

Henry E. Hulburd

1945 Letters to his Granddaughter

Compiled by Great-Grandson Ted Hine, July 2004

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Introduction

Two handwritten letters by Henry E. Hulburd in 1945 to his grand daughter, Betty Hulburd-Hine-Alderson, have survived. Henry at the time was about 82 years old and living alone in Moberly, Missouri, his wife Ella having passed away several years before. Betty (my mother) was in North Caldwell, New Jersey having married in 1942. The first letter was written several months prior to my April, 1945 birth and the second after I was born.

The first letter, written January 6, 1945, talks of a box containing “articles of sentiment” which Henry was sending Betty under separate cover. It indicates that several items were being sent which belonged to his deceased wife Ella (“Nanny”) including the first shoe she ever wore as a child. Also included was the first “dress” their son, C. Earl Hulburd, wore as a child. As I write this I have a small cardboard box labeled in my mother handwriting which contains “C. Earl Hulburd’s 1st baby dress” and “his mother’s – Ella Knowles Hulburd 1st baby dress”. I will store this box with other family heirlooms. I have not run into the shoe.

The second letter, dated October 23, 1945, was written the day before Henry passed away. In it he indicates that he is feeling “fair” suggesting that his death the following day was unexpected and sudden, perhaps due to a heart attack or stroke. In the letter Henry talks about the fact that his son, C. Earl, Hulburd, was apparently looking in St. Louis for a boarding house where the two could live together. Henry was feeling lonely and was looking forward to moving in with his son. He also talks about his grandson Earl Seward Hulburd (“Bud”) who at the time was in school in New Jersey near my parents. He asks if Betty sees “Baby Girl” often, a reference I suspect to Betty’s sister Harried who was then living in New York City. I am mentioned several times in the letter.

Ted Hine
July, 2004
Louisville, Colorado

January 6, 1945 Letter - Page 1

Moberly Mo - Jan 6 - 45 -

Dear Little Puck & Neek.
I am sending under separate cover
a box containing articles of sentiment
all Mamma's.

A knitted shoe, the first one Mamma
ever had on her foot. Other are last
a dress, lots of hand work.

I think Baby Mamma did all of it.
Earl's first dress.

Several other things, I believe you
will appreciate.

The dress needs laundering
but I am afraid to have it done
here for fear they will tear the lace.
I hope you will appreciate them
Puck for their sentimental value.

I can't imagine my little
Puck & Neek as a Mamma, but I
will bet you will be a dandy.

I am feeling fine & so is the two
babies in Mommy Earl & Buddy Earl.

January 6, 1945 - Page 2

I am feeling fine, but am
getting as big as a barrel barrel!
God bless you baby Peck
Give my regards to Kent
I am full of love
Aunt Boss

That star way
worn by Baby's Great God Mother

October 23, 1945 Letter - Page 1

Moody Mo Oct 23-45
Dear Lee Bud & Ted

I just received a letter from Macky
in which he said Bud's school is
guaranteed & kids have had no school
for 10 days / Cash & Jodie but they are
sorry. Bud is doing fine & likes his
school very much. I am feeling
fine. Daddy is trying very hard to find
a place in St. Louis where he & I can
room & board together. St. Louis is
full of soldiers returning from
Europe & people are sleeping in
trucks in St. Louis hotels, but he is
trying & hopes to find a place soon.
Golly I miss home so for him.
I am feeling so lonely for him
& Bud. If Daddy tells me FE &
Bud is doing fine & so are you

October 23, 1945 Letter - Page 2

+ Kit. So glad.

I am counting days until Earl
& I can be together

I am feeling fine. I am walking
with cane all the time. He says
it is not safe with cane at street
crossing + stair ways.

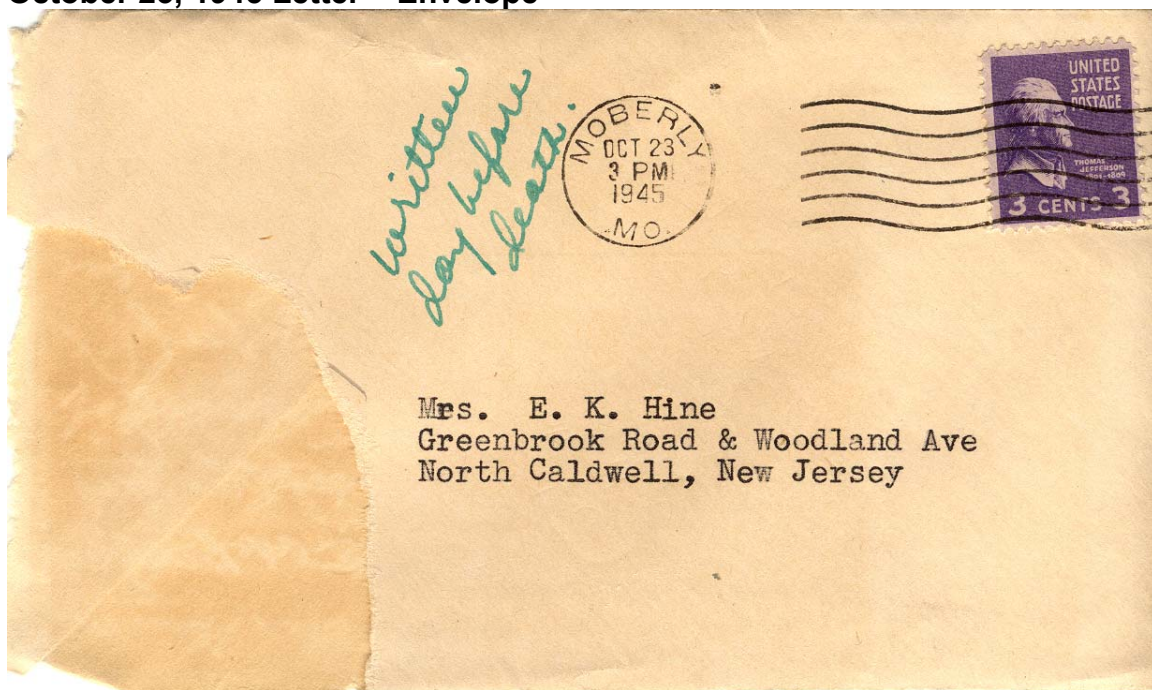
Do you see Baby Girl often?

I have not heard from her for a
long time. Weather here extremely
cool, some frost.

Write me when you can get
away from Ted

Love
Edna

October 23, 1945 Letter – Envelope



*written
day before
death.*

MOBERLY
OCT 23
3 PM
1945
MO.



Mrs. E. K. Hine
Greenbrook Road & Woodland Ave
North Caldwell, New Jersey