

Rieder and Anthes family fonds

Correspondence from Martha Rieder (GA200-3-22)
1914

Transcribed by: Tenille Holm and Sue Lout

[beginning of January 21, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montreal, Jan. 21 1914

Wed. Eve.

My Dear Parents,

Just a few lines this evening,
as no doubt you have seen or will
see Talmon, sometime during this week,
and he will give you news to date.

Was so surprised on receiving
Ella's letter of last Tue., to learn that
you did not get my wire sent on
Friday the 9th telling of our safe
arrival here that morning. Am
wondering what happened to the
telegram, as Talmon said he sent it

right after I phoned him, about 9.30

Friday morning. Was very busy all

[Page 2]

that day and Saturday so did not write till Sunday

and you no doubt received that letter ok on

Tuesday. Am so sorry the wire did not reach you

though.

Had word from Ethel that she is not

coming back, so I am on the look out for a

new girl, and hope I can get a good one.

My wash woman showed up alright last

Tue and again yesterday, so I can manage

very nicely until I hear of a good maid.

Do not want to advertise if I can help, as one

never knows who they are getting then, but

hope to hear of a girl through some one.

Mrs. Geo. [Whiting?] gave a very nice

little Tea on Monday afternoon, for her

sister in law, Mrs. N. Simpson, who spent Xmas

in Berlin, and is on her way home now. Those

present were Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. [Oglivy?],

Mrs. Frank Albright, Miss A. Bricker, Mrs. [Lucks?],
Mrs. [Scanditt?], so it was a Berlin & Waterloo
bunch. Talmon came home from the office at
4 so I could go, & then he left for Berlin on
the 7.30 train.

The children are all fine - Yesterday was
a grand sunny day, so [Babe?] and Edward played
out in the morning, & in the afternoon while
Helen slept on the back upstairs veranda,
Margaret & Edward were outside. Edward was out
in all 4 1/2 hours, & was ready for bed after
supper last night. It has been quite stormy
here during last night & today & we have

[Page 3]

lots of snow. I thought it almost too
stormy to let Margaret go to school,
but she coaxed so hard to go, & got
along alright, as the snow plough
came along the street about 8:30. - Even
last week the cold weather would not
keep her home, & on Tue- am when she

left the house for school it was 24 below zero. She said she missed the first week of school this month, so does not want to miss any more.

The children all said to send you both a [grusz] from them. They are sleeping now. And Margaret says she will write you a letter soon, but has been so busy so far to write.

Must close for tonight. Trust you are both well, as we are all at this end.

Much love

from your loving daughter

Martha

[end of January 21, 1914 letter]

[beginning of January 29, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montréal Jan. 29-1914

My Dear Parents,

I was very glad for Mother's letter received this week and to learn that you are both well. Yes Talmon reached home ok Sunday morning, feeling very tired as he had a very heavy week of it. He is in New York today but expects to be back again in the morning.

I've just put the children to bed.

Margaret came home from school at noon not feeling very well and lay around most of the afternoon. However I think it is only a bilious attack so doctored her up well and she is sleeping nicely now.

She began a letter to you Mother this p.m.

[Page 2]

but did not get it finished, so says I am to tell you she will send it another time. Edward also began one to you, so you will likely get these some time later.

Today was fine and sunny & very mild.

It was thawing all day and even tonight seems very mild out. We still have lots of snow though but it was too wet to let the children play out of doors, so they got their fresh air out on the back gallery.

Engaged a new girl last night and she expects to come in 5 or 10 days, just depends on how much notice she must give. She has been doing Office work the last while (since Fall) but says she can't save anything out of it, so wants to go back to house work again. She has been out from [England] two years and has her home with a married sister here. Mrs. McKechine sent her out here to see me. She said she knows

she is a girl of good character, & one whom I can trust, but of course, did not know what she was capable of doing in house work. However, last eve the girl spoke very nicely and said she had been doing general house work & cooking before she went to the office, so I am going to give her a trial anyway. Then yesterday a.m. I heard of a very good woman, to help with the work, so she is coming tomorrow & Sat. to do the cleaning, so I will have it a little easier this week. Have not seen or heard from Ethel since she is in the city again.

Don't know of anything in the line of news to write about, as I have not been out since

[Page 3]

Sunday. Margaret & I went to Church Sunday a.m. and in the afternoon I took the three children down to [Sunday] School. It was very cold when we came home.

Babe's chair arrived ok about a week ago, and is up here in the living room now. Margaret has played a lot with her doll's house this week, she was so glad when it reached here.

Our street is always so quiet here at night, that one can scarcely realize they are in a city. It is even quieter than Roy St. Berlin I believe.

Well its time to close. Hoping you will both keep well.

Much love

From your loving daughter

Martha

[end of January 29, 1914 letter]

[beginning of February 12, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave. Montreal Que.

Feb. 12-1914

My Dear Parents,

Have just put the children to

bed so want to write you a few lines.

Today has been an exceedingly cold

day, and one feels it more, as it is

windy. Yesterday they said it was

32 [degrees] below zero. I was down city for a

little while yesterday and the air felt

like ice. Will be glad when we get

milder weather again, as this is too

cold. Even last Sunday, when Edward

and I went for a little walk right

after dinner in the sunshine, it was

too cold to stay out for very long so

you see we are having quite a

siege of cold weather.

Margaret seems quite herself
again, and as she is taking a tonic now,
I think she will soon have more
color again. Helen is feeling fine today
although her one tonsil is very
swollen still, and sore to the touch.
Otherwise she seems o.k. & her throat is

[Page 2]

right color again. Edward I guess is
not going to have Tonsilitis, although
he has had ear ache last night &
today. He had a slight cold and it
seems to have settled in his ear as
otherwise he is alright. Am glad they
all are so much better again.

My new maid "Lillie" came on
Monday eve, and I think she is going
to be very good. The children have
taken quite a fancy to her, and she
seems fond of them. Am so glad

she is here, as I felt pretty tired
last week with the children being
sick & the work to do, besides
waiting on them.

Talmon left for New York this
eve but hopes to return again on
Sat. a.m. This is their busy time at
the office up to March 1st. so he is
kept bustling.

Had two callers this afternoon
although I scarcely expected any
one on such a cold day as this.

[Page 3]

I wrote Lou about the Earthquake
shock here on Tuesday noon. It certainly
gave one a queer feeling. Our house fairly
shook and ornaments etc. here in
living-room, where Margaret & I were
at the time, swayed quite a little.

Am not anxious for another experience
of the same kind. Noticed in paper
that it was also felt as far at Toronto.

Mr & Mrs. Wilcock from across
the Street, & their two children, just
came home from Bermuda, on Tue.
morning. They no doubt feel this
zero weather very much after being
in a warm summer climate last
week. They were gone five weeks for Mr.
Wilcock's health. He was operated on
last Sept & has been at home ever
since. The trip South did him good
but of course in this extreme weather
he can't go out of doors.

Am enclosing a letter from
Helen which she wrote sitting up in
bed the other day. She said I was to be sure

[Page 4]

and send it tonight. She had to have
a rubber as well as pencil when she
wrote, as different times she said she
had written it wrong, so had to rub
it out again. Hope you can read it alright.

Am very sleepy tonight, as
Edward kept me awake so much
last night on account of ear ache.

So I was going to turn in good
and early tonight, to try and
make up for some lost sleep.

Sorry to hear of Mr. Zeller's death -
Laura went home Sunday evening.

Grace (?) and her husband are
in Berlin too at present.

Will ring off for tonight, I
trust you are both well. How
is the furnace going? Much love to
both of you and hugs & kisses
from the children.

Your affectionate daughter

Martha

[Page 5]

[numbers in pencil written by a child]

[Page 6]

[child's pencil drawing]

[Page 7]

[child's writing in pencil]

[Page 8]

[child's writing in pencil] dar grandma

from Helen

[Page 9]

[child's pencil drawing]

[end of February 12, 1914 letter]

[beginning of February 18, 1914 letter]
[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montréal, Wed Eve-Feb. 18-1914

My Dear Father and Mother,

Will write you one day earlier

this week for a change. Probably you

have seen Talmon already this week so

will know 610 Belmont Ave news

up to day, or rather to Sunday. However

I will write a few line anyway. Expect

Talmon home in the morning as he

intended spending today in Toronto, &

then come down tonight.

This has been the first nice

mild day we have had for some time.

It is not thawing out by any means

but after so much below zero weather

[Page 2]

it seems mild out, & our house is very warm inside.

It was very dark & hazy 'till about 10am & then

the sun came out nice & bright 'till about 3 pm.
The children were all out playing again for a change.
and I am glad they are so far. Margaret & Babe are
picking up nicely & Edward did not get sick at
all. They enjoyed being out in the sunshine too.

I had a letter from Lou today and sorry
to hear that she has not been very well. Hope
she will soon be alright again. There seems to
be so much sickness around this Winter. Mr.
A.D. Weber has been in for a few days with [tonsillitis]
too & Mrs. Weber was very much surprised to
find him sick when she got home from Berlin
on Monday morning. However, she said he went
down to the office for awhile again today, so is much
better. Mrs. Weber was here this afternoon for a
short time.

