

Correspondence
about Mrs Lloyd

John Campbell
[Olive D. Campbell]

Geddes Smith

Henry White-

Eliza Robinson

Dr. Jonathan Day—

[Annie Brown]

(Copy)

Dirk, Ky., May 23, 1921

My dear Miss Brown:

If you were as much disappointed at not receiving this letter prior to the 20th as we were for not getting it off, we are just all the more sorry. How it happened, Mr. Francis has been so busy working on the school house, the little time he has morning, noon, and evening, he feels more like resting than concentrating such a long letter. So after the time was getting near for it to be off, he asked me to write it, saying, "You are just as familiar with the facts as I am", which I did, and when he read it, he said, "You have it a little mixed; you had better rewrite it, as she will probably want to read it to the public." So, being none the less busy than he, as the children are in school, I just did not get it off in time for the 20th, and I am sending it now in hope it may be of future use.

To begin concerning our own personal experience with Mrs. Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd, the year 1919 my husband and I had fully made up our minds we would move from this place, mainly on account of the school facilities, prior to the beginning of the school year. So about the last week of February of that year, an advertisement came out in the then "Little Star", a paper of which Mrs. Lloyd was managing editor, which read something like this: "Any community can have a graded school and community center that will try for it." After thinking and talking the matter over Mr. Francis talked it over with his brother, Willie, who had a beautiful school site, which he said he would give, so on March 1 my husband called on Mrs. Lloyd to get her terms, and she told him if the community would give the site, timber enough to make 60,000 feet of lumber, on the skids at the saw mill, she by the help of the county would complete and equip our school building, a modern 6 room building, plans approved by the government for school purposes.

So my husband returned, and we were thrilled with what he had to say, and expressions were made thus, "Too good to be true", "We'll not be like them that never tried", etc. Mr. Francis then solicited the community to see what would be given. He got the site, about five acres of land in all, timber to make the 60,000 feet of lumber, about 75 days labor, and \$340 in cash. All this was actually done, more was subscribed which was not done. He then went to see how much the county would do, so it put in \$1000 in warrants turned over to Mrs. Lloyd, who under contract was to do what I have heretofore stated.

A contract was let for our school building, and April 9 real work for our school began, when the men of our community began building a real road of about 600 feet, which included work donated, not mentioned above. Our timber commenced to be cut also, and we began trying to get someone to haul the logs to the saw mill, and we sure experienced some trials then before we got the job done, as a new railroad was starting up our creek. Every laboring man was going there as wages were high, so when we did get a hauler it cost us so much more than we had expected to pay we had to borrow \$200 on which we are now paying interest. Next the hauler rolled logs

over two of Willie's cows and killed them at the same time, for which he never got a cent, except about \$38 for which he sold the hides, too afraid of causing some offence and we would not get our logs hauled, as we were so anxious to get a real school going, thinking it depended wholly on when we fulfilled our agreement, but alas!

Sawing lumber began soon after the log hauling began, and in the meantime the foundation of our school building was being laid, and the contractors were to get their first payment of \$200 when it was finished, so Mr. Francis called on Mrs. Lloyd for it and got only a \$50 warrant, and the balance of the \$200 was gotten by going after it, a trip of about 10 miles, in \$25 and \$50 checks, but the contractors kept working on until the building was in a few days of being ready for the roofing. Called on Mrs. Lloyd for it, and she claimed she did not have the funds to buy it, so planting time was here 1920, the contractors stopped work on the building. There it stood all summer in the sun and rain. When crop time was about over they began asking for the roofing. Mrs. Lloyd's excuse was she had been sick about two months, spring 1920, and she could not get the money on the county warrants, and she had all the funds needed to raise herself. Time wore on, people were badly discouraged; school time, still no building. I kept writing to her, and finally my husband received the enclosed letter. He went to work getting what help he could to build the cottage, to be used for the teachers, for which he already had the plans, and on Saturday before August 21 he had a working, trying to complete the building, so it could be used. A picture of the workmen at dinner I am enclosing also, as we ladies to help out cooked the dinner and carried it to the building for them. After all this, she never came! We were mortified! After having complied with every request, we knew not what to do, as we in a great measure felt responsible to the people of our community, who had so generously responded with all they could do, some like my husband actually sacrificing time and money which their families needed, but like us feeling a school was so badly needed it would mean that and more in the end.

So my sister, Zurilda, was working at that time, for Mrs. Lloyd, and she influenced Miss Marsh and Miss Weston, who were working for her, also, to come and try to help us out. They came; Miss Marsh was appointed secretary of the trustees and Miss Weston employed to teach. A copy of what Mrs. Lloyd had printed after they came I am enclosing, but will you please return it with the letter I am enclosing. We may need them.

At any rate, Mr. Francis called to see Mrs. Lloyd when she did not come, and she mentioned again that she couldn't get the money on a \$500 county warrant for Carr, so he told her he might be able to get it over here. He came back, learned he could get the cash dollar for dollar. He then went back to get the warrant from Mrs. Lloyd and she told him it was in the Wayland Bank, she would have it sent that week, so we waited a week without any warrant coming. H.H. Taylor was again sent after it and told to go to the Wayland Bank for it, if she made another excuse. Prior to this she had sent over here for sizes of 75 school seats she was getting for Carr, someone had donated, so when Mr. Taylor called she told him the warrant had been sent to pay for the seats, and when the seats came there were only 20. After that the warrant she had described

as the one Taylor was sent after, was seen by Mr. Francis' brother, Willie, in Hindman in the hands of a friend, and John Caudill had gotten the money on it. You know from her letters what a smooth talker she is. We do not say she is a fraud, but we believe from the record we have of her elsewhere, and our own experience with her, she is one and had her plans well mapped out in Knott Co.

