

## Howard Family Letters

6/03/1891 to Herbert P. Shumway<sup>1</sup> from Elizabeth Howard (his mother-in-law); Hammond, LA

Dear Herbert,

This is the first day I could even sit up in bed for nearly two weeks, but today I am a little better so I have not had the doctor, and I will write a few lines to tell you I got your letter & draft all right which I am glad [for], for to be sick and no money is a bad condition. You ask me when is Hattie of age to get her money, I told you in my last letter to Nellie all about it, didn't she give it to you? But perhaps she forgot it so I will tell you again. She will be 18 the first day of July and she wants this place, which will take all her money, and you are pay to Edith and Charles Letts<sup>2</sup> seven hundred and 40 dollars which is their claim on this place and send me your note for the remaining \$260 dollars, that is if you wish to use the money for 6 months, or until I want it, and I want the deed which is to Edith & me, made over to Hattie, so soon as the money is paid for the place, that I suppose will have to be done here. I dont understand these things very well but I trust you and Mr. Letts will have it all right. I am glad Hattie will get this as it is a lovely place and will be a nice home for her as long as she keeps it. I thank you for the Wakefield paper send me, cant write any more here in bed. Love to all, good night

Your mother

Hammond LA. Sept 20 1891 to Herbert P Shumway from Elizabeth S. Howard

Dear Herbert

You see we are at home again, after an absence of a little more than six weeks. We had a very enjoyable time and all returned feeling much better than when we left. Agnes<sup>3</sup> in particular, who gained seven lbs while gone, and is able to go around quite lively. I thought sure I should hear from you all before this time, but I find that children can be very forgetful of their mother, as I had but one letter from mine during my stay in Biloxi, and that was from Charley Howard, and was a half page of paper the size of this. I was ashamed to let anyone see it, still that was better than the rest done. Well, all will get old if they live, and know the sensation of loneliness when separated from their children. But I will not allow myself to feel badly now that I am so well, and everything around is so beautiful, with the soft cool wind and flowers and singing birds, and am in no pressing want. But I am oweing a few debts which I have promised to pay the first of Oct, so do not forget my dear to send the rent as soon as due, for I do not like to be in debt, and I will have to get some wood for winter which fortunately is not very expensive. I am terribly disappointed that Nellie and the babies cannot

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<sup>1</sup>Herbert managed investments &c. for a number of family members, and may have been an executor for family estates. Most of these are business letters.

<sup>2</sup> Her daughter Edith Howard Letts and Edith's husband.

<sup>3</sup> Probably Agnes Durkee, her sister's daughter.

come here this winter as she promised me to do, I expected her & Edith sure, and now the prospect is that neither will come, too bad I think.

Monday morning 21st

Well I did not get my letter done last night so I will now conclude, and first I will tell you I have just rec'd a letter from Charles Letts in which he says if I am in need of money he will pay me the am't due me from the pay for this place and Hattie can assign to him her right in the farm and you can pay him when you get ready. I thought best to speak to you about it first, before answering his letters, as you might prefer to do otherwise. I have told you, I think, in my last to you that Hattie could sign a quit claim deed after the first day of July which was her 18th birthday, and that \$740 is to be paid to Charles & Edie & the inst from the 1st of July and the rest is mine, but it will take a great part of it to procure the things for my girlies outfit as her wardrobe at present is rather meager.

Are you going to be in Lincoln again this winter. I wish we had Earle here with us he would be so much company and Grandma would tell him many stories about the sharks & porpoises we saw in the gulf at Biloxi. Write & tell me what to say to Mr. Letts and with love to all, goodbye from your Mother

McComb City, Miss 10/08/1891 to Herbert P. Shumway, Wakefield, Neb; from J.M. Foote

Dear Nephew,

in your last letter to me you said you intended to pay me the money you had of mine so as I did not know just where to put it in case you payed it I asked Mr Cate the buisness man of Hammond if he would take it he said he would & this morning I rec'd a letter saying he would be glad of it as soon as it was paid. Now you know I am not asking you to pay it but only to know for certain if you do want to pay it & if so I would like you to let me know immediately as I probably would [have] lost the chance of letting him have it & I don't know of any other chance to let it so if you will please let me know right away I will be much obliged & then I can let him know & I think he will wait till it comes. Please address me at

McComb City

Miss

Our folks in Hammond were not in the best of health when I left neither am I but am hoping to feel better now that I have mad a change.

