

Chapter 12

1924

1-9-24, Mrs. FE Morse to Bro Corey: Apparently Russell told his mother some of his worries and problems about their situation. She sent these letters and some news clippings to explain why she was so concerned about the missionaries being surrounded by robbers since Dr. Shelton was killed. "J. Russell would have written it to you, but he was criticized so severely for writing what he did. If you want Russell to write you please ask him to do so, he loves to write...Please return all this...Money would not buy one of Russell's letters. I never know which one will be his last one. I have trusted God with my treasure and am still."

Annual business letter (1-26-24 to Bro. Corey from Nina Hardy, TCM Sec'y): Items in discussion: 1. Increases in estimates due to new missionaries coming; 2. Request for an orphanage building; 3. Request for a Bible School building in addition to Chapel; 4. Approval of joining Chengtu Union University with a missionary teacher; 5. Opening a new station will need another doctor; 6. Request for \$1600 for Hardys furlough costs - fall of 1925 or spring of 1926; 7. Need \$1500 to rebuild, not just renovate, Mill House; 6. Orphans increased due to parents dying of relapsing fever; 7. asking \$25 additional vacation costs each for new missionaries.

The MacLeods leave for furlough 1-19-24, somewhat disorganized. Roderick reports that Fr. Lushbaum from Leh Wah was traveling part way with them which gave them an escort of Chinese soldiers and slowed them down. The children did well traveling: Duncan slept most of the way, Shelton rode with Sharijuh part of the way. "We felt sad at leaving."

Dr Hardy wrote as they were returning from seeing the MacLeods off Billy said "Now we have no playmates" and "I feel the same way myself. Billy was eating the gift of honey...notified the rest of us 'go light on the honey' for it was his." "You are all terribly missed here and wish you a pleasant journey...let us know how the road goes. Take care of yourselves and try to be good. Big orders but I am sure you can deliver."

Morse had noticed how the natives had offered milk for the MacLeods to drink as they left as "we do not drink wine", and said their farewells with much weeping. The school children all were saying

goodbye and weeping on each others shoulders, “you could never doubt the place the real missionary wins in the hearts of these people.”

Russell commented that even Dr. Hardy seemed ready to burst into tears for MacLeods had been his very good friends. “Very close friendship with Dr. Hardy seems to require a peculiarly peaceful disposition.” (*Yes, that was what Rod MacLeod had.*) Unfortunately Russell had not developed that ability with Dr. Hardy. But he felt they had gotten along very well without serious difficulty and believed they could work there the rest of their lives. Mac had told him kindly that he had made fine progress with the language, faster than Mr. Duncan, and he was sure Russell would get along well with the new missionaries coming. Gertrude, of course, gets along well with everyone. “Now we face the future with more hope and joy than we have at any time since before we came to Batang.” It has been hard for Morses to adjust and it is sad that this rapport with the MacLeods has to be put on hold until their return.

3-7-24 Bro Corey to Mrs. Shelton: “We think things are in shape now...(to) come to a general agreement on the final settlement of Dr. Shelton’s estate. First, Judge Chas. S. Lobengier of Shanghai, writes under date of Dec. 14th that the only matter which has not been settled up is the question as to whether there are any claims against the estate...in Batang.” Orders and a sight draft totaling \$1212.49 paid by missionaries buying Dr. Shelton’s items were sent. Court fees of \$66.79 Mex were paid. Years later they were still trying to settle the question of indemnity from the Chinese government, but the claim by the Batang officials that he went without permission was never settled despite letters from both Mr. Duncan and Dr. Hardy at that time and later - not by WWII and certainly not later.⁵⁵

The Ogden party with seven new missionaries were delayed in Yunnanfu as Jim had a nervous breakdown and Dr. Worthley put him in the hospital there. Dr. W- felt that if only Jim would pull himself together; he would be alright. He did not really understand emotional illness.

When Jim was placed in the hospital in Yunnanfu one needs to be reminded of the tensions he had been under: Not only was there the intense schedule of speaking for the Tibetan Mission, but his work at the College of Missions, the preparation for undertaking the Survey in Ba, the counseling necessary for the new missionaries, as well as the very real strain, with no easing, in the mourning for his dear friend and

⁵⁵ Law Offices of Finlayson, Bennett & Morrow of Los Angeles to Mrs. Shelton, May 21, 1938.

supporter, Dr. Shelton. Now he must face that confrontation with the good Dr.'s absence from Ba and the evidence of his grave. Perhaps this illness was an unconcious desire not to face that.

