

Kingscote's Coming of Age

A Sentimental Journey

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February 24, 2003**

Table of Contents

I.	Background of the King Family of Newport, Rhode Island.....	1-6
	• The Doctors David King	
	• Edward and William Henry King and the China Trade	
	• David King, Jr. and the China Trade	
II.	David King, Jr. and Ella Louisa Rives: Marriage and Family.....	7-21
	• David King, Jr. Diary entries 1874 -1875	
	• David King, Jr. Family Lifestyle 1882-1894	
	• Composite Representative Year	
	• Life in Washington DC	
III.	Kingscote and Summer Seasons in Newport, Rhode Island.....	22-30
	• Overview of the Summer Season at Kingscote; 1885 Diary Entries	
IV.	Kingscote: A Woman’s Domain 1896-1916.....	31-41
V.	Addendum: Servants at Kingscote.....	42-46
VI.	Bibliography.....	47-52
Exhibits:		
A.	Family Genealogy.....	53
B.	Letters of David King, Jr. from China.....	54-67
C.	Letters of Ella Rives King to Gwendolen King Armstrong.....	68-86
D.	Letters of Gwendolen King to Ella Rives King.....	87-128

I. BACKGROUND OF THE KING FAMILY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

In 1799 a Dr. David King of Raynham, Massachusetts settled in Newport where he established a medical practice. He gained renowned as the first doctor in Rhode Island to administer a vaccine to Newporter Walter Cornell in October of 1800 despite much local skepticism. Dr King was an early sponsor of the Rhode Island Medical Society and went on to hold the offices of vice-president and president of that organization. A forward thinking spirit and independence of mind soon earned him respect and esteem locally. In Newport he was known for "...his pride to advance those enterprises which might benefit the town in which he lived; and he regarded it with an attachment which, in general, is appropriated only to the spot of one's birth."¹ In particular the Redwood Library benefited from his service as a long time director and eventually president. Dr. King's union with Anne Gordon of Plainfield, Connecticut in 1806 produced a family of five, George Gordon, Ann, David, Jr., Edward and William Henry.² George Gordon distinguished himself as a representative of Newport in the State General Assembly and later as a Rhode Island representative in the United States Congress from 1849 to 1853.

Sons Edward and William Henry went on to amass fortunes in the China trade as partners in the house of Russell and Company and subsequently Edward invested heavily in Newport real estate.³ "To his efforts and plans is due the 'Ocean Drive'..." and much of Newport's development as a "*ville d'eau*."⁴ The brothers were most likely drawn East through the success of an extended family member, Charles William King, a Canton merchant for forty-five years whose father Samuel King was a senior partner in a New York commission merchant firm, King and Talbot.⁵ On their return from China Edward commissioned architect Richard Upjohn to build a solid Italianate villa on Bowery and Spring Street and William Henry purchased the adjacent property and house, also designed by Upjohn, on April 29, 1863 from Robert and Sarah Gardner, who acted on behalf of George Noble Jones of Savannah, Georgia.⁶

The following excerpts from Edward's and William Henry's letters from China to the family at home divulge that they were a religious family but not rigidly so, being blessed with a sense of humor, and that Dr. King enjoyed a well-respected social standing locally, however he was not a wealthy man. Apparently Edward's and William Henry's financial success in China was a great boon for the family.

¹ *Representative Men and Old Families of Newport Rhode Island Vol. I*, (1908) p. 26

² Ethel King Russell, *Journal and Letters of Edward King 1835-1844*, (1934), p. 5.

³ Jacques M. Downs, *The Golden Ghetto*, (1997), pp. 364-365.

⁴ Ethel King Russell, *Journal and Letters of Edward King 1835-1844*, (1934) p. 7 and 39.

⁵ Richardson Wright, *Gardener's Tribute*, (1949), p. 121.

⁶ HABS, No. RI-307, p. 2

Edward wrote to his sister Ann from Canton on March 28, 1841:

...I wish you would have servants to do the housework and not let Mother get up early in the morning to make fires and do other drudgery; it makes me sick to think that you do these things when there is no necessity for it. Now turn over a new leaf when you get this letter, hire as many servants as you want to do all the work, cooking etc.; the servants' wages may be charged to my account if you like. Mother I hope will visit, ride out, and enjoy herself in every way she can, and I hope both you and she will dress well, and have many things nice and comfortable, and as for the expense I am ready to pay for it...