With much love to all I remain your loving aunty J M Foote<sup>4</sup>

You understand that if you want to keep the money as you have done you are at liberty to do so - J.M.F.

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<sup>4</sup> The Footes were related through the Stevens'- they were at any rate also from Stephenson Co, IL.

Hammond, LA 10/31/1891 to Herbert Shumway from Hattie Simmons<sup>5</sup>

Dear Uncle,

Walter<sup>6</sup> sent the papers a weeks ago last Wednesday so I presume you have them by this time. The letter you sent the 26 has just come to hand and I hasten to reply. Mother thinks it best to send you this deed so you can see just how to have it done, you can return it if it is esential, Mother is some better. Your niece

Hattie

Hammond, LA; Nov 6, 1891 to Herbert P. Shumway from Elizabeth Howard

Dear Herbert,

I rec'd yours two days since all right, you have of course got Hattie's letter in which she sent the deed hope it was in season to have Edie sign the one for Hattie as I am anxious to have her have it, she wrote and sent it the day you wrote me or I mean the day she got yours telling her to send the Nos, &c. When it is time to pay the taxes there please pay it of the rent money. I shall have to pay all these taxes here as I have always done, which is no small amt as the town is incorporated and we have city tax to pay as well as the rest, they were fools to make that additional tax for no use to us as can be discovered. If you can get a chance to sell my house and lots after your rent expires please do so, as you are going to have one so much nicer you will not of course want buy it & I shall probably never wish to live in it, as I can't think of staying there thro the winters. We are having lovely weather here, the cane & cotton crop are fine. Write soon please, and you can send back that deed if it is done with, though if Edith was gone when you got it so it will take longer to git the business done. And now my Dear boy do listen to your Mother who is twice your age so perhaps a little wiser and be careful of your health that is more precious to your family far than gold, tend faithfully to your home cares & duties and let political hobbies go to the \_\_\_\_\_ wind, for it will surely be the death of you to have so much on your mind then what would all the wealth and honors be to those darling little boys (and I suppose they will all be boys). Your care would be much the most to them.

Goodbye

As ever your loving mother

Hammond, LA 12/03/1891 to Herbert Shumway from Hattie Simmons

Dear Uncle

If you will please send back the old deed I sent you I will attend to haveing the new one made out at once. I think you must have made a mistake in thinking the deed could be made out up there for it can not as the laws are verry queer in this state, the deed has to be made out

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<sup>5</sup> Hattie was the orphaned niece of Nellie Howard Shumway. She lived with her grandmother Elizabeth Howard.

<sup>6</sup> Probably her uncle Walter Howard, who died in 1893.

& recorded here, so if you will send back the old deed at once we will attend to the business.

We are haveing lovely weather, cool & nice. Had a good hard rain & thunder storm yesterday. As time is precious so near Christmas I must close, with much love to you all.  
Ever respectfully

Your niece Hattie Simmons

undated letter [?1891] to Herbert Shumway, Wakefield, Neb: from J.M. Foote

Dear Nephew

Your letter of Dec 10 reached me all right containing draft & I am Oh so much obliged as I had begun to think it a little strange. I did not hear from you and was needing the money badly which makes it all the more appreciated.

I am most sincerely glad of your success in being Elected not that I suppose it will put money in your pocket but "there is no success like succeeding" & we are all glad you came out ahead. I am also glad of the advent of your little Boy & that Dear Nellie is all well and hearty. Well now about the money you spoke of Paying it but I would rather you would keep it for the present as I feel so safe about it with you. We are all comfortably well. Sister Lizzie & Hattie are here at present they are well & my busy Walter is working t the Shingle Manufacture when he is able and his health is much better than when he is in Neb. Love to Nellie and the Babies & so good bye.

