

Youth group?

Washington, D.C.
Jan. 20 1926

Dear Miss Roberts:

Your letter enclosing the little story which Helen wrote for you at Green Acre this summer was received. I have just recently returned from a business trip to Florida incidently meeting a few of the friends there hence the delay in replying to your letter.

Helen chose to rewrite her story revising both its title and contents. I have had no hand in either its composition or contents. I am returning both the old and new story and you may use any one of them in whatever way it may seem advisable. Helen in progressing quite satisfactory in her school and she loves it very much.

Helen as well as Mrs. C and myself are quite well and find very much to make us happy.

We all join our Bahá'í Greetings
J. F. Clevenger

¹ Email correspondence from Edward Sevcik, Archivist U.S. National Bahá'í Archives, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, Ill. 60201, archives@usbnc.org with subject line "RE: the Clevenger family", to Steven Kolins, dated September 2, 2021

2: 1927_NSA-Clevenger correspondence²

3927-5th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Apr. 3, 1927

Dear Mr. Holly:-

I am writing to ~~make~~ request a conference with you at my home while you are in Washington during the coming. As you may be aware I have been working on a Bahai map (Persia Arabia Turkey etc) for some time and it is regarding this matter of which I wish to discuss. I can meet where you may suggest. and take you to my home and return you where you might want to go. This would require approximately one hour of your time. Anytime after 5 P.M. would be most convenient for me.

Awaiting your convenience

I am yours in Bahai Love
J. F. Clevenger

² Email correspondence from Edward Sevcik, Archivist U.S. National Bahá'í Archives, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, Ill. 60201, archives@usbnc.org with subject line "RE: the Clevenger family", to Steven Kolins, dated September 2, 2021

File: Bahai's Map

3927 - 5th St. N.W.
Washington D.C.

Washington, D. C.,

April 12, 1927.

Mr. Horace Holly,
48 West 10th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Bahai Brother:

In accordance with our conversation, I am sending you two prints of my Bahai map and the original and one carbon copy of my letter to Shoghi Effendi, with the request that you forward the letter, together with one print of the map, to him. The carbon copy and the other print are for the records of the National Spiritual Assembly.

Your Bahai Brother,

J. F. Cleveland

Enclosures:

Letter and 1 carbon copy.
2 prints of map.

Washington, D. C.,

April 12, 1927.

Shoghi Effendi,

Haifa, Palestine.

Dear Bahai Brother:

I am writing to inform you of my efforts in making a map of an important, although little-known, section of the Bahai world. It is my hope that this map may perchance be a means of hastening the cause of Baha'ullah. I am therefore requesting your advice and assistance.

For some time I have felt the need for more definite information regarding the locations of many places referred to in the Bahai literature, and have been led to believe that this need has been shared by many American believers. A search in the libraries in Washington for a map giving this information was hardly available, hence I set about making a suitable one. The results to date are indicated in the enclosed print, which is a poor reproduction of the original map (approximately 30 x 30 inches). An effort was made to include all towns and places of universal interest and to indicate the principle movements of the Bab and Baha'ullah. It has also occurred to me that it might be desirable to include all towns and cities of the given region in which there is a Bahai assembly. This information, however, is not available to me, hence it would be necessary for me to obtain it from other sources.

My present plan is to make a map approximately six feet square, in which the details may be made more accurate, the lettering more consistent, the names of places with approved spelling, and to include all the important details consistent with the character of the work.

These general details will give you some idea of my conception of this work, and I shall be very happy to receive any suggestions which you may wish to make.

Your Bahai Brother,

Enclosure:

Print of map.

May 12, 1927.

Mr. J. F. Clevenger,
3927 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Baha'i brother:

Miss Hopper has no doubt told you that your map was on view during the Convention sessions. I turned it over to Mr. Gregory, when he was elected Convention secretary, and asked him to announce it to the delegates.

Enclosed is the previous correspondence we have had on this subject. As I wrote you before, the matter is now in the hands of Shoghi Effendi and as soon as word has been received from him the National Assembly will cooperate fully along the lines of his recommendations.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary.