You are at liberty to show this statement to anyone you may choose, or to read it to any meeting of person you may wish, and if you wish to ask any more questions yourself, or any inquirers would like to write me personally, in regard to her, I shall be only glad to give them any information of which I know.

We are told Mrs. Lloyd denies the Knott Co. Improvement Association has been dissolved of which you personally know about.

Miss Weston informs us to look out for teachers for our grades another year, that she is not able to take care of them, and we knew it before she said so. If you chance to know of a good teacher for our higher grades, and one for the primary and kindergarten work, who would like to spend a few months or perhaps years in the mountains and probably asked to donate a part of her time, or salary, you write me and have them too, please. We do not know yet what salary the county will pay. Last year our teacher got \$85, and our Supt. told Mr. Francis a few days ago, we would be allowed an assistant this year, if we had as many as fifty in attendance, and we are quite sure we will have that many or more, as we had between 65 and 70 enrolled last year when the census was taken. Applications are supposed to be in by the 3rd Sat. in June.

We have the library room upstairs, and another room downstairs in our school building almost done.

A man from the Information Bureau visited us soon after you were here. He complimented our method of management, and checked us up a budget of \$5000 we needed another year. It looks enormous, but we have been so wonderfully blest, and helped, we believe a way will be provided for all our real needs. We are very desirous of getting our industrial work started. We do not want to be dependent on charity for all our needs. We are willing to do all, and even more than we can, and inexpressibly grateful for all the help we get.

I hope to send you the pictures I promised real soon, also to get a letter from you, and tell us if you saw Mrs. Lloyd personally. I saw Miss Marsh wrote you; hope she gave you some information. Miss Weston was connected with Mrs. Lloyd somewhere, someways more than she has ever told, and I believe she could give even more information in regard to Mrs. Lloyd than Miss Marsh if she would.

When you read what a long letter I have written you will not wonder that it was hard to find the time, I am sure, and forgive us, but you had so much of just what I have written told you by my husband, I hope it hasn't mattered so much that I did not get this letter off, when we so much wanted to. You know I am deeply inter-

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ested in our work, and I never get through talking and writing about it.

Your sincere friends,

(Signed) Mr. and Mrs. Marion M. Francis

P. S. I am registering this letter as I want you to be sure to get it.

COPY

J. WESTON ALLEN
Attorney and Counselor at Law
327 - 329 Tremont Building
Boston, Mass.

J. Weston Allen

Henry W. Packer
Eliot H. Robinson
John D. Wright

March 8, 1922

Miss Annie Brown
The Lend a Hand Society,
101 Tremont St., Boston

My dear Miss Brown:

It is with much regret that I feel myself obliged to write a letter of this nature to you, but since I have voluntarily put my hand to the plow I intend to go to the end of the furrow.

I am advised that you are in opposition - actively so - to one Mrs. Alice S.G. Lloyd, and to the work which she is carrying on in the Kentucky mountains. On my own part, I am a sincere friend and well-wisher of hers, and deeply and actively interested in her work - so much so that, to my material financial loss, I am now giving considerable time to the arrangements of her itinerary during her coming trip to Boston, and plan to give very much more while she is speaking here.

It is possible that, in our mutual estimates of her and her work, you are right and I am wrong. I think not, however. I spent six weeks at the Caney Creek Community Centre, and most of my information is self-acquired. You spent two hours and I presume that most of yours is hearsay - I do not know the source of it, but I suspect what it was, and the reason that it was given you.

I went there without knowing anything about the place, and so wholly unprejudiced, the purpose of my trip being merely to gather local "Cumberland" color for some of my writing. I stayed on because of my ever-increasing interest in the school and what it was obviously accomplishing. While there I was permitted to go, personally and exhaustively, into the history of the work, their methods, accounts, financial arrangements. I also read a mass of past correspondence - some of it oppositional and critical - and, as a result, was in a position to draw my own conclusions as to the worth-whileness of the enterprise, and so to clear up some misunderstandings which had arisen through mis-representation on the part of others, receiving therefor the thanks of my correspondents.

Miss Brown: Page 2

I say to you, frankly, that I found many things to criticise - and did criticise them, freely. Mistakes had certainly been made; some methods of which I would not have approved had been followed, but they were in all cases incident to a new work being attempted with insufficient aid - in men and money - and the result of an optimism and a vision exceeding the material power to bring about their immediate accomplishment, never those of misfeasance. One has to use the tools available, and you should know that the man or woman who never made a mistake, never did anything worthwhile. I submit it to be a fact that this, at least, cannot be honestly questioned by anyone who knows what Mrs. Lloyd has been doing - that she has been, and is, giving her all, and personally getting nothing of a financial nature out of it - nothing, in fact, but physical and mental burdens, if we forget the satisfaction which comes from "lending a hand" to others, and helping them to help themselves. I certainly know full well how very meager her living is. And if every enterprise is to be forever condemned because of mistakes in the past, what one would escape? Would yours?

