

1906-1909 Charlotte's Recollections

- A Many things had changed of course. Also, remember that I had to catch up on my American History, so to speak. I had been in England and South Africa for 12 years so all our news events and interests were British. I knew that President McKinley had been assassinated in late 1901 and that Theodore Roosevelt had become President. That news, of course reached around the world. No doubt you also received our sad news of Queen Victoria's death and of Edward and Alex's assuming the crown earlier that same year. The General came over to England for the coronation that June, but because of <sup>his</sup> Edwards illness and surgery it was postponed to August. ~~I believe he and the girls did stay.~~
- Also I remember hearing about your Spanish War, a disagreement over Cuba, I believe, a few years earlier. We were quite involved in our own War with the Boers at that time and it was much more important, however.
- One other thing I remember reading about was that Hawaiian Islands were made a territory of the United States. I remember it because I had a cousin, Elizabeth and her husband Mr. Hall, that lived there for a considerable time after the Civil War and some of their children are still there.
- B. We did hear of your automobiles, quite a luxury item and your exciting new moving pictures. I believe there is one I would like to see that I had heard about... "The Great Train Robbery". Sounded quite remarkable.
- Mr. Sousa's march music had reached us but I was somewhat shocked by this new "Rag" music that I believe I heard in New York when I first returned. We visited my brothers, Chase and Nathan who were still there when we first arrived from England in 1906. They introduced us to a bit of it. Came out of St. Louis or New Orleans, they said. Quite unusual. I really do prefer Mr. Sousa's rousing marches. I'm afraid. However we did enjoy seeing Mr. Cohan's Broadway production "45 Minutes from Broadway" while we were there. His song "Mary is a Grand Old Name" brought memories of my dear Aunt in Cincinnati who died while I was in Capetown.
- C. Oh, of course! I must not forget that. We were in England by the time the news of that great tragedy reached us. Our many friends, of course, not knowing exactly how far Colorado was from California felt sure we would postpone our trip until all was safe. For those who have not traveled or studied maps as we have, the size of the United States will always be a mystery. We explained that it was over 1500 kilometers to the west but still they felt we should wait. It was a great tragedy and so many lives lost, we had heard it was nearly 1000 but since then the figure has been changed to under 700. Still too many.
- ~~D. We traveled by train, of course. So much faster and so much more elegant. I had traveled in 1893 in the General's Nomad and it was very fine. Now even the regular passenger cars have all the comforts of that Private Car. We did make a short stop in St. Louis. My husband had heard of the Great Fair there in 1904, The Louisiana Purchase Exposition, it was called. He wanted to see the grounds and of course, the main attraction for him as an ornithologist was the Bird Cage. Imagine, this huge cage where the birds fly free and we walked through on a raised boardwalk. William was quite enchanted by it all and the fact that it would be used by the zoological gardens for future generations to admire. A big first for viewing birds in a natural state instead of stuffed and static.~~
- E. We arrived in early July of 1906. My son Cyril had joined us in New York, where he had a position with Pease and Elliman, a real estate firm. It was his first trip to Colorado as an adult. He was just a child of 8 years when we returned for that year in 1888. He had fond memories of Glen Eyrie and was eager to see it all again.
- F. Oh, there were endless changes. Some I am still discovering. The new Antlers Hotel of course, was the first thing to greet us upon our arrival.

The park below the hotel was filled with shade ~~trees~~<sup>awnings</sup>, which I did not remember. It was truly magnificent with its twin towers and gracious veranda. I had loved the old hotel and remember when the General had written us in Capetown about its sad demise in the great fire in '98. He was very proud of this new accomplishment however, and it was the first thing we toured upon our arrival before taking the carriage over the Mesa to familiar Glen Eyrie.

F

That was my second surprise! What a remarkable difference in the house in the Glen. It was no longer that warm, wooden home I remembered. It was a castle; rocks, ivy, water and the great hall was unbelievable. I felt something had been lost but of course, for Elsie, Marjorie and Dorothy it was what they had grown up with in England. He had built it for them and their friends. He loved to be surrounded by young people and watch their happiness and joy of life. I think it kept him young at heart. He filled the castle with guests and parties for the girls when they were present. They did travel a great deal, remember.

G.