We still have lots of snow on the road
in front of our house here, is about 3 ft. higher
than the side walk. The snow shovellers have
dug deep ditches beside the sidewalks to let

the water get away in case of a thaw.

The children were so delighted with their valentines Mother & send many thanks for them.

Margaret is so pleased with her [?] & Edward & Helen with theirs. Am enclosing a letter for you which Margaret wrote last week for me to send you first time I wrote again. Don't know

[Page 3]

what is in it as she wrote it all herself. She was so glad to get back to school again on Monday. Is still taking a tonic which I think is doing her good. Am glad to hear that Esther is walking again. It certainly was a long time that she was laid up.

Noticed in Paper about Mrs. E. Erb's fall. It might have been quite serious. Am glad she is getting along quite nicely.

My new maid I think is going to be alright. She is not very quick

with her work, but otherwise manages
alright, & is a better cook than Ethel
was. Well I will close for tonight, as I
want to write another letter. Hope
you are both keeping well.

Much love from your daughter Martha

[end of February 18, 1914 letter]

[beginning of February 26, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montréal, Feb. 26-1914

My Dear Parents,

Was very glad for Mother's letter received last weekend to know you are all well. Sorry to hear Louisa has been on the sick list and hope she is better again by now. I wrote her to come to Mtl. for a visit, as the change might do her good & she could rest all she wanted to here.

Today has been quite mild for a change, & yesterday also, and it is very welcome after the extreme cold we have had during most of the month. We have lots of snow up around here, as it has

[Page 2]

not been thawing as yet. I was down town this afternoon though and everything is dirty & slushy down there.

It was nice to see white snow again as I came home on the car. However, St. Catharine St. had the usual crowd on it, and the street cars are also crowded, & one is fortunate indeed to get a seat. They are running some very large new cars along St. Catherine St. with a [?] attached, so that should help matters some what.

On Monday evening Talmon & I were out to dinner at Mr. & Mrs. [Housons?], and had a very pleasant time. Mr. & Mrs. McKechnie were also there. We intended walking home, but found it too cold.

Last Friday evening there was quite an interesting programme or rather concert given down at Church. I had tickets and hoped Talmon could go with me. However, he phoned about 5:30 saying he could not go, as they were going to work all evening. So I went alone at 8. o'clock.

Mr. Enos Bacon "The Yorkshire Nightingale" as he is called, gave the whole 2 hr. programme. He is gifted with two voices - a high Soprano and a deep Baritone and can use either at will. When he sang high on Sop- by looking away, one would be sure it was a womans voice. Then he also recited etc. - just kept going the whole time either singing or speaking and it certainly was a novel programme.

Margaret was back at school again this week, and both she and Helen are quite themselves again. The children have a good time

[Page 3]

sleigh-riding out here at the side of the house. Am glad it is milder again, as so many days it was too cold to let them out to play, and they so enjoy the snow so much. Talmon bought them a small toboggan, so they have a great time.

The W.M.S. seems to be picking up very

much lately, and I am glad to hear the meetings are so well attended in Berlin. How is Rev. A.Y. [Haist]? have not heard anything about him since Xmas time.

The children said, when I put them to bed, that I am to send you both, lots of hugs & kisses from them, & Margaret says she is going to write soon. Helen is enjoying her new chair very much. We have it here in the living Room, so they have one each now. Want to write several more letters, so must stop - Much love, Martha

[end of February 26, 1914 letter]

[beginning of March 5, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montréal, Mar. 5-1914

My Dear Parents,

It is 9.30 and the evening has slipped around so quickly since putting the children to bed.

Margaret & I were over to call on Mrs. A.D. Weber this afternoon, I also called for a few minutes on Mrs. O.J. Hymmen. It was a fine bright sunny afternoon & the air felt fine, although it is wet walking. We left home here a little before three o'clock, and were only at Mrs. Weber's about 3/4 of an hour & at Hymmens about 10 min. The remainder of the time being used going & coming on the car & it was 6.30 when we got home

[Page 2]

So you see one cannot make many calls in one day here. Mrs. Weber has not been well at all this week, in fact was sitting up this afternoon for 1st time since Monday. Grace W. Youngblud was over with her when we got there today.

Margaret is invited to a children's party tomorrow, up the street from here, & is delighted-
The little girl sits ahead of her at school, & they usually come home together as far as our corner.

We still have snow up around here, but down city everything is muddy & the little snow there is, is almost black. The side walks around us here are pretty slushy still but a few more days of bright sunshine will clear them off.

How is Mrs. Erb? Ella wrote that
Maggie is at home with her. Was sorry to

hear of her fall.

Edward & Helen both had a long sleep on the back upstairs veranda this afternoon while Margaret & I were away. Edward still needs an occasional afternoons sleep to make him feel alright & this afternoon was scarcely lying down two minutes when he was fast asleep. I have been making Margaret lie down awhile every day after dinner, but she never can get off to sleep. She still is quite pale & really got very thin from her attack

[Page 3]

of Tonsilitis. It affected her so much more than Helen.

Talmon is here in Living Room
Reading and joins me in
sending you both a grusz.
He is still going it pretty hard
at the Office, but their busiest time

at the Office should soon be over again
for a time at least.

Much love from all

at this end-

Goodnight

Lovingly your daughter

Martha

P.S. Talmon thinks we may move back
to Berlin about Oct - Hurrah! but I am
not going to count on it too sure yet. - M.

[end of March 5, 1914 letter]

[beginning of March 19, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal, March 19- 1914

My Dear Parents,

It is Thursday evening again, & time for my home letter, if you are to hear from me this week. I am very sleepy tonight & it is nearly 9.30 P.M., so will only write a few lines this time. Guess this cold weather is making me feel so sleepy. It is very cold here again tonight, & we have loads of snow & lots of sleighing. It has been very stormy & blowy today, so everything is very much drifted. Such a change to the weather the beginning of the week.

Last Sunday afternoon, it was so nice and bright, so Talmon got a sleigh & we went for a long sleigh ride, thinking it would be our last chance this Winter.

[Page 2]

The driver said the only place one could really go with runners was in Mt. Royal Park up on the mountain. So we went there & had to go through some mud before we got to the park. However, now there is any amount of snow on the roads again and Sat. is the 1st day of Spring! But we enjoyed our ride so much on Sunday our 1st & probably last sleigh ride of the Season down here.

Received a letter from Carrie today. She mentioned that a week from tomorrow Louise would be home from Guelph, having been there one year. Is she going back again for a second year do you know?

Am glad that Lou & family are

[Page 3]

better again. Mrs A.D. Weber expects to go to Berlin on Friday for about a month, as Mr. W is going out West on a business trip.

Carrie wrote that Mr. & Mrs. [W.H.B.?] are going to Panama soon. Is it for a pleasure trip? It certainly is a nice time of the year to go, as I think the next month or six weeks, weather is so unsettled here in our climate, that it is a good time to go away.

Talmon was over to see Mr. Wilcock last evening. They live just across the street, & Mr. W has been in the house for about six months now. He was operated on last Sept- & has not been picking up very readily in this cold weather can't go out at all. He has been back to bed again for the

[Page 4]

past two weeks. It must be very hard for him, as he is only a young man, & no doubt very anxious to get back to Business again.

The policemen here in the city are kept busy these days. Paper's are full of various accounts & rumors.

Am glad Dr. Gordon's lectures were so well attended & they must have been well worth hearing, judging from the News Record reports. No doubt he is a very fluent and gifted speaker.

I see I am nearing the end of this sheet anyway, & I only expected to write a few lines when I started.

Margaret is invited out to Tea tomorrow to another little school friend's home. They

live here on our Street. She is as interested
as ever in school and is learning to write &
spell very well. Talmon is taking a nap on the sofa
here in living R.- Much love from Martha.

[end of March 19, 1914 letter]

[beginning of March 26, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal, March 26-1914

My Dear Parents,

Have just put the children to bed, and Margaret and Edward are still talking. This has been a grand Spring day, the sun very bright & it was quite mild all day long. Our snow up around here is rapidly moving down hill in streams of water so we will soon be high & dry I guess. We have had such fine bright days all week, so the snow simply can't stay. Down city it is

[Page 2]

dry on the sidewalks and muddy on the streets, but no snow is in sight. Margaret & I were down town from three to six shopping. The stores are

simply crowded these fine days. Guess everybody is ordering her Spring or rather Easter "Bonnet"-

Had a few lines from Talmon today saying he was at 44 Weber St. on Tuesday evening so he no doubt gave you news at that time. I hope your cold will soon be better again Mother, & Tal said otherwise you were both well. I hear you are getting "swelled" up for Conference with new paper in the Spare Room. When is conference anyway- and who will you have at your house, do you know as yet? Ella is having some papering done too this week, she wrote, so you will all be very swell.