The present is what counts. As a result of some of my own recommendations changes have been made, as I know. A better system of finance is in operation, with an outside bonded treasurer, whose accounts are open to anyone's inspection, for example.

Mrs. Lloyd is attempting to do something in a new way. She is a pioneer, and as such a shining mark for many who stand for the old established order of things - the self-satisfied stand patters, among whom I sincerely trust that you are not numbered. I know something of her personal history and have sympathy for the hardships in it, but my opinion regarding the Caney Creek Community Center is not colored thereby, or by her statements regarding it. I studied the work personally, and I do not believe that - as clever a woman as she unquestionably is - she pulled the wool over my eyes in regard to it.

If, however, I am in error in this I want to know it, for I am vouching for her, here. If you have any conclusive facts - not the hearday evidence of disgruntled or jealous people - which show that she is making friends for the mountain people and falsely obtaining money which is not being used for their benefit and betterment, I should very much like to know what they are, and I am quite sure that you will be willing to furnish me with them. If not, my natural conclusion must be that your opposition is the result of unsubstantiated hearsay evidence, in which case I am sure that the better judgment of "second thoughts" will cause you to refrain from broadcasting it. I am quite sure that you, especially connected as you are with a society purporting to aid worthy causes and not condemn mistakes, would not willfully injure any one or any organization. Of course I need not add that unpleasant con-

sequences frequently follow the repetition of something which is merely unsubstantiated statements - especially if they are malicious or unfounded and cause injury either to a person or to an enterprise.

Should you, however, feel sure of your facts and either be unwilling to set them forth to me, or fail to convince me that they are well founded and are sufficient to cause me to withdraw my support from this work, I urge you not to talk to others along these lines at present, for I am sure that both Mrs. Lloyd and I would prefer to have you "come right out in meeting" and state the reason for your opposition before her audiences. To facilitate you in this, I shall cheerfully supply you with a list of all her dates so that you may attend such meetings. Of course I should naturally reserve the privilege to ask you certain questions, in turn, especially regarding the information which you personally acquired during your brief visit to Caney, since Mrs. Lloyd was absent therefrom and I was your host - as attentive a one as possible, I believe.

As a writer it has been my business to study people. As a lawyer - first associated with Mr. Sherman Whipple and later with the Hon. J. Weston Allen - to investigate the truths of disputed matters and although my experience as a lawyer has made me dislike to "take sides" in contention arising between members of your sex, I think that in this matter I am not in error in either of my conclusions.

One other word. It has been my pleasure, recently, to speak frequently from the same platform with Dr. Jonathan Day, who - representing Berea College - has for the past fortnight been addressing large audiences in Boston on the problem of the Southern mountaineer. His institution, although large while Mrs. Lloyd's work is comparatively small, is in a sense her rival since both are seeking ultimate support from the same people. He told me at the Harvard Club last night, that at least fifty women had asked him about Caney Creek (with the history and methods of which he is entirely familiar) and that his answer to all of them had been, "It is doing a worthy work; if you are interested in it, give your last dollar. And read Mr. Robinson's last story, which tells its story in fiction form and is the best thing yet written on the mountain problem. There is room for many, many educational institutions in our hills, and we must all work together."

There speaks the broad-minded man - glad to help, not to hurt a rival who is also sowing the seed of knowledge of the mountaineers' need, asking no direct contributions but only friendliness and understanding for those in the whole southern Highlands. Surely a woman would not be less broad-minded.

Yours truly

(Signed) Eliot H. Robinson

Dictated by Mr. Robinson

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Lend a Hand Society

(INCORPORATED)

REV. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., Founder

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101 Tremont Street

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Directors

Telephone Main 2188

Boston 9, Mass., March 11, 1922

Dear Miss Stone:

Your letter was just handed me by the letter-man while I was thinking of you and planning to send you the enclosed copy of letter from Mr. Robertson.

First, let me answer your request of today by saying, that we will see that Mrs. Cuba Kelly is sent some pieces for a quilt. I have a few on hand now, and can easily obtain more.

I am thankful that you have been able to cheer up and encourage Miss Marsh, and am glad that she and Miss Weston are to have a month's vacation. I wonder if they will come up here. If so I shall be glad to see them and help them all I can.

Now, I must return to Mr. Robertson's letter for I was going to send you this copy and also a copy of my reply which you will find attached. It is rather a disagreeable letter, is it not? Things are coming to a head here, it seems to me, and I am trying to steer my course so as to keep out of trouble.

You will be interested to know that Dr. Jonathan C. Day, of Berea, and Miss Smith of the Fireside Industries of that college have been in Boston during the past week. You will note that Mr. Robertson quotes Dr. Day on the last page of his letter. It was gratifying to me, therefore, to have a personal word with Dr. Day following his address at the Women's City Club on March 9. I told him that Mr. Robertson had written me stating that he (Dr. Day) was endorsing the Caney Creek work, and he was much disturbed; said he was going to lunch with Mr. Robertson the next day and would talk with him about it. Last evening I wrote Dr. Day at Providence, where he was to speak, and enclosed a copy of Mr. Robertson's letter.