Washington, D. C.
October 13, 1927.

Mr. Horace Holly,
48 W. 10th St,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Holly-

Since I saw you at Greenacre this summer I have been giving all the time that I could spare to the working out the details of my map showing the travels of the BAB and BAHA'U'LLAH. As you are aware I have sought suggestions from every source available to me. I am happy to report reasonably satisfactory progress.

The map is now practically finished and is considered suitable for line reproduction.

As a result of certain suggestions I have changed the relative dimensions of this map. It is now 5 1/2 X 7 feet instead of 5 1/2 X 5 1/2 feet. It is my opinion that a cut approximately 9 X 11 inches would be satisfactory for this map. I would be pleased to obtain a number of these printed maps for my use. Let me know what you would have me do now.

have cut made in Wash. to size of Star

As I indicated to you in Greenacre I stopped approximately 4 hours in Cincinnati between trains on my way to St. Louis in August and spent this time with Mr. B. R. Taylor and talked over matters of the cause in general and particularly in Cincinnati. I learned that apparently no one there was receiving the News Letter or the Star of the West. I gave Mr. Taylor two or three of my recent copies of the News Letter and told him that I would request you to send him say 6 copies of the current News Letters for distribution to the friends in Cincinnati. He said he would see that they were distributed. Address: Mr. B. R. Taylor, The Central Trust Co. P. O. Box ~~887~~ 889, Cincinnati, Ohio.

I gave Mr. Taylor the only copy of News Letter No. 18 which I had and we apparently have no extra copies here. If available I should be pleased to receive this missing number for my information and files.

Yours for the Cause of BAHA'U'LLAH,

J. F. Blevenger
3927-5th St. N.W.

October 17, 1927

Mr. J. F. Clevenger,
2927 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clevenger:

I am very happy to learn from your letter of the 13th that your map is now practically finished and that you consider it suitable for reproduction by line cut.

I note your opinion that the cut should measure approximately 9 x 11 inches. In view of the fact that we want to reproduce this map in the Baha'i Year Book, I suggest that the cut be made to the full size of the Star of the West page, which is the same page size as the Year Book. By full page size I do not of course mean the size of the paper, but what is called the type page, or the amount of space covered with type. I hope that this can be done without making the map too small.

Thanks very much for the information about your visit to Cincinnati. During the last few weeks I have already arranged to supply the Cincinnati friends with News Letters through Miss Hilda Stauss.

An extra copy of News Letter #18 is enclosed.

Please send me a proof of the plate as soon as it is made.

Faithfully yours,

3927 5th St. N. W.
Washington, D. C.
December, 4, 1927.

Mr. Horace Holly
129 East 10th St.
New York City.

My dear Mr. Holly:-

I have just received another bill from the National Engraving Co. of \$15.00 for the cut which I had made of my map showing the travels of the Bab and Baha'u'llah. As you know this cut has been forwarded to Mr. Windust in Chicago. I supposed this cut would be paid for by the funds for the Year Book. Kindly let me know the status of this matter.