Our children are fine again, except that sore eyes have been going the rounds. Seems just like a cold settled in the eyes, as every morning, for a few days, their eyes were pasted shut. This morning I found mine the same way, & my eyes just feel a little sore. It must be some germ in the air, as I have heard of several who

have had it. It's not pink eyes though as the eyes are scarcely red at all, so I think it is only a sort of cold. Margaret's ear has been discharging a little all week. Sort of an after effect of tonsillitis I think, but it seems nearly

[Page 3]

better again today, & she has been going to school right along, with wadding in her one ear to keep the wind out. They have two weeks holidays here at Easter time, which is more than the Schools have in Berlin, I think.

Tomorrow is Lou's Birthday. Time is certainly passing quickly & we girls are getting older than we realize I think. I used to think anyone over 30 years was very old indeed, but have changed my mind.

[Martin?] expect to move very

soon a little farther out West & on
Sherbrooke St. They are getting a new flat
(ground flat) and she seems quite pleased with
it. They have so many stairs to climb where
they are now. Grace W. Youngblud phoned she
is coming out to see me tomorrow. Mrs.

[written vertically up left margin]

A.D. Weber is in Berlin for about a month. Must close for tonight.

The children send kisses & much love from us all - Martha.

[end of March 26, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

[beginning of April 2, 1914 letter]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal, April 2-1914

My Dear Parents,

It is nearly Tea Time, but as Talmon has not come home yet, I will at least begin this letter and finish it this evening. Mrs. Albright just called here (she is Mrs. A.S. Hallman's sister and Father knows Mr. Albright). Mrs. Albright has not been well at all most of the Winter she said and will be glad when we really get Spring weather. Today has been nice since noon, but this morning it was quite cold & streets & sidewalks were all covered with ice. Winter is certainly having a hard time getting away this year. The River is still frozen solid here.

Was sorry to hear of Libbie A's accident.

It certainly might have been quite serious.

[Page 2]

I hope it will not have any serious after effects.

The children are playing back in the play room, but have been coming in and interrupting me so often, that I can scarcely collect my thoughts enough to write.

Was very glad for your letter of Monday Mother. Had been wondering when Conference was to be held. If the Bishops come on the Monday preceding Conference, you will be having Bishop [Horn?] with you from Easter Monday on, won't you? There should be some unusually doings alright, if this is the 50th anniversary of the Can. Conf.

Talmon reached home ok on Sunday morning.

He managed to get around and see a little more of the freundschaft this time. He was sorry he did not see Father at all. - But he was kept very busy at the Tire Factory etc. - so did not get around again.

8:30p.m. Have just put the children to bed and

Talmon left for New York on the 8.10 train. Margaret is at present singing herself to sleep, and the other two are asleep I guess, as they are perfectly quiet. Margaret's one ear has been discharging for nearly two weeks now. The Dr. says it is sort of an after effect of her Tonsillitis, as it has worked back from the Tonsil to the ear. She must have taken a slight cold to bring this on. Except for two nights - she has had scarcely no pain at all in her ear but I have to syringe it out several times a day. She has been going to school right along, but still looks very pale. I hope the warm weather coming will make a change in her. Edward & Babe are very well at present.

Hope you can both come down & pay us a visit this Summer. You better plan your holidays that way, & come down & see your new grand child, as we are expecting one to arrive here early in July. So that cuts out Berlin for

[Page 3]

us this Summer you see. Lou has been intending

coming down to visit us, but I believe has decided now, not to come 'til after Conference. I really think a change might do her a lot of good, so hope she can come then.

I hear you have upstairs all house cleaned Mother. Good for you. We have not started as yet, as weather is still very chilly here. I have been busy getting the children's summer clothes in order. Had to lengthen all Margaret's last summer dresses, as well as Edward's suits. So when it gets a little milder we hope to get at cleaning also.

Lou's Xmas turkeys hung out pretty long didn't they? We had ours several weeks ago. Am glad Arthur & Ruth are better again. Talmon said Ruth seemed quite ill when he was there on Sat. last. How is her new maid turning out? Guess Lou is glad to keep [Elenia?] as she is a pretty good stand by for all. Will close for tonight.

Much love from your daughter

Martha

[end of April 2, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

[beginning of April 8, 1914 letter]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montréal, April 8-1914

My Dear Parents,

Will try and get your letter off

a little earlier this week. Had a long

letter from Lou today, & she reported all

were at home for which I am glad. Ruth &

Arthur are nearly themselves again she

said. This is always a hard time of the

year for children I think, as weather

being so changeable, they take cold so

easily. Margaret's ear is better again

yesterday and today, no discharge at

all. She can also hear as well with

the sore ear now, as with the other, &

I am so glad, as for a time she could

[Page 2]

scarcely hear the clock tick even when she was right

up to it - that is with her sore ear. So I was

just a little worried over it, but she seems ok again now.

Night before last Mr. A.J. Kimmel took supper here with us. He had not been out to our house for quite a long while, as he usually was down only for the day & left on 7.40 train. However, as he stayed two days this time he came out, & the children were so glad to see him.

We were very much surprised on wakening up this a.m. to find everything white with snow again and it kept up most of the morning. However this afternoon it turned into rain, & rained quite heavily, so the snow will not likely last very long.

Margaret's school closes tomorrow, for one week she said. I thought they would probably have holidays all next week but M. says they are to be back again next week Thursday.

She may not have understood it right I
will know definitely when she comes home
tomorrow as it seems strange to begin school
on a Thursday.

The River is still frozen here & will continue
so for some time I guess unless we soon get some
milder weather. I hope you will have nice
weather in Berlin next week for Conference.

[Page 3]

Ella wrote that Rev. Wing said they had more
homes offered than they have delegates for
so that speaks well for our Berlin Church,
and all the preachers, should be comfort-
ably settled during the Conf. session. How
long does it last? From Thur. to Mon. or
Tue. I presume.

Have been wondering how the English service
in the morning scheme took at the
annual church meeting last night. I

had heard it was to be brought up for discussion, & no doubt there were different views on the subject.

Nothing in the line of news from this end. Election day passed off very quietly here in our part of the city on Monday & certainly the results of the polls show that the city will be ruled by the French element alright. We are all well, & hope you are both the same.

Much love from us all to you both. Lovingly Martha

[written vertically on left side]

P.S. We had our first motor ride Sunday afternoon & it was fine. Roads down city were mostly fine & dry. Talmon has been using motor to office for about a week now.

[end of April 8, 1914 letter]

[beginning of April 15, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal, April 15-1914

My Dear Parents,

The children were all busy
this afternoon writing you letters, so
I will enclose a few lines as well.

They were delighted Mother, with
the Easter presents you sent them, which
all reached here in fine condition. No
doubt you can read each of their
letters thanking you for the things.

I want to also thank you for the
pretty Easter card & greetings you

[Page 2]

sent. Easter day is certainly one in which to rejoice.

We all spent a very happy Easter Day here

although the weather was not at all favourable.

Had a heavy snow blizzard on Sunday noon,
while we were at dinner, & it became very
dark. Could not see across the streets. The
whole day was very unsettled and windy &
quite cold.

We are certainly having a late cool
Spring this year. The Thermometer is only 34°
above zero tonight, and it has been cold & windy
all day although the sun was very bright.
Will be glad when the milder weather sets in.

No doubt your Conference guests arrived
as you expected on Monday. So there will be
big doings in Berlin this week. Don't cook
too well for them Mother, or they will want to
stay longer. It is nice that you are getting
Bishop [Horn?] again. Kindly remember me to
him, as I suppose he remembers me.

Am glad they have decided on an assistant
Pastor for Berlin, as I think it will be much

better. Do you know who they are getting? The Berlin congregation is pretty large anyway for one Pastor to look after. I believe we are to lose Rev. Baker here in June, as he is going back to

[Page 3]

the Toronto Conference. Bakers moved here just two months before we did.

Had intended cleaning the Living Room tomorrow, to get a start at house-cleaning. But my plans have been changed, as Margaret is to have her throat operated on tomorrow morning at nine. Talmon took her to a throat specialist this morning & they arranged it all. He always does it at his office where he has a nurse etc. - & says Margaret can come home again during the morning, as it takes only a very short time. He said she will be a different child in a few months, as that is what is keeping her back. I hope everything

will be alright, and as it has to be done,
the sooner the better, so that she can pick up
quickly when the milder weather comes. Will
try and drop you a line tomorrow.

Much love from your loving
daughter – Martha

[Page 4]

Dear Grandma –

Love & kisses to you and

Grandpa

[pencil squiggles]

from little Helen

[pencil squiggles]

Thank you so much for the lovely

Little Easter basket & eggs.

Helen.

[Page 5]

DEAR GRANDMA

I LIKE THE

EASTER MICE

[pencil squiggles]

[Page 6]

Dear Grandma

Thank you

very much for

the nice Easter

camera

Love to

Grandpa and you

Kisses from

Margaret C R

April 15

1914

[Page 7]

[pencil drawing of a building]

[Page 8]

Dear Grandma

Thank you so very

much for the fine "bunnie pen"
you sent me. I have
played with it a whole
lot.

