

Letters to Mrs. E. F. Stanley

Section 6, Pages 151 - 180

This three-ring notebook, given to Mrs. E. F. Stanley, contains letters and photographs in honor and appreciation for her work with the Altruist Club of the Central Congregational Church in Topeka, Kansas.

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A Salute to Mrs. Stanley

It is a pleasure indeed to have the opportunity to express the very sincere regard in which I hold you, Mrs. Stanley.

Your very fine Christian spirit and the example that you give us to each meeting cannot help but make a lasting impression on all of us. We are fortunate in having such a grand leadership. Your years of devotion is a fine standard to hold us through the coming years.

May the coming years rest as lightly on your shoulders as have the past years seemed to. It is my wish and I know the wish of all of us that the very best that life can hold, be yours.

Laura Fry



June 8, 1949.

Dear Mrs. Stanley,

Lately I have been turning my mind back to those care free days when I was an altruist. It seems a long, long, time ago but it was one of the happiest periods of my life.

I remember a delightful breakfast you prepared for us one very hot summer morning and a summer evening party where we had so much fun.

The time we "acted out" the Ladies Home Journal stands out as one of our major accomplishments. As I recall, after the show, we sold or gave away products advertised in the Journal.



Letters to Mrs. E. F. Stanley

Stringing Japanese lanterns across the lawn for an ice cream social and picnics in Central Park come to mind.

Our meetings were always times of fun and work whether in the homes or on the church steps and always enjoyed. Marion Kenney was the clown of the club in those days and kept us laughing.

Never do I remember that you ever criticized or showed your disapproval of us but guided us along the right path without our realizing it. You were our ideal.

Sometimes it must have been strenuous for you with a growing family to devote so much time to us



As we grow older we appreciate more and more your efforts and your influence upon our characters.

I am very proud and happy to have been an Altruist and very grateful to you for your leadership.

With much love and every good wish for you.

Mildred Lewis Ball.



Letters to Mrs. E. F. Stanley

Topeka, Kan.
June 7, 1949

Dear Mrs. Stanley;

I am about to divulge a deep dark secret. I am not sure whether I was ever voted legally into the Altruist Club. I really was invited to join and accepted the invitation at a birthday party which Adaline gave for James, when he was one year old.

I think most of the Altruists were guests at the party. After living in Washington, D.C. for several years, we had come back to Topeka to live. The guests were all old friends of mine that I hadn't seen for a long time. I said something about how nice it was to see them again.

Violet said, "Lena you ought to belong to the Altruist Club."

I said I would like to but didn't think that I was eligible.

She turned to Mrs. Stanley who was the final authority on such matters and asked, "Mrs. Stanley couldn't Lena belong to the Altruist Club?"

Mrs. Stanley said that if the Altruists wanted Lena to belong she didn't know any reason why she couldn't belong. I believe that Wilma threatened to black ball me, but if I remember correctly I was declared a member by all the others present. It has been a great pleasure to have been a member for the last twenty-five years.

I think that Betty is the only one of the Altruist children, who went to school to Mr. Stanley. Needless to say their association was a very pleasant one. After she went on to Junior High she always took her grade card to show Mr. Stanley, and he autographed them for her.

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It would be interesting to have a recording of the conversations at the Altruist Club meetings. They have gone all the way from boy friends and babies through high school parties and weddings and now back to babies again. I remember when Ruby used to make our hair stand on end, telling about Tattsy's escapades on the roof, or one of the little boys starting the car.

It seems to me that the Altruist club is quite unique, partly because we have gone through all of these phases of life together and partly because our members abroad still feel that they are members although they have been away for many years. I believe that the reason for this cohesiveness, is found in the personality of Mrs. Stanley.

We thank-you, Mrs. Stanley for your counsel and guidance and friendship through the years.

I am enclosing some pictures of the family.

With Love,

Lena



The Grandchildren



↓
↓ Julia
↓ Douglas McDonald
↓ Jim



Perhaps you will not know,
Just who this gal can be.
But I am here to tell you
It certainly is me.

And still you do not know me?
Then I will have to tell.
It's one of your admirers.
The name - it is - Hazel.

(Hazel McCall)

H. Mc.



Wind Falls

It is my privilege to consider
Everyone a friend
Until he himself
Tells me otherwise.

Character is built,
Not by the treatment we receive,
But by our reaction
To that treatment.

Success and happiness
Are not delivered —
We must go out to get them.

