

Bretton



Prince George Hotel
Fifth Avenue & 28th Street

Charlotte N.C.

Sept. 4th 1919

Dear Son

I was at this hotel last week hoping that you would arrive in N.Y. & give the great pleasure of giving you a personal welcome to the Old U.S. The reports in July indicated that your Division would very likely arrive the last week in Aug. So having business in N.Y. I selected that week in job. to transact it. I left there on Friday, stopped in Washington for other duties & then stopped at Canaan for 3 days with John & Marion. I am just from there & on my way to fill Sunday appointments in Guilford. Mrs. & Sister were quite well & enjoying each other. Sister will be on hand to welcome you to Canaan. I think the prospects

on the plantation are very good,
& just has much work in progress
& projected for the future - But
you will see for yourself, I hope,
before many days are past -
If it is possible for you to reach
the coast before the 25th, Little Keith
will be there & I too by the 28th
I think - You see I am assuming
that you will be in N.Y. when this
note gets there - During October
I will be at General Convention in
Detroit - As Little Keith & I have
no home until Barth Hill is
built, she will spend that
month with Henry in Swanton
- John G. in Troutport Ky. where
he has a church -
Let us know at once your
movements and how we can
reach you by letter or
telegram -
This is a most affectionate

welcome to you. I will be
so grateful & thankful when
I hear that you are safe
back home once more -

With much love

Affectionately Your father
Theodore D Bralton

In reply refer to
G-1/1577.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
WASHINGTON.

JAN 13 1922

Bishop Theodore D. Bratton,
Bishop of Mississippi,
Jackson, Miss.

My dear Bishop:

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 21, 1921, with reference to the recommendation for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Sergeant Randolph Bratton, your son.

In reply, I desire to state that I have had the records of the American Expeditionary Forces examined and find that the original of the recommendation you inclose was acted on in December 1918, by the Board of Awards at General Headquarters, and was disapproved for the reason that the act cited did not quite fulfill the requirements for the award of this decoration.

There is now no decoration prescribed by law for acts of gallantry, which although not quite up to the standard prescribed for the Distinguished Service Cross, are yet deserving of recognition.

I have, however, caused a study of this subject to be made for presentation to Congress, with a view of having legislation passed which will remedy this defect, and it is my belief that in due time it will receive favorable consideration.

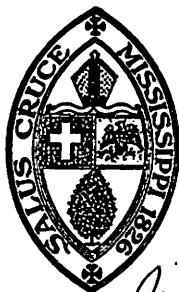
I wish to assure you of my high appreciation both of the patriotic services of yourself and of the gallantry of your son.

Very truly yours,



JOHN J. PERSHING,
General of the Armies,
Chief of Staff.

Dec 5-1936
Dear Son. I have long been
trying to find this for you, & had
concluded that I must have
sent it on to you. A few minutes
since I ran across it, & at once
forward it to you. It contains
the original as well as copies -
one for each of the dis. ones.
affly
D. Bratton



OFFICE
DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI

RT. REV. THEODORE D. BRATTON, D. D.
BISHOP
JACKSON, MISS.

RT. REV. WM. MERCER GREEN, D. D.
BISHOP COADJUTOR
MERIDIAN, MISS.

I. W. RICHARDSON,
TREASURER
MERIDIAN, MISS.

T. H. SHIELDS,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
JACKSON, MISS.

REV. VALENTINE H. SESSIONS,
SECRETARY
BOLTON, MISS.

Gautier Miss
Aug 18 1937

My Very Dear Eula.

You have been constantly in heart & mind during the days, & my own experience enables me to enter into your thoughts & emotions; - into the lost feeling as you realize more & more keenly that half of yourself is gone beyond your call & your touch. I know that the Loving Holy Comforter will sustain you & give you courage to face the duties of the days as they come - We must arrange that you & the children make your home together, and for this John Bratton and I are planning. I learn also that Mr. Peyton & Randolph's widows' friends are pushing their application for the Widows' Pension, & if this succeeds the task of proper provision for you will be made much more assured. John Gass, who was devoted to Randolph, has deposited \$100.00 to my credit for you as you need. & I am most grateful to him as I know you will be. Some time, when you can get to it, write him a note to "Rev. John Gass, 830 Park Ave, New York, N. Y."

