

stately and strong - There
are one about four hundred
+ fifty first class passengers
and two or three thousand
Second and Third Class and
and I do not know the Steerage
numbers - but there are quite
a number -

There is a gymnasium - a
Card room - a Reading room
a Library - and Writing rooms -
a Ritz-Carlton Restaurant - into
which I have only peeped - it
is handsomely fitted up - and
there are dinners given there
in the evenings when the rowing

Grace Woodruff

An Bord
des Dampfers



den August 10 1911

My dear Olga and Mary -
This is Thursday afternoon -
the seventh day on board ship.
So far - we have had
a fine voyage - weather
bright, clear and just breezes
enough for good sailing.
One day the sea was like the
proverbial mirror - without a
ripple - but since then it
has been covered, without
motion - but with rippling
waves - This ship steers along
like the Queen she is, very

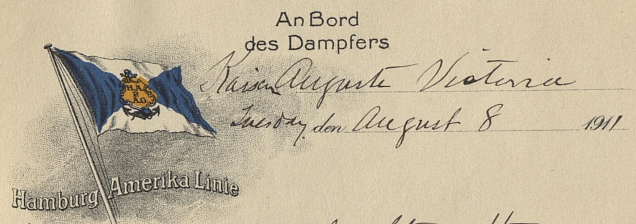
and ladies as well as men smoke
cigarettes - This ship is very cosmopolitan
there are all sorts & conditions of
humanity - it is indeed a floating City -
An Elevator carries up and down
stairs to and from the many decks I
think there are six decks in all
if not more -

There was a ball night before last
when the Sun Deck was enclosed with
canvas - Straperies of flags & country
were tastefully hung and colored

electric lights sparkled gaily from
the roofs & sides of the deck, every
body danced and it was a very
lively gay scene - The evening dress
was quite as elaborate as any ball
room in Louisville or elsewhere could
boast -

We land at Plymouth this afternoon - when
the letter will be posted to you - We reach
Hamburg - Saturday 12 - and then go on to
Berlin - Our address will be 60 The
American Express Company, Berlin, Germany -
With much love from Mother
Francis G. Woodruff

amuse themselves in separate groups; - the girls playing shoreboard on one side of the deck and the boys on the other side. We also have a double action miniature teapin alley. You use rubber balls and roll one up an inclined plane and as it returns it hits or misses the pins set up at the other end. The alley is about 15 feet long and 3 ft wide. There are no quarts nor other amusement machines on board, where they have all sorts of apparatus for ~~var~~ passive exercise. There are two fine smoking rooms, but I do not observe much card



My dearest son and daughter, after a good night's rest, we rose on Monday morning refreshed and quite able to go down to breakfast. The boat has a large dining saloon and the arrangement differs from other boats on which we have travelled. Instead of long tables and chairs screwed to the floor, the room is filled with small tables, both round and square, and the tables only are fastened down, the chairs being movable. I was late in asking for a table and they gave us one

at the far end of the large hall, but after a little trial of the long road which we must take before reaching it, zigzagging and twisting our tortuous course among many other tables, and dodging around to avoid collisions with waiters ~~and~~ with waiters, mother requested the Chief Steward to assign us another table nearer the door which he kindly did, and now we have seats which we can easily reach. The table seats five and one three and a pair of very nice people from Hildesbarn Pa occupy the chairs.

The motion of the great boat is so slight that none of us have been

incommoded by the slightest discomfort. Today (Monday) the weather is cool a good breeze blowing with a lumpy sea and a cloudy sky. I have spent the time reading trash from the Str. Library, Mother reclines in her chair ~~with~~ alternating with an occasional stroll and poor dear Gracie seems to suffer a little from the roll and pitch of the boat - but still keeps her put and takes her exercise. I found it cool enough for an overcoat in the afternoon.