Love & kisses to Grandpa

& you

from Edward

April 15 - 1914

(over)

[Page 9]

[pencil drawings of a house and a barn by Edward Rieder]

[end of April 15, 1914 letter]

[beginning of April 23, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave,

Montréal, Thursday Eve, April 23/14

My Dear Parents,

Will write just a few lines this evening, as we have been house cleaning all day & I want to get to be early to-night.

That cute little set of furniture arrived today & Helen was delighted with it. She sends many thanks & a kiss. It certainly seems to take the Japs to make things in that line, & this being such a tiny set of furniture, it is so cute. Helen had a very happy Birthday on Tuesday, and feels quite big now that she is 3yrs.

[Page 2]

old. I got her a doll carriage with hood, like Margaret's

only smaller, and she is delighted with it, & has had it out for a walk every day. Lillie baked a very nice Birthday cake for her & iced it with carry-a-way seed candies, so it looked quite gay with three candles on it, and then Helen cut it herself at the table.

I wrote Lou on Sunday and asked her to phone you how nicely Margaret was getting along. She has been out playing awhile the past three days, and is working up quite an appetite, so should soon be herself again. The wind has been raw & cold, so I could not let her stay out as long as she wanted to. Hope the weather will soon become a little milder, as the children do love playing out of doors.

We were all out for a short motor ride this evening from 6 to 6.30, just before supper. Talmon expects to leave for Toronto this evening & may be in Berlin on Saturday.

Glad to know the Conference was

such a success. Bishop [Horn?] did not remain very long did he? Was your other delegate there till the close of the Conference? Too bad Ella could not entertain her delegates, but I am glad she is better again. Sunday must have been quite a day. I see by Papa that Berliner is to have an assistant Pastor, & also that Rev. J.P. Hauch has been stationed at Crediton. So he is back to our Conference alright.

They say we do not need to expect mild

[Page 3]

weather here till the River breaks up. From our house it still looks like a field of snow, & it is reported will not break up before end of the month at least.

Will close for tonight. I trust you are both well. We are all so glad that Margaret has recovered so well, it being just a week today since her tonsils were removed, and we hope she will soon

pick up now with the summer ahead
of her to build up in.

Lots of love from all to all
Your affectionate daughter
Martha

[end of April 23, 1914 letter]

[beginning of June 26, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

Montréal, June 26-1914

10 am.

My Dear Parents,

Intended writing you last evening, but we took our lunch out in the motor and had it out in the country, so by the time we got home & the children to bed, I did not feel like getting at letters. However this will reach you tomorrow just the same.

First of all, let me wish you a very happy wedding anniversary to-

[Page 2]

morrow (the 27th) and many happy returns. Wish I could be there to help you celebrate, but Edward will have to

do it for the Rieder family this year.

Last year, I think Margaret & Talmon were there for the 27th., so you see we manage to have part of the family in Berlin for the occasion.

Just received Ella's letter, saying she and Edward expect to reach Montréal Tuesday morning. We will all be so glad to see them. Have missed Edward so much, but am sure he is having a big time.

Wednesday was intensely hot here but at Tea time there was a slight

[Page 3]

Thunderstorm, & a nice rain all evening, which cleared the air so nicely. Then yesterday there was a nice breeze all day so one could keep comfortable. Helen & Margaret slept out on the back up stairs

gallery last night. It was a cool night but I had promised to let them try it. When Helen got awake this am she said she had a "swell" sleep.

We gathered lots of Daisies & wild strawberries at our little picnic yesterday and the children enjoyed it so much. Talmon has joined a golf club this year (for exercise) and took his first lesson on Wednesday. He seemed to enjoy it so much and says the exercise is fine. I am glad he has started, as I know he needs more

[Page 4]

exercise than he is getting to keep him in good trim. He says he can take things a little easier this summer, so is making all sorts of plans.

Was glad for your letter received this

week Mother, and to know you are all well. Am sure it seemed like old times to have Rev. J.P. Hauch in the Pulpit last Sunday. No doubt he is glad to be back in the Canada [Conf.?] again.

Mrs. Martin A. & Catherine [Braendle?] called to see me one Tue. afternoon. They have gone to Aurendel to Martin's cottage since Wed. & Catherine expects to stay about a month I believe. Talmon had them out for a motor-ride Sunday afternoon.

Must close as I want to write Ella a line too. Much love from all at this end.
Lovingly- Martha

[end of June 26, 1914 letter]

[beginning of June 30, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

Montreal, June 30, 1914

Dear Mother-

We were more than surprised when Talmon met us at the station this morning with the news that a young son had been born here at 2:15 this morning. Edward would not believe it until we got to the house & saw the real live baby. He is a fine boy & weighed 8lb & 7oz. Everything is perfectly fine & normal & Martha is resting nicely. Her nurse was

[Page 2]

out of the city but the Dr. sent up a very nice nurse in the afternoon.

Martha did not have pain until after 9 pm, so it was not as long as her other experiences. They are all very glad to have another boy & are wondering what to call him. I can't tell whom he resembles but his eyes are very dark blue & he has long dark hair. The nurse she had engaged - nurse Rose - came at noon & seems a very nice capable girl.

Our journey did not seem at all long. We were 1/2 hour late here this am. & Tal & Margaret were at the depot. Tal. tried to get father on the phone about 9 am but as he did not succeed he called Frank & he probably told you the news. I certainly struck about the right day to arrive. Eh? Edward seems quite happy and contented & Margaret & Helen are fine.

It is rainy here today & very cool.
Too bad Dr. [Heist?] did not get in
& that the Temperance people in Ontario
are disappointed. Martha & all send love
to you all. Shall write soon again.
Your loving daughter- Ella

[Page 3]

[blue pen annotation]

Re Paul's birth June 30/14

[end of June 30, 1914 letter]

[beginning of July 15, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montréal, July, 15-1914.

My Dear Mother and Father,

As I have not written you for the past two weeks, I guess it is time to get at it again. Am glad to be up again as it would be so hot to spend these extremely hot days in bed. Was very fortunate indeed in having such nice cool weather for my first week in bed. As Ella has been keeping you posted you know how things are going on here.

The wee boy is growing nicely and I think is going to be a good

[Page 2]

Baby as he sleeps very well at night

now. His black hair has turned into a dark brown, but his eyes are still blue. Having so much black hair he looked so different from our other Babies who were fairer. Think he is going to resemble Talmon more than the others do, but of course that is hard to tell, as he seems to be changing a lot in looks already. But he looks decidedly a boy alright, when he gets his hair parted on the side, and Edward is so delighted to have a brother.

I have been around (upstairs only) since last Friday, but of course have not walked much. In fact I sat

[Page 3]

up first time, for only a very short time, last Thursday. The nurse I have is splendid also the Doctor, and I am

thankful everything went along so
well. It is such a relief having
Ella here to look after things, so
I should gain quickly & get strong,
with nothing to worry me.

Let me thank you mother (for
the new grandson) for the very
pretty little white coat you made
for him. He looks so cute in it
and sends many thanks for it. Then
I want to thank you too for the
nice box of Metcalf's chocolates you
sent along with Ella.

These hot days the nurse
has been dressing Baby only in
shirt, panties & a thin nightdress
and so he does not seem to mind the

[Next page missing]

[beginning of July 15, 1914 letter]

[beginning of July 30, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave

Montréal, July 30-1914.

My Dear Parents

Have just put the children
to bed. It takes a little longer
now that there is one more to
get ready. This has been a
fine summer day. Not too hot,
and Baby has spent money of
the time on the back up stairs
veranda. After his bath this
morning he slept four hours &

[Page 2]

then I wakened him to feed him.
He is growing very nicely. We weighed
him today (He is just one month old)
and he has gained over a [~~found, crossed out~~] pound
which is good I think, [~~since, crossed out~~] as there

was such a lot of hot weather two weeks ago. (Talmon is in living-room talking to me hence the mistakes above.)

No doubt you have seen Ella today and will know the news up to yesterday. I hope she reached home o.k. We all miss her, but were glad she

[Page 3]

could be with us as long as she was. When I got home from depot last night after seeing Ella off, I found that Baby was still sleeping where I had put him, and in fact slept right through till two o'clock this morning. So he really is a very good Baby.

Lou and Carrie & families

were leaving for "Felsheim" yesterday.

Too bad they only have four weeks left before school opens as it is so far & takes such a lot of packing, to spend only a few weeks there.

[Page 4]

Glad for your postal received the other day Mother. Babe has been wearing the coat you made him the last few days, and it is just right size for him. Margaret claims it for her baby doll when he has out grown it.

Hope you are feeling better again Papa. Talmon said you were not so well on Monday.

We are o.k. here. I usually feel very tired when evening comes,

but other wise am feeling quite
myself again. We hope you can
both come down to visit us before
the summer is over, and see your
20th grandchild. He is worth coming

[written vertically on left side of page]

to see alright. Much love from us all Your affectionate daughter,
Martha

[end of July 30, 1914 letter]

[beginning of August 6, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montréal, Aug. 6-1914

My Dear Parents,

Only a few lines this evening,
as it has been an intensely hot
day, and I want to go out on
the veranda a little while to
get cooled off before going to
dreamland.

