

**letter #4 as transcribed by Chalmers Hardenbergh 2009**

*The material in the margin in square brackets provided by CH, mostly based on Maisie note reproduced in full at end of letter*

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Envelope postmarked Cambridge, Mass Oct 23 11AM 1930

no return address

addressee

Mrs. C.M.Hardenbergh

1788 Freemont Ave. S.

Minneapolis

Minn.

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(page 1 has letterhead, ditto all sheets)

**COLLIS MORGAN HARDENBERGH**

**Standish B 31**

**Cambridge, Mass.**

[no date!]

Dear Ma and Family:

You should set  
down immediately and write Otto.  
That was a very good letter and  
should be repaid by an equally  
fine one.

For the past two weeks I decided  
that other people's letters must do  
for mine, and I guess the [sic] have.

The lounge is light neutral  
green. The chair is deeper green.  
The small table by the sofa is  
minkne, \$5.00, an awful swindle. The  
other large tabe [sic] is the college's, an  
awful cheap oak thing. We have

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(reverse side)

put as far out of sight as possible.  
I use a comb never brushes, have  
bought a comb!

Jan I and Perry had a great  
time at Intervale last weekend. However  
Granpa paid for us all! I did not  
think of paying the bill until we were  
ready to leave at 11AM Sat. I happened [Monday, Chalmers thinks]  
to ask Grandpa the price it would be,  
he said it was all paid for, would  
not listen to reason. After breakfast

he had settled for us all. He left on the afternoon train, the same evening, we had a breakdown + got back at 10P.M. Monday, spoiling an otherwise wonderful weekend. The trees were better than any I have seen in autumn.

I don't have to sign up with Jo [sic] Dodge. I did not see him although went up the mountain. Up Huntington, down

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Tuckerman. No water on top, thousands of dirty disgusting tourists on top. Many

**COLLIS MORGAN HARDENBERGH**

**Standish B 31**

**Cambridge, Mass.**

all over trails. 3 sweet days. Hot on the summit + everywhere else. Swam balicky [??] in Saco. Saw Emerson's up there who had just climbed Baldface.

[Swimming in October?]

Shamy [??] on bright Alice for flunking. I got a B+ on recent German quiz.

[Given her good grades, perhaps sarcastic?]

Am having great time in the glee club. Going out for managership and have done a little work. We sing Te Deums, Gilbert Sullivan, Russian things etc. I shall probably not succeed in singing, but shall in managing. Trials November 5. Practise [sic] 3 nights per week.

We are giving the rug to the bid for washing our dishes all year. Thereby saving. I believe about \$20. I am going to get a new rug or use one of A.Elsie's [sic] that Mary Lee had last year at Vassar. [aka "Leel" whose daughter same class as MLH at Vassar] Any objections. I hope that rug is not a treasure of the family. It does not meet with much approval here.

The telephone is a luxury but a good one. \$350 [sic] per mo.

Saw Leel when she was here for the Army game.

Saw Mrs. Martin at the Washburn's when I ate lunch there Sunday.

You must write Mrs. Merriman, persuading her to let Prof. into his house, I shall call there soon some time.

[In another letter to come, Mr. Merriman turns down Collis' application for Eliot house, so M is apparently the bursar/registrar?]

I shall have calling cards made!  
I don't know David Droge [??]. Surely  
Mr. Jones is not living in the Country  
Day Dormitory. I shall go to see  
Mr. Hawley at the Law School someday.

[Presumably Kansas City Country Day]

[And why should Collis go see Hawley?]

I may see Aunt Ellen at Uncle  
Don's this week end but Wringer  
+ Byers are coming down, so I don't  
know what will happen.

[Wringer? Byers?]

I wrote a 6 page theme for Hist.  
on Bacon's Henry VII. Grade unknown.

(third page)

### **COLLIS MORGAN HARDENBERGH**

**Standish B 31**

**Cambridge, Mass.**

I have been slighted. Esther  
Morse didn't invite me to her  
daughter's deb party! True I didn't  
repay her for giving me a meal one  
Sunday last year, and taking me to  
a concert, by making a call out there,  
but that's along way and there's no way  
to reach it (Excuse).

I have played tennis with Gret +  
Mr. Young, picked apples etc. Spent  
last Sat. night at Hutchins with  
Baurie [??].

[Mr. Young who he?]

[Definitely a B, but Collis meant Laurie?]

Ate supper at Rog's club, But  
shall not join it this year (nor next  
I am quite sure).

I have bought a Durer water  
color reproduction of Innsbrook [sic]. Also

(reverse page 3)

a portrait of a young man by Botticelli.