There are quite a lot of kids aboard, both boys and girls. They

I was pleased to see a bright
warm sunshine, and a fairly
smooth sea this morning. We were
hardly seated on the sun deck when
the steward came along with
Bouillon and crackers. In the P.M.
we have Coffee, tea & cakes, and
we do not suffer for food.
We are now in mid ocean having
made a little over 400 miles, sea miles
Lat about 50. and Long. about 42.
We are all thinking much of the welfare
of our home folks. You both have
our love and prayers for your health
and happiness. All join in sending much
love to both of you and I am your loving father
C. W. Woodruff



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An Bord
des Dampfers

Kaiserin Auguste Victoria
den _____ 191

playing, but a game of checkers
here and there.

We do not have the Auction
pool on the ^{deck} of the boat, which
shows that we are not very
sporty. This Pool is made up by
passengers chipping in \$5- each
and making a guess at the number
of miles made in 24 hours, but
as I say there is not a
sufficient number of guessers

to make the scheme work.

The boat has a good system of baths, - the tubs are immense and when filled with blue ocean water, it is a delight to float around in it, for one can really float, - the tubs are so big.

One is so fenced off that he cannot go over the whole boat. You stick to your first class environment, and cannot go poking around among the other classes. nor have I seen them over the log. Now on our other trip

I could go from stem to stern of the boat, - watch the log and visit all over, but here you stay at home.

Our Captain Rusin is a very genial pleasant gentleman, and always has a pleasant word for the ladies. He is the nicest Capt I have travelled with.

On Monday night I slept so hard, that when I asked the bath steward who woke me what time it was, He told me it was 9.15, - whereat I jumped and moaned and I went to breakfast this morning at nearly 10 o'clock.

was mighty nice to get. We
have all read 'Queen' & 'Mary
Carey' & I am reading 'Mrs. Gilly
Gault now. 'Queen' is just
fine - It's such an unusual
story & the characters are un-
usual. 'Mary Carey' is awfully
clever - I think she is a
most remarkable child
for her age, don't you?

We sailed out of the
harbor last Thursday with
flag flying & music playing.
It was a beautiful sparkling
day & the sea was smooth.

An Bord
des Dampfers.



Maisie Auguste Victoria
den August 8 1911.

Dear Mary -

When we came on
board last Thursday we found
your fine package of books &
Lyn's Baedeker and after we
started your letters were brought
to us. We were so glad to
hear from you and to get
so much news. I had letters
from a good many people
and a fine basket of fruit
from Ruth. All of which is

The weather has been fine ever since we left, though there has been quite a swell for two days, & a moderately stiff breeze. We go about 420 miles a day & it will take us nine days to Hamburg. We stop at Plymouth day after tomorrow, and Cherbourg the next day.

The Captain, Captain Pusch, is a fine big jolly German - We have had

several talks with him. He says that this ship "just walks beautiful". I never heard of walking being applied to ships before. Yesterday,

we passed a small barkentine in full sail with square sails; - It weighed about 450 tons & looked so small on this great big ocean. Another

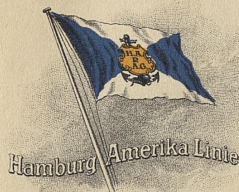
day we saw some porpoise; & a ship, way off on the horizon, but

both very nice.

We have much music concert in the morning on the deck, in the evening in the dining room & at various intervals during the day in the Wintergarden restaurant & in the Ritz-Carlton restaurant.

Does the "glory of Clementina" end well? quite a change takes place in Clementina. I am glad that she seduces the lady & marries the

An Bord
des Dampfers



don

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no other signs of life except the little flying fish that start about. The boat seems to be quite full - some very attractive people on board. We sit at small tables in the dining room, so there is so much chance of meeting people, but we have met a few, there is a Vassar girl on board with her husband Dr. & Mrs. Poan. They are

Dr. Inerself. -

August 9th - Last night we had
a Ball - The room deals was can-
vassed in, flags draped all about it &
colored electric lights hanging from the
ceiling - Every one was quite en-
thusiastic, the weather being swell,
Refreshments were served & everything
was quite fine. It was fun to see
the german men dance - They go
round & round & never seem to
get dizzy though the american
girls lose all sense of equilibrium.