Miss Smith told me about her visit to you and of her knowledge of the whole story, stating, as everyone does, how careful and guarded her statements must be. While talking with her yesterday, three Wellesley girls from Ohio, and former members of a Sunday School class which Miss Smith taught, called to see her. Incidentally I asked, "Have you happened to hear anything about Caney Creek, Ky.?" The reply was that a notice had been posted in the Appointment Bureau that

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} *Directors*

Telephone Main 2188

Boston 9, Mass.,

MS/AFS #2

"Someone" was coming to tell the girls about it with the idea of presenting to them an opportunity for service in the mountains. You can easily understand how glad I was to have an opportunity to say a little and to hear Miss Smith tell the girls that she would regret very much if any of them should go to Caney Creek. I refer^{ed} to what you wrote, in your letter of February 27, of the articles in the Wellesley Quarterly, and told them of the resolution passed by their Council two years ago. They said they would carry all these messages back to Wellesley. Let us hope for good results.

I have written this morning to the National Information Bureau stating how annoyed I am by inquiries, and how unsatisfactory have been the response to inquiries from that Bureau. I have also sent a copy of Mr. Robertson's letter and my reply, adding my own opinion about the work.

I will keep you informed. With love and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Lucie Bruce Brown

Superintendent

Miss May Stone
Hindmen Settlement School
Hindmen, Knott County
Kentucky

March 11, 1922

Mr. Eliot H. Robinson
327 Tremont Building
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Robinson:

In reply to your letter of March 8 in regard to Mrs. Alice S. G. Lloyd and her work at Caney Creek, I beg to reply that I have been unable to endorse her and her methods, when inquiries have been made, on account of statements received from the Dean of Mt. Holyoke College, Judge Cabot of the Radcliffe Council, the Wellesley Alumnae Council, the National Information Bureau of New York City, and others.

Sincerely yours,

Supt.

Copy

Providence, R. I.,
March 13, 1922

My dear Miss Brown:

Upon my return here from New York I find your note with enclosed copy of Mr. Robinson's letter.

I cannot afford to be in any way mixed up in the trouble over Mrs. Lloyd. What I said to Mr. Robinson was that the Cause which Mrs. Lloyd represented was as worthy as any other. His quotation of my statement was much fuller and more liberal than my statement to him. I do not think he meant to misrepresent me, however. I talked with him at lunch Friday and made it perfectly clear that my name must be kept out of it. You can readily see that my position requires that.

Sorry I missed you on phone and hope to see you when back in Boston.

Since beginning this letter I have reread Mr. Robinson's letter. He certainly over-states my words to him. I am not familiar with the history or methods of Ganey Creek. I know it slightly only. The Cause is worthy and that's all I said to him. I have not told anyone to give their last dollar to that work.

Beres does not want a dollar that should go anywhere else. Our work is larger and very different.

Please make it clear to anyone that I do not take sides.

From Robinson's letter I should say, if you have the facts you will surely win him off his interest in Mrs. Lloyd.

Yours truly

(Signed) Jonathon Day

Copy

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
South Hadley, Massachusetts

Office of the Dean

March 14, 1922

Miss Annie Florence Brown
Lend a Hand Society
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Miss Brown:

I hardly know what to say about Mrs. Lloyd and her work at Cane Creek, Kentucky. The thing that I object to most about her perhaps, is the fact that she is constantly quoting Mount Holyoke as endorsing her work when she knows perfectly well that we do not endorse it. I wrote to her very plainly telling her how we felt about the matter, that she was giving an entirely false impression to our alumnae and to outsiders and that she had no right to get money under false pretences. She seemed very indignant and hurt at my letter and insisted that she was not doing what I knew she is doing. She also begged me to have the notice removed from our Alumnae Quarterly which was inserted asking all alumnae to inquire at the college before making contributions. I have a collection of letters which have come to me as the result of investigation on my part, and in view of all I know of the work and of her methods I cannot and do not recommend it. I had heard that the National Information Bureau did not endorse Mrs. Lloyd.

With you I regret exceedingly the hold she seems to be getting on people and the money she seems to be getting out of them when there are well known and well established centers of work that deserve our support.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Florence Furlington

Dean

Copy

March 16, 1922

Dear Mrs. Campbell:

I have been meaning to write you ever since I received your notice of the Conference of Southern Mountain Workers, which I want very much to attend, but cannot. I am tremendously interested in the programme and realize what a loss will be mine from not hearing and meeting these mountain workers.

I have been flooded with inquiries about Mrs. Lloyd and Caney Creek. Miss Annie Bridgman, your good friend I learn, and I have been consulting and were at our wits' end when yesterday I received a telephone call from Mr. Walter R. Colby of the Bureau of Information and Investigation of the Boston Chamber of Commerce. The result was a consultation here this morning with Mr. Colby, Miss Bridgman, and our good friend, Mrs. Bowles of the "Boston Transcript", and for nearly two hours we went over the situation, with what result remains to be seen.

