be.

Hope to see you & dear Hans soon, Ella too, we shall be delighted if she & one of the Boys or Sylvia can come – room for all.

Mama

May 28 1941 Leila Gogy Geggie to Harold Geggie

28 May 1941

²⁷² Rosaries

Stamped with Darnoc stamp. Attached a clipping from newspaper: "The College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Quebec. The swearing-in ceremony of medical graduates will take place in the Parliament Buildings at Quebec City on the 10th of June at 10 A.M. Eugene Prud'homme, M.D. Registrar"

Dear Harold

You will find enclosed a clipping from tonight's Chronicle, which is the time for which you & dear Hans are to come down & I hope to see you. Looking forward to your coming as I have had again a siege of boils, this time not only on my face but on my breasts, which are exquisitely swollen & painful & full of pus!

Adolphe is exceedingly kind, was here again this morning, never speaks English, gives me "des piques" & went away saying "tu sais je vais revenir". And I'm so glad to have the S.U.P. 36²⁷³ for it's no joke. His eldest son, Maurice, is in the air force, has been home for last leave from Picton, Ont. He himself has travelled so much everywhere since his illness of late years, he has broader ideas, his son also; he goes to Hospitals wherever he happens to have been, in N.Y. or elsewhere. As he says he is so proud of that eldest son Maurice, who has his wings & is to go over soon.

Elsa has a couple of hundred dollars to put into Victory Loan, what have you to say about which maturity etc, she ought to get; for someone will be here probably bright & early Monday morning.

Jean Grant tells us Beatrice Grant, Bert's second daughter, is to visit with them; her ticket is taken to Quebec, & we wish to have them here, that is to bring Nancie with her, she never could leave her mother before.

Elsa's garden about which she has taken infinite trouble, is nearly up, & she thinks of putting in the next crop at once – we only had one rainstorm, 29th. Just received your letter of 20th and find enclosed notice of your appointment with Registrar Prudhomme at our Parliament Buildings.

I wonder if you will be able to come down with all the work you have to do; we hope so very much! I must still ask you, to read when you can & acknowledge Will Hamilton's typed letter of 2 years ago, when I was so ill. I've written him to say how unable I was to attend to anything then & they have remained where I put them ever since. Now I deliver them all by mail. I even forget his name; he's Librarian in Dayton, Ohio, & has two sons; married years ago, a Miss Elizabeth Mary Bonham, cousin of my mother. Very fine good people indeed.

No, I am not fooling you, I am miserable, but well cared for by Elsa & Adolphe who do not neglect either of them. But we have devised a pan of my being seated on the low bench in the bath each night, and being sprayed with a kettle full of comfortably hot water. Just delightful at bedtime, I can tell you.

²⁷³ See Canadian Medical Association Journal 1936. SUP 36: A Valuable Aid in the Treatment of Many Acute Infections.

We are so glad indeed for Madeline & all the family, having such a dear Baby, there's no greater blessing! How happy your Papa & all of us were when Lois was able to bring her children home each summer! Now it's so long ago, & I am at home for good unless I can get by some short way to Melbourne to see my cousin Grace Gee.

Adolphe is really attentive & your piques are helpful. Elsa has gone to a knitting meeting at Miss Morewood's today, near Spencer Woods.

1948

March 19 1948 Lois Geggie Chaplin to Harold Geggie with page from Leila 1892

Almonte 19 March '48

Dear Harold,

Thank you for your letter which came earlier in the week. I was glad that Ella had recovered from her tooth pulling. A nasty thing to contemplate.

How nice to have Stuart home for the weekend when you thought that you would not see him till Easter.

We are having rain today which should take away the little ice and snow that we have left. The river is open now but not at all as high as it was last year. I am hoping our garden will be safe from being carried away this year.

Elsa sent me a few letters that she has been sorting out from the box we brought in from Darnoc. One page was about Elsa's wickedness at St. Leon years ago. As she says she was bad but after all she was only four and I did not seem to be much use and I was ten. You featured in it too so here it is for you to see.

Charlie has been able to do several jobs that he has been wanting to do for a long time in the basement with his new tools. It is so nice to have this woman coming to sweep and dust etc and then away she goes before dinner. We tried to see if the ground was thawed enough to dig some parsnips but it is not.

Eric has very good news from his doctor and radiologist after a whole series of xray pictures they say his lung is all right now. There is nothing there that should not be there. He says he feels wonderful and it is no wonder. They are coming here early in May and will make this their house hunting base. Eric's new job begins 1st June.

Well, I think I must stop now. We're doing well and I am not working too hard and resting in the afternoon.

Love to you all from

Lois.

Page from Leila to James at Darnoc, written 1892

“their hats and today she tore a ribbon off Conrad’s Scotch cap to make him follow, her big brother drags both boys to his door and they are a nuisance. So I do not wish to take water there; we take it from our own well and it is good.

I find so far that I have no spare time, the children give me all I can do²⁷⁴. Fortunately the weather has been good and the roads are drying fast enough, but Elsa is troublesome – yesterday she contrived to fall into the ditch and was saturated with the slimy mud. I hung up her spring coat on the tree to dry, but found that it was just as bad this morning; when about nine o’clock she got her feet wet and I put her barefoot. In a few minutes she was missing and after some search Harold found her lying quietly on her back in the ditch opposite the Cemetery, having fallen in while admiring the headstones. I wish you could have seen what a figure she cut, even her hair being all mud! Of course, this meant a warm bath and half a day’s washing, while I spanked her and put her to bed for the whole day. She stood it quietly enough – sat up in bed and sang and played with her dolls – but she says “Haddie²⁷⁵ told lies about her for she wasn’t in the ditch”. This afternoon she wrote a letter to Mémère with Lois’ help and cried more than once that “she wants Papa and will no one write to Auntie Blanche to send Gugy to town for him?”

Harold asks me if I am not glad that I brought no cat...”

²⁷⁴ The children would have been 10, 8, 6, 4 and 1 yr old.

²⁷⁵ Harold