

LETTER FROM WILLIAM GABRIEL STRANG TO HIS FATHER, RYAL STRANG

Pasadena, California
Dec. 11th, 1887

Dear Father,

We received thy letter sent some time ago and was glad to know that thee was comfortable. How much we wish that thee could be with us. The climate is certainly as near perfect here as can be. We have had some nice rains here and everything is like the month of June in the east except the orange trees which are hanging full of golden fruit. The sun shines out as brilliant as can be and every day may be seen thousands of people old and young from the East enjoying it. Carrie has gone to meeting. Bennie and I are at home with the baby, ladies and gentlemen are out walking around in our orange grove and I hear a lady say this is the first time I picked an orange from a tree with my own hand. Every one is delighted, flowers of every kind grow in profusion. The mountains are five miles to the north of us, but seem to be at our very doors. An abundance of game such as quail, squirrel, deer, cinnamon and even grizzly bear are plenty. Plenty of speckled trout in the mountains. I have had no time to hunt, but many do. The more I see of this valley the better I like it. People will live here and the emigration to southern California cannot be stopped. I paid \$4000.00 per acre for land 1 1/2 mile from the business center of town and came out all right. I bought nearly 4 acres here. I also bought \$30,000.00 worth with Delos Arnold and have sold some of it at good margin. Delos Arnold is worth perhaps \$250,000.00 and is a fine man. I own 1/3 of a 30 acre tract with him in a beautiful foot hill tract at Modena. (This is a friends' neighborhood) Modena-this tract of ours has vines (raisin grape), orange, apricot, peach, pears etc. and fair buildings. I have just returned from a trip up into Tulare County 200 miles north of us, but do not like it up there. Great fruit and wheat country. Gets very hot in summer, also some malaria. - Have not been Elsinore way since Clarence¹³⁹ got there but understand the country is improving. Edwin was in town last Friday. He has been back in Arizona and likes it pretty well but did not invest. He says that Meeker wrote to him about his attorney fees. We will send him the money and let him assign the note to us so thee need not trouble about it. Thee spoke in thy letter about John writing about thy

¹³⁹ Clarence P. Macy was a ^{younger} step-brother to the writer. Ryal's wife Orpah died in 1866, and in 1869, he married Mrs. Lucinda [Paxson] Macy, a widow from Springdale with three children. After Ryal's death in 1888, Lucinda Strang moved to Elsinore, California to live with her son Clarence Macy.

Delos Arnold, b. 1830 in Chenango Co. N.Y., moved to Marshall Co. Iowa in fall of 1853. He was a lawyer and represented Marshall Co. in both the State Legislature and State Senate. He built a new house in Pasadena in the fall of 1887 - Baruk S. Periss left Kellogg to work as a carpenter on the house.

second shock, Edwin said the Dr. told him that thee had a slight shock and when I think of it I don't wonder at it, since thee has had so much trouble. Father I know pretty well what thee has had to contend with, and only wish that is was in my power to be with thee in thy declining years, but let us hope and pray that we may have peace, rest, and perfect happiness in the world to come. We certainly have the promise if we avail ourselves of it. In conclusion I will say I want thee to remember us in thy prayers and write if only a few lines as often as thee can. Carrie will also write in this letter. Farewell, thy son Wm G. Strang

Dear Father,

I will write a few lines in Wm.'s letter. I am glad that thee is still able to write to us.

We are quite well and think we should be [thankful?] for health and pleasant location. I cannot realize that this is middle of December, the weather is so pleasant and sunny.

The nights are cool so that evenings and mornings we have fire, but in the middle of the [day] we need no fire at all and seems like summer weather.

Johnnie and Lottie are going to school and doing well. Children often speak of thee, and wish thee were here with us. But it don't matter where we are so that our peace is made with God. My desire is to have myself in readiness when the summons comes. I feel that my lifework is with my family and I feel it to be a great responsibility, but God has promised to be wisdom to us and a very present help in needful times. I saw Edwin on the street last sixth day. They are well and Carl is going to school.¹⁴⁰ Aunt Deborah Pierson¹⁴¹ is here and living with George in a tent not far from here. Her daughter Ella is with her. She married Samuel Loyd's son.

Our Quarterly meeting opened with a large attendance and granted

¹⁴⁰Robert Edwin Strang [1846-1909], Ellen's twin brother, was living in Los Angeles at the time. Carl was Edwin's son.