Unfortunately, this consultation was a little late for heading off Mrs. Lloyd's opportunity for appealing to many groups in this vicinity. We still hope, however, to close the door in some places. Her speaking engagements of which I know are as follows:

- March 15, First Congregational Church, Northampton (We tried to stop this but fear our information about her speaking there came too late.)
- March 22, Durant, Inc., Huntington Hall, Boston. (Do you know of the thousands of women who are interested in this undertaking to erect a huge plant for the benefit of women and girls in the city?)
- March 24, Church of the Advent, Boston
- March 26, Laselle Seminary
- March 27, Newtonville High School Centre

We have learned also that she is going to speak at Wellesley and Smith, and at a D. A. R. meeting in Melrose. She is bringing four mountain boys with her.

I think that the National Bureau of Information has been as sensitive about giving out information about Mrs. Lloyd as have been the rest of us, fearing legal developments. Otherwise I think if they had given full information to all the inquirers we have all referred to the Bureau, Mrs. Lloyd would not have found the opportunities she has. To be sure, these speaking engagements have been

made for her by Mr. Eliot H. Robinson of whom I told you when we met in New York, you may remember. He with the "assistant manager" at Caney Creek showed me the plant. He is the author of the book entitled "Smiles" which was a ready seller and the publishers asked him to write another with the Cumberland atmosphere. I enclose to you a copy of his recent letter to me and my reply. Mr. Robinson seems to be serving as her agent.

We concluded this morning in our meeting here that he has his own reputation to maintain now, not only through endorsing Mrs. Lloyd but through his story. He seems to be as fond of misrepresentation as she, for you will see from the enclosed copy of the letter written me by Dr. Jonathan C. Day of Berea, that Mr. Robinson exaggerated Dr. Day's statement to him.

If there is anything that you can do through the Russell Sage Foundation and the Bureau of Information in New York, all the the above mentioned besides myself will be very grateful.

Hoping you are in good health and that you will be in full strength for the Conference at Knoxville, and trusting I may have a report of it? I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Annie Florence Brown

UTILITY
BOND

Copy

RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION

130 East 22D Street

New York City

March 21, 1922

Miss Annie Florence Brown
Superintendent, Lend a Hand Society
101 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.

My dear Miss Brown:

It was good to hear from you again although I am sorry you are not going to be at the Conference. I think we are going to have an unusually good meeting and a large one, for several of the denominations are taking the time for gathering together their own workers for group meetings before and after our regular sessions. Also, I should have liked the opportunity of seeing you again.

I have given your letter a great deal of thought and have talked it over with Mr. Geddes Smith of the National Information Bureau and with Mr. Glenn. Until I talked with Mr. Smith I had not realized the exact position of the Bureau. Its policy is necessarily governed by the libel law. It appears that an organization such as the Bureau is not open to libel suits if it confines its detailed confidential information to those who are subscribers. Thus, while Mr. Smith himself, made the investigation of Caney and has certain definite reactions, all that he is free to give to outsiders is the statement that the Bureau cannot endorse Mrs. Lloyd. I have not seen one of these statements but presume it is also stated that her work does not meet certain requirements laid down by the National Board in reference to such things as the auditing of books, etc. He has received a great many copies from different quarters of practically the same threatening letter which you received from Mr. Robinson and which, by the way, is certainly a "Mean" epistle. He is constantly receiving inquiries, and much pressure is being brought to bear upon him for a more general statement to the public. As things stand now, however, he is not, as I said before, free to give this and could not take it into consideration unless there should be a special reversal of their rigid policy in the light of their lawyer's opinion as to their liability under such action. He feels that where subscribers have received their information they will not be likely to support Mrs. Lloyd further and he is glad to have others referred to him for such statements as he is free to make.

As to my own personal attitude, I do not see that there is a great deal to be gained by such things as I can say, and of course, I cannot afford either to become involved in a libel suit myself or to involve the Foundation in one. You see, we cannot prove that Mrs. Lloyd is collecting money under false pretenses.

3/21/22

My own feeling about her, as you know, has been that she is a fanatic who believes that the means justify the end. Her newspaper training has merely increased her natural tendency to exaggerate and distort in order to make her affect. I even doubt if she realizes that she is unethical, although she has been told so repeatedly in my presence. The ethics class which I attended certainly opened my eyes to her's and Miss Buchanan's point of view. I think she really believes that she is a remarkable person (and I'll have to grant that she is a clever one), that she has an unique idea, that she is far ahead of the rest of us, that we do not appreciate her and are consequently jealous of her. In other words I think she is one of those people who are really warped in their nature so that they cannot see things straight. I have never believed that she was soliciting money simply to fill her own pocket, and as I take it, this would be the only real ground on which she could be prosecuted.

I feel quite unhappy about the whole matter. I hate to be in a position of constantly crying down the work of one lone woman who has practically every organization against her and who is physically crippled at that. If I had one big definite charge to make against her I should feel less sensitive about it, but when what I have to say involves merely a succession of charges as to petty dishonesties, personalities and immoralities, it makes me feel like a malicious gossip (no reference here to Mr. O'Brien intended). I want you to understand that I do not hesitate to talk this frankly with whoever comes to me and I have on special occasions in the past written letters which were not always as discreet as they might have been. However, if there is to be anything in them more than that, it would mean that all the forces that have any information about her would have to stand together and make a regular campaign against her. Are you ready to do that? I do not believe I am or can be even should I wish to.