William Henry wrote to his sister Ann on September 29, 1841, from Macao:

...Though you are sometimes guilty of giving advice on eating and drinking, Mother gives advice on religion and quotes any quantity of the Bible to illustrate her remarks...I am sorry to say, however, that I cannot perceive they produce the desired effect for Edward will indulge in an oath now and then. He is not quite equal to David in that respect but if you have the swearer's prayer handy it might be as well to send it to him...Edward is well and is doing finely and if everything results as favorably as he expects he will be worth about \$300,000. when he returns. So you see at last that you will be able to live in that cottage I used to tell you about, with the carriage and six...I hope you George and Mother, will make frequent excursions to other places and visit your friends often. You need not fear about the expense as Edward has often expressed to me his willingness and desire to furnish you with the means of enjoying yourselves. You must call upon strangers visiting Newport and not bestow your visits upon the inferior gentry of your own town exclusively...⁷

David Jr. followed his father's footsteps in the medical profession and also practiced in Newport, treating not only fellow citizens but the summer visitors that began flocking to Newport. He traveled abroad extensively observing medical practices internationally and eventually winning "...the confidence and esteem of families from nearly every part of the country, and even from foreign lands." Dr. David King, Jr. was a founder of the American Medical Association and a president of the State Board of Health of Rhode Island. A passionate historian, he became the leading founder of the Newport Historical Society, was an integral organizer of Island Cemetery, and a devotee and president of Redwood Library.⁸ Upon his death in 1882 The Redwood Library paid tribute to their former "...wise counsellor, an ardent and indefatigable worker; whose voice and pen, hand and heart, were unweariedly devoted to the interests of this Institution..."⁹

⁷ Ethel King Russell, *Journal and Letters of Edward King 1835-1844*, (1934), pp. 114, 115, 122.

⁸ *Representative Men and Old Families of Newport Rhode Island, Vol. I* (1908) p. 27

⁹ George Champlin Mason, *Annals of the Redwood Library*, (1891) p. 390.

In 1837 Dr. David King, Jr. married Sarah Gibbs Wheaton, daughter of the rector of Trinity Church, and to them seven children were born; William Dehon, David, Jr., Theodore Wheaton, Sarah, Mary, Georgianna, and Annie Elizabeth. The third David King of Newport did not join his father in the medical profession but followed his Uncle Edward's and William Henry's success in the China trade. He queried his parents on March 12, 185 [8], "Does it meet with your approval my going to China next Fall! I was talking to Uncle & he has advised me to go... There is nothing to be done in this country unless a man has plenty of capital & I'm not going to be a clerk all my life, it is too senile." During his passage East on the *Surprise* he wrote home in June of 1858, reminiscing about cherished family times in Newport.

... a most inviting sight I can picture before me, as it is the dinner hour & all are congregating & to begin, Father is pouring over some sound work, Mother has just come into the library from her toilet & says come "Ducky" the bell has rung & I want you to get out some of that very Old Sherry Aunt S gave me, When assembled at dinner, Wheaton comes in. "Wheaton where have you been? Father says, "Fishing, sir!" "Well, don't you go again without my liberty, this afternoon stay in the house & review your lessons." Annie has just come in from school the spelling lesson having been unusually hard to day. Little Georgie has been down to the Ogdens, but this misdemeanor is overlooked as she has got 6 medals. Mary I suppose to be on hand to day for a wonder & Aunt Annie is busy keeping "Lizzie" quiet as Wheaton is plaguing her. Sarah also is looking on but keeps dark as she is afraid her new frock won't be finished by Sunday & she therefore feels melancholy. 'Daisy' wishes very much he was there but never mind he will be home soon although ten years will make many changes...¹⁰

Throughout David King, Jr.'s letters from China there are several discussions and advice regarding his older brother Willy's and younger brother Wheaton's choice of a future career. He acknowledged his parent's desire for another physician but the tone leads one to conclude that probability was doubtful. David strongly suggested a merchant career in the United States for Willy, but his diary entries in later years recording his brother's visits do not divulge his profession. Theodore Wheaton died at Manassas, Virginia on July 21, 1861 at the first Battle of Bull Run.¹¹ It can be surmised that David was the only son of Dr. David King, Jr. to attain a measure of success. His family's trust and confidence in him is evident in his appointment as executor of his father's estate and his Uncle Edward's estate, and his competent management of Williams Henry's guardianship.¹² Willy wrote of his brother David that "The spirit which animated his entire life commenced at home where by his generous purpose to be happy in doing for others he added to the love which he won from every member of his family..."¹³

¹⁰ David King Jr. Letter to his parents, 26 June 185[8]. Newport Historical Society Box 144.

¹¹ Last Will and Testament of Dr. David King. Newport Probate Court.