~~There were so many things that its hard to remember. Since my husband was to be working at Colorado College it was one of the first visits we made. Palmer Hall was only 3 years old and quite magnificent. The first floor held the offices of administration and some lecture rooms but the second floor was of most interest as that is where the museum was located. My husband viewed the collections, the complete skeleton of a whale was quite remarkable as were the many mounted mammals, orangutans, marsupials and even a polar bear. Cases for invertebrate fossils and vertebrates found in the West were filled to capacity. William noted that the birds were not well represented as yet. He became anxious to go to work.~~

I toured the rest of the campus noticing the new Library given by Mr. Coburn and the Perkins Fine Art Center with its seating for over 600 people in its auditorium. The new hall for Women called Ticknor was a very needed improvement.

Another improvement was the park the General had commissioned on Monument Creek. He envisioned gardens, paths, trees and beauty everywhere. It was over 2 miles long and even included a lake with an island and a bubbling spring in the south end of the park. A children's playground and 8 bridges were planned. It was over 1/2 finished when I arrived and of course is now a showplace for the visitor and resident alike. His other park at Austin Bluffs was quite different with its paths for horseback riding and rugged trails, all overlooking the city and the view of the mountains is spectacular from up there. The city has named it Palmer Park, a fitting tribute to a rugged gentleman.

One thing I remember viewing with some distaste. Zoo Park out along Cheyenne Creek. It reminded me of Coney Island in many ways. A Mr. Coughlin of Chicago started it the year before we arrived. He has added something to it each year. The tourists in the summer find it diverting with its roller coaster, mill boat ride, chute the chutes and circle swing. I find it too gaudy and loud, especially when the shooting gallery and roller skating rink are busy. The families with children find it very exciting, however and it is only for the summer season.

H

As I showed William the special places I remembered about town, I became very aware of its growth. There were under 15,000 residents when I left, excluding the summer people and now new homes were extended far north of the college and also east. The General said the population had reached over 25,000.

I.

That north-end of town was quite a showplace. Yes, we did rent rooms for a time at 1511 Wood Ave. After the General's accident, we almost considered returning to England but the General insisted that William fulfill the dream of a well-organized and complete museum, second to none. However, with all the confusion of doctors, nurses, extra help and of course the distance to the College, William requested living closer to the college, away from Glen Eyrie. So early in 1907 Mrs Hamp and her son Sydney, friends from earlier days, suggested the Wood Ave. home.

I. Sid and his wife had lived in the home for several years. When his neighbor around the corner became a widow, she looked for another home and 1511 was up for sale by its absentee owner, Mr. Cable of Chicago. She had purchased it the fall before our arrival and was considering obtaining renters for part of it to assist her monetarily. We seemed to fit exactly what she was looking for as renters. Strange as it seems, Sid and Josie moved into her home on Buena Ventura and we had them for neighbors. Mrs. Hamp was across the street also so I felt among friends. Later when we moved into the Orchard house, they all moved into other homes on Wood Avenue. We enjoyed the gracious homes between ours and the college. I walked that street quite often and always admired those ~~old victorians~~ but when I discovered Mr. Lennox's new home on Nevada across from the College, I lost my heart. Here was a reminder of my happy first years of marriage and the lovely Cape Colony. It was an enormous Cape Dutch home with those graceful dormer ends so familiar to me. That is probably the first time the idea for the Orchard House entered my mind.

J. The Pike Centennial was a big celebration. The General spoke about it that summer we arrived. It was in the fall, September of 1906. He had given some assistance to those in charge of it but planned to disappear for awhile just before the event. He planned a capping experience for William and I <sup>and</sup> along with Cyril and his daughters and several of their friends. Organization was one of his strong points. There were 11 of us plus the servants and campmen. ~~We~~ We left in early August on the train, going via La Veta Pass toward Wagon Wheel Gap. My sense of direction was not too good as we packed everything on our horses and burrow and started into the San Juan's. William was thrilled by the whole adventure and his chance to record birds and even the plants he encountered. Elsie and two of her friends were not too thrilled after a few days of inclement weather so they headed ~~out~~ to Durango which was some 30 miles away. Cyril and General Palmer seemed to enjoy the rugged country more than any one else. Seeing them together about the fire in the quiet of the evening made me very happy. He seemed to treat his Godson as if he had been the son he never had. Cyril too, seemed reluctant to part with this life and return to New York, but after a few weeks we had to return him to the Dand RG Depot below the Antlers and bid him farewell.