It may be that you need all of this now, & if so let me hear & I will send the balance at once; otherwise I will hold it upon your call. I enclose for you - When you are "good & ready to write", let me hear what you are thinking so that I may be of all the help possible to you -

We have at Fairhaven, Wm's family (except Theodore, at work in Houston, Tex.) Isabel & her sons, and Currier & John Gass. The boys are having great fishing & swimming in the waters in front of the sides of us -

I want you to thank Louise Allison (I think it was she) for her letter & the newspapers. I hope to write to her, but just now my correspondence is far greater than I can compass -

All join me in much love for you & the dear children & give my love to your dear mother -

Affectionately

Theodore D. Bratton

LAKEVIEW HOUSE

JACKSON'S POINT
LAKE SIMCOE

"The Popular Summer Resort"

Jackson's Point, Ont. Aug 17 1922

Dear Ella:-

The sad news of Randolph's tragic death has just reached me here in this far away place where we have been having a little vacation from the heat and turmoil of New York, and I am hastening this line to you to assure you how sincerely my heart goes out to you. Words here I ever had anything effect me as this news has or depress me so completely, for I have always had the most tender place in my heart for Randolph. Back in the old days when we were growing up together he and I were very intimate and close to one another. His personality was one of the

LAKEVIEW HOUSE

JACKSON'S POINT

LAKE SIMCOE

"The Popular Summer Resort"

Jackson's Point, Ont. 19.....

Poor boy! He was a victim and a tragedy of the war far worse, as you know better than the rest of us, than those who were killed on the battle-fields; - and I can find in my own mind nothing but the deepest sympathy and understanding for him. None of us will ever know how much he suffered or how bravely he fought to hold on during these lost twenty years.

For myself my sympathies are even the greater and if it will keep you to know of the earnest prayers of one who loved your husband as a brother, they are yours in fullest measure.

If there is anything I can do to help along
we are ever yours and will not hesitate to let

LAKEVIEW HOUSE

JACKSON'S POINT
LAKE SIMCOE

"The Popular Summer Resort"

Jackson's Point, Ont.....19.....

we know and be assured that if it is in my power to do it, I shall most gladly undertake it.

May God bless you and keep you and give you the assurance of his never failing presence and help is my most earnest wish and prayer.

Sincerely Yours,
John Goss.

I saw of him while he
was in Burlington and I
regret that I couldn't have
known him better. I have
thought of you and those
lovely children so much.
I wish you were near enough
to us to see something
of you. If any of you
ever come this way we
could so love for you
— come to see us.

Burlington, N.C.
October 4, 1937

My dear Esda,
Our home mourning
has saddened by the news
of Randolph's illness and
we were shocked and dis-
tressed to hear of his
passing. He was indeed
a lovable person and
a brave and honorable
man. I enjoyed the little

We have hardly been at home
at all since the first of January
but we hope we are settled for a
while now and can enjoy being
at home and seeing our friends.
We miss you very much and
hope you won't forget us. We
would be so glad to hear from
you and the children.
With much love for you each
one in which Cornelia joins.

Most sincerely
Justine Davis

Thank you so much for sending
the clippings. I am so glad to
have them.



OFFICE DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI

RT. REV. THEODORE D. BRATTON, D. D.
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
JACKSON, MISS.

*Sewanee Tenn.
Sept 15/1937*

Dear Eula -

I found your letter at home, & also one from Joe Bratton & on Monday as I spent the evening & then left on the night train for Chattanooga for a meeting on yesterday, this day at its close came on here - John wrote me as you plan to rent a house so as to have a home for you & the children, which I heartily rejoice to know. You know that I will be sending you not less than \$40.00 each month, & more if I can. I have also \$50.00 which is yours from John Bass, & which you are to write for when it is needed, either all at one time or in any way you want. I will be at home probably on Monday next for 2 days about - John tells me he will send you a stated account each month & that you may be able to get part time work, which will be a great help in giving you some interest outside of the home, as well helping with expense account. I am writing rather hastily between duties, so that you may know what my understanding is, & be able the better to keep me posted - I am thinking of you & constantly with understanding & sympathy. With much love for you & each of your dear ones.

