

Alfred Cunningham Papers, 1910, 1931-1937, n.d.  
(Correspondence Series)  
Cunningham Letter to Sister Kate, 11 October 1910

Transcription

[Transcription of a handwritten letter addressed to "Dear Sister Kate" from Alfred Cunningham penned aboard the Holland-America Line's *S.S. New Amsterdam* ship while en route to Europe with other Biltmore Forest School students for a field trip. Cunningham describes what his typical day on ship is like, mentions his health and the weather, and describes his interest in a female passenger who seems to prefer the attentions of fellow Biltmore Forest School student Jonathan Keith Esser. The original spelling and formatting of the letter has been maintained in the transcription below without any editorial correction. Digital scans (150 dpi; maximum pixel limitation of 600 pixels) of each page of the letter are included at the end of this document. The letter is part of the [Alfred Cunningham Papers](#) held by the Library and Archives of the Forest History Society in Durham, North Carolina.]

S. S. New Amsterdam  
Tuesday P.M. 10/11/10.

Dear Sister Kate,

Today we have been on the Ocean just 9 days and it seems like about 2 days. Of course we have lectures in the am. 9 to 12:30 then dinner at 2 which takes nearly an hour, Concert at 3 for over an hour, berth at 6 and supper at 7-. So you see the time goes all too fast. We expect to land thursday sometime. I and many of the boys have been sick tho. weather has

been fine but you know there is a good deal of motion on the ocean at any time. I have been fine except awful cold I had before I left home & first 2 nights had chills & fever pretty badly but old Tiger Oil straightened me out, and I feel fine now. Hurt my thumb little boxing 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> day but OK now was just a little sore. I have written mom & pop a long letter Kate & they will forward to you. Dandy concert on just now. 4 Violins cello & piano. Have had 2 dances. You know the school is traveling 2<sup>nd</sup> class. You

needn't mention in Chgo. if you don't want to. 36<sup>00</sup> difference, & OK here going this way. Suppose we return 1<sup>st</sup> class. Having fine time. Singing games etc. in eve. Have been lucky in being invited over to 1<sup>st</sup> good deal evenings. Big concert there last eve. I played piano for about 20 of boys to sing our school songs as our part on prog. Dandy eve with luncheon in tea room afterward-4 & 4 at our table. One dandy girl. About 56 boys in our bunch. So I have been pretty lucky. Met one peach but my chum - Esser -

seems to have her. She knows friend of his & that helps him you know. Hard to sit still with this music. Girl school also aboard going to Paris - Diggins & Mitchell types Etc. but they are not allowed to talk with any men. One is beauty - Mrs. Cobbs style. All under 20 I should think.

Tell the Cobbs Au Revoir for me. I left Cad. In such a hurry I didn't see half the crowd but they were all over to Idas few nights before so just as well.

Digital Scans



HOLLAND-AMERICA LINE  
ROTTERDAM.

S.S. *New Amsterdam*  
Tuesday P.M. 10/11/10.

Dear Sister Kate

Today we have been on the ocean just 7 days & it seems like about 7 days. Of course we have lectures in the am. 9 to 12<sup>30</sup> then dinner at 2 which takes nearly an hour, concert at 3 for over an hour, bath at 6 and supper at 7. Do you see the time goes all too fast. We expect to land Thursday sometime. Good many of the boys have been sick tho. weather has

been fine but you know there is a good deal of motion on the ocean at any time. I have been fine except awful cold I had before I left home & first 7 nights had chills & fever pretty badly but cold & dry air straightened me out, & I feel fine now. Hurt my thumb little boxing 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> day but ok now, was just a little sore. I have written mom and pop a long letter Kate & they will forward to you. Dandy concert on just now. Violins, cello & piano. Have had 7 dances. You know the school is traveling 2<sup>nd</sup> class - You

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don't want to. 36<sup>th</sup> difference,  
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