

Trent University Archives

Medd family fonds

Accession 81-001 Box 1 Folder 2 Letter 14

Letter: 10 June 1916: S.T. Medd to his wife, Estelle, whom he addresses as Stell, discussing the problem of mail going astray. Gives new address, Strathcona House, Canadian Cavalry Depot, Army Post Office, London, England. Property prices in Peterborough and possible population shifts. Is pleased to have been transferred back to the calvary.

Notes regarding the transcription:

In this transcription, most misspellings and grammatical anomalies which occur in the original text have been maintained. Examples include: "co'd or c'd" for "could", "Mtd" for "Mounted", "a/c" for "account". Occasionally commas and periods have been added to assist in clarifying the sentence structure. Square brackets [] indicate indecipherable text.

TRANSCRIPTION

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(Note: "P.S" located on left margin of page)

P.S. Mr. Moss said he got my address from Arthur & asked to up to his place next time I c'd get away. It won't be for some time. Am writing to thank him.

10/6/16

My Dear Stell,

As I came out of the mess room one of the officers handed me 8 letters, 3 from you, 2 from Mother, 1 from Laura, 1 from Fred and one from Mr Moss. I beat it from my quarters and have read yours through twice. You are a dear and you can call me what you will but believe me I do write you weekly and you are every in my thoughts. I know you said once you did not want people to ans. [answer] you line for line but excuse me this time. I will start in no. 1 dated May 1st. I am enclosing two of the envelopes so you can for yourself, see the rounds they have made. I can only suggest that possibly 8th Mtd [Mounted] Rifles on the address may have sent them to France. You see once a letter starts - [] hooling - it gets a slow shift, that is if it came here and I was away, it would likely be a week before it would be sent to another address and so on on its course. I was in the outer precincts, do you mind, of the war office a week or two ago and got a look at the army list and could not find the Mounted Rifle Regiment and was told they have not appeared in that list since January. It was first I knew of it. You see the army list is not distributed and only place one can get at it is Ldn [London]. However, may they rest in peace. I trust to get your mail once more without delays at least for a while. Try out new address as follows. Mail two letters same day, one addressed Major S.T. Medd. Strathcona Horse Canadian Cavalry Depot Army Post Office London, England. The

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the other Major S.T. Medd Canadian Cavalry Depot: Somerset Barracks Shorncliffe, Kent, England. And say a Post Card, simple Major S.T. Medd Army P.O. Ldn, England. Scott can sign it. The address I have underlined is I think the best and least likely to go astray but we will see.

You anticipated a wet May apparently. Well it could bring up the grass and your garden. How the kiddies will enjoy patching the sunflower head out. I used to be so amused by it. It always made me think of a long necked bird. Stell dear, he would not be a dog if he did not enjoy a roll in soft earth and he is certainly a fine one by his pictures. Mary is so thoughtful. I still see that old grown-up expression in her snaps. I wish we could find out how to get round it. I don't know whether it is you or me that was the serious child that she takes after. Scott looks just as tho he was going to get the amusement out of things and enjoy it himself. You know girlie, I always was impressed with the way that young man is able to at once pull himself together the instant he has put something over according to his idea and then seem so surprised that anything had really happened. It is an asset in life and not many have it. At the same time, he continually shows a pure joy in living. I was robbed of that early and It is hard to get it back and I would like to see more of it in Miss Mary, tho it may be she has the joyesness but conceals it. They certainly look well. I put a magnifying glass on your snap but your hat has shaded your face too much to conclude. As to you, I do hope the glasses have helped you and that you are well.

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As I cabled today I think your view as to the George St. house is correct. You could get 6 or 7% on good security and that property was only a buy in case population went north and the place increased in value; 3000 cash it is certainly worth still, but if the population is moving quickly in the west and south west, it will hold property down in the north end. If it is said you only paid 3000.00 you can point out that the cellar was not concreted & no outside door, that the lot had to be leveled and fenced and the maids room put in the attic. Also that it was not decorated or the floors treated. I mean that finish that was put on them in the next place. It is well built and is on gravel so the cellar is absolutely dry and no danger of flooding.