[In another envelope I found five or so tiny pics,  
one of this Botticelli portrait, which hung in  
Hardly Lakes for the longest time. Where is?]

Washburn's [sic] said they would get  
me a position as an architect with Collins,  
maker of chapel at Emmual [sic], second only to

[Goodge? Who he?]

Goodge says you don't deserve  
such a long letter. Your letter is  
sprawled over much, but hasn't  
said much.

<--- this box hand drawn around this  
paragraph.

Saint Chapel in my estimation.  
Met knowed [??] daughter of retired architect,  
in Gretchen's class, whom Hutchins had  
taken to ballgame, named Perkins.  
Nice [??]

We eat apples, apple butter, + pears  
from Dudby [??] road.

[Hutchins on Dudley Road in Newton]

Will send pictures of trip up  
Washington after while. Not till you  
send tools, ointment + food however.  
Good night Love

Not reread as usual Cog  
so figure it out

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### QUESTIONS FOR MAISIE

(are placed in the margin of the letter and these:

1. In October 1930, Collis is 18. Perry ditto, but if Larry is a year younger at 17, then Jan must be only 15. Larry at Groton where was Jan? Presumably Collis and Perry picked up Jan in Weston?

2. Trip to Intervale in mid-October, so Hut apparently not open. Granpa was staying at ??, where the three boys also apparently stayed? Where was Granpa going on the afternoon train?

3. Mary Lee at Vassar! Wow, Roger's sister? I need to get that chronology. Presumably MLH knows her namesake preceded her, that Collis told her?

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### Maise notes 3.Feb.09

Since we're back in 1930 again, right after the big Canadian Rockies and HPN 80th B'day celebration in Mpls, I'm grabbing the chance to add a bit. My notes for "Concordia By The" say that "summer activities were transplanted to Mpls" in summer 1930. Both Nichols boys were out there, Hawkeyes, Jo Graton, Jan's birthday celebrated with party, Hal Jones, etc all playing tennis, canoeing, sailing. I remember pumping the player piano pianola roll singing "Over There" with Laurie and learning Groton songs. Laurie was suffering from a terrible skin disease I believe left him pock marked for life.

Unfortunately I cannot remember/find the several schools Jan attended near Weston since he never went to Groton. Cog, Perry and Jan would have been visiting HPN at Kearsarge Hall in No.Conway I'm pretty sure. Many friends visited HPN there, many eve bridge games. From there HPN would have taken train back to NYC where he resided at the Hotel Marlton.

This was a period of drouth in the land and water would have been scarce on top of Mt.Wash., there being no local well, all water had to be brought up to water tower I believe. so probably no one had water to bathe or give dirty tourists. I assume "balicky" meant Cog swam nude in the Saco. Remember he said "hot on the summit + everywhere".

Reference to glee club, Cog sang in K.C. church choir starting at 9 1/2 years for 3 years when he stopped in favor of time for Scouts and Art School.

Dictionary says "biddie a domestic servant"; bid would be Cog's shortened form.

Leel is, of course, Mary Lee Hutchins (Wood). Leel born 1910, Alee b.1911, Collis b.1912,

Laurie (called Kindie as baby) b.1913, Gretchen Hutchens b.1913, Jan b.1916. All loved to be at Dudley Rd. in Newton.

I think Leel at Vassar a year ahead of Alee at BMC, but both were college tennis stars and I think officially played against each other at one point.

Yes, Charlie had "calling cards" which he doesn't remember using. Don't know David Droge(probably Dodge) The Jones house burned down in Feb of that fateful year - Mr. J. might easily have been living in the Country Day School Dorm. Reference KC: Clarence had bought property out in country shortly before being called back to Mps. and had invested in drawing board and tools to draft plans for a house.

There were Youngs that were great friends of the Nichols males over the years.

Ben Washburn was called from KC to be rector of Boston's Emmanuel Church which was expanding. Interesting that there was talk about Collis being an architect at this early date his freshman year!

#### **Follow-up notes 4.Feb.09**

Yes, Hal Jones no relation to Aunt Bessie, part of KC Jones family, i.e.brother of Ellie Jones, the great friend of Estie and Alee; his older sister was Margie Jones Bontecou.

Jo Graton was Alee's college roommate at BMC and lifelong friend thereafter. Climbed many a mountain with us, including Katahdin when many of us went along with Alink for their "honeymoon". Married Chase, a geologist, traveled the world with him, lived in Mexico where they were kind to me, MNH, out West, where Kelsey knew them.

Don't know balicky word.