Had a letter from Ella
this week saying she is having
a nice time at Oliphant. She
also mentioned that you were

[Page 2]

probably going to Felsheim this week. Am
sure it would be a nice change for both
of you and Carrie & Lou would only be

only too glad to have you I am sure. This warm weather makes one feel like clearing out somewhere. But I guess I am booked for Montréal for the summer unless the war comes too close to Montréal.

This war is dreadful! They say every night down city things are wild, but here in Westmount we do not hear anything of it.

I thought I would do a lot of nothing to sort of make up for holidays, but guess I will have to cut it out, as it does not seem to agree any too well with Baby. He usually seems more restless at night after I have had him out.

On Tuesday the children and I took Mrs. Weber & Mrs. Zeller out for about a 2 hr. motor ride. Mrs. Zeller enjoyed it so much and seems to be enjoying her visit down here with Laura. She says it

is the first holiday she has taken in
years. After the ride, I was kept going with

[Page 3]

Baby most of the night as he was
"fussy" so that made me think that
motoring upset him a little. He slept
fine last night.

Hope you both keep well,
and if you go to Felsheim let
me wish you a very pleasant
holiday.

Love from all

Your loving daughter,

Martha

[end of August 6, 1914 letter]

[beginning of August 12, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal, Wed. Aug. 12-1914

My Dear Parents,

It is now 9.15 pm and I suppose
you are both at Felsheim tonight. This
has been a nice day for travelling
so you were fortunate in choosing such
a cool day.

Your letter of Sunday came yester-
day Mother, and I was so glad to
get it and to know you are both
well. Let me wish you a very pleas-
ant holiday at "Felsheim." There used
to be good fishing off the wharf there,
Daddy, so you will not have far to go

[Written vertically along left side of page]

P.S. Am writing this earlier in the week this time hoping it will reach you this week. Tell Lou I received her letter & will write soon M.

[Page 2]

to fish. So here's to wishing you the catch of the Belle Fish of the Season.

Am sure Aunt Sally enjoyed her visit to Berlin. It must be years since she was there last, so she will have found quite a difference.

Had the children and Grace Youngblud, and the two Wilcocks girls out for a motor ride this afternoon. It was a fine day for a drive. Babe seems o.k. again, so I decided it was probably his digestion, and not the motor rides, that made him "fussy" - He is so good when we are out and sleeps all the time. I

met Miss Rose the nurse, down
at Morgans this afternoon, & she

[Page 3]

saw Baby and thought he looks fine.

This war is certainly becoming
very alarming and Europe must
be all mixed up over it. A lot
of Montréal soldiers have left for Europe.
Last year and this year are certainly
making history, and the worst seems
yet to come. The city here is
being very well guarded. As we
passed the barracks today, a
soldier with drawn rifle was
marching up and down in front
of it. On Sat evening Talmon wanted
to come across Victoria Bridge
with the motor, but was not allowed
to do so, so had to go to [Longwell?] & take

[Page 4]

the ferry over.

Lou wrote saying Uncle Henry's cottage is so pretty and comfortable, and nicely laid out. Irene's children have whooping cough. They are just about the age Margaret & Edward were when they had it. Edward was just seven months old.

Lillie (my maid) got word tonight that three of her sister's children are down with Scarlet fever.

Saw in the Berlin paper that 38 cottages at Grimsby Beach were burned. Fortunately the Lakeview Hotel was saved. I never liked those little coal oil stoves, & never used the one in the cottage we had two years ago.

I want to write Ella too, so will close.

Talmon sends many thanks to you for your kind

[Written vertically along left side of page]

Birthday wishes mother. However do you manage to think of everyone's Birthday? Love to Carrie Lou & families, & same for yourselves-
Martha

[end of August 12, 1914 letter]

[beginning of August 19, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave,

Montréal, Wed. Aug. 19-1914.

My Dear Parents,

The wire from Toronto on Monday morning, telling me of Uncle Henry's death, came as such a great shock to me, as I had had a letter from Irene just a few days before, saying Uncle was up with them for the rest of the summer, and that they were all well except her two children, who had whooping cough. Then on Tue. am I had letters from you mother, Lou, Carrie & Ella, all by same mail giving me details

[Page 2]

so then I learned that he had died up North & not in Toronto, as I concluded from the wire, & thought he was probably home on business. It is indeed all

very sad, but I am glad he was up with them all when he took sick and not alone in Toronto. Poor Laurie, must have received a shock at Penetang Sat. noon, as probably he did not even know of Uncle's short illness. Ella wrote, saying Frank went to Toronto Sunday eve and she was going down Monday morning. Today we had word from Frank telling us about the Funeral. I believe the Dr. does not want Lillie to go back up North. What a sad ending to a Summer vacation! Last time I saw Uncle was three years ago this summer, when he & Laurie motored to Berlin, before we moved down here. Since then I have not been in Toronto long enough to go out to Parkdale. It seems hard to realize that he is dead, but we know that a wise Providence rules over all.

Frank sent Talmon a second letter yesterday saying he had just received a wire from Rena stating that their cottage was struck by lightning at 3am Monday night, &

was damaged inside, but they all, fortunately, escaped unharmed. Frank intended going up on Sat. for his vacation, but this may take

[Page 3]

him up North sooner.

We were so glad to see Edward on Friday and only sorry he could not remain longer. You certainly are quite a crowd at "Felsheim" if you number 25- in all. Quite a house ful.

I hope you will both enjoy the change, and the rest will do you both good. Talmon is going away tomorrow for a short holiday (til Tue.) about 50 miles north of Quebec, to a camp there with Mr. [Jamieson] & Mr. Carroll. He looks tired & has not been feeling quite o.k. so I hope the

little change will do him good.

The children and I are all well.

Babe is growing splendidly and is quite fat. He had a [swatch?] of eczema on his

[Written vertically along left side of page]

on his face but it is getting better again. I think it must be caused from cow milk as I have to bottle feed him. - Love to all - Lovingly Martha

[end of August 12, 1914 letter]

[beginning of August 26, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

Montréal Wednesday Noon

August 26-1914-

My Dear Parents,

We have just had dinner and

I want to take the family down city shopping this afternoon. I have not left Baby at home yet, so am going to take Lillie along to look after him in the motor while I go in to the stores.

I tried this once before and it worked alright. I have Baby here on my lap while I am writing. Wish you could see him as he is getting so bright & cute, & growing too, & is fat. His double chin almost beats yours Daddy.

Intended writing to you last eve, but it was after nine till I had the

[Page 2]

family all asleep, so as I was tired, I took a nap on the sofa instead of writing. Am glad that I waited till today now, as Father's card came this morning, so I will address this to Sans Souci Hotel. You will have a quieter time there than at Felsheim where there are so many children, and it is nice at Sans Souci I am sure, and I often thought it would be a nice place to spend a vacation at. Hope you will enjoy your stay there very much.

Wish you could go home via Montréal, as we would all love to have both of you pay us a visit. Hope you can come down some time soon as Talmon has not been saying much about moving lately, so we may be here for the Winter anyway. Babe is crying (can you hear him?) he seems to object to my writing when he is around. But he is sleepy.

Talmon came home Tue. am having had a few days good fishing up in the wilds, North of Quebec.

He said the camp was certainly out in the back woods and away up high in the Laurentian Mts.

I am taking my holidays out in motor rides this year. Have been going out several afternoons a week and find it the easiest way to take care of the children. Wish you were here Mother to go out with us, as you enjoy motoring and the roads are good here. Talmon says he thinks I could live in

[Page 3]

a motor. But it is not quite as bad as that.

The weather has been very cool here since Sunday. Had a letter from Ella on Sat., and she said she and Milt are the only ones of the Freundschaft in Berlin as Frank went to Oliphant Friday. So Ella will get an idea of how I feel down here.

Montréal has quite a military appearance these days as there are so

many soldiers around. From the war reports one would think Germany has the best of things so far. I have all sympathy with the German People, but no use for the Kaiser and so I hope he will learn a lesson.

Must stop & get the children and myself dressed. Wanted to get this posted so you would have it before end of the week. Much love from us all. Lovingly Martha

[end of August 26, 1914 letter]

[beginning of September 4, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave,

Montréal, Sept. 4-1914

3pm

My Dear Parents,

Have only time for a hurried
note this afternoon, as we are going
down town with the motor & then to
office to meet Talmon: I have Baby
here on my lap and the other
three are trying to dress themselves.
Intended writing you last eve, but as
I had [neuraliga?] in my head all
night before last, I decided to go to
bed early last night & try & make
up for some lost sleep.

[Page 2]

Was very glad for Father's letter this week & to
know you enjoyed your stay in Sans Souci.

By now I suppose you feel quite settled at home again, and I hope you both feel all the better for your vacation.

We have had so much rain the past week. Talmon Returned from Boston o.k. Tuesday am by train. They had a very enjoyable motor trip over and the chauffeur came back alone with the car getting here Wed. eve. It seemed a shame to have him take the lovely trip back all alone, but the others had to be back here in the city.