Also he had the management of this large group of new missionaries, attending to their diverse personalities and needs; the task of arranging for an enormous caravan with all the dangers of this treacherous route including passing the spot where Sheltons had been confronted and captured by the robbers. The first task was the persuasion of the American Consul that it was safe to go to the Border. It was too dangerous it was said.

The Ra Na Lama and the Go Ka Lama had joined forces to attack Ba. The Markham Tigi had offered to mediate saying he can hold the troops back, which., suspiciously may be because he is using them to threaten the Border. It was learned the Tigi had given \$3000 to the Chinese officials to kill the Go Ka Lama, but the lama escaped the bullets fired upon him as he was conferring with the officials. Now the Tigi wants his money back and the Go Ka Lama wants revenge. It is a dastardly business. (Dr. H- to Jim 0. 11-17-23)

On orders from Chungking the Yunnanfu Consul will not let Ogden's party go. Jim is not well enough yet anyway, and the freight is still with the French in Haiphong. 12-15-23 Then the freight came and the Lewers, Pentecostals, took some for them. Ogdens keep hoping then can go on part way and wait for permission.

(To Home Folks 1-22-24) Russell Morse observed that Lee Gway Gwang preached that only genuine repentance could make them right with God and they should stop using false weights and measures. Someone told the chief civil official and he immediately posted a proclamation that God was displeased and they must bring in their false weights. Many did! He, of course, charged for the new weights!

Meanwhile Esther writes they are camped at Chupalong. The Ra na Lama and the lamasery near Tson-ai had begun a war to oust the Chinese but failed. Only one house remained standing. The people had secret pits to hide their wealth but the Ra na Lama's men found the pits and carried it all off. They made the people miserable. A number of heads were sent to Batang.

Shelton MacLeod sometimes rides with Esther or gets ba-ed (carried). "Duncan thinks we ought to go back to Batang. He enquires if each place we stop is America. It seems terrible to see so many homes burned at Drubalong, Gera and Sagne. We felt so badly at leaving you all. Love and best wishes from Dekading." They hated to leave when the relapsing fever epidemic was so bad.

Jan 1924 As MacLeods had worked their way down the trail to Yakalo and Yunnanfu he tells of the robbers and the difficulty of hiring

horses. The weather was cold enough to freeze their water bottles and the children cried from the freezing winds burning their cheeks. Fr. Nussbaum leaves them at Yakalo bringing the mail from there back with him. Roderick has had several malarial attacks. At Wei shi Mr. Perrone, their TCM agent, lets him have \$350.

MacLeods met with some of Ogdens' train of goods and tried to get them stored properly in Atuntze, but soldiers occupied the house. Luckily they could put them in the Catholic guest house. Mac told the official, "It was violence to occupy the house, but I was only 'one piece man' and could not use violence (against the soldiers). 1-20-24, 1-26-24, 2-6-24.

(1-22-24) Russell tells of the gardening he is doing for the orphanage and the work planning the chapel. (2-29-24) In Ba they are enjoying a nice quiet time with Ma Si-Ling away south of Batang with Shang Chen troops joining with him and the Commissioner is having trouble from Chengtu troops with no sign of let-up in the fighting in Szechuan.

Dr. Hardy had asked Mac to put a proposition before Bro. Corey about Dr. Hardy going to Chengtu to allow him to work in the Medical Department of Union University. He could send his children there to school otherwise he has to put his children in high school in the States. This would mean he would have to give up missionary work which he doesn't want to do. (3-6-24) He now asks if he can extend his furlough to the fall of 1925 or the spring of 1926.