*Affectionately
Theodore D. Bratton*

Dear Eula:-

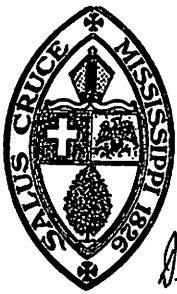
I was glad to hear from you that Randolph is better. I am sending a P.O. money order for \$10.00 which I hope will help some in an emergency. Father will be in Sewanee, Tenn. - Apr. 2-6 - and could be reached there. If you need either of us & if I can relieve Father of an extra trip, please call on me.

Keep me posted as to Randolph's condition - & with love from all -

*Sincerely yours -
William*

401 BOYD PLACE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Apr. 1 - 1937.



OFFICE

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JACKSON, MISS.

REV. VALENTINE H. SESSIONS,
SECRETARY
BOLTON, MISS.

Sept 21/1937

Dear Eula.

I am here for this one day, and fortunately at this particular time when I can send the document the Doctor wants. I leave tonight, after a very busy day, leaving my desk & attending to Church business. There is a message to send our love to you & the dear children. I do hope you are settled in the house & that the compensation will be granted which our friends believe, as we do, should be accorded by the U. S. - I am thinking of you very, very often -

Affectionately Yours Father
Theodore D. Bratton

RT. REV. THEODORE D. BRATTON, D.D., LL. D.
1541 WEST CAPITOL STREET

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Nov 3 / 1941

My very Dear Lula

I was so glad to have all the news of the family from dear Isabel - I to have such a fine report of Randolph - I am anxious to live long enough to see all the children through the High School & as far along as possible toward their readiness for self support - Each attack that comes our way brings a little fear that I may not be able to carry on - But the Lord has been wonderfully good & each time has given me another year or life - I am just now getting over one of them - We are all in very good shape now - the young folk especially so - I think I wrote you that Isabel is married again - to Sam Edmundson from Kansas who has been employed by the Sun-Clair Oil Co. here in Jackson - They have an apartment in easy reach of us & seem to quite happy & content -

Cots of love for you and the dear children.

Affectionately

Theodore D. Bratton

RT. REV. THEODORE D. BRATTON, D.D., LL. D.

1541 WEST CAPITOL STREET

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

My Very Dear Lula.

Jan / 1942

Happy & Blessed New Year to you, Randolph & the dear girls - And thank dear Isabel for her delightful letter - She is a real letter writer & has the gift of telling what her reader most wants to hear - I have in mind a lot of messages to my friends, old & young, & to my kin - I think of them very often. So you & the girls begin with Miss Kate & go down the line with a message of loving greetings from me - With a whole lot for you each one

This is my first letter in Affectionately
1942 (as you see from Theodore D. Bratton
the above I had to change date

RT. REV. THEODORE D. BRATTON, D.D., LL. D.

1541 WEST CAPITOL STREET

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

My Beloved Lula & Girls

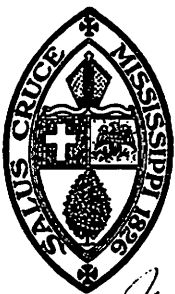
Dec 15 / 1943

I want a little hand in your Christmas - Thank Isabel for Randolph's address - I am sending him a message - Our boys are everywhere - Good news so far - I keep them all in heart & prayers - A blessed Christmas tide for each of you.

Affectionately

Much love from us for you

T.D. Bratton



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REV. VALENTINE H. SESSIONS,
SECRETARY
BOLTON, MISS.

Aug 31 / 1937

My Very Dear Enla.

Your letter came as we were breaking camp on the coast. Little Mother, with William & his family came back to Jackson on Saturday, taking a route through Louisiana made necessary by the roads under construction between here & the Coast. I went to our State Sanatorium for the Tuberculous for services & personal ministrations to the bed-ridden on Sunday. - We spent Sunday & Monday & drove his family to Memphis today.

You cannot justly reproach yourself in any way for what has happened, nor feel any fear for dear Randolph. The loving Father knows it all, and His love never fails. - His Mercy is as the "great deep". I can enter fully into your feeling of loneliness & desolation, - for the memory of his Mother's death and the succeeding months are still vivid to me - You will have strength from the Holy Spirit to carry on, to live day by day in the cares which the children bring & for bearing which you now need "the strength of two".