To-morrow evening, the 10th, we
sail ~~at~~ Plymouth harbor & the
passengers bound for England dis-
embark - The next morning at six
we are due at Plymouth, Cherbourg
& the 12th we come to Hamburg.
Our letters will be mailed at Ply-
mouth & will go back by the
'Mauritania'. It is a nine day
boat to Hamburg.

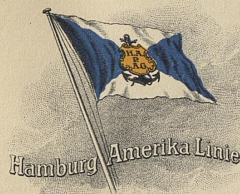
The Penitents from Louisville
are on board they go on to Hamburg
I think - I'll not meet them this morning.
I don't believe there are any other Louisvilles

with little vibration and
not much roll.

I will write from Hamburg.
We shall be there a day or
two.

We all send our best love
and best wishes and are
eagerly waiting to hear the
good news of the arrival
of the new little members
of our family -
as always -
Devotedly
Grace.

An Bord
des Dampfers



den _____ 191

people with us -

We are taking the
southern course to avoid
ice-bergs - It is seventy-six
miles longer than the northern
course.


Our boat is named after
the Empress - It is an enormous
ship, very broad & very long

beautiful Sabbath ^{evening} just as the other days.

The Breeze died down toward morning and we were greeted with bright sunshine giving the ocean the appearance of a vast basin of indigo solution. and nothing can look more beautiful. Our run on Sat. showed 427 miles, and they turn the clock ahead two or three times a day, so that my watch is never right.

The 3^d Class have a lower open deck ~~and~~ which is covered by

An Bord
des Dampfers
Kaisin Auguste Victoria.
Montag den 7^{ten} August 1911



Hamburg Amerika Linie

My dear daughter, yesterday I wrote you a rambling letter about our start on this good ship covering our first two days aboard. Our third day was very monotonous. We sighted one ship from afar, but for the most part we passed the time in our steamer chair. The sea was so smooth and the air was quite still. I finished. Miss

Gibbie Gault, the sequel to Mary Kearny.
They are sprightly books and worth
reading and are written I think
from the correct standpoint, - that
of altruistic uplift. There is quite
a lot of books on board, both English
and German and American, several
cases full in the ladies writing room,
and I have commenced on them.
On my last trip I did not read
much, but I find now that I
do not care for promenading
but would rather sit still and
I must have a book in my hands

as most everyone does.
On Sunday the air was cooler
and and the water was well
rippled. The Breeze grew stronger
towards evening and Sunday night
there was quite a wind and some
motion of the ship a mixture of
roll and pitch, which is called
scending. However it was not
great enough to prevent a sound
sleep during the whole night - and
until 8 o'clock in the morning
I saw no effort ~~at~~ made to
have religious services, and the

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an awning but they have a very gay time down there; every afternoon they start up an orchestra and dance the German waltz around and around.

Mother and Gracie never miss a meal and Grace walks her deck mile every day. It takes seven laps or circuits of the sun deck to make one mile.

I do not think a ship is a first class place

to 6

to make acquaintances. Almost everybody seems to have a preoccupied air and look very serious as they are ranged about the deck in long rows looking out over the ocean. Of course the readers are busy with their books. I have not made many acquaintances. We have such the... Captain, and also a Dr Wald, ^{a civil} ~~an~~ Engineer who is going to Exon to study guns and explosives.

I shall close this with sending you all my best love. Your loving father.

Ezra Woodruff

backward to the ⁴ beginning.

He found the boat to be well filled with passengers and among them I must say the Teutonic and Hebrew were largely represented. Grace has discovered several brides and grooms, but I have found no very distinguished people, and there maybe such on board, but I am not very clever in spotting them.