Finally Jim is well enough and Ogdens can leave Yunnanfu, though Dr. W- states to Bro Corey (2-17-24) that he is very irritable. They had finally gotten permission to go, after Jim had a long talk with the Consul General who came from Chungking. Besides the repacking necessary to put their freight into boxes suitable for carrying by mules there is also the constant need at each 10 day stage from Wei-shi to Atuntze to Yengin to check for repairs and re-pack. Their caravan consists of 170 pack animals and horses for riding, 18 chairmen for the sedan chairs and coolies with 64 animals on ahead. All dangerous places in the road are heavily guarded by Chinese soldiers, particularly where Shelton had been captured.

MacLeods met the Ogden party at Shi Ku with their "splendid lot of folks...I might go so far as to offer a wee bit of incense...wishing I were back with them. Love and best wishes for every good thing to yourself." (2-2-24) The Worhleys had the pleasure of meeting the MacLeods. Mac was not well and Dr. W- treated him for malaria and irritated bronchial tubes. "P.S. Do not work MacLeod too hard. He is not looking well, not like a man of 38. Mr. Tan of the post office asked Ogdens to bring up any mail for Ba from Atuntze and the P.O. would

pay the freight costs. (3-2-24)

Dr. W- was worried about Di De, the wife of Lee Gway Yuin, who is expecting a child in a few days. They had joined the caravan in Yunnanfu; Gway Yuin having finished his two years of medical training. Di De had a little girl and named her Miriam or Da Dren, meaning good and kind. (Dr. W- to Bro Corey, 3-13-24) Dr. W- treated over 300 patients on the trail assisted by Amanda Worthley and Grace Young, nurses- all thrilled with the response of the people. He had no problem with the language as Lee Gway Yuin was there to interpret. He felt that he needed no language. Mr. Ogden is seemingly no better. At Weishi he had been in bed the whole time; Dr. W- is unable to convince him he is not physically sick. He had a stomach upset due to his disturbed mental condition. At times he seems wholly unable to control his temper. "If after we reach Batang he will forget his aches and pains; he will be a well man."

Esther wrote that they are "in China with a bang-- last night all Tibetan & today noon the first Chinese village - the whole town drunk and half of them fighting." Lloria immediately asked to get the gun Billy wanted. I said, "What about Molly's doll? Molly can wait for her doll, but Billy is in an awful hurry."

Louise had been quite worried about the health of her father. Mail was not getting through so although he died 10-26-23 she did not learn of it until after the Chinese New Year festivities of 1924. Such sadness is a part of every missionary's life.

It was a pleasure and a relief to take time off for some tennis or to relax for tea at each others homes. Louise was not so active though, as time drew near for the birth of her next child. She had attended the New Year's dramas because the lamas were so insistent - they did not want to lose the fees for the tent site.

3-6-24 Dr. Hardy to Bro Corey Re: placing a part of the Shelton Memorial Fund in Chengtu with the West China Union University. Dr. Beech has written and since they have to join sooner or later if the Christian young people are to have a higher education to work as teachers, evangelists, or doctors here in Batang or in Tibet, then we need to have a part in it. "If we fail to join we will make a mistake."

(3-14-24) More danger! The Commissioner ordered Ma Si-Ling to Tachienlu with all troops and all foreigners, but before the General reached Batang the order had been countermanded. Dr. Hardy felt the Commissioner's hide was in danger and is 'finished'. The missionaries stated they wouldn't leave unless the American Consul sent word and an escort.

Atuntze is a problem for any foreigner as its' altitude is so

high, about 12,000'. When the Ogdens arrived there Dr. W- had stayed behind with Di De and Gway Yuin as she had pneumonia with 104 F. Minnie is ready to leave the freight behind just to get to Ba.

4-14-24 Hardy writes from Robberland, "Ba still rests in the same old place. It has moved neither up the mountain nor down the Valley. It has not been set on fire by any one seeking to set the whole world on fire. It has not been turned over by those whose aim in life is to turn all things upside down. In fact we are in the good old Republican State of Normalcy. Our rumor factory is running full time." *Such turmoil.*

5-6-24 Harold Baker wrote to Hardys from where they were working in Kotchiu, Yu, asking forgiveness for the slights and unkindnesses he had given them. Mentioning their work in Yunnan he asked if a Bible that he had left in their old home could be sent to them. 7-15-24 Dr. Hardy wrote, sending them the Bible, and was very happy to forgive him.