She has succeeded in antagonizing a great many prominent people in Knott County. Even Elizabeth of the Mountains feels very bitterly against her now, especially since her marriage was so exploited. In the course of time she is going to wear herself out. Is it not better on the whole to let this come about more or less naturally with such quiet influence as we can use rather than put her in a position of a martyr? It sometimes seems as if the public were only too anxious to be deceived and I do not suppose we can hope to undeceive them all. I will be glad to have your feeling about it and will certainly try to be open-minded in regard to the whole situation. I am sure the National Information Bureau will also give the matter very careful consideration and whatever action they take will be governed by what they feel is the best policy in view of all the elements of the situation.

Please regard this letter as semi-confidential although of course, I have no objection to your using it where you think it will help. When you come into New York, I hope you will not fail to drop in and see me.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Olive D. Campbell

Copy

RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION

130 East 22D Street

New York City

March 23, 1922

Miss Annie Brown
Lend a Hand Society
101 Tremont Street
Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Miss Brown:

I thought you might be interested to know that it is going to be possible for the National Information Bureau to send to non-subscribers a more definite statement that they have done previously in regard to Caney Creek. While this statement necessarily cannot go into detail, I think it ought to discourage any intelligent person from investing in the enterprise. I believe this will be the best way of handling the matter and I shall continue to refer anybody who asks me, to them.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Olive D. Campbell

Copy

The National Information Bureau, Inc.

One Madison Avenue, New York. March 28, 1922

Reverend Alfred V. Bliss,
American Missionary Association,
14 Beacon Street.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Bliss: In reply to your inquiry of March 28th.

Mrs. Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd, Resident Executive of the Caney Creek Community Center, applied to the National Information Bureau Incorporated, for the endorsement of that Center, in 1919. The Bureau has made an extensive investigation of its work, including not only correspondence with Mrs. Lloyd and with other persons familiar with the Center, but also a personal inspection of the Center by a staff member in April 1921, and numerous interviews with former and present officers and members of the organization.

The Center has never met the Bureau's technical requirements for endorsement and is not now endorsed. At the time of the Bureau's inspection, two sets of books relating to Mrs. Lloyd's work, were kept, one, for the Caney Creek Community Center, was kept by her mother, and ^{the} other was kept by the post master at Hindman, Kentucky. Although the Center was said to be a part of the Association the two sets of books had not been reconciled and the books kept by Mrs. Lloyd's mother had not been balanced for a period of fifteen months.

No financial accounting of any sort has ever been furnished by the Caney Creek Community Center to the Bureau. Mrs. Lloyd has promised at different times to have her books audited in accordance with the Bureau's standards, but so far as we know has never done so. Accordingly, in a number of cases the Bureau has been unable to verify claims made by the Center as to the extent or the character of its work.

Yours very truly,

Signed) Geddes Smith, Acting Director

Letters from
Knox County
People

H. H. Smith
Adam Campbell
W. J. Francis

THE NATIONAL INFORMATION BUREAU

One Madison Avenue, N.Y.

February 23, 1923

Miss Annie Florence Brown,
Lend a Hand Society,
101 Tremont St.,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Miss Brown:

I have your letter of February 21, asking about the present status of our relations with the Caney Creek Community Center.

Since you were in the office in September, Mrs Lloyd has supplied us with a full budget and has had a new system of bookkeeping installed by a certified public accountant who will audit the accounts at the close of the fiscal year in May. In other words, our technical requirements in regard to finances have been practically complied with. Consideration of endorsement has been discussed by the Board of Directors of the Bureau, but the sense of the Board was that a new inspection on the ground should be made before formal action could be taken.

I will be glad to notify you when this has been done and of the results.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Winifred C. Putnam,

Assistant Director

COPY

THE NATIONAL INFORMATION BUREAU, Inc.

Confidential.

February 14, 1924

Miss Sarah N. Whitman,
1020 South Street,
Roslindale, Mass.

My dear Miss Whitman:-

Your letter of February 9th asking for information on the Caney Creek Community Center has been received. Although as a rule we may not send our detailed confidential reports outside of the Bureau's membership, I am glad to send you the following statement.

We have followed the work of the Caney Creek Community Center for some three years and are quite familiar with all the criticisms. Two years ago, after an inspection by a staff member of the Bureau, endorsement was emphatically refused. At that time the Center did not meet our standards of financial accounting or budgeting of expenditures, and many of the claims of accomplishment appeared to be unfounded. However, during the past year there has been a decided change. A proper system of bookkeeping has been installed, the accounts of the Center are audited by a certified public accountant, a budget system has been adopted and other standards of this Bureau met. We also find that a program has been developed which meets with the approval of the Kentucky State and County educational authorities. The Center, as you probably know, is particularly interested in the improvement and development of the small public schools throughout the southern mountains and is working toward this end.

Mrs. Lloyd's publicity and many of her methods have naturally aroused a great deal of antagonism, and in view of the past record, we are keeping in close touch with the Center and constantly advising the executives. A number of our recommendations have already been acted upon. We cannot, of course, guarantee that the work will be carried out along the lines now planned, and it is possible that there will still be basis for criticism in certain other publicity matter. Whenever such points are brought to our attention, we take it up promptly with Mrs. Lloyd. Moreover there is a closer check on the work through cooperation with the Department of Education of Kentucky and the increase in personnel at the Center since last spring. This Bureau feels that the Caney Creek Community Center has an interesting new method of attacking old problems and we hope that through close supervision the work may be operated along more substantial lines.