As old and experienced travellers! we were quite nonchalant in our conduct all day Thursday, occupying our chairs on the sun deck, - which is the highest except for the boat deck and looking vacantly out upon the water. In fact, we were all somewhat fatigued. Our boat goes $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots an hour, which is a good moderate speed. I had forgotten and so had Grace, how many feet made a sea mile as the Germans call it, but we found out by asking the Deck Steward and 6080 feet equals one knot. $5280 =$ one land mile



An Bord
des Dampfers

Kaiserin Auguste Victoria
den 7^{ten} August 1911

My dear daughter Mary, I think I might adopt George's style and address you both as my dearest son and daughter, as he always writes to his mother father and sister, for I know you will both read this or try to read it. I have been on board for three days and this is the Sabbath and mother and Grace have both been down to Lunch, - a feast which I have, with a strong will effort, declined to partake of, because I find that I do better when I eat only three a day. I have thought that for a long time, but have only for the last few days begun to practice it.

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We had a warm spell in New York before we embarked and, mother was so fearful of my safety that it seemed to me that I was a prisoner in the Waldorf; -at any rate my trips from the Hotel were few and short. The ladies would dash off in a cab and be gone for hours on shopping expeditions, while I was trying to keep cool and read the papers. They proved to be good providers and when we boarded the ship our minds were serene.

In truth, I have learned to travel quite light, having ~~learned~~ ^{acquired} the habit while going about from Post to Post in obedience to Army orders. And I believe that Grace and her mother both, can also move without being burdened with too much impedimenta. So we are down to two steamers, and one large trunk and as the family do not intend to buy out the magazines of Europe on this trip,

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we may have hopes of returning with the same number of pieces. If the cruel customs were not so particular however, I fear that we would have an increase of luggage.

The Kaiserin Aug. Vick. started from Hoboken, and our Taxi from the Waldorf got us there after bumping a street car and three wagons, - but with ~~no~~ very serious results. We found ourselves among the early arrivals and had two hours to watch the ~~new~~ late comers, and get settled in our new quarters. We were so pleased to get your pkg of books and letters. Grace also received a handsome basket of fruit, several boxes of candy and many steamer letters from her girl friend. One wrote a letter three yards long on a two inch roll of tape. You unrolled it reading along and at the end of the tape, you reversed it and read

being one of the few foreign dishes.
The deck stewards pass bouillon around
at about 11. am., with crackers and
Pretzels and in the afternoon they pass
tea and coffee. They have a couple
of cafes on board for the 1st Class,
and I suppose many others for the
2^d, 3^d, and Steerage.

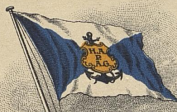
The boat ran 371 knots in the 1st 2 hours,
and 406 knots on the 2^d day ending
Saturday noon. This is slow running, I don't
know why.

We have a fine red faced, red haired
steward Captain Ruser. He is very friendly,
and has always a pleasant word for
the ladies.

The Stewards are all smiling and attentive
to ones wants, and certainly the boat
is immaculately clean

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An Bord
des Dampfers



Hamburg Amerika Linie

I expect Ezra knows the length of the knot
at least, he used to know it, and should get.
Thursday night was cold and an overcoat
was comfortable and I longed for the
Schock cap I let the boy have on his trip.

On Friday morning we found the sea
rough, but the great size of this grand
ship prevented any discomfort. There was only
a slight motion perceptible. It grew
warmer and after a rain squall for 10
minutes the seas began to smooth out we
again took to our chairs and spent hours
of "dolee far niente". I tried to read Baudouin
and Mary Cary; mother lay back in her chair

and shaded her eyes but did not sleep, while Grace sat outside, walked a while, ~~ate~~ ate candy and read. The sea was perfectly smooth, with not a ripple. It looked as though one could walk on it, it was so motionless. Porpoises occasionally gracefully leaped out of the water and the flying fishes made their little, short and frightened flights from their native element as they fled from their hungry enemies, - only to fall back into the water, - and perhaps be gobbled up. It has always surprised me to see so little evidence of life at sea, but of course the fishes are ~~hid~~ and one cannot expect them to be jumping out of the water for the amusement of the idly gazing on a passing ship's deck.

