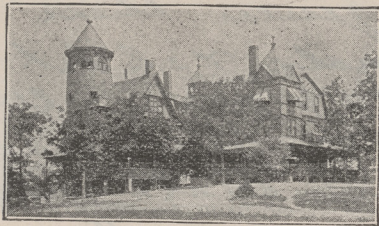


Big. + Anna  
at Asheville - after  
Mrs. death.



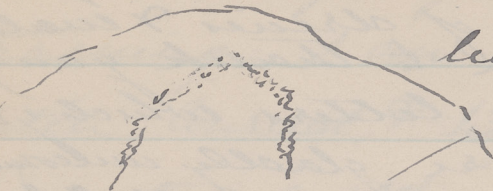
THE OAKLAND HEIGHTS,  
ASHEVILLE, N. C.

April 6<sup>th</sup> 1895.

My dearest Ruth,

We have such a wet, wet day, quite a storm that we must spend it - its clear, far which I am sorry as I wd much like to go to church - but it will quench the forest-fires which will be not only save the lives of the poor trees, but - make the air clear for us.

Last night we cd see two great fires, one looked like this the dotted lines



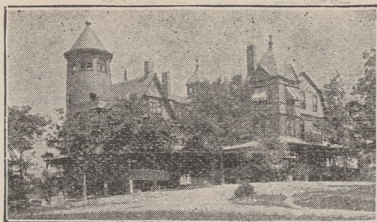
being flaming trees &

the circle widening

from base to base

I think I told you that we are in the midst of a forest here & I never saw such a place for roads & paths the roads seem to go as far around as possible & the paths are short-cuts

I am inclined to think that the people  
here have given their chief attention  
to long roads & short-cut-paths for  
the last 50 years. It makes it very  
interesting to walk about though  
if the leaves were not, it wd be easy  
to lose one's way. "Poor father has been  
so wretched with 'I think grip'  
that he has had to keep very quiet  
& when I went out I had to find  
my own way - fancy what I stumbled  
on last Friday, a quarry far down  
worked by convicts in chains, & two  
men keeping guard over them with  
guns - They were nearly all black  
men - I rather think they look more  
sharply after the bad black men  
than the bad white ones, slavers  
here, but certainly if you had seen  
those poor fellows, you wd have  
thought "The way of transgressors is  
hard" - Father is much better yes-  
terday & today, & I hope will be  
all right now - I don't want you  
to speak about his not being well  
far it only worries the home people  
& does no good; & I shall hope to  
tell you all sorts of stories & walks  
after this. I have to thank you for  
several very nice letters which you  
may be sure were gladly welcomed  
by us - I miss you all greatly & long  
for the time when we were all together  
we were so little separated till the  
last year. I cannot be quite the  
same again, with Eric gone, I de-  
pendent so much upon him - & I  
never censured me any anxiety about  
his slays or his predels, & I took some  
pleasure in his wonderful mind.



THE OAKLAND HEIGHTS,  
ASHEVILLE, N. C.

I never thought anything <sup>1896</sup> would go wrong  
with him, but God knows all  
things, & it is for us to try & get the  
blessing, that He has to give with  
every sorrow & loss.

Do not worry yourself about  
the exams, keep quiet & do your  
best without cramming & weari-  
ness & the result will be the best  
result. I think you have both  
done extremely well this year & I hope  
you feel that you have really  
learned & got your minds in better  
training. I am very sorry for your  
little Cousin, & hope he is home again  
he certainly sh<sup>d</sup> not be a trouble to  
Aunt Mary when she has so much  
on her hands. & I don't think he  
would give any trouble at home now.  
We have had various letters & papers  
sent on to us here by Grandpa's kind.

1898

miss, please tell him they have ar-  
rived safely - If we can be out  
about - as I hope we shall this  
week you need not look for so  
many letters. we shall send you  
short- notices of our welfare &  
trust to telling you all about it  
when we reach home -

There will be no dust after  
this rain-fall, but the Asheville  
mud (bright red) is said to be  
famous - so I hope it won't rain  
too long - We have read a very  
amusing book by R. S. Stearns  
who died at Samoa, lately, I think  
I must take it - to the sea for you &  
Clare to read - If you see Miss S.  
Gottwill, I wd like to know if she  
intends to be at - the sea this summer  
& if Clare & I picks up any hints as  
to the intentions of Miss G. - or - June I  
wd be glad to know, as I will have  
quiet - here to think it over -  
With much love to Clare  
& Mrs. Watson & kindest regards to  
"Uncle John" & Miss Bell - Love  
from another