We will be glad to hear of any specific criticisms that come to your attention. We do not continue endorsement of an organization which fails to live up to its agreements with us.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Winifred C. Putnam
R.

Assistant Director.

THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

14 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

March 24, 1923.

Dear Friend:

We have received several letters at our office inquiring about the work of Mrs. Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd among the mountaineers at Caney Creek Community Center, Pippa Pass, Ky. She is now visiting a number of places in New England, attended by several mountaineer boys who tell the story of the mountain people and the work at Caney Creek. I am taking the liberty of sending this letter to a number of ministers, thinking that they will be glad of the information. We are much interested in the mountaineers. We have a school for them at Pleasant Hill, Tenn. We want them to have the best possible opportunities in Christian education. They are a most worthy and interesting people. We gladly endorse several mountaineer schools other than our own because we know them to be worthy of support. There is a far greater need of Christian work among these people than any one or even several organizations can at present meet.

We have endeavored to learn what we can about this work at Caney Creek. We have a large amount of information about it, some for general use and some confidential. This information raises serious questions regarding Mrs. Lloyd and her methods. The evidence is cumulative, pointing to unwise or deficient methods, low educational standards, careless administration, promises that cannot be fulfilled. For this reason we cannot endorse this work and we advise our friends not to put their money into it. The Secretary of a prominent organization in Boston whose home was in Kentucky, has letters from friends in Kentucky, every one of whom advises against putting any money into this work. A leading Boston newspaper has refused to give this school any publicity. If you care to know the attitude of the Massachusetts colleges whose names are used in connection with the Caney Creek work, you might be interested in writing the Deans of these colleges. We have information from them in our office in which they repudiate the use of the names of their colleges in this work.

I am just sending out a letter endorsing the work among the mountaineers at a certain school in Georgia, not in any way connected with the American Missionary Association. There are several equally good mountaineer schools in Kentucky. Our own mountaineer school at Pleasant Hill is worthy of the best you can do for it and the most you can give to it. It is just now in urgent need of money to rebuild the boys' dormitory that was burned to the ground in December, 1921. This school is our own educational child and to it we owe our first and finest loyalty. The first school by the American Missionary Association among the mountaineers was opened in 1875 at Williamsburgh, Ky., and Pleasant Hill was opened about ten years later. I am writing this letter in justice both to our own Association and also in justice to people in the north who wish their money to go into wise and worthy investments. I should be glad to see you in the office and talk more freely about this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Alfred V. Bliss. *District Secretary, A.M.A.*

Please return

(Copy)

Commonwealth of Kentucky-Department of Education
Frankfort, Ky.

George Colvin, Supt.

March 5 1923

Miss Annie Florence Brown
Lend-a-Hand Society
Boston, Mass.

My dear Miss Brown,

Permit me to advise you that the promise made by Superintendent Taylor to the teachers in Knott County that a full year's credit would be given for three months' work has been withdrawn. Any high school that would make such a promise either confesses ignorance of all high school standards or deliberately attempts to deceive.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) Geo. Colvin

State Superintendent.

(copy)

David F. Hay
Registrar

Cornell University
Office of the Registrar
Ithaca, N. Y.

April 9, 1923.

Rev. Alfred V. Bliss,
606 Congregational House,
14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Bliss:

In reply to your inquiry of March 30th I beg to say that our records do not show that the Caney Creek Center School has been granted the privilege of certifying students for admission to the Freshman class.

C/ES

Yours very truly,

David S. Hay.

*Make 5 copies
note*

Copy

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Office of Secretary of State
Frankfort

April 10 1923

Miss Annie F. Brown,
101 Tremont St.
Boston 9, Mass.
Dear Madam,

I have your letter of April 2 inquiring if Caney Creek Community Center is incorporated under the laws of Kentucky.

Referring to the records here, I find that Caney Creek Community Center is a corporation duly organized under the laws of Kentucky. It was incorporated August 11, 1922.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Fred A. Vaughan
Secretary of State.

REV. CHRISTOPHER R. ELIOT,
President
FRANKLIN P. DALY }
MISS F. H. HUNNEMAN } *Vice*
JAMES D. GORDON, } *Presidents*
MISS ANNIE FLORENCE BROWN, }
Treasurer
Superintendent

FRANK W. REMICK }
JOHN F. MOORS } *Trustees*
JAMES A. NOWELL }

Lend a Hand Society

(INCORPORATED)

REV. EDWARD E. HALE, D.D., Founder

LEND a HAND OFFICE

101 Tremont Street

CHRISTOPHER R. ELIOT
FRANKLIN P. DALY
MISS F. H. HUNNEMAN
JAMES D. GORDON
MRS. WM. T. FOSTER
HENRY R. SCOTT
MRS. ALONZO E. LOCKE
MISS BLANCHE MERRITT
MRS. J. ALFRED MITCHELL
MISS CAROLINE L. FREEMAN
FRANK B. THAYER

Directors

Telephone Main 2188

Boston 9, Mass., March 26, 1923

Dear Miss Stone:

I was glad to hear from you from Louisville, and to know that you were going to Frankfort where I have already sent you copy of one letter wanted. I shall be glad to have you acknowledge it that I may know if you are still in Frankfort and how long you are to be there. I wonder if you saw Mrs. Zande at the hospital in Louisville, and if you found her and baby recuperating well. I am anxious to hear.