¹⁴¹Deborah [Smith] Pierson and her children left Springdale Iowa in 1880 and moved to Barclay, Osage Co., Kansas. In 1887, developers created a real estate boom in Pasadena and the Piersons left Kansas to join the Quaker colony in southern California.

two new monthly meetings- Whittier and Wildomar. There is a very large meeting here. I presume over 300 in attendance each Sabbath and our S.S. numbers nears 200. Wm. sent Elen \$25.00 last week thought perhaps it would be acceptable as a Christmas present. This [is] quite a business place. It is said that a 1000 houses are in process of erection at present. Father Baldwin¹⁴² has just been here. He is quite well and has a nice home. I must close as it is dinnertime, give my love to all. May God bless thee and sustain in time of trial Write when thee can. Affectionately, thy daughter,

Carrie Strang

principal attraction is the climate. This country produces nearly all of the staples as well as nearly all the luxuries of the world, again, a better class of citizens cannot be found in any part of the United States. Education, talent and refinement with all the modern improvements of the eastern & western cities. We have grand mountains, fertile valleys, seaside resorts with palatial hotels etc. The mountains are rich in mineral product, an abundance of timber and rare game, deer, bear, mountain quail, squirrel, speckled trout etc. Pasadena 12,000 and will soon reach 20,000. Los Angeles has 75,000+ will very soon reach 100,000. I think you would like it here very much. Many Kansas people here. There is not a more healthful country anywhere in America or on the globe. This may sound big but is true. Cool in summer and mild in winter. Oranges grow here to perfection. All kinds of fruit, even the orthodox apple. The finest Rhodisland greening, white winter pear - Hean (?) and Bellflower. The sweet potato is at home as well as the old line Irish potato, tomatoes bear the whole year round. "Garden truck" is all right and can be depended upon. Yesterday I came from the new town of Whittier and saw more than 20,000 of the finest sheep on the way. The English walnut is at home here and pays 10¢ on \$2000 pr acre. Land is very high here. I paid at the rate of \$4000 per acre for nearly 4 acres and came out all right. Business property is worth here before the building era put on from 200 to \$700 per front foot and still going higher. Much resident property is selling for \$100 pr front foot. Times are good here and, thousands come here to spend the winter every week. We have all told 32 trains every day. Well I must close hoping that you may have a merry Christmas and happy New Year. Carrie joins me in love

Your son,

Wm G. Strang

I enclose you a small gift which you will please buy yourselves some Christmas presents. Also one for little Willie House whose picture I received with the information that he was named for me. Hope his kind parents will give him wholesome instruction so and that he may become a good citizen of the commonwealth, that the world may be benefited or pleased at last for him that he may have it much to attain his majority. Much love to all

¹⁴²Carrie Strang's father.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM G. STRANG TO HIS SISTER, MARY (STRANG) RUSSELL

Pasadena, Cal.
Dec 18th, 1887

Dear Bro, Sister & Family,

It now appears that we have been here more than seven months and should be able by this time to give a reason for our faith in the country. The principal attraction is the almost faultless climate, second, that this country produces nearly all of the staples as well as nearly all the luxuries of the world, again, a better class of citizens cannot be found in any part of the United States. Health, Education, talent and refinement with all the modern improvements of the eastern & western cities. We have grand mountains, fertile valleys, seaside resorts with palatial hotels &c. The mountains are rich in mineral product, an abundance of timber and rare game, deer, bear, mountain quail, squirrell, speckled trout &c. Pasadena 12,000 and will soon reach 20,000. Los Angeles has 75,000+ will very soon reach 100,000. I think you would like it here very much. Many Kansas people here. There is not a more healthful country anywhere in America or on the globe. This may sound big but is true. Cool in summer and mild in winter. Oranges grow here to perfection. All kinds of fruit, even the orthodox apple. The finest Rhodisland greening, white winter pear - neain [?] and Bellflower. The sweet potato is at home as well as the old line Irish potato, tomatoes bear the whole year round. "Garden truck" is all right and can be depended upon. Yesterday I came from the new town of Whittier and saw more than 20,000 of the finest sheep on the way. The English walnut is at home here and pays 10 % on \$2000 pr acre. Land is very high here. I paid at the rate of \$4000 per acre for nearly 4 acres and came out all right. Business property is worth here before the building are put on from 200 to \$700 per front foot and still going higher. Much resident property is selling for \$100 pr front foot. Times are good here and, thousands come here to spend the winter every week. We have all told 32 trains every day. Well I must close hoping that you may have a merry Christmas and happy New Year. Carrie joins me in love

Your bro,
Wm G. Strang

I enclose you a small Dft which you will please buy yourselves some Christmas presents. Also one for little Willie Bouse whose picture I received with the information that he was named for me. Hope his kind parents will give him wholesome instruction &c and that he may become a good citizen of the commonwealth, that the gold coin may be invested or placed at int. for him that he may have it when he attains his majority. Much love to all Wm

LETTER FROM WILLIAM GABRIEL STRANG TO HIS FATHER, RYAL STRANG

Pasadena, Cal.