Truly yours J M Foote

Postcard dated Hammond 1/06/1892 to Herbert P. Shumway from Elizabeth Howard

Dear Herbert,

As the rent is due for the place I will be glad to get it after leaving out enough to pay the taxes, which are due, I have paid tax here which with city tax is \$1560 [should this be 15.60?], and I presume it will be as much there. Walters Tax in Dakota Co is \$40.68. He says he is glad he will never have to pay them again. I want to hear from you very much. Saw nothing about you in the paper. With love to all,

Your mother

Hammond 2/16/1892 to Herbert P. SHUMWAY from Elizabeth Howard

Dear Herbert,

I have read your last letter this morning and tho feeling very badly I will, as you request, write immediately. You say in your letter that you wish to rent the House to a year from next Oct anyway, this I am willing to do, but it gives me so little on which to exist after paying taxes that its rather hard; so far since renting the house to you I have rec'd \$1,240 and

had it not been that Walter<sup>7</sup> has been able to help me some, and your & Mr. Letts generous Xmas gifts which enabled me to pay the taxes here, I should have been sadly troubled. Now about selling the place, I will sell it for 16 hundred and you can retain enough to pay for the cistern, tho I have your letter by me now, stating that you were willing to buy at one half the expense of making one if I would pay the other half, but I thought I could not after allowing so much for fixing the house; when I was at home Emma told me she would not stay there and work without a cistern<sup>8</sup>, so to keep so good a girl for Nellie I consented to the cistern, which I trust has been a comfort and convenience to all of you, but which will never benefit me in the least. I read in the W.R.<sup>9</sup> of the increase in the price of all property in the Logan valley, and it is as I have always believed the best place for an enterprising man to make money in all the western states and from your own statements in the paper I think, my dear son, that you can allow all I ask for that place, which I have always thought worth \$2000. If you conclude to take it, I would want you to give me your notes for \$1300 at 10 pr ct inst, sending me the remaining 300, less the pay for cistern, if you have use for it, part of the notes payable on demand and the rest in a year from date. Please write soon and let me know about it.

If I sell the place, I suppose the buyer will want the insurance made over to him, which has two years yet to run which I am ready to do at any time.

As Ever your Mother, E.A.H.

O.Y. GALLUP

MANUFACTURER OF YELLOW PINE SHINGLES, HAMMOND, LA

9/28/1893 to Herbert P. SHUMWAY from Elizabeth Howard

Dear Herbert

As it is time to pay my taxes here, and I am without money, you will please send me the rent now due on my house less the amt to pay the tax on it, also the interest due on the note for \$200; the last I rec'd from you was while I was in Omaha a year ago last June, I sent to you for the inst due & you sent me \$30, which was less than due some ten dollars.

My Biloxi trip took all my money and I do not regret it as it done me so much good, if I could have staid a month longer I think I would have got real well and strong, but the money was gone and I had to come home.

I see by the paper that you are prospering finely for which I am very glad as I know you work hard, too hard I fear. I wish, my dear boy, that you would take time to rest and have some recreation. I know it is no use expecting you to come here, and tho Nellie promised faithfully to come here this winter, I don't think she means to as she does not even answer my letters, which tells me plainly that she does not intend to come. Life is so short, and there is so little pleasure outside the enjoyment of being with ones children, that I can't think of any other, and

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<sup>8</sup> used to store rainwater for household use - a forerunner of piped-in water.

<sup>9</sup> Wakefield *Republican*

my children are with the exception of Hattie, just half of them together with their Father, gone from me forever, and I think those who are left might spend a part of their time with me. They would lose nothing by so doing, but if they do not care enough for me to write one line of sympathy in my last sad affliction I can't expect them to come to see me.

I would like you to let my house again for I can't well do it being so far away, I would like to sell it for 1500, which is very cheap considering its beautiful location, and the price of real estate in that town, or perhaps you will rent it to live in while you are building your house. Have you commenced it yet, if not had you not better buy mine it is so convenient to your business, and you need only pay in yearly payments of \$500, at 8 pr ct inst; the insurance runs one year longer.