It was a great pity your cold developed in Anthony and made you so miserable. On the other hand, it was a good thing that you reached a friends home where you could have a doctor and get relieved quickly. It was a very hard journey for you from Hindman to New Hampshire, and such a sad one. I was glad to know that you were improving and hope by this time you are your own well and cheery self again.

I am enclosing another copy of State Superintendent Colvin's letter, lest the other copy has not reached you, and knowing, too, that you will like to have another copy. I am writing to Secretary of the State inquiring about incorporation and will let you know what the reply is.

The clippings sent from papers in Cleveland were forwarded to Mrs. Budlong as requested. The same matter, even to the pictures of the boys on mule-back, was in Boston and Lynn papers and I presume in many others.

The other day Miss Bridgman and I called at the Y.W.C.A. on Beacon Street to inquire about Mrs. Lloyd's meeting to be held there tonight. The result was a conference of Mrs. Wolfe, the new Massachusetts secretary of the Y. W. C.A., Dr. Bliss of the Congregational house, Mrs. Bowles of the "Transcript", and I. Mrs Wolfe will report about the meeting tonight, and will also get further information from Kentucky friends (where she lived for 20 years in Louisville, as you may know) and who have already warned her about Caney Creek.

Finding that Mrs. Lloyd was going to speak to the Unitarian Church School in Winchester on Sunday noon, March 25, I spoke to the national Secretary of the Women's Alliance, who has been already informed about Caney Creek Community Center, and she said she would speak to one of the Alliance workers and see that she was on hand at the meeting, so we shall have a report on that probably; at any rate there will be no opportunity given for collecting money.

Many thanks for the excellent snapshots of the grave yards in which we were so interested when on our mountain travels. I am very glad to have them.

Since this letter was started, Saturday evening and Sunday have intervened, and you will like to know the pleasure I have had in meeting Miss Thorne, the Principal of the Calhoun school. I met her at a friend's on Saturday evening, and she invited me to dine with her at the Bellevue Sunday evening, the result being that I spent the entire evening with her. She is a remarkable woman, and, as you know, has accomplished in the last thirty years as wonderful a work for the negroes in Alabama as you have in Hindman for the mountain whites. We spoke of you and she expressed her warm appreciation of your ability and love for your people. I presume you know about her handicap which she developed about six years ago. It is a spinal trouble, and she is really a very much crippled woman with a will and spirit, however, which masters her body, and she is a marvel to all her doctors. I should like to tell you more about her when we next meet. I have always wanted to meet her and see her school, you know. I came very near going there two years ago, but was switched from Alabama to the Knoxville Conference and our Sandy Ridge trip, etc. Next time I go South I shall go from Atlanta to Alabama.

In this afternoon's mail, I have a letter from Miss Margaret Beard of Montgomery, telling me what Miss Thorne told me last night, that the Montgomery Industrial School with its equipment was completely burned to the ground. She writes that the teacher's home was partially burned, the roof entirely, and greatly damaged by water. She says no one was responsible, as the fire started in the high roof. Only half the cost of the buildings is covered by insurance, so that at least \$15,000 in addition will be needed. One more appeal for help comes from the Southland with this destructive fire.

Please let me know when you change your address from Frankfort, so that I may reach you as quickly as possible in case I have some news you will like.

I was thinking, when I spoke of Miss Thorne of her telling me last evening that she was on the same floor with Mrs. Lloyd and her mountain boys and that she had seen them in the dining room, and she expected that I might meet them there. They did not appear, and I find from the itinerary that they were in Haverhill last evening. They must have been a sleepy lot of little chaps when they did reach there, for it was 10.15 when I left Miss Thorne, and they had not come in.

My love to you,

Faithfully yours,

Annice Paruce Brown

Executive Secretary

Copy

National Information Bureau
June 7 1923

Miss Annie Florence Brown
Lend a Hand Society
101 Tremont St.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Miss Brown:

We have your letter of June 5th expressing surprise at our endorsement of Caney Creek in view of conditions as you found them in 1921. Perhaps you will remember, however, that when we talked last autumn, I told you that there had been changes in the business management of the Center and that it had met ~~the~~ technical standards. Endorsement consideration was held over until a first-hand inspection could be made. I went down there in May and was very favorably impressed with the work being done. It appears to be established on a sound basis and has reached out into some nine sections. In the course of my investigation, I talked with the local board of directors of the public schools with which Caney Creek is cooperating. We have also found that the Department of Education of the State of Kentucky is interested in the work and is giving Mrs. Lloyd its co-operation. As you probably know, the principal effort of the Center at the present time, is toward helping build up the little public schools in that section of the country.

If you are in New York at any time, I would be glad to go into the whole matter more fully. In the meantime, if there is any specific question, please do not hesitate to call upon us again. The letter which you mentioned was not enclosed. May I say, however, that a great deal may happen in two years time and it seems obviously unfair to judge any work on information as old as that.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Winifred C. Putnam
Assistant Director