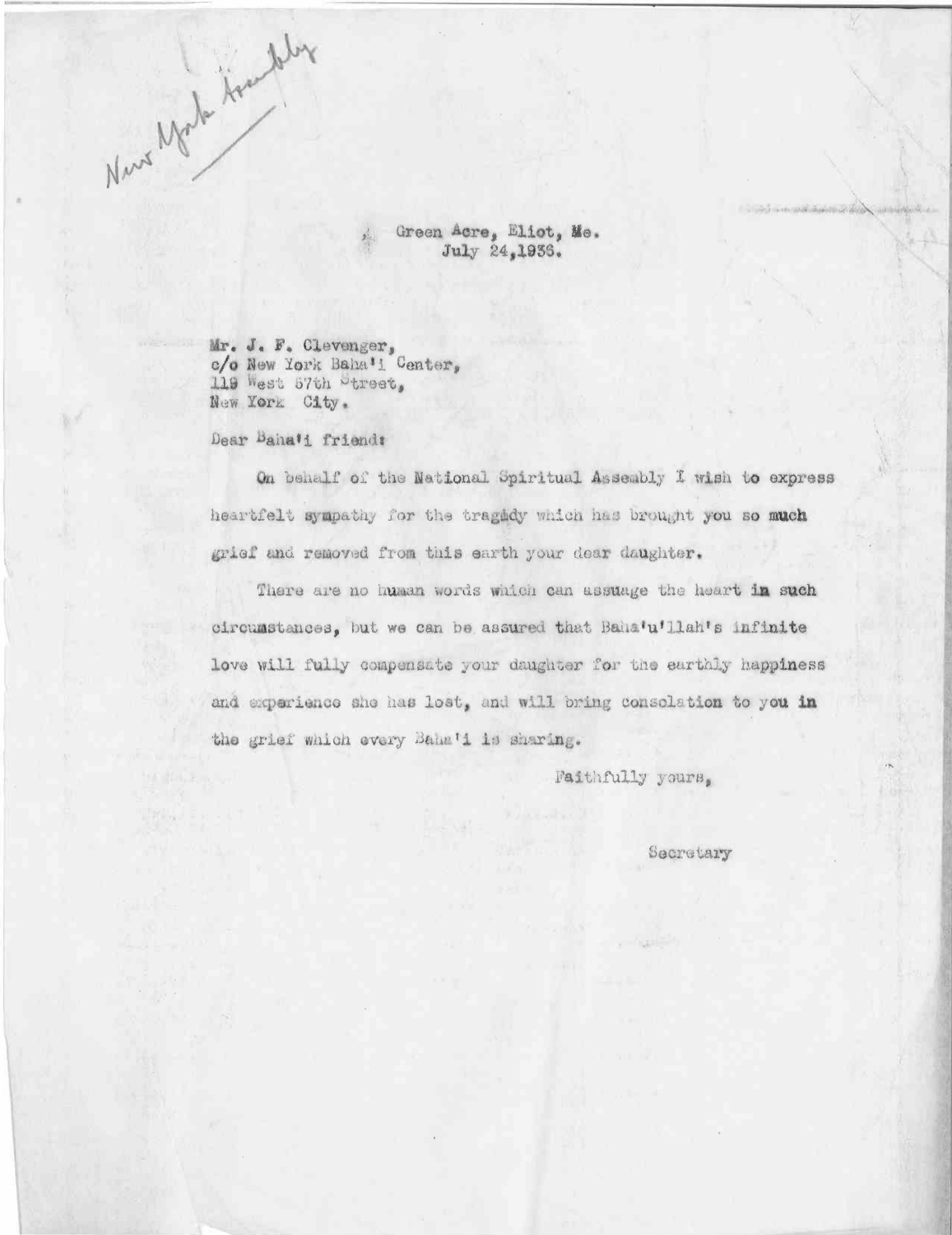
I sent nine copies of this map to Shoghi Effendi to be used as he wishes. I also returned the map which was sent to me. I am now contemplating maps showing the travels of Abdul Baha in Europe and America similar in conception to the one which I have just completed. I have already expressed this intention in my letter to Shoghi Effendi and have requested his advise in the matter. It is my hope that I may be granted this joy.

Very sincerely yours in his Service,

J. F. Clevenger
J. F. Clevenger

I am enclosing the statement received

3: NSA to Clevengers³



³ Email correspondence from Edward Sevcik, Archivist U.S. National Bahá'í Archives, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, Ill. 60201, archives@usbnc.org with subject line "RE: the Clevenger family", to Steven Kolins, dated September 2, 2021



⁴ Thanks to Helia Hock, for the Secretary of the Washington DC Spiritual Assembly, secretariat@dcbahai.org emailed to Steven Kolins, July 5, 2021, subject line "Re: Clevenger family"