Why should I worry
Or why should I mourn?
With trials no greater
Than others have borne.

H. Mc.



Friendship is genuine
If it endures
The test of time.

A warm welcome
Is more satisfying
Than the finest of food.

A true test of friendship,
to sit or walk with a
friend for an hour in
perfect silence without
wearying of one another's
company.

He who does his best today
Has no regrets for yesterday
And need not fear
The consequences of tomorrow.

A doctor says
do something
pleasant when
you first wake
up. I do. I turn
over and go
back to sleep.



Freedom of
speech is pre-
cious, but lots
of times when a
feller uses it he
gits into trou-
ble.

Folks is mighty
con trary. It's
hard to git 'em
to go up front
in a church or
move back in a
bus.



Most of us
don't mind do-
ing what we
ought to do if
it don't inter-
fere with us
doing what we
want to do.

H. Mc.

I can remember
when I could
mighty near buy
a cow for what
my milk bill
runs a month
now.



Going to church
ain't never hurt
nobody, and it
helps most
folks.



I always git my
money's worth
at a movie. If
the picture's
good, I enjoy
it; if it ain't, I
enjoy a nap.

A favorite way
of easing our
consciences for
not working to-
day is to plan
something big
to do tomorrow.

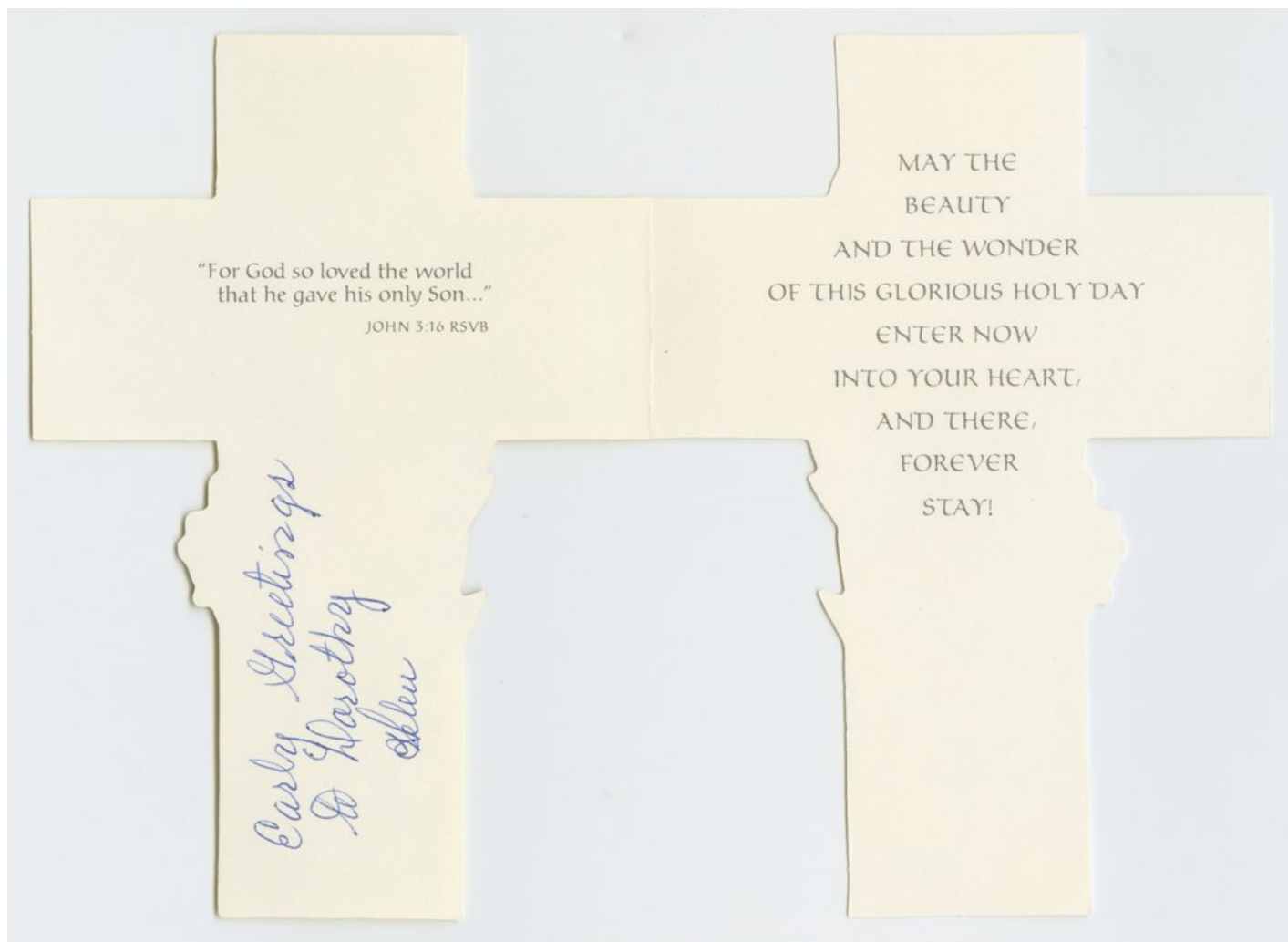




Dear Mrs. Stanley,
May these tardy lines of mine
bring my thoughts to you -
They come with my sincerest good
wishes and my love -
Ann Williams



Letters to Mrs. E. F. Stanley





Letters to Mrs. E. F. Stanley

In my Garden

I find my friends out in the garden -
Their flower counterparts grow fair,
So when I miss my friends' communion
I go and find them growing there.

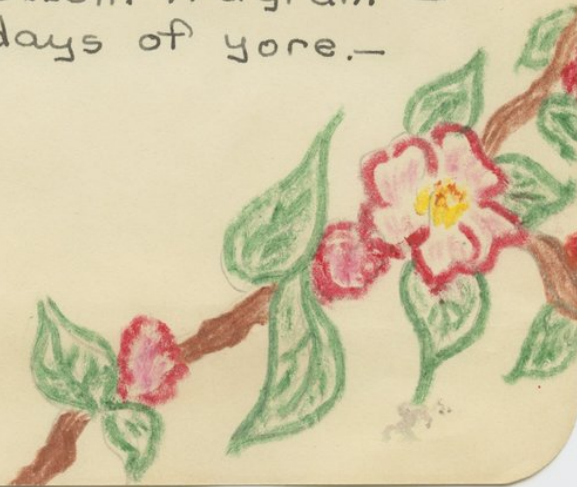
My hearty friend speaks out thru zinnias,
My fragile one thru spice-pinks' dainty grace,
My generous comrades vie with daisies
To scatter sunshine on the place.

So thru the seasons I can see them,
Coming, going, - fresh and gay -
And you, my dear, are there among them
For me to treasure day by day.

Would you know which one I see you?
Full of sweetness - fair - and strong
Not to only bloom for beauty
But to serve all life along.