The children are all well. Edward and Margaret expect to start at school on Tuesday. Babe was two months old last Sunday & I weighed him & he weighs 12 lbs 7 1/2 oz having gained a little over four lbs since his arrival. He is a good Baby and sleeps well at night. Hope he keeps on in the same way.

Must close to get ready- More
another time Much love from your daughter
Martha.

[Written vertically along left side of page]

The children all send kisses - M.

[end of September 4, 1914 letter]

[beginning of September 10, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal, Sept. 10-1914

My Dear Parents,

Just a few lines tonight as it
is after 10.30 p.m. and besides you have
probably seen Talmon, and so he will
give you proceedings till he left home
on Tue evening. Have been putting
the ironing away & time became
later than I thought.

Glad for Mother's letter received
on Wed. and to know you are
both well. Hope your vacation has

[Page 2]

benefited you.

Today I did up some plums. Grace Y.

offered to come over and help me with canning, so was here most of the day. I hoped to do pears too today, but could not get any nice ones down town as they say next week will be pear week. Made crab apple jelly & canned blue Berries last week. With baby to look after and all, I am kept very busy. Wanted to get some new sewing done, but it seems the regular mending is all I can manage at present, with the every day work.

Baby is growing nicely & is going to be big like Edward I think. His profile is round & like the other children were, but in his face he looks like himself. Am enclosing some snaps I took when he was 2 month old (Aug 30) so will have more of an Idea what he looks like. The one taken with Lillie & the other children was taken in the broad sun shine so Baby could not open his eyes although he was wide awake.

Edward feels quite big now that he
has started school. It is nice for Margaret to

[Page 3]

have someone to go with.

Am glad to hear that Weber St.
is paved as it certainly needed some
attention. Weather has been very
cold here, and we have had
furnace fire the past two days to get
the house dried out again. We
have had rain nearly every day
the past two weeks or so.

The children are all well.

Love from us all -good night-

Lovingly your daughter

Martha

[end of September 10, 1914 letter]

[beginning of September 20, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave,

Montréal, Sept. 20-1914

My Dear Parents,

It is nearly time for Talmon
& children to go to Sunday School, but
I have a few minutes to at least
begin this letter. Am sorry I did not
get it written earlier in the week, but
time passed so quickly, so you will
get this Monday instead of Friday
or Saturday.

We have had delightful weather
all the past week & it was nice &
warm. I was out motoring quite
a number of afternoons as I wanted
to get Baby out when the weather

[Page 2]

was nice. Had Mrs. Geo. Whitnig & Louise out with us on Friday afternoon & on Monday. I had Mrs. (Rev.) Baker, our pastor's wife & Baby along & Wed. afternoon I had Laura Weber & Grace Young-blud along, so you see I manage to get some one to go out with the children & myself. Yesterday afternoon Webers & we went out to Black River so that the children could throw stones etc. in the water. We got to a pretty spot where a ferry crosses & it was a fine warm day. The children enjoyed it.

To make up for all this motoring I have to do my sewing & mending in the evening & so that is why I did not get at this letter before. But winter weather will soon be here & then motoring will be cut out, so I am "making hay while the sun shines."

3 p.m.- Well they are off to S.S. now and I have Baby here in my lap & Helen is busy writing you

a letter too.

I had a note this week from Aunt Libbie written from the "Convalescent Home" on Bathurst Street. Libbie had not returned to the city yet so Auntie had not seen her since the morning Uncle died.

Mrs. [Whitnig?] said old Mrs. Simpson seems just the same. She is in bed & very weak.

[Page 3]

The people around here have returned from their Summer vacation, and there are lots of children around. Margaret goes back to school in the afternoon from 1.30 to 2.30pm but Edward only goes in the morning.

Nothing new to write about.

Am having some pears sent from St. Catherines next week & want to

can a basket of peaches too if I
can get nice ones. They seem quite
scarce.

Talmon reported all the folks well
in Berlin - last week. Hope Lou &
Ella are both feeling better again.
Want to write Lou a note too, so
must stop. Much love from Martha.

[Written vertically along left side of page]

Can't you both come down & visit soon? Weather should
be nice for some time longer, so come as soon as you can.
M.

[beginning of September 20, 1914 letter]

[beginning of September 24, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal, Sept. 24- 1914.

My Dear Parents,

Will get my letter off in
time this week. Talmon is here in
Living Room too, reading aloud, so my
letter may be rather messed up.

It has been a rainy day
today, but more comfortable than the
beginning of the week. Yesterday morning
the heat was intense. At 8.45 when the
children left for school the Ther. on our
Front Veranda registered 81°- so it was

[Written vertically along left side of page]

P.S- What about coming down to visit us?

[Page 2]

hot last night. By noon, though, it became cloudy so was much cooler by evening.

Talmon spent yesterday down at Que. to see the soldiers off to England. He was at Valcartier Camp for several hours, so has a better idea now of Camp Life. He also spoke to the "Berlin Boys" - although they were all strangers to him.

Today he heard two of the Belgium delegation to Washington speak after dinner at a club here.

This terrible war seems pretty far from an end yet, an what a lot of sorrow & sadness it is bringing to innumerable homes every day. I never thought that I would live to read of a war such as this- and I hope it will soon end.

Later Friday a.m.- I was so sleepy when I got this far last night, that I stopped up & went to bed as it was 10.30-pm-

Have just spoke to Albert over the

phone, and he will probably come out and have supper with us tonight. He reported all were well again at home.

Helen gave me quite a scare the other morning. She had been out playing & about 9.30am came in, and I saw she was covered with a red rash which rapidly spread over her limbs, arms etc. I at once phoned the

[Page 3]

Dr. as there has been so much Scarlet Fever in the city. He came up, but found it nothing contagious, and said it was probably caused by something she ate. She had not been well for a few days. - However by next day the rash was entirely gone and she is feeling fine now.

I want Margaret to post this

for me when she goes back to school
after dinner. Must close as it is
nearly 12 o'clock now. We are all
well. Wanted to take Babe down to
have his photo taken this afternoon,
but it is still dark and rainy so
will leave it for another day.
Lovingly Martha.

[end of September 24, 1914 letter]

[beginning of September 30, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal, Sept. 30- 1914

My Dear Parents,

Was very glad for Mother's

letter received yesterday and to know

you are all well. Am sorry that you

are not thinking of visiting us this

Fall, as I have hoped so much that you

would do. As we will not likely

be moving to Berlin till next May

or so, Baby Paul will be such a

big boy till you see him. Am

enclosing a photo Talmon took of

him the other Sunday, and it is

[Page 2]

exactly like him. He is getting to be so cute, and

everyone thinks he is so big for his age.

I have him in short clothes since Sunday

and he looks bigger than in long ones.

Was sorry to hear about Mrs. Forsyth
and also about Emma Schiedel.

Lou wrote she has been very busy making
apple -Butter and that must be a job.

I canned three Baskets of pears on Monday.
Talmon had them sent from St. Catherines.
Have not done any peaches yet, but only
intend doing one basket, and then that will
be the end of my canning for this year.

Have not started house cleaning yet,
but must get at it soon. Am not going to
do much this Fall though, as it will be such
slow work with Baby to look after, and
Lillie is not a hustler by any means. She
spends so much time at dishes, that she
does not get much else done, and is never
finished with the work. I would look for another
girl, but fear I may strike something worse.

There is nothing new to write about
since last week.

In the enclosed photo, my face got badly
scratched in the negative, so Talmon had them

[Next page is missing]

[end of September 30, 1914 letter]

[beginning of October 8, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal Oct. 8- 1914

My Dear Parents,

Another week has slipped by [sic] and it is time for my weekly letter. This has been a dark rainy day, with heavy mist down city. It was my calling day and I was glad one lady came to call.

Do you know I dreamt the other night that you both came down to visit us. Was so sorry when I awoke to find it was only a dream.

Guess my motor rides for the

[Page 2]

rest of the year are limited, as the chauffeur left yester-

day so we can only go out now when Talmon takes us. But days like today, one has no inclination to go out, & we will probably have many more like it before Winter sets in.

Lou wrote me about her gardener breaking his ankle in a fall off of a tree. That kind of break will take a long time to heal, I should think.

That lovely parcel for Edward reached here o.k. Mother, also the pretty postal with Birthday greetings on it. He sends you many thanks and a big hug & kiss. Has been playing with the "navy" a lot & is going to put the 50¢ in his bank. Margaret gave him a box of soldiers, so with it and the navy, he can have a war on a small scale. Before long I'll have someone around who can fix up shelves, etc. for me, as Edward certainly loves to drive in nails etc. and in a few years, will be very handy to have around. Lillie baked him a cake & it looked quite gay with six candles on it, & all lit, as Helen carried it into the

dining-room with Lillie's assistance.

Lillie intended leaving tomorrow, but
is going to stay a little while longer now.

I hope you will be able to have a very
pleasant Thanksgiving on Monday. How many
homes are saddened on account of the war, so

[Page 3]

we have reason to be thankful, that our
immediate family at least, is not suffering,
as many other families are.