THE RIDDLE OF THE

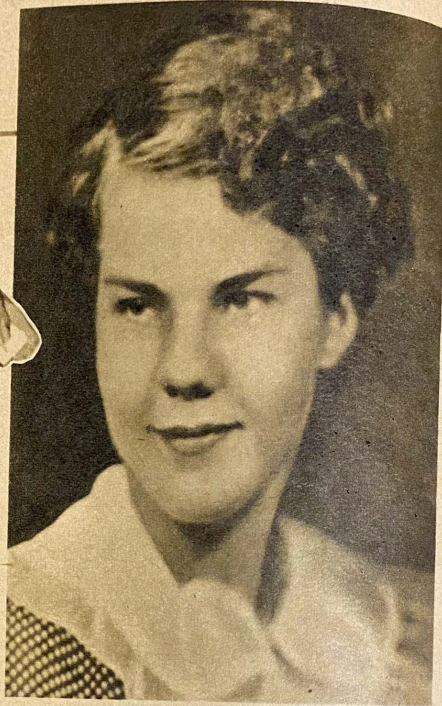
By

Deputy Sheriff Tom K. Brown
Buncombe County, North Carolina
AS TOLD TO DOUGLAS R. ELLER



GIANT

The low-swinging, ape-like hands of this Negro were reddened with blood in the commission of a crime unparalleled in the annals of the South.



STEALTHY KILLER'S HELPLESS PREY

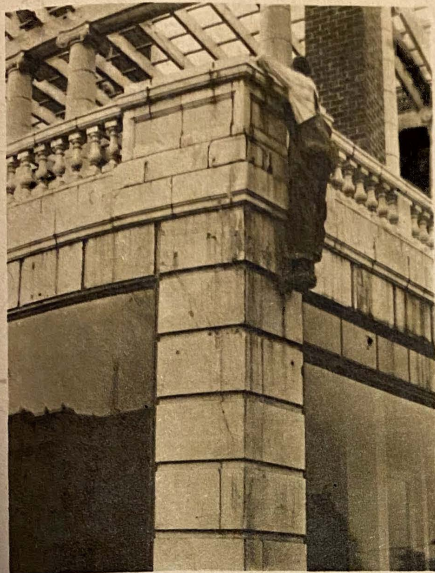
One A.M., and lovely Helen Clewenger, eighteen-year-old New York University honor student, finished an entry in her diary—a diary forever closed when death entered her door.

OMINOUS, bass-throated thunder crashed and reverberated over the Big Smoky Mountains. Black storm clouds swept low across the sleeping resort city of Asheville, North Carolina, almost touching the top of the fashionable and impressive Battery Park Hotel. And within the building, moving with velvet-footed stealth, a huge, sinister figure in a black raincoat crept along the thickly carpeted second floor hallway.

Tiny pilot lights glowed high up against the ceiling, their soft incandescence transforming the rows of shadowed doorways into pits of Stygian blackness. Downstairs in the lobby, the clock over the clerk's desk showed the hour to be well past midnight.

Most of the guests in the hotel were asleep, but just off that

SLAIN CO-ED



DRAMA

Left: The slayer shows how he scaled down the hotel porch after the murder. Right: Deputy Sheriff Tom K. Brown, co-author of this story.



SOLVING NORTH CAROLINA'S BAFFLING MURDER ENIGMA— THE HELEN CLEVINGER CASE

second floor hall, in room 224, a pretty, eighteen-year-old girl in green silk pajamas had finished a long entry in her diary and was sitting on the edge of her bed. She yawned sleepily—then her body tensed and the yawn fled.

The door to her room was slowly opening!

Frozen with terror, she sprang to her feet and started toward the door, only to be blocked by a tall, weird figure who slipped inside with cat-like quietness. Gropping hands reached toward her....

"What do you want?" she gasped. "Get out, or—or I'll scream!"

The round, hard muzzle of a gun was jammed against her chest. She shrieked a shrill, frightened cry that rose to a high note of utter horror. There came a sharp report, muffled by the pealing thunder of the storm outside, and then two cruel, hacking blows. The girl in the green silk pajamas sank to her knees, moaning.

Like a panther on the kill, the figure leaped past her sagging body and fumbled frantically with the small bedlamp. In a twinkling the room was plunged in darkness. Back came the intruder as the stricken girl tried to arise. Twice again his heavy, cruel hand rose and fell. Then all was quiet again in Battery Park Hotel.