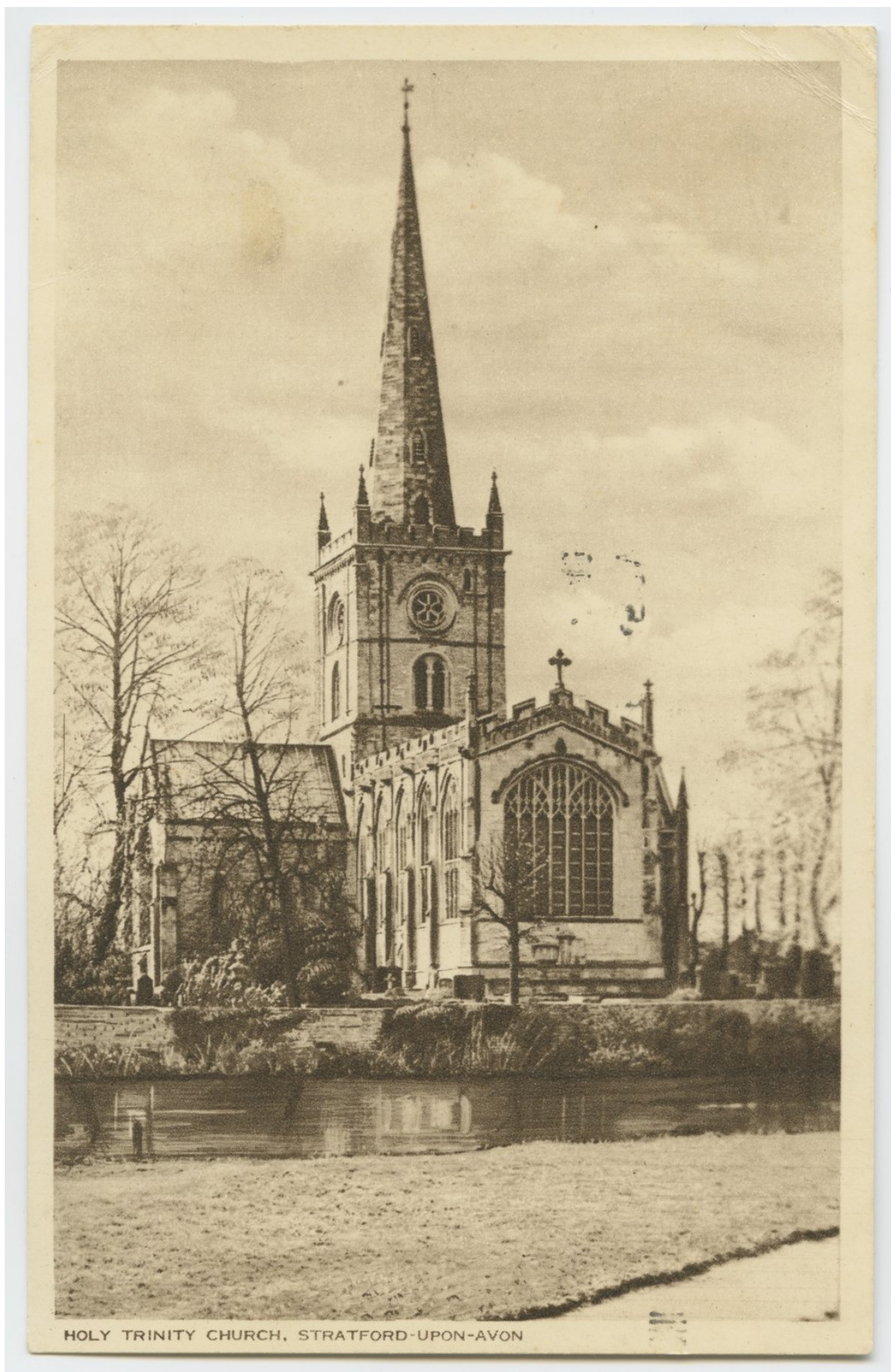
Not a seed that spends this summer,
Nor a stalk that weathers one year more,
But an apple blossom fragrant -
On this day as days of yore. -

To Mrs. Stanley
June, 1949.