K. Oh my, I did digress from your question, didn't I. Memories of one thing do lead into others. I'm afraid, like the General I tried to stay clear of the planning for the Centennial. My brother Clark however, was in the midst of all the fuss. He was in charge of the Parade, that was to begin the celebration that last week of September. He and his wife, Ethel were host and hostess at many of the social events that occurred. William consented to attend one of the functions held at the Antlers in honor of Gove, McDonald, and the other dignitaries that came down from Denver and from Washington. I must admit it was a beautiful affair. The military uniforms and the elaborate gowns of the ladies made my eyes just ache. Even William was impressed and enjoyed the marvelous dinner and even stayed for part of the dance. He is not really so anti-social as you realize, it's just that the fall session of Colorado College had started and he felt compelled to get things in order. He was expected to do some lecturing on comparative anatomy as well as ~~to~~ oversee the museum so he needed time for preparation. Fortunately, since this event was so unique, the College took a 3 day recess and so the schools in town followed suit. I think the officials realized very few children would attend school when both the army and the Indians were camping above Cheyenne Creek in the meadows southwest of the Broadmoor. When the announcement of a cowboy camp in the same area was made, the school officials gave up and dismissed the children for the whole week. I never went out there, but Clark, of course, had to see it all. He said there were close to 1500 Army troops but that Charles Craig had not been able to convince as many Indians to come as had first been planned. Only the ~~and~~ Utes arrived and there were about 50 of them. Some of the cowboys had

not prepared too well for our changeable weather so when we had a really bad rainstorm on Tuesday of that week, they had to move into homes in the area that welcomed them warmly. The Wild West Exhibition had to be cancelled. That storm also doused the brave souls who went to the top of Pikes Peak to place the dedication plaque up there. Only they had knee deep snow!

I do remember that the city itself wore her best dress. The Dome of the Court House was lit up brightly every night with electric lights. The streets were emblazoned with yellow and white bunting and lights. Flags with Pikes picture were flying high over the streets. Displays of historical interest were set up in some of the windows and of course the electric lighting made it so festive. I wondered why the committee had chosen yellow and white, but Clark explained that it represented our two big industries, gold and silver. I should have known! Hibbards at least stayed with the season. They used corn stalks, pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns in their windows.

X Oh yes, not only fireworks but an illuminated run! The fireman had torches lit and all ran down Cascade from St. Vrain to the Antlers where a grandstand was set up. The fireworks were held at Colorado College on Washburn field. I was told by Clark that this was the biggest fireworks display ever seen in Colorado! It was magnificent! It lasted for 1 1/2 hours. There were set pieces of Pike of course, but also of Geo. Washington, Pres. Roosevelt, Niagra Falls and the inevitable Good Nite in blazing lights. The rockets and skybursts seemed to be unending. The 29th Infantry band accompanied the entire display with marvelous music. We did have a grand evening.

K Oh no, the General had spent his birthday just before the celebration up at Wagon Wheel Gap. I think he needed a "quiet before the storm," so to speak. The girls and William and I took his place when necessary before the actual celebration began. Clark, of course, was right in the forefront to welcome Vice President Fairbanks but when the General returned he appeared at all the dedication ceremonies and social events. He was right up front when the huge boulder was dedicated in honor of Pike below the Antlers Hotel. I did not attend that but he mentioned that the base had been laid several weeks earlier and contained many papers, pictures and other memorabilia as a "time container" for future generations. When I later saw the size of the boulder I doubted if anyone would ever move it to find the News of that day!

Dr. Bell and his son arrived unexpectedly in the middle of the celebration. They had been traveling in the west and discovered when they reached Denver all the excitement here, so they came in unannounced. The General, of course, welcomed them to Glen Eyrie and he joined us in entertaining Vice Pres. Fairbanks, Gov. Macdonald and other signatories at Glen Eyrie. I was able to assist the girls as hostesses at that lovely affair also. All in all the Pike Centennial was a great success

N Yes it was. Just before Elsie's 34th birthday in October. The General had been riding with Elsie and some friends out of the Garden of the Gods not far from <sup>Glen Eyrie!</sup> Ironically, the horse the General was riding stumbled, throwing him off. He had ridden all over the mountains on terrible terrain and yet in this unguarded moment a simple fall changed our world. We did not expect him to survive when news of the destruction of his spinal cord in several places was announced to the family. He was paralyzed and not expected to live very long. The month of November was almost like a nightmare. We in the family just moved from day to day automatically. I was glad William had his work at the college to occupy him. We took turns reading to him. Since my son Eric and Margery's fiancée were in the same British Regiment, those letters seemed to interest him. Also many letters were received from his many friends. He also started to dictate a few letters and slowly, with the help and care of the doctors, he showed improvement. When he began inquiring about the dogs and wondered about plans for Christmas, we knew things would be all right.