Stell, all the insurance is with Davis Thompson & Co. Billy Thompson will be glad to tell you all about it if you ring him up. I can't recall the dates but he promised to notify you before any of it was near expired. The policys are in the box at the factory.

I stated before there is no way I know of stopping the picture men from dunning you. I paid the bill and they are simply taking advantage of my absence to try to get it over again. What you can do is to get their agent's name and address, warn him that you will prosecute for trespass and to not come back. I had heard of this business over here where cattle of that [] are trying on one account or another to get money out of wives whose husbands are

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away. It has been in the papers but it has apparently been difficult to get convictions as they make one excuse or another.

You state Higgins a/c was for a/c rendered and for pipes. As to the pipes I am not sure but I am positive I paid they in full for any other items. Get the items covered by a/c rendered please for my satisfaction and sent to me.

Rec'd a card from Mrs Hill to-day saying she has parcel. Will call for it.

Yes, I told you and I was so informed I would be at Napier Barracks till 22nd May. As matter of fact was out of it on 12th. That is way it goes here. I heard a few days ago that Cyril Hill was with a Pioneer Bn [Battalion] about 3 miles away. Will likely run into him one of these days. Cy will enjoy bossing Russians building roads, their job you know, and at the front line a tough job. It is [a] wonder how they got him. He certainly couldn't have been looking. Poor Mrs. Wood, she will find her level level here by crip as Harry Allan used to say and the boys, oh say it softly.

How the kiddies will enjoy tea outside and as they get older and getting more and more company for one.

I see by your letter dated May 3rd you did not get my [] for 5 days. Again I see you take a flying shot at me. I heard the mails were disarranged somewhat and cabled so you would not be disturbed by rumour. I had heard one, that we were at Ypres and in dire straights. This was told

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some new arrivals and of course was absolutely unfounded. I have neither seen or heard of Mrs Sutton nor her esteemed husband. I heard yesterday that the Bramshot lot were being quite re-organized. If he gets shot across it will be unfortunate as the most forlorn position here is certainly being so near and yet so far from any one across. Sutton never as much as said he had been asked to bring me a parcel. I only saw him the once. Glad you kept your marmalade. Much to [too] good to give those people.

So you have been comparing notes with Mrs. Wilson (as per your May 11th), poor dears. Wilson and I had better get together. But again I say believe me, if I were near you I would kiss you. It makes me feel better to think of doing it so you can imagine what the sensation if it were only the real thing.

Of Miss Janets, [Francy] writes 3 a week. He is neglecting his country. It can't be done three times a week. Just tell her from me to listen to you, cross her heart and say may I never die. If she still persists that it is true, only believe half. Square the balance and subtract it from the first and the decimal result will be about correct.

I have rec'd the Saturday Nights except the one of May 1st or there [about]. It came to-day and I do enjoy them. I send them in as soon as read to someone else.

Mrs []'s will is a repetition of an old

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old story in the courts. Every time there has been a will like that cutting out some one for no one they always contest. [Then by time gets, there] will be a hole in the 7000.00. It was wise to attend to Scott's trouble by a Dr. He is to [too] strong now. Dr. Young told me Scott would grow out of it as he gets a little older. What a little brick he is. Scott must be careful about climbing a ladder of his own make as he would get a bad & possibly ruinous hurt if a [(click)] step sh'd happen to be insecurely nailed & break away and let him fall. He is quite a carpenter to start building so young. He may build the Parliaments at Kingston yet.

I don't know who I heard the scientist business about Laura & her husband but it seems he got sudden well of the [rheumatism] & attributed it to scientific & scientist thought.

See by yours of 19th you have had the cold damp weather. Also same here but only at that [] by the day or so fine in []. I know now why English waterproofs are so heavy. The ones I brought from Canada will hardly turn an English dew or fog let alone rain.

The garden will be all right, Stell. The cold spring retards growth but the warmth will bring it all right.