Tell Nellie I rec'd the picture of her lovely little boys, they are surely beautiful children. Dear little Percy looks so sweet and the others are as perfect as possible. Tell Earle that Grandmother is so glad to get his picture that she will send him a nice christmas present. I wish he could come and get it and stay all winter with us here. Write very soon please, and now with best love to you all as ever

Your Mother

23 Jan 1958 from Hattie Simmons Gallup to Nina Paul Shumway

Dear Nina,

Want to thank you for the lovely scarf, card and letter on the card. I should have been disappointed if the letter had not been there. I like to hear all about you and the Shumway boys. Will have to write Sara Smith to tell her about your letter and \_\_\_\_ boys. I don't think she ever hears from them unless I wright \_\_\_\_\_ awfully interested in your book; do hope you get it published so I can read it. Am wondering if you know the Howard family went from Ill. to Neb in a covered waggon and a carriage with 3 teams of horses and a young cow so they would have fresh milk for me all the way. I was five years old but still remember lots of things about the trip. Don't know how long we were on the road, but in the back of the waggon they had a cook stove, my bed and rocking chair. I had my doll and a small black dog with yellow spots over his eyes. Can't remember his name. I can't remember who rode in the carriage, but it was full so I had to ride with Uncle Walter and a hired man. Then Granfather Howard drove the carriage. I do remember grandmother Howard and Aunt Penny Foot. The rest must have been the three girls. Also the carriage always went up a head of us and when they wanted to camp they would leave the tent up, then when we got there the stove was put up and a hot meal was cooked, all so the next morning hot food to start out on. Expect you know all that and more. Think we must have had good weather all the way. I don't seem to remember rain.

Well, I guess you see I have had pen trouble. Maxine got me a new refill for my piggyback pen today but it only went as far as you see blue, and it's so dim I can't hardley see it so went back to the old ink. I usualy get most of the ink on my hands, but as I have started I wanted to finish to thank you, and tell you how good it was to hear from you. I enjoy the pictures Olive sen't me of you girls when she visited you, never knew how either of you looked after you left L.A., but you shure look alike. Expect Olive is a little more on the stout

side, but you are both so good-looking. I bet you have good times when you get together, do you remember that Herbert yoused to say if the Howard girls got together, they did not care for any one else. I don't sleep so good any more nights, so when I am a wake so many things come back to me that I had forgotten. When we first went to Neb. the girls, your mother, Nell and Edith used to put on some kind of plays. At night they would go up to go to bed, then dress up in any old thing they could find, paint their faces with burnt cork or red cheese cloth that \_\_\_\_ or some thing. One night that stands out was the night that Edith was to have her head cut off. That was [the] end for me. I went under the bed and hid till they pulled me out to see she still had her head left on. I know how lonesome they must have been in Ill. Just a short way up the road was the Drickees [Durkee's?] and on the other side was the other Howard family. The Stephensons were beyond Drickees, but nights they used to get together & have wonderful times. Well, they are all gone now.

I can't see just why I have been left so long myself, in July first I'll be 85. I had a friend in Hammond that said no one should live to be over 50, he died on his fiftieth birthday, left a dandy wife but she, like the rest of the old crowd, \_\_\_\_ I went with so many years is growing older. Had a nice card from her but no good news in it, she is loosing her eye sight, but my eyes are not so good either so I'm hoping we don't go blind before our time comes. Well, I've done a lot of scribbling but don't know if it will interest you much.

We had a good enough Christmas; a tree and all the fixins and a wonder full dinner. Paula and her husband had dinner with us of course and now Maxine will be grandma before she is thirty. I'm trying to crochet baby shoes but seem to have forgotten how to do that real good anymore. Wish now I had never started them but hate to give up and not do anything like I used to. Can't help Maxine much either, don't know how to use the mixer & oven. Can't hardly see the numbers on the stove, so my job is to wash dishes. At dinner she has so many she won't let me wash but I do wipe them.

I remember the first time I saw your father; we had just moved to Wakefield. I looked out the window. There came a man up the St. with a green suit, & the brightest green tie I had ever seen, all so one of those funny squatty hats. I was 9 then but thought he looked funny. In a short time he was coming to see your mother. We all liked him in spite of his funny looking clothes.

Well, if I don't stop you will be tired out trying to read this awful hen tracks. Loads of Love and thanks.

Hattie G

P.S. Do you know any thing about Irene Stephens Kidder. Thay went to California but I don't know when or where. Their first baby was the same age as our little Maxine. I don't know if they ever had any more children or not. Irene had two brothers. One was Charles named after Uncle Charles Foot. Minnie Foot Gibson is the only one of that family left. She and I have always kept in touch, she is two years older than I am. She has asked me about the boys and Irene. I think Irene is dead, know Warren died years ago.