Grace bought a German conventionalist book to be ready to call for a Gefahrensträger when we reach a station. I try to encourage them by saying that I will look after the interpreter business, - that I am a famous German scholar, - but they make fun of my claims in a very flippancy way indeed, - but I intend to prove to them my ability, - for all their doubts.

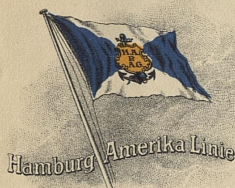
We have music near the dining room at dinner, and afterwards they play in the "Winta garden", - a large hall on the top of the ship, just over the sunn deck, or sun deck.

We retire between 10 & 11 and the Stewardess wakes Matha + Grace at 7 P.M. for a sunn enough deep sea bath, - at which Grace grumbles, but she has a nap after her bath. We breakfast at about 9 A.M., and we all rather like the table, - German Pancakes,

Continued race - I hope it may also
be seen in hearing safely into
Port -

We did not find the Steamer
letter you promised - although
Grace & friends sent quite a
basket of mail - and one large
basket of fine large fruit of
different varieties - Grace was
so delighted to get Mary's
fine package of books including
your Baudelaire - which we all
appreciate - we have not had
time to open them yet and may
find your letter in them -
I am writing on my first

An Bord
des Dampfers



den August 3. 1911

12 P. M.

Dear Sonny & Wife
We are steaming out from
the Pier - the day is ideal for
an August day - breezy but warm
with a misty atmosphere - The
Passenger list seems to be quite
full - German names predominating
The Ship's outlines are German
broad and bulky - They say it
is quite smooth in its motion
with little vibration, and not
very speedy - slow like the

to send off by the Pilot - and I
am sitting in the Deck -
and watching the views in the
Bay - We are now approaching
the Narrows & Statue Island -

While at the wharves we met
Mr & Mrs Benford from Lucia with
Mrs B - & brother took us all
around New York & Brooklyn in
this Pierce - Arrived Machine
On arrival we drove all
around Fort Hamilton - through
Coney Island via Ocean Boulevard
with Prospect Park - There were
many changes - every where -
We hardly realize that we
have embarked for Europe

over more - the time we shall
confine our wanderings to Germany
and its allied or neighboring countries

We send love in abundant
measure to you and many
and remembrance to friends
Do not forget to give Lucia
my best love

Love devoted Mother
Francis C. Goodhue



HOTEL GRAFTON

WASHINGTON, D.C.

HARRINGTON MILLS,

PROPRIETOR.

May 17th 1911

My dear daughter Mary, there is a good deal of resemblance between Washington & Louisville, - that is they they can both have warm weather at the same time. I think that in the aggregate W. has more shade than L., but I admit that the region of 1243 1st St. is idyllic and on the hottest night I fancy the gentle breezes make life tolerable on the front steps, - at least that is the way ^{it was} I remember, in the days of my boyhood some few years ago.

This afternoon Fannie and I went to hear "The man from home" by Booth Tarkington, I believe, and we both concluded that it was one of the brightest plays we had seen for a long time. I am unable to give you a synopsis of it, but it was charming.

After the theatre was over we took a drive in old dilapidated surrey with a sorry old horse, but the driver wore a top hat and was a very well informed old colored man and imparted all sorts of information of interest. The Ther. is about 88° but there is a gentle breeze blowing which renders existence possible.

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HOTEL GRAFTON
WASHINGTON, D.C.
HARRINGTON MILLS,
PROPRIETOR.

Mother and I both hope
that you will not worry
about entertaining Gracie. She
is the dearest and most easily
entertained young lady and with
proper coaxing will entertain
you and George E. very nicely.

We think of running off to
Atlantic City which is always pleasant
in June, but not for a week
or more in the future.

I send you a little check
to buy a hat to keep the sun
from spoiling your complexion.

Fannie joins me in sending our
best love to you all.

Yours affectionately
Cyril Woodruff