Had a letter from Emma Kaufman
today, and as she did not mention the
present struggle in Europe, I presume that
things are going on same as usual there,
before this war broke out.

The children are well except that
Baby has not been feeling quite himself

the last day or two, his digestion seems
a little out or else teeth are beginning to
bother him.

Am so sleepy, so will close for
tonight. Much love

From Your loving daughter
Martha

[end of October 8, 1914 letter]

[beginning of October 15, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

[Paper printed with an ornate "R" top left corner]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montréal Oct. 15- 1914.

My Dear Parents,

Was glad for Mother's letter received
this week. Am sure Aunt Sally was glad
to see you all, and it is nice that
you can go to Sebringville occasionally,
and it is just a nice run in a
motor.

The news of Geo. Schmidt's marriage
was a surprise, as I almost thought he
would be a bachelor too same as Edgar
and Frank. I suppose Mrs. Schmidt is pleased.

[Page 2]

It is nearly 11 pm. and I have Baby here
on my lap. It is something new for him

to be awake at this hour of the day.
But he is wide awake as can be and
taking in everything here at the desk.

This has been another rainy day
and it got dark so early this afternoon.
We are certainly getting a lot of rain
the past few weeks.

Probably you saw Talmon today,
as he expected to be in Berlin today
if he did not show up here this
morning. So I suppose he is on the
train again to-night, which makes three
nights in succession. It is good that he

[Page 3]

can sleep so well in a sleeper as he does so
much night travelling.

The war seems very far from an
end as yet. I only read the head lines

in the papers as a rule, as the
accounts all mean so much sorrow
and sadness for so many homes, and
it sort of gets on ones nerves to read
so much of it. We can only hope
for the best, and for a speedy ending to
so much suffering.

Things seem same as usual
here in the city, but one sees soldiers
every where. I suppose they will soon

[Page 4]

be drilling for a second contingent. Saw
a lot of soldiers drilling at McGill
University last week, and they certainly
look splendid.

Am enclosing letters from Edward
and Helen which they wrote this afternoon.
Well good night- as it is long
past bed-time.

All good wishes and [wishing?]
you are both well, as we are here
at present-

Much love

Your loving daughter,

Martha.

[end of October 15, 1914 letter]

[beginning of November 26, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montréal, Nov. 26- 1914

My Dear Parents,

It seems quite a while since

I last wrote you a letter. It is now

9 p.m. and Olive is reading in the

Living Room and the children are

all fast asleep. Talmon took Supper

down town so we have not seen him

since this morning.

We found things just as

we had left them here at the house,

and on Sunday at about 10.30 a.m. the

[Page 2]

police man came to the door to ask if we had

found things alright in the house, so it shows

they had been keeping an eye on the house

while we were away.

Olive has had quite a cold. Her voice was quite gone on Monday and Tuesday, but she can talk quite well again today. I phoned the Dr. on Tue. and he told me just what to do for her, so she is nearly better now. She is good company.

Just a week ago tonight we were at Carrie's at my Birthday Party - no I believe it will be a week tomorrow night. Well time has certainly passed very quickly since then, and here we are quite settled in Montréal again.

Have engaged a new maid or rather woman, and she is coming tomorrow afternoon. She is quite grey and has been married 20 yrs, but is a widow now. She has a nice face and says she is very fond of children, so I thought I would give her a trial.

Please excuse this awful writing
but I have tried several pens and none of them want

[Page 3]

to go right.

Don't know anything new to
write about, as I have not been
out since we arrived last Sunday.

We are all well, and the
snow is rapidly disappearing here
today. It is quite mild yesterday & today.

Thank you both again so
much for your kindness to us all
when we were in Berlin. We did
enjoy our visit so much. I hope next
time we go, it will be with house
hold effects as well.

Much love to you all in which

Olive joins me- Lovingly Martha.

[end of November 26, 1914 letter]

[beginning of December 3, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.

Montréal, December 3- 1914.

My Dear Parents,

Olive and I have been looking over some snap shots, and now it is ten o'clock, but I want to write you my usual weekly letter. Time passes so quickly in the evening.

Talmon arrived o.k. this morning from Toronto. We have had very dull foggy weather since Sunday, but Sunday was a grand bright Spring-like day, and the air was fine. Coming home from Church at noon it was very

[Page 2]

warm. Probably you had similar weather in

Berlin.

Have been quite busy since our return.

In fact, I only finished unpacking my trunk last night. Had left in different things that I did not need very soon. Baby is still bothered with his teeth & so has been very fussy, so I have to give him a lot of my time. I can scarcely realize that Xmas is so near but suppose I will get the feeling [ore?] long. Olive & I were down city on Tuesday, & the stores have their usual Xmas decorations up.

My new maid is proving to be quite successful. Think I told you about her in my letter of last week. She is so fond of Babe, and good to the older children too. She has been nursing the last while, but though she would try house work again for a change. She kept house for her husband & herself for 20 years, so should know something about it.

Am glad I got her so soon after our return,
as it gives me a chance to go out with
Olive occasionally. The Baker told me yesterday
that Lillie had left the place she had gone to

[Page 3]

when she left here.

We are all very well here at
present except Baby & it is only his
teeth. Olive is good company.

Will close for tonight as I missed
a lot of sleep last night, so must get
to bed. Mother please phone Carrie, &
tell her I intended writing her too
tonight but am too tired, so will
write her in a few days.

I trust you are all well.

Talmon and Olive join in much
love to both of you.

Affectionately your daughter

Martha

[end of December 3, 1914 letter]

[beginning of December 10, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal, Dec. 10- 1914.

My Dear Parents,

This has been a busy day
for me, and now it is after eleven
so only a few lines tonight.

This afternoon I took Helen
and Baby down to a Cradle Roll
gathering- at 3 o'clock. The Home department
entertained the Cradle Roll at Mrs. Bab-
cocks. I was there till 4.30 p.m. and then
came home as Mrs. Locke had invited
me over for a cup of Tea with Mrs. Erb

[Page 2]

and Maggie. Eva Clemens was there also. Mrs. Erb
is looking very well. She has been down here 2 months &
Maggie wants her to stay for the Winter. She

says she likes Montréal very well.

[Geo?] Anthes has been here this evening.

He is quite a talker and seems to be having a good time at school at present.

The children are all well. Margaret and Edward have been going to school every day and now are looking forward to Xmas holidays. Two weeks from tomorrow will be Xmas! It scarcely seems possible. The weather here has been quite cold, but no snow in sight. The roads are hard and dry, but it is too cold to enjoy motoring as the wind is so penetrating. We were out for quite a long ride last Saturday so Olive saw quite a lot of Montréal then. She seems to be enjoying herself. Am sorry I do not know more young people here, as I can't go out with her every day. We were at a very good Patriotic Concert Monday evening. It was 12 o'clock when we reached home. They seem to keep everything

up so late here.

[Page 3]

My visit to Berlin seems almost
like a dream now, it passed so quickly
But before I know it we may be
settled in Berlin again. But Talmon
says I am not there yet.

Just wanted to let you know we
are all well at this end, and hope
you are both the same. Olive & I intend
taking the children down to see Santa
Claus tomorrow. Glad for your letter
mother. Surprised to hear that Laurie
was married on the 3rd.

Good night-

Lovingly your daughter

Martha

[end of December 10, 1914 letter]

[beginning of December 18, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

[Paper printed with an ornate "R" top left corner]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal Dec. 18- 1914.

My Dear Mother,

Heartiest Birthday greetings from us all here. May you have a very happy Birthday on Sunday, and be given health and strength to enjoy many more anniversaries! I trust that the coming year may be full of joy and happiness for you,
Mother Dear.

We are all sorry we cannot personally help you celebrate your

[Page 2]

Birthday, same as we did Father's, a few weeks ago. But probably by next year, we will be

able to do so. Nevertheless you have our very best wishes for Sunday, and we all send you a Birthday kiss.

I have been busy same as the rest of you at this time of year. Besides putting in some time, taking Olive around to see the city. Yesterday afternoon I had her down to see Notré Dame Cathedral, and then we went on to the Office & Factory. Talmon got a sleigh, and we all, with Margaret, had a nice sleigh ride home. Got home at 6.15 had supper, put the children to bed and Talmon left at 7.30 for Ottawa. Olive & I got dressed and went to the "Princess" with Mr. & Mrs. McKechnie. We left the house at 7.40, so had some hustling to do. Mr. & Mrs. McK.- had very kindly asked Talmon and I to go with them. About 4 o'clock Talmon got a wire to go to Ottawa at once, so Olive went to the Theatre in his place. Marie Dressler is considered the funniest woman

on the stage, and she certainly kept the audience in roars of laughter. We got home at 11.30- So that is why the letter did not get

[Page 3]

written last night.

Talmon and Olive are going to Berlin either Sunday night or Monday night.

It is just four weeks today since we are home. Time certainly passes quickly.

My new maid is leaving at Xmas.

We would love to have Mr. & Mrs. Reider here for Xmas, but I can't manage alone, unless I hear of some one good in the rest of the week. So we are waiting before we write to them. I have not done any Xmas baking as yet, so will be busy next week. This is cleaning morning, so I must close.