WHEN Professor W. L. Clevenger, of North Carolina State College at Raleigh, tapped on the door of the room occupied by his niece, Miss Helen Clevenger, eighteen-year-old Staten Island, New York, girl, shortly before 8:30 o'clock on Thursday morning, July 16, 1936, he received no response.

"Helen!" he called anxiously.

Still no reply. He seized the knob and was astonished when the unlocked door swung open. Then his gaze fell upon the body of the girl, twisted grotesquely on the floor at his feet.

Professor Clevenger staggered back, horror-stricken. He looked wildly up and down the hall for help. He saw Harry

Latsch, the house carpenter, stroll into the corridor.

Finding his voice with difficulty, Clevenger managed to gasp: "Come see what they have done to her!"

Latsch heeded the urgency in the professor's voice. A moment later he too backed out of the room, face blanched by the thing he had seen within. Closing the door, he leaped across the hall to a vacant room and called the assistant manager, Ray McComas. McComas in turn called P. H. Branch, the manager.

It was almost ten o'clock, or approximately an hour and a half later, when the hotel management telephoned the sheriff's department, and Deputy Sheriff Leet Sluder and I answered the call. It was afterward explained that the management had been trying to reach the coroner during the interval.

When we got to the hotel we met those in charge as we left the elevator on the second floor.

"Who is it?" I asked.

"Helen Clevenger," someone answered. "She's in room 224."

"Who found her?"

"Her uncle, Professor Clevenger."

"Where is he?"

"Waiting in his room."

I nodded to Deputy Sluder. "You go stay with him," I said. "I want to have a look at the room before I talk to him."

As I reached the door of room 224, I noticed there was a key in the lock. Manager Branch took it out and said, "Is this yours?"

I didn't have the slightest idea who the key belonged to, but I thought that its ownership might prove to be an important link later, so I promptly said yes, and took the key.

When I pushed the door open, Miss Clevenger was lying on her back with her feet doubled back under her as if she had been kneeling—as if she had been begging mercy of a merciless fiend. Her face was bloody and there were several deep wounds on the left side of her cheek between the eye and the chin. On

5: Joseph Clevenger Historical Record Card⁵

BAHÁ'Í HISTORICAL RECORD

1. Clevenger Joseph F. Name of individual believer 2. Reported through Spiritual Assembly New York City

3. Address 93 Howton Ave., Great Kills, S.I. N.Y. Number Street City State

4. Birthplace Sidney, O. Birthdate Nov. 30, 1874

5. Naturalization (if foreign born) _____ City and State Date

6. National origin English (Whether of English or other stock) 7. Race Caucasian

8. Color White 9. Sex M 10. Married? yes July 1902 Date

11. Children or dependents Helen Minor Adult Adopted

12. Religious origin (religion before becoming a Bahá'í) Protestant

13. Date of acceptance of the Bahá'í Faith 1916

A. As isolated believer _____ B. As member of Bahá'í group _____ C. As member of Bahá'í Community

14. Place of acceptance of Bahá'í Faith Washington, D.C. [SEE OVER]

15. Date of enrollment in present Bahá'í community (No. 2) 1928

A. By transfer from previous community Washington B. By enrollment as Bahá'í for first time _____

C. Subsequent transfers (leave blank) _____

16. General information you would like to have preserved in this historical record (about Bahá'í services, connection with the Cause in early days, special talents, etc.)


Member of Washington assembly 1926 to July 1928
Made map outlining travels of the Bab and Bahá'u'lláh

(Additional notes may be attached to this card)

17. Additional information (do not fill in)

18. Photograph

(If possible, please attach photograph to this record. Write name and date the picture was taken on back of photograph.)



19. Signature

J. F. Clevenger

⁵ Email correspondence from Edward Sevcik, Archivist U.S. National Bahá'í Archives, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, Ill. 60201, archives@usbnc.org with subject line "RE: Local Baha'i Community History Questionnaires", to Steven Kolins, dated October 15, 2022