John wrote me, immediately he returned home, a letter very full and satisfactory. I answered it at once hoping that we might together begin to help you to make plans for the future. Unfortunately my letter was returned by the Post Office in Raleigh for more specific address. Rather strange as I have always used only Raleigh N.C. in writing to him, & the telephone directory is in every Post Office. The returned letter came when you died - I sent it to John, but the unnecessary delay had been occasioned.

No doubt you have begun to think of the future, - and I would like you to share your thoughts with me, so that I may work toward the end that you have in mind. I realize that my years affect me in the class of the Old, - & time is a very real factor. So write me as soon as you have surmounted the problem, as well as you can.

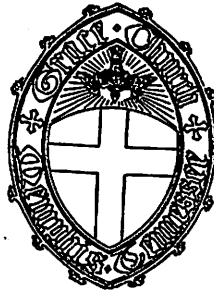
We were late in getting your check to you this month, because of the confusion of packing things away & moving ourselves, for which I am sorry. - It may be that the date of future remittances will vary somewhat, until I can rearrange my plans.

You will recall that we thought Randolph would be recovered by hospital treatment, & that I had arranged to send you a check check month for the time required for his resumption of work. Therefore the readjustment of my plans to meet as far as I can the new condition in which we find ourselves. - Please give my affectionate regards to your dear Mother. Little Mother & I join me in much love for you & the dear children.

Give my love to each of the
Ellisons & thank them again
for all their kindness.

Affectionately Yours Truly
Theodore D. Bratton

Grace



Church

~~Rev. Chas. C. Wright, D. D. Rector~~

Dance and Lauderdale Sts.

Memphis, Tenn.

Dec. 20 - 1932

Dear Randolph; -

I have thought a lot about you and Eula since we arrived here Dec. 1st - Don't even know whether you knew we had moved - but we are delighted to be so much ~~be~~ nearer home & in so much nearer touch with most of the members of the family. We are close enough, now, to see something of you and John & I hope we can arrange it may be this summer. We have been spending our August vacation at Gantier and the next in Colorado or New Mexico, either of which were reached in 1 1/2 days - But now that we have cut loose from the West, we may be exploring in various directions - and what I would like to do would be to come your way this summer.

We heard from Katherine who is in Jackson for Christmas, the other day, that Gibby had had a fall & had broken her hip -

Grandmother was - but there seems to be danger that she may -

Unfortunately I did not get the low-down on your address before Kit left & we have a feeling that you may not be in Wimsboro - ~~but~~ so I am sending this to Mr. and Mrs. - and have made a check to Mr. or Mrs. so that you or Eula can use it to get a Christmas present for the children from my & me. We are so much out of touch with what their desires might be that we would rather leave this with you.

With the best Christmas wishes and our love for you all -

Devotely your brother -

William -

DUKE HOSPITAL
DURHAM NORTH CAROLINA

1-26-36-

Dear Kid;

Hope you all are O.K.
Havnt any news as they have
nt made a real examination
yet - It's 1:00 o'clock now and
they will probably do it this
afternoon - but am writing
now so you will get it to-
morrow -

It's very nice here - I'm
in a ward with six beds - but
it is divided by glass partitions,
which you can't see through, so
it's all right -

Had a good night's sleep -
and am really feeling better -
; Please kiss the kids and say
we too - Much love
Dad -
Hendy -

Please send the two books back
to the library P.

My dear Eula,

This little mes.

Sage of love & Christmas greetings
goes & you with loving thoughts
I hear - feel sympathizing. I know
it will be a hard day for
you but I hope you & the
children will be happy &
thankful for the blessings
you have in each other.
The Bishop tells me he
sent a check over & will
the one we send monthly
for you & the children &
spend for Christmas & I
know Isabel's package has
reached you by this time.
My love & a prayer in my
heart, for you & the chil-
dren. Devotedly
Little Mother

Honorable Discharge from The United States Army

The within Discharge
recorded this 10 day of August
1931 In Book Veterans Page B.
W. W. Lewis



W. W. LEWIS,
Clerk of Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions
for Fairfield County, S. C.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to Certify, That * Randolph Bratten, ^{Born May 18, 1895} 5278
1st Inf. 2nd Div. 2nd Regt. Co. F. 28th Infantry

THE UNITED STATES ARMY, as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL

SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the military service of the

UNITED STATES by reason of Exp. term exp. H. B. Act 106 7/3/18

Said Randolph Bratten was born
in Spartanburg, ^{5/18/1895} in the State of S. Carolina

When enlisted he was 21 1/2 years of age and by occupation a Farmer

He had Brown eyes, Brown hair, Reddy complexion, and
was 6 feet 1 inches in height.

