

Elmira College,

Elmira, New York.

My dear Billy Boy, -

I haven't even wished you happy birthday by letter. It is mean. I hope you had me in spite my not having any thing or even a note from me. I am wondering all the time if you are going to study this fall or not. If so, why you ~~are~~ are probably beginning now. I'm really crazy to know.

As you see by the heading of this page I am all work in Elmira. I think I am going to like it very much here - I like it already. At the very first I thought, "Oh me - well I like it as well as Glen Dale!" but I guess I will - probably a good deal better. The college has some thing over two hundred girls. There is no preparatory school in connection

with the college ² which is new.
This is the oldest ~~college~~ ^{girls} college in the
country to give degrees comparable
to those granted by the men's
colleges. According to Pres. Macken-
zie's speech in Chapel the other
day it stands at the head of the
list of the ~~colleges~~ ^{girls} in the first
grade ~~as~~ on the official books
at Washington. I think that
that list must be made out
according to the age of the in-
stitution but I believe this is a
good college. He says that in
this official report at Washington
there are fourteen girls' colleges of
the first rank.

Well I must get ready for church
now & finish later.

I think I am going to like my
work and life here. I have fourteen
hours work - not half of the
teaching I've been doing and of
course no duties beside teaching

but there are so many more students and consequently so many more sheets that I shall have plenty to do. I have signed registration blanks for sixty freshmen in one of the freshman courses and fifty eight in the other. There may be a few more to come. The sophomore classes are large too. Even my junior English has sixteen - larger than any class I ever had at Glendale. The freshmen are to recite in two divisions, ^{each course in 2 divisions.} like wise the sophomores. But for the first recitation I shall have them all together.

One of the other new teachers is very young, must be a good deal younger than I, I think. She and I were seen to be called by the faculty, "the Faculty infants."

President Inos Kenzie seems to
 be very much disturbed for fear
 we will associate too freely with
 the girls - he has not said any
 thing to me but he has spoken
 several times to Miss Stone - she
 tells me - about it - and lastly
 he suggested to her that he
 wanted her and me to be very
 good friends - to cultivate each
 other specially. Miss Stone
 has the oratory and physical
 culture. Really, nearly everyone
 in the college faculty has a
 Ph.D. and I feel awfully ashamed
 of being only an A.B. But I'm
 going to try to behave as if I
 knew some thing any way
 I don't mean by giving my
 opinion though ~~but rather~~ by keeping

them to myself unless I'm asked
 for them. I can see a good
 many very young things that
 Miss Stokes does. She is a
 person ~~of~~ who does some think-
 ing though I think and is really
 an able person for her age I

guess

Yesterday we were invited to
 a drinks party for the ladies
 of the faculty, including the
 wives of faculty members. The
 chief attraction was the two faculty
 babies. They were very cunning,
 two little girls just big enough
 to run around, one a blonde and
 the other a brunette. The third
 new member of the faculty has
 just been married - about two
 weeks ago. His bride is red-haired
 and square and though she is
 twenty one she looks about

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seventeen, and I don't believe she knows as much as some people.

I have a nice front room with two good windows, a hard wood floor, and electric light, which latter however is not as bright as it sounds. Breakfast and lunch are served for three quarters of an hour and we can come and go when we please. I believe that a light lunch is served at nine in the evening.

I am charmed with Dr. Harris the head of the English department and the dean. She is a Yale Ph.D and she knew Professor Waugh here. She seems to be as charmed with him as we are. She is a middle aged woman with gray hair. At first I wasn't specially struck with her but now I'm thoroughly in love with her. I'm glad I am for of

course she specially connected with her. Prof. Wagon told me about her before I came and said she was a friend of his and the most charming woman he knew at Yale.

I have been here since Tuesday but have met no classes yet. Oh! Dr. Harris knew Dr. Badellford (if that's the way you spell the name of the head of the English department at Seattle) at New Haven. She has a sister in Washington some where in some college there. Many had heard of her.

But how far away we are are you each other, aren't we, write? I wish we didn't have to be. Don't you miss Mary? Do you know, I think mamma is just crazy to go out to see you she keeps talking about it.

I wonder how you spent your
birth day. Write to me wont
you, when you have time?

Good bye Billy Boy.

Your loving sister.

"Polly Gile,"

Ellen Scrauton Belden.

Sunday, September the twenty second.
nineteen hundred and seven.



ELMIRA
SEP 23
12 M
1907
N.Y.

PROPERTY
OF
GEO. W. ROBERTS

Mr. William H. Belden

Cherlin
Ohio

~~Port Harney,~~

~~British Columbia,~~

~~Canada.~~

