

Please return this, so I can keep it for reference if the matter comes up again.

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Oberlin, Ohio, Mar. 2, 1928

Dr. Mary M. Belden,
Elmira College,
Elmira, N.Y.,

My dear Mary:

You will be both interested and gratified to know the outcome of the interview in Elyria the 24th regarding your taxes. It was impossible for William to come down that day, so I arranged to go myself. I think I was led at several points to do the right thing. First, William told me how to proceed. Second, I went to Mr. Welty (the auditor) and thanked him for his courtesy to me in the past, and asked him how to approach the Board of Revision. He was most gracious. When I was called in, I began telling what I knew about your circumstances and the house. The man said, "Not only was it \$7,300, but they had increased it to \$8,360." I asked him how that was. He said it was the result of protesting and of a revaluation. So I more than ever told him about the house in comparison with Mr. "Heacox". He got a little excited and asked me the number of your house. I was not sure, but thought it was 287. He had it down 297. I asked him to get the directory, which he did, and in that directory there was a mistake, your house and the Heacox' both being 297. So I asked for a telephone book to find your number. He then quite lost his temper, and said it was impossible to do anything more that day. I said I was sorry; that I was a busy woman; that I had a son in a bank in Cleveland (spreading it on a bit about William's position) who might look into the matter; that it was unfortunate that there were so many clerical errors in that office; that the two on my account had been rectified and apologized for. He said it was quite all right and agreed to let me know again.

William was somewhat agitated over this; went to the tax man in his bank and phoned me twice to ask for a date when he could come down. I phoned to Elyria asking for such date, and Mr. Welty replied that the assessors would be over that afternoon and look over the property again and see where the addition was to be put. They came last Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Heacox went with them to the house, and the assessors reported the following to me as your valuation. - They are making no reductions at all on land, so your land stands at \$1350; building, \$4660; total \$6010, making a reduction on the \$7300 of \$1290, and it comes within \$10 of your request, viz. \$6000. The assessor was very courteous in every possible way, so I hope this is satisfactory, and we were glad to do it. What the result will be for the Heacoxes, I have not heard. I am returning the material you sent.

Now for your dear mother. We are all much concerned about her, and hope you will drop us a line at intervals to let us know how she is. Dear friend, I know the waters seem deep to you now, but we have the promise that they shall not overflow. I had hoped

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hoped to be in Youngstown last week for a few hours, and to see Ellen, but did not go after all.

My mother is just about the same, and has held her own this winter very well.

Miss Hinman is so efficient that she keeps me busy all the time. (Mutual: -S.H.)

With warmest love to both you and your mother,

Sincerely yours,

Lydia Lord Davis
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I have written Mrs. Davis - would have said more if only Mrs. H. didn't have to read everything.