Louise hoped the Ogden party would get in before the birth, but no, and the baby was a son, not the hoped-for daughter! It was a great joke in the Mission that it took them a week to come up with a name for a son! John Kenneth Duncan born 5-7-24.

5-14-24 Ogdens and party arrive in Batang. *The coming of these is very different from when Sheltons and Ogdens first arrived in Batang to set up their homes and start their work. The countryside was still both fantastically beautiful and bitterly hard. The everlasting snows on the peaks rising 14,000' to 16,000' surrounding the Batang Valley and even higher found outside the Valley, were fantastic. The Valley was sheltered by these peaks from the snow in winter and during the growing season two crops could usually be grown. During the hot season it could be very hot, Marion registering 125 F once, but the high, strong winds carrying dust and the plagues of flies and mosquitoes were terrible to endure. During the hot, wet season the continual dampness meant colds. Yet the worst was the isolation. In winter none could get through the high passes, not mail, boxes, supplies nor simply a new face. With the disappearance of the snow the countryside bloomed, with acres of beautiful wildflowers, with people coming in-traders, civil and military officials, friends- one also could now take trips, go hunting, have picnics, and all the Tibetans went to the hot springs for their yearly bath! It was a re-awakening of the soul!*

The political climate was different, but hardly better. Upon the missionaries first arrival the Chinese had just re-captured Batang, destroyed the monastery, sent the royal family scurrying to Lhasa and exile, and killed off most of the lamas, etc. Then Sun Yat Sen's revolution happened and the Tibetans and Chinese fought two battles

on the Border. The first in 1913 the Tibetans had lost, losing land and towns such as Chamdo and Gartok, in what was Inner Tibet. The second the Tibetans won with the afore-mentioned peace treaty of 1918 winning back what had been lost. In eastern China on the coast the new government forces mostly had control, but the middle provinces of China were a constant battleground between warlords who had taken advantage of the Revolution to hold their territories, try to get more and prevented the new Central Government forces from taking their areas. They were fighting amongst themselves or were battling the strong forces of brigand tribes, such as the one that held Shelton captive for several months. These battles never touched Batang and except for cutting off contacts and allowing robbers to roam free and preventing the missionaries from traveling or itinerating, they brought no danger to the missionaries within Batang. Scary and limiting for excursions, but no more.

*Eastern Chinese, though more open to the West now than when they were under the Manchus, were severely hampered by the 'favored nations' treaties and demands of Europeans to be allowed to protect themselves in enclaves, the British demanding the right to have troops to protect the foreigners and their own trading rights- all meant that China felt under coercion by the West, **including missionaries**, of any who acted with an air of dominance. These the Chinese resented. They even resented the times the Western presence helped them as when Eric Teichman's presence helped in the 1918 treaty with the Tibetans, stopping their further expansion.*

The Tibetans often supported the missionaries because at the times the Chinese were weak on the Border; this gave the Tibetans 'face' over the Chinese. Did Shelton understand this? Certainly when the Tibetans lost those two small battles for Batang in the early twenties the Tibetans were on the rampage again. Yet they still protected the missionaries. Certainly it was partly because of the friendship of Dr. Shelton. The Chinese forces were barely holding them in check and the Chinese were often foolish, as on the instance of antagonizing the Shang Chen. The missionaries who understood this, perhaps only dimly, were right in being careful about going outside of Batang, particularly outside the Valley.

As good Christians they did not hold this against the ordinary people, but if they truly understood these ebbs and flows of political action it should have been not only discussed but emphasized to the newer missionaries. This knowledge should have been added to what they knew of how to deal wisely with these people whom they wished to help to a better life. If one did not develop this, perhaps cynical understanding of reality, and then rise above it, it left one's self open to

being manipulated. Orientals were very quick to sense if a Westerner had this sort of understanding or were blinded by their own needs to be accepted.