March 16th, 1888

Dear Father,

We have not heard from thee in a long time. We are all well. have all had the measles since I last wrote except myself and all got up without taking colds for which we are very thankful. Erastus Harris' son Earl is getting well but has had a very severe illness. He has been at Lewis Lloyd's in this city living about one mile from us. Lewis Lloyd married Ella Pierson, Aunt Deborah's daughter.¹⁴³ George and Barak Pierson live here and both work at the carpenter's trade. Aunt Deborah keeps house for Will Pierson and they live in Santa Ana, 40 miles south and west of us. Earl Harris intends to start east about the 22nd of this month in company with Daniel Smith and his wife who have been spending the winter here.¹⁴⁴ Judge Torrence starts back to Erie County, N.Y. tomorrow morning. He may not reach his old home alive, he is very feeble, has the consumption. he is living near us with his son. I am going to call on him at 10 this morning - We have been reading the telegrams of the terrible snow storms in the East, especially New York City and vicinity - the hardest ever known.

The Friends have located their college at the new town of Whittier about 14 miles S.E. of here, a most beautiful place. Should we sell what little we have here (only one house and lot) we will move to Whittier. Carrie has [unable to read - relatives?] living there [----] prominent people of our society such as Dr. Nicholson, Dr. Coffin, Elias Jessup, Cyrus Lindley and many others. Thee will see occasionally an article in the Christian Worker from that point.

¹⁴³Louis David Lloyd was the son of Samuel Lloyd, an old neighbor of the Smith family in Springdale, Iowa. Note reference to his name in Ebenezer Smith's letter of Nov 7, 1857 to Ryall Strang.

¹⁴⁴Narcissa [Macy] Smith, the wife of Daniel Wheeler Smith, wrote an article in an 1895 issue of Midland Monthly, a literary journal published in Des Moines. The article was entitled "Reminiscences of Old John Brown." Narcissa Smith stated in the article that she visited Owen Brown and his brother (sons of John Brown) during the winter of 1887-8 at their home in the foothills of the Sierra Madres just north of Pasadena, California.

Emma Kellogg (Mrs. E.K. Holmes) has made us a short visit.¹⁴⁵ She is living for the present at 221 South Spring St. Los Angeles which is about ten miles from us. I think she has a lonely life. She is writing some for newspapers. I have helped her some and would do more if I felt able. Times are a little quiet just now, although more improvements are going on than ever. I see many of our old acquaintances every day. have not seen father [Dunston?] for a long time hear that he is very feeble, he always asks about thee: also Dr. Payne. Dr. Lang is practicing here - don't think Dr. Payne is. Saw Wm. H. Weatherly yesterday and Mr. Garlick the old courthouse janitor is here, thee will remember him and his wife, where thee boarded while at Marshall- We have plenty grain, enough to secure the best crops, and now the sun shines. [---] and peach, apricot and almond trees are in full bloom, also the orange blossoms have just commenced to show their matchless beauty. The hills and mountains are covered in green and every thing is beautiful, on the highest peaks the snow will stay till July. Carrie and all the children send their love. Write often.

Thy son, Wm. G. Strang

¹⁴⁵Emma [Kellogg] Holmes was William Strang's niece. She was born in 1855, the daughter of Morris and Sarah Ann [Strang] Kellogg.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM G. STRANG TO HIS SISTER, MARY (STRANG) RUSSELL

[This letter was written on stationary of The Raymond Hotel in East Pasadena, CA.]

Pasadena, Cal. Jan 5", 1893

Dear Bro Sister & family,

I have a little leisure just now and embrace it writing you. We are all well and rejoicing on "The Way" for which we are ever thankful. We have not heard from you in a long time. Well how is it with you all? Hardly know what would interest you most. The past season or year here has been ----- in the prosperity of this country, or county I might say, and all the great hotels are brim full & over flowing with guests, mostly from the East. U.S. Senator Edmonds of Vt is here. I met him yesterday. You know he is a distant relative of ours. He springs from the same family of Uncle Ira Edmonds.

There is great activity in the fruit business. It is estimated that 9000 acres were planted to deseduous trees alone in this county last year. We all work in the fruit business. I was at the head of the Teepee Establishment again the past season, this being my third year. We put out fifty tons of dried peaches last fall. Carries and the children could get about \$3.50 per day for their services. Riverside & Redlands is headquarters for citrus fruits and the orange crop is estimated 7 thousand (7000) car loads. Land around Pasadena is getting higher instead of declining as many anticipated, ranging from \$300 to \$600 pr acre. Gods work is also progressing. He is manifesting himself more and more to his own dear children. We have some very fine workers here. Missions are springing up on every hand, similar to Stephen Merrit of New York. The poor and needy are fed, through their necessities they are reached. We have a branch of the Pacific Gospel Union here in Pasadena and much good accomplished in the name of the Master. Bro A.B. Simpson started the 15 of last mo on his tour inspection of the Alliance Missionary work around the world and will reach this coast via Canton China sometime in Aug D.V. and then we expect to meet him again. We have sent five missionaries from Los Angeles alone & expect Carries bro A.E. Baldwin will go from Pasadena sometime this year. I see the Alliance has had some vols from Kansas. Write soon Wm. G. Strang

Wm. G. Strang, born in 1847

The writer is referring to the fact that the Alliance held in

Ira Edmonds was the husband of Lydia
Palmer, youngest sister of Mary (Palmer)
Smith.