Given under my hand at Camp Gordon, Ga. this
26th day of Sept., one thousand nine hundred and nineteen

CLERK OF COURT
W. W. LEWIS
FAIRFIELD COUNTY S. C.

1937 AUG 10 PM 3 16

Major Bratten
Major Bratten
Commanding.

CLERK'S OFFICE

Name: Randolph Bratton Grade: Sergeant
Enlisted, or Inducted, Apr. 19, 1917, at Columbia, S. C.
Serving in First enlistment period at date of discharge.
Prior service: * None

Noncommissioned officer: 1st Lt. Corp. 7/3/17, 1st Lt. 8/1/18.

Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating: 1st Lt. Rifleman 5/1/19.

Horsemanship: Not mentioned

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: A. E. F. in France & Germany 6/14/17 to 9/13/19.

Montdidier, France 6/14-6/13/18. Aisne-Marne 7/18-7/26/18. St. Michel 9/2-9/10/18. Meuse-Argonne 9/26-11/11/18.
Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations Cited by General Pershing 7/21/19 for 4 actions.
in action 10/11/18.
Cited in G. O. 89 Hq. 1st Div. 12/4/18
Cited in G. O. 94 Hq. 1st Div. 12/13/18

Knowledge of any vocation: Farming

Wounds received in service: Shrapnel wound in back, 7/30/18.

Physical condition when discharged: Good

Typhoid prophylaxis completed 5/4/17

Paratyphoid prophylaxis completed 7/25/17

Married or single: Single

Character: Excellent

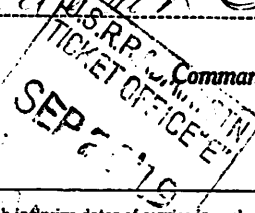
Remarks: No absence under A. O. 107. True travel pay to
Winnboro, S. C.

C. F. 28th Inf. from enl. to 9/13/19.

Signature of soldier: Randolph Bratton.

16/1/13

W. B. Gray
Captain Infantry
Detachment



Jackson Miss Feb 28/1944
I was surprised & glad to
get your Valentine listening
from W. Mrs. Bono - & very sorry
these days have elapsed before
telling you so - Many things happen
these days, but no excuse - I likely
could have squeezed in a card some
time - We had Celine Bratton & her
army wife friend for a night's visit
on Thursday p.m. They were on their
way to join their husbands near Hous-
ton Tex. Ellington Field where they are in-
structors. The husbands graduated at
Randolph Tex. & were sent back to Ellington
where they earlier training put them in line
for the assignment. Did I ever tell you
that our Asst. Rector is Rev Louis Thomas
who was Rector of St. Johns Wm. is he very
early in his ministry. His wife is a lovely lady
& we all like them very much. His brother
is Ed. Thom. who married Lottie Capra
Johnson's daughter. We are having a wet
spring. Little garden work, fruit is com-
ing. All of us well. Marion very
busy with Church, Red Cross, U.S.D.
I married Daisy Belle D. & sons - Daisy
bride & sons in Jan 21. Her husband is
a very fine soldier (Flight instructor at
Bryant Wood, Miss) fr. N. Jersey. His father
& mother lovely people. & they born a most
clean ch. against lots of love for each one
affly
T. D. Bratton

Jackson May 12/1944
I have been partly lazy
& partly busy. but not the
that could stand scrutiny -
However you are, each one
all the time in heart & mind!
I am wondering where Randolph
is? - I can't keep the log. but
could accurately as so many
of our boys. Check up help me.
We have had several confer-
ences (Chapel) during past 3
weeks - & these have brought
visits from friends who have
been very dear to me for 30
to 60 yrs past. The last one
of my Silvanee M. L. who also
has been one of my clergy for
38 yrs - He is 81 - 6 yrs older than
me - but an intimate during all
these yrs. He lives by himself on our
acast & still has Holy communion
every Sunday as a Rector Priest.
We are all well. I hope to or-
dain as Deacon one of my dear
friends & say Rector for 38 years,
when the Bishop appoints this day.
Lots of love for each of you dear ones
affly
T. D. Bratton

The Bishop's Home

Battle Hill

Jackson, Miss. _____ Feb. 14th. 192

To John and Randolph Bratton:-

Dear Sons,

I had expected to make a digest of our findings at once and send back to you, but press of business has delayed me.