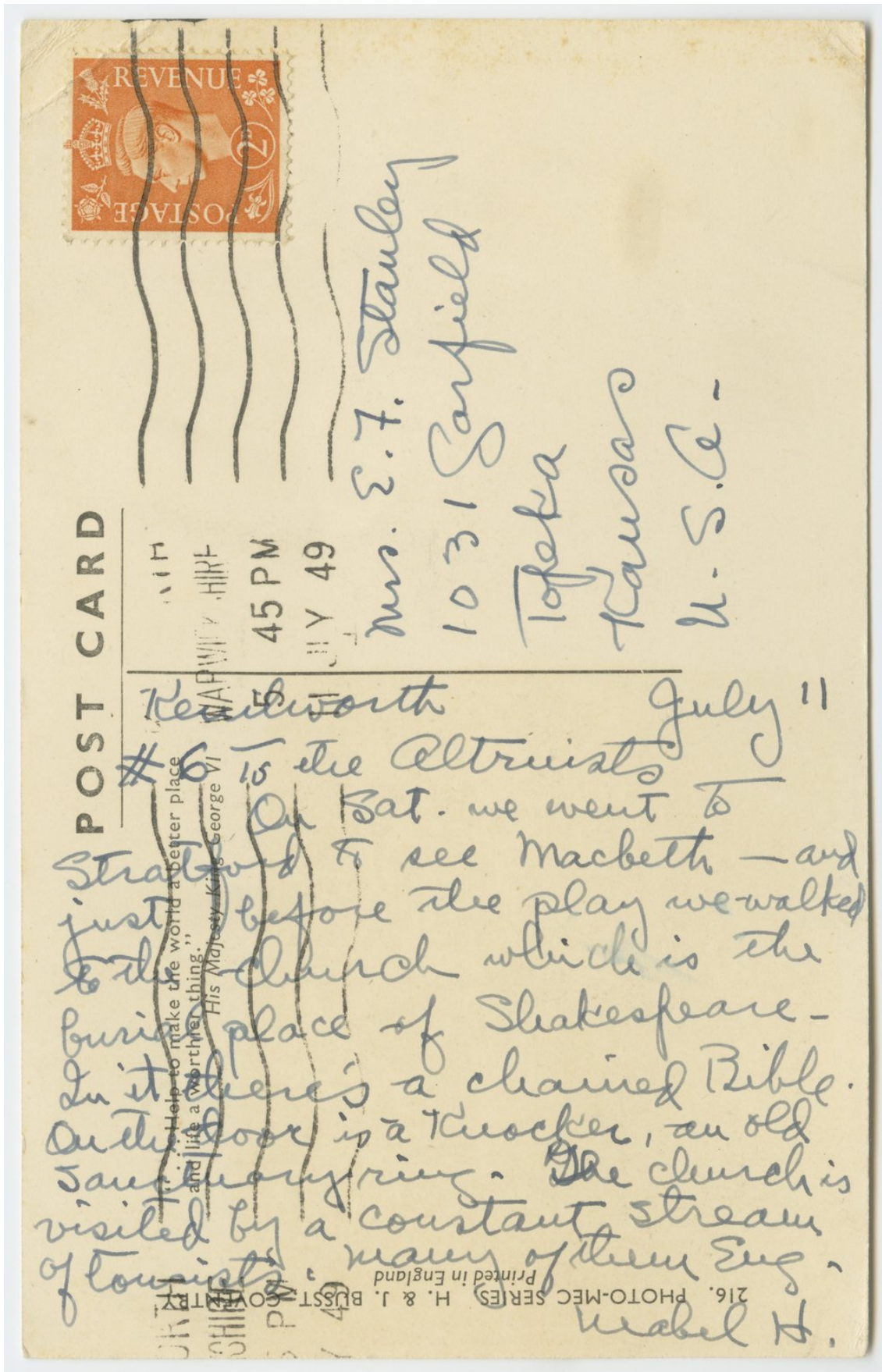




The Aldens
McCormick Observatory
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va.



Letters to Mrs. E. F. Stanley





Virginia & "Pa"



Vespers

Letters to Mrs. E. F. Stanley

Cedar Rapids, Iowa
May 16, 1950

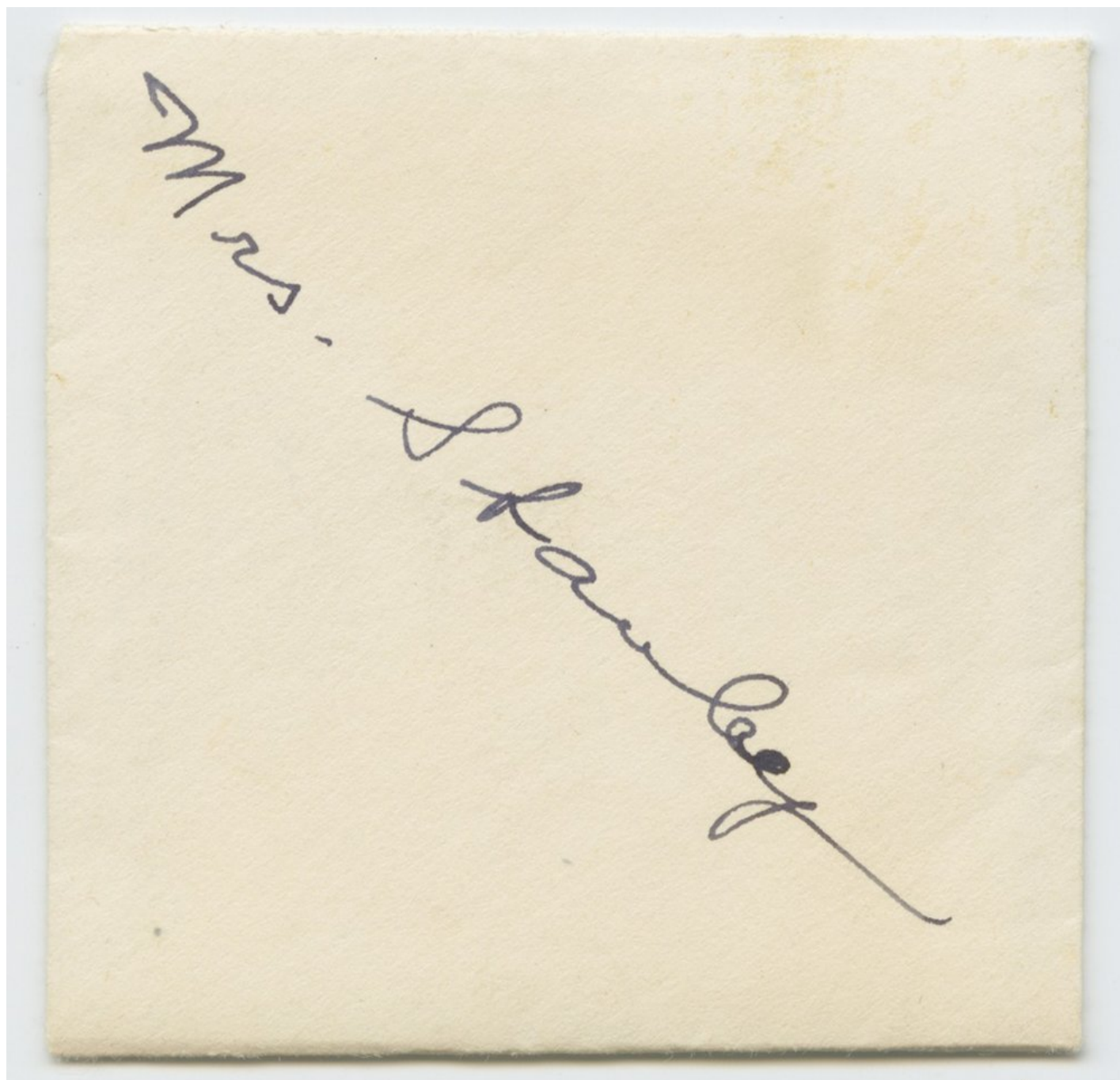
Dear Mrs. Stanley, -
How wonderful is life when one has friends like you and all of those wonderful Altruists girls! Your lovely letter, came to me while I was in the Hospital and it did bring me so much cheer and happiness. And I had a lovely letter from the whole group by way of Mae's penning it to me. Then in addition were notes and cards from several of the girls themselves. Please, will you thank them at the meeting for me, as I owe so many, many letters now that I am able to write again, I can not get all done at once. Now I am at home and am getting around in fine shape with the aid of a steel brace up my spine. Will have to wear it for a few months. My left leg is still quite sore, but the doctor assures me that it will clear up. I do like