Miss S. will be a [sufferer] by the war. There has been a whole raft of them. They

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They marry, think they are losing money not drawing separation allowance, and know not how little it means when it is paid out at 2 guineas per week or more for lodging. You see here they always quote accommodation as if it meant per day or week but they only mean bed and breakfast and the Miss De La F. affair would be funny if it was not so pathetic.

I am sure the change to the lake will do you good and you will have your [time] fully occupied watching the children. Scott, I think can be made to understand the danger of slipping off a rock into the water if he is cautioned and Mary also. I am sure if Mary saw him fall in she would be more than likely to follow trying to save him. But you are to [too] sensible to not know how to provide against such a mishap. So we need not worry. Go by all means especially with your father and it should do him good. From what you said in one of your letters he has been doing more that at his time of life he should. I rec'd the snaps. They are splendid. I have written Arthur again to day and do hope he has a staff appointment. He has earned it about 100 times over. As far as safety goes it is all the same and tho the work is a night and day job and at all hours yet

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yet the fact is he would have much more comfort if Amy is going.

Yes I have changed quarters again and this time really am very comfortable in nice quarters with two large windows and a grate (no coal tho but may yet succeed in getting some. It would be acceptable as it getting cold in the evening and I have a good deal of night work to do).

I do not think I told you I am now in an advanced staff course. (preliminary work – theory – reading – and study to be done here and the noise is that the practical part is to be got in France [in] Staffs there but it may be all changed so do not think of it).

In case I did not explain how I came to be here might say I do not know. Preston said he did not understand it but seems was transferred by Divisional orders. Personally I was delighted to get back to my old arm again. The infantry does not appeal to me. It is a slow methodical job at all times and no variation whereas the Calvary is all movement from its drill to its tactics. Again there is quite a different type of officer. I heard more petty grouse and [tub] talk in the last two or three months out there than in all my calvary experience. As luck would have it the war office had directed this staff course and called for two officers per Brigade to be selected (there are about 160 officers in a brigade). It just happened I was one. We were then notified to attend an entrance exam and that 15 would be selected. Either 33 or 35 wrote. One was Leut. Col.

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Buell of Brockville. He was 17th. Brown also got in on it and tells me he was 18th and if any of the 15 drop out the next up get a chance in some way or other. Had I been here I would not have been selected as here everything goes by turn and those here get by turn. Tho as matter, only one was sent up from these units. There are officers off the army staff and all but four are of rank of Major, five leut. Col. [Best [these] souls were amongst the also ran in entering exam]. So we have quite a selected party and certainly there is not one who is has not obtained all their qualifying certificates up to date. So it would look as tho in [] of the money and time being spent on us we are likely to be put to some job or other and to me the funny thing is some many say it required great pull and influence to get into the circle but we will see what is to come of it. I suppose I told you I passed fairly creditably in the long course. As a matter of fact one can't be too well prepared for this game. The [] boys are of course also the Austrians, all professional soldiers.

Ten Leut Cols start Monday on another of the three month courses so I guess others are beginning to appreciate the good of getting so sort of standing.

Munroe said he intended to try for it but I think he has cold fetters or some other complaint

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at the moment of writing. I am afraid this 8th are rather hard hit. Hubbs is reported missing. I do hope he turns up O.K. He was a very fine character in every way.

Altho things do not look to [too] bright yet, as I said some months ago, I am still satisfied the men at the top know their professions thoroughly and thoroughly know how to handle things to the best advantage and it is going to all come right but it will take time. We are only paying up for lack of appreciation for long years past. A few of us have our season and out of seasons howled for preparation but the Frank Kerrs and other high brows thought the brotherhood of St. Andrews – [MAN] I mean, would kept all safe. It will all come right, the unexpected may happen and the whole show stop as sudden as it started but, having that, it will be some time yet. Now my Queen say not that I am forgetful. If you do I will take another day and not an afternoon as this is, and I will write you to sleep. May the kiddies kiss you for me and you them for me. Be of good heart. It will all be over one of these days. With kisses my love. Your husband,

SM