First let me call your attention to omissions which should be added to your Budget. (1) Taxes, (2) Church Dues. These two duties to State and God must be first charges and I hope you will make them and notify me so that I may add them to my figures. This requires a change in art. of Plantation Budget on the inclosure.

First. As I view it you have an exceedingly difficult problem to work out, requiring an increase in your annual earning capacity far above former years. To this end, reorganization of the crop department on the one hand, under Randolph, and of the machinery, repairs and live stock, under John, should be pushed for all they are worth. The most careful and vigorous oversight of both are necessary.

Randolph should give all his time to a study of the greatest economy in the planting and rearing of the crops, in overseeing the croppers and pushing them forward to the best that is in them. A seed patch, both for corn and other crops, should be a speciality to be worked by the wage hands from which seed each year can be selected. The Farmer's Bulletins will be of great value and can be had from Clemson College, or through your congressman. The suggestions can be adapted to your conditions. To his department would belong the general barn food for the live stock, hay, grains, etc. Also clearing of land.

John should, beside his shop and machinery department, have the live stock, increasing his herd and pigs and looking forward to the earliest revenue possible from them; Planning the shelter for them, and the patches for pushing their growth, with the proper succession of crops adapted to the soil, should belong to his department, while Randolph with his wage hands looks to the culture. The care of pastures is important.

In both cases you ought to have the proper bulletins and study them. The biggest question of all is the expense account and the advice of the Experiment Stations will have to be very carefully adapted to your conditions.-for these stations are often extravagant. A good crop is important, but the cost of the crop is even more important to success.

Second. The Budget. I assume that Randolph and Lewis will keep the books. These should show your Liabilities, -(a) the remote ones, i.e. the Purchase Price and The Farm Loan Bank Loan should be kept separate. For the present, the Interest on the Farm Loan is the only item to appear on your Books from the Remote Liabilities. Put that on your account together with the Liabilities of the Year and the Plantation Budget, so that it may never be lost sight of. There follows the Budget in detail. It is most important to watch each item so that the expense of each may be kept down.

Third. I suggest that all checks be written by Lewis or Randolph, and that in your evening conferences you decide on what is to be done, and checks to be written, keeping a memorandum, so that you will not be taking snap judgement, nor running up bills without careful

The Bishop's House
Battle Hill

Jackson, Miss. _____ 192

thought. Select one person to write checks.

Fourth. I assume that your partnership will continue. If you find that you must dissolve, then the adjustment of a right disolution must be a matter of careful agreement in which somebody outside must be your umpire. You must remember that under conditions of debt, your shares are really worthless, and my equity is equally so. Where a share is \$6000 and there is approximately \$18000 of debt standing against it, the value of the share is gone until the obligation is wiped out. So if Randolph should draw out, it would be at the loss of his share and with a large debt besides which he should justly assume, just how much to be determined by conference. So I hope you will, together, work out the salvation of Canaan and yourselves. Your honor demands it and your interests no less.

Fifth. I hope you will remember that I have voluntarily deeded over the insurance that I have for my old age and for Mother and the girls. Justice to them demands that you do your very best. If, having done your best, failure comes, then I will have nothing to say. But duty to them demands that I say something now, while the future is before us. That we have is in your hands, without any security. And this is willingly done by me. No matter what happens, I will not regret it-, provided you two pull together and work like men who determined to accomplish a stupendous task. Your own dear Mother and I sacrificed everything for you and the other children, and Little Mother has been just as loyal and ready to sacrifice everything, as she showed in joining with me in the deed to you of Canaan. I ask only that you will do as your parents have done.

I hope all will move smoothly and well with you. Write to me as regularly as you can and let me know how everything goes. Randolph, as the single man, ought to keep me informed.

With love for you all,

Devotedly your father,

Shadown D. Bratten
per M.B.

Encls.