

June 14th, 1918

Percy B. Tripp, Esq.
Tientsin, China.

Dear Percy:-

Your esteemed favor of April 20th is just received and I am very glad to hear from you.

In reference to the farm I will continue to attend to that as George did. I have had no opportunity to rent the land this year and I think probably it is too late now unless I can get someone to put in a crops of wheat this fall. The tenant is a little behind in his rent but he has paid up to May. I have also sold 75 perches of stone at 35c for which I have received \$26.26. By an inadvertence the 5% commission was not deducted from this so I will take it out of the rent which will make the account the same. I do not know to what point George rendered you an account and I herewith enclose you account of the rent transaction as shown by the books. There is a balance to your credit on our books of \$45.96.

You did not state in your letter what you wished me to do about the stone quarry. There are some inquiries for stone and I have notified those making inquiries that hereafter the price will be 50c instead of 35c per perch. I think I am justified in this as the price of everything else has advanced.

I presume you have hear of the death of Clinton Mankin which occurred on May 9th.

Everything is moving on here about as usual. Our people are very much excited over the war and as our boys are going over in larger numbers every day we are beginning to more directly feel the effect of it. My own boy, Guy, has not gone yet but has been in training nearly a year. He is not stationed at El Paso, Texas but I am expecting to hear any day that he has been ordered over. We have had a very pleasant summer so far. The weather has been seasonable and comfortable, and the crops are looking well. On account of the increase number of Government clerks and war activities in Washington the housing problem has become very acute and the suburbs are also feeling the effects of it. Every house in Falls Church is rented and we could rent many more if we had them. Alexandria City is also experiencing a great boom, a bit shipbuilding plant is being erected there, also a plant for the building of aeroplanes and several other war industries. It is estimated that the population of Alexandria has more than doubled and in addition to this there is an engineer camp situated below Mount Vernon with about 20,000 already there and this number is expected to be doubled in the near future.

I do not think of anything else of importance that would interest you at this time.

Very truly your friend.
M. E. Church

P. S: -

Since dictating the above Mr. Hirst has come in with his rent receipts and his receipts show the same date of payments as George's entries on the rent book but his receipt shows that his payment on January 5th 1918 paid December rent instead of November rent as entered on the book and his receipt of February 5th was for January rent instead of December rent as entered on the book so he claims that his rent is paid up to and including the month of May whereas the book only shows that he has paid for the month of April. I think the mistake was made in George giving him receipt for a month ahead of his payments as I have traced back and find that George's deposits in the bank correspond exactly with his entries on his book but I cannot convince Mr. Hirst that there is a mistake so I presume he will be the gainer by the amount of one month's rent.

The statement enclosed shows tat I have a balance in my hands of \$45.96 and I have placed to your credit in the Fall Church Bank \$25.26 for the stone I sold and your total balance in the bank to date is \$53.26. I have not gone over George's papers to see what if any balance he has due you, but I presume there is something..

I find on looking at the contract which I have just done that beginning with November 1st 1916 Mr. Hirst has the whole farm except the stone quarry. This contract was renewed for the year 1918 on the same terms as the previous year.

You did not give me any instructions in regard to the jewelry here. Please advise me what you wish me to do with that.