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scar tissue in there where the sciatic nerve was pinched for so long a time. I tire easily and must still rest quite frequently throughout the day, but it is good to be home again.

Spring has been so late in coming here. But now everything is quite beautiful out and I am so thankful to be able to get out to enjoy it.

I am so sorry that you must suffer with arthritis. It is so painful and so little can be done to bring relief. I know how cheerful you are in spite of it. Again, my thanks and all of my love to the best group of women in the world. Ruby L.





Mrs. Stanley Honored by Altruist Club

Mrs. E. F. Stanley, who has been sponsor of the Altruist club of the Central Congregational church for more than 40 years, was complimented at a party given Wednesday evening by the members of the club at the home of Mrs. Charles Blakely Jr.

Following a buffet supper, Mrs. Stanley was crowned Altruist queen by Mrs. Paul Adams, president. She was presented a pin and a bound volume of letters and photographs from present and former members.

Mrs. Mabel Adams Spear and Miss Cecile Strohm, charter members, told about the early history of the club and its naming by the late Dr. Charles M. Sheldon.

Guests, which included all former members living in Topeka, were:

Mrs. Gilbert Hall, Los Angeles, Calif.	
Mrs. C. Ray Fuller, Spencer, Ia.	
Mrs. Herbert Spear	Mrs. Harold Groff
Mrs. S. A. Hudiburg	Mrs. Beryl Gall
Mrs. Mary Chapin	Mrs. George Boon
Mrs. Ray Stewart	Miss Esther Peers
Mrs. Ralph J. Ratcliff	Miss Adeline Peers
Mrs. Benjamin Hill	Miss Cecile Strohm
Mrs. Charles Martin	Miss Ethel Warren

Present members of the club who attended were:

Mrs. May Wolfkill	Miss Mabel Huggins
Mrs. Leland Schenck	Miss Dorothy Huggins
Mrs. Frank Harshbarger	Miss Ruth Loomis
Mrs. Helen Brownfield	Miss Marie Mayhew
Mrs. Ira Beard	Miss Ruth Platt
Mrs. Paul Adams	Miss Martha Shaler
Miss Emma Crabb	Miss Ruth Shaler
Miss Florence Craven	Miss Etta Schwilling
Miss Miriam Franklin	Miss Edith Schober
Miss Letha Lasswell	Miss Civilla Vinson
Miss Laura Fry	Miss Lillian Vinson
Miss Elsie Hobson	Miss Amy Swenson
	Miss Mabel Fry

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Men

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