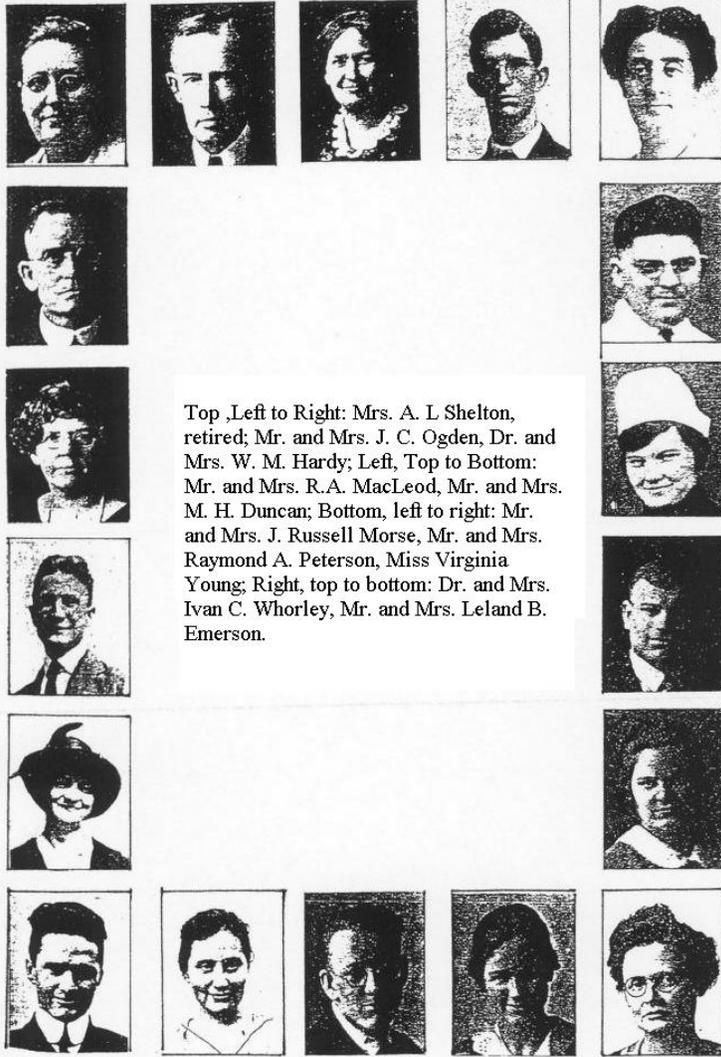
Orientals were very careful of true innocence, of the one who walked among them knowing them, yet unafraid, such as Shelton. Of course, robbers considered everyone fair game.

True understanding of a people can only happen when one knows the language of the people. So many of the West feel that their language and culture are superior to the East, but the Batang missionaries who were taken into the hearts of the people knew better. Even up to the last contacts these were the ones who could walk fearlessly among the ordinary Tibetans and Chinese.

5-24-24 AJ Clements, Vernon House, Amoy, Fukien to WM Hardy: "I see you have not forgotten the great trek (10-13-11) to the coast; an interesting journey. Recollections flit across my mind. I enjoyed the Tali-Yunnan section best. It speaks volumes for your constancy that you are back at the old base. We learned of the Gen'l's (Periera) sad death at Hoerdrango (Kiangku). Dr. Thompson was taken by bandits near Peking. The Lhasa Tibetans are extending the influence east. I trust you as a Mission to extend yours west. Here in the south lively Fukien has suffered terribly from the military. In Amoy we enjoy port life- an agreeable change."

5-30-24 Hardy to MacLeod's: Telling them the Ogden party is a fine bunch. "Wish you were here to join me on offering up a wee bit of incense." Mr. D- was on the warpath about what Mylne wanted to charge for services. "The blissful ignorance that D- displays never produces silences. Personally, I am thankful there are a few people who can tell me a thing or two. 6-8-24 P.S. Little Hardy #4 arrived in Ba at 11:05 a.m. 6-3-24... "catchee one piecee girl baby" called Sara Gregory Hardy.

Macs had sailed from Shanghai on the Taiyo Maru, an ex-German ship owned by the Japanese, who kept complaining about the US Exclusion Act.



Top ,Left to Right: Mrs. A. L. Shelton, retired; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ogden, Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Hardy; Left, Top to Bottom: Mr. and Mrs. R.A. MacLeod, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Duncan; Bottom, left to right: Mr. and Mrs. J. Russell Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A. Peterson, Miss Virginia Young; Right, top to bottom: Dr. and Mrs. Ivan C. Whorley, Mr. and Mrs. Leland B. Emerson.