The little parcel I hoped to send
you today, will not be ready till next
Tue., so I will send it then. In meantime
[Written vertically along left side of page]
again all good Birthday wishes- Much love from us all-
as ever- Your loving daughter- Martha

[end of December 18, 1914 letter]

[beginning of December 25, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

[Paper printed with an ornate "R" top left corner]

610 Belmont Ave,

Montréal Dec. 25- 1914.

8.30 p.m.

My Dear Parents,

I do not want to let Xmas pass
without writing you a few lines at least, as
I can't run in and talk for a while, much as
I would love to do so.

This has been an ideal Xmas Day.

Bright, sunny, lots of snow, and pretty
cold. Has not been above zero all day,
and tonight when Talmon went out, it was
10° below zero. Rather colder than usual
for Xmas time.

I hope you had a very enjoyable Xmas
time. It has been a very pleasant one

for us here, and I tried not to think of

[Page 2]

Berlin and you all, too often, as this is my first Xmas that I remember, being away from you. However the children made things lively from about 6 this a.m. and so the day really passed very quickly. We had a nice Xmas dinner at 1.30 and the Turkey tasted fine.

Talmon got some electric lights (32) for the Xmas tree, and we have it standing in the centre living room window.

I succeeded in getting a very nice big tree, and it looks very pretty. Wish you could see it. The children are delighted with it. Then they have been having a very big time all day. Fell asleep as soon as I put them to bed tonight they were all so tired.

Let me thank you both, for your share in the lovely express parcel which reached here o.k. Tuesday afternoon. We did not open it until today and there was lots of excitement as parcels were handed around in front of the lighted Xmas tree! Talmon and I both send many many thanks

for the lovely handkerchiefs. Mine is a beauty
Mother. And the cakes!- How good they are! You
were all so very very good to us, we did appreciate
your kindness and thoughtfulness, and send
many thanks for it all. Your kind Xmas box, Father,
came by mail last night. Many thanks for the
good wishes and "[Shares?]" enclosed. You are most
kind. I really did not expect anything in that [line?]
at all. Many thanks.

And the children!- Margaret was delighted
with the knives forks & spoons, and also the pretty handkerchiefs.
She sends a big hug and kiss for both of you for her
lovely present.

[Page 3]

Edward was tickled with the pencil box &
the [allies?], as well as the handkerchiefs
and sends hugs & kisses to both grandpa
and grandma.

Helen's face was all smiles when she

opened her nine pin box. They are such cute ones.- She also sends hugs & kisses for her gift.

Baby Paul's eyes have been as big as saucers all day, taking in everything. He fairly jumps out of one's arms when the Xmas tree is lit, and tries to grab things. The cute rattle has been about his neck ever since the box was opened and the lovely silver mug he will use later on- Many thanks and a big kiss to both grandpa & grandma, from their youngest grandson, for his lovely presents. The mug is so pretty
Mother.

I feel as though I have only very inadequately expressed our thanks for

[Page 4]

[Paper printed with an ornate "R" top left corner]

all your lovely gifts to us. Everything

reached here in splendid condition, and again many thanks from us all. Such kind thought and expressions of the same certainly helped to make our Xmas a Merry One, as as many friends kindly wished it to be for us.

Mr. and Mrs. [Burniere?] (here) sent us such a pretty poinsettia plant with three flowers, to put on dining room table. The pot was covered with red paper & tied with green [paper, scratched out] ribbon. It is so pretty and bright, and made the Xmas dinner table look quite gay. Talmon gave me a pretty string of rose beads, and a luncheon set, so I fared very well. Then the sisters and brothers sent me a lovely sandwich plate, Lou sent a nursery bag or darning bag- and Ella a Japanese

[Page 5]

table cover and doyleys.- So you see every one was very good to me. May W. Clarke sent me a pretty centre

piece.

Think I have given most of the news. Sorry I did not get my usual letter written early enough for you to hear from me this week, but hope our Xmas wishes by mail, reached you in time.

My maid is leaving probably to-morrow, but I have another one (a widow too) engaged for Monday morning. This maid business is a problem and a worry alright. Hope this next one will stay till we move. The one that has been with me the past month is so nice to the children, and so good to Baby that I could leave him without worrying at all about him. Was glad she was here, so I could get my Xmas shopping done.

It is nearly a week since Olive left for home. Time certainly passes quickly as it seems only a night or two ago since I was down at depot seeing her off on the train.

Glad to learn you are all well. Hope the rain coat fits you Mother also the gloves sent in Express parcel. If not, let me know. What is Aunt [C?]. 's address in Detroit? I thought I had it here, but find I have not. We are all well. Give the girls my love. I will write them all soon.

Much love, & many thanks again. Lots of kisses from us all, and best wishes to my dear Father & Mother.

From Martha

[Page 6]

Dear mother

I want to thank you for the usual instalment of handkerchiefs. You keep me going throughout the year and they often receive me or [?] wishes. I hope you have had a very merry Xmas and that

the new year will bring
with it happiness & cheer
to you and [Daddy?]

Yours

Talmon

[end of December 25, 1914 letter]

[beginning of December 30, 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

610 Belmont Ave.,

Montréal, Dec. 30-1914

My Dear Parents,

Just a few lines this week, as I have so many letters to write. Was very glad for Mother's interesting letter received yesterday and to know you are both well.

Sorry we cannot accept your kind invitation for New Year's day. Talmon maybe able to represent the family as I think he will be in Berlin on the 1st.

I wish you all a very enjoyable time together. We always do have such a nice time at 44 Weber St. on the

[Page 2]

first day of the New Year. Will think of you all, on Friday. Babe has a tooth since Sat. and another nearly through. No doubt Talmon has given you all the news as you have probably seen him 'ere this. Am glad you like your rain coat. I thought the style a pretty one, and

hope you will make good use of it. The children
all join me in best wishes for a very Happy
New Year's day as well as a happy year throughout.
Am holding babe so find it rather difficult to write.
Again all good wishes and much love- Lovingly Martha.

[end of December 30, 1914 letter]

[beginning of undated November 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

Montreal, Sunday Eve.

Am enclosing this in Ella's letter,
as I thought it would be the best way
to reach you. As far as we know now
we are planning to be in Berlin for
Nov. 8th. Thank you very much for
your kind invitation. It never takes
much coaxing to get me to Berlin.

Talmon hopes to go up with us, and to
stay there for some holidays too, while
we are there. Lou and Ella have also
invited up to stay with them, so any
way you may decide between you, will
suit us. Will probably go up a week
from Friday night (Nov. 6) - as Talmon has
to be here 'til Friday that week. Will let

[Page 2]

you know later definitely about the date. I will be so

glad to see you all. This of course all means if the children keep well. Babe has taken a heavy cold and has almost entirely lost his voice, but I hope that a few days treatment will cure him. It sounds so pitiful to hear him trying to cry, and he has lost his appetite too, but other wise seems ok.

Weather has been so changeable it is hard to keep the children from taking cold.

No doubt you received my Friday's letter ok.

yesterday. I have not begun house cleaning, and so am not going to do much at it this

Fall. Lillie leaves end of this month, so I must look for some one else, and I dread changing on account of Babe and Xmas coming too. If

Lillie had been more contented here, I would have kept her 'til we move in Spring. But Talmon says there is no need of me putting up with her for six months more, when there are so many maids to be had just now. I do hope I can get a good one. Think I will leave it 'til we come back from B - though unless I hear of a good one in the mean time.

Well this is only a note, Mother, as I
want to get to bed early tonight for a change.
Babe is beginning to get strange when any
one comes in and [wakes?] him, so I don't know
what kind of a visitor he will make.

Good Night -

Much love from Your daughter

Martha

[Page 3]

[written across page] Mrs. J.S. Anthes

[end of undated November 1914 letter]

[end of undated December 1914 letter]

[Page 1]

Montreal Tuesday Eve.

Dear Mother,

Hope to see you all in

a few days! We expect to leave

for Berlin Friday evening on 7:30

G.T.R. Train from here, and should

reach Berlin Sat am at 9:08 - Just

wanted to let you know definitely.

Lillie left on Sat. - so I am

kept hustling this week. But Hurrah

for Sat. and Berlin! It will be so

nice to see you all again, and

[Page 2]

the children are delighted at the prospect of a

holiday.

Margaret was so pleased with the cute
furniture set you sent, and also the enclosed 50c.
She sends many thanks in the mean time
till she can thank you personally when
she sees you.

Baby has trouble with his teeth, and
so has not his usual appetite. So much
[?] in his face than he was a few weeks a
ago, but otherwise is feeling fine, and his
cold is entirely gone.

Will not take time to write more
now, as it is after eleven and I should be
in bed. So will leave the rest 'till I can
talk to you. We will all be so glad to
see you again.

Good night, and hoping to see
you soon,
Much love

From your affectionate daughter

Martha

[Page 3]

[numbers and letters written on page]

[written on page] Mrs. J.S. Anthes

[end of undated December 1914 letter]