¹² Newport Probate Court, Book 29, 35, 47

¹³ W.D. King. *David King*, p. 5. PSNC Archives. King Family Correspondences.

Upon arriving in China, David King, Jr. hoped to join the American mercantile firm of Russell and Company, yet missed out on an available position and instead became engaged at the house of Wetmore, Williams, & Company while waiting for another opening at Russell & Company. On December 4, 1858 he wrote home from Shanghai that “I am now very comfortably situated at Messrs. W, W & Co’s having three rooms & two servants to attend on me. I suppose if a person did such a thing, that is luxuriate as much, in Newport he would be put down, by all the old maids, as going to ruin.” David found in China a changed business venue from his Uncles’ tenure there and though his intent was to spend ten years in China, he actually remained fifteen years not returning until 1873 at thirty-three years of age. In the same letter to his parents he requested that, “I wish you would impress upon my brothers, (who may wish to visit China & who probably look upon C, as a country, where it rains gold...where they have only to stoop down and fill their coffers, & return home, “Oriental Nabobs.”), that the reality of the situation was “...fortunes are not made so easily now, as in the days of Messrs E & W H King...”¹⁴

Nevertheless, these letters reveal a young man with more than a fair share of courage and determination, strong social skills, and a focused acumen for business. “I am satisfied where I am and work and wealth are now my main objectives,” he declared on November 27, 1859. Jacques M. Downs, in *The Golden Ghetto*, describes the broad level of expertise required to succeed in the China trade as having to “...read, write, calculate and keep books,” as well as understanding “...the market, merchandising channels, and credit facilities ...not only in this country, but in Europe, East Asia, Latin America, and elsewhere.” He further emphasized the need to be “continuously well-informed” and that “ignorance of political and economic events could be ruinous.” Downs also noted that “apprenticeship was considerably more than a form of labor or vocational training [then]. Clerks were at the same time employees and surrogate sons, members of the commercial ‘family’”¹⁵

Despite the disappointment of a less kindly business environment, and missing family life in Newport, Shanghai offered a pleasant surprise as David reported on December 4, 1858 that, “...It is the custom when a young gentleman arrives in S-, to go around & call on all the ladies here...Can you imagine your 2nd son David, not much out of his teens, ‘going the rounds,’ & putting on all the dignity of a man of 30?...I could not believe I was the same little fellow that came out on the ‘Surprise.’” On December 21st of that year he further elaborated on the social scene. “I expected to give up all society when I came out here, but I really was never so gay at home, Messrs. W. W. & Co. have had a dinner party every day this week, 14 ladies & gentlemen each time...I receive the kindest treatment where I am now...” He began his career in China as a clerk earning \$600. per annum. In June of 1859 he briefly moved to Low and Company before entering the house of Russell & Company as a mercantile assistant with an increase in his annual salary to \$1,000. By July of 1860 David surmised “...that if you make up your mind to take it easily, everything goes on easily. In this respect China is ahead of the rest of the world, money is easily made here, and as this item is at the bottom of all selfishness, it is not being thought so much of here you don’t

¹⁴ David King Jr. Letter to his parents, 4 December 1858. Newport Historical Society Box 144.

¹⁵ Jacques M. Downs, *The Golden Ghetto*, (1997), p. 231.

see that grinding of one another that is to be noticed at home.”¹⁶ A remark in a letter to his father years later in July of 1868 from Foo Chow is particularly interesting in light of his father’s standing in Newport and future generations of Kings there.

...You are not pleased with Newport and your description of the residents makes me think that you may have imbibed the views of Sir Charles Bell on the London physicians! As you say, the industry of the place is too confined and if I may ever, I should never think of settling down in the place: a residence of four or five months there each year, would I think add to one’s days, but its no place to bring up a family...

Brooklyn is mentioned in David King, Jr.’s China letters in a manner that suggests the family frequently spent time in New York, although it is unclear whether or not they owned property there. “...I have not passed a pleasanter evening since I have been in China they sang all the old fashioned songs I used to hear sung almost every night, at our boarding house in Brooklyn...”¹⁷ Quite possibly this is the Boeroont House mentioned in the diary entries on page 8. The pulse of New York City life and Dr. David King, Jr.’s international medical research most likely fostered a cosmopolitan world view beyond the spectrum of Newport society.

During his early years in China, David King did not disregard the possibility of finding a wife. On November 21, 1858 he asked his parents, “Do you recollect Miss Bowers (that took a seat in our pew one Sunday) from Connecticut. I understand she is on her way out to Shanghai, as missionary. Do you think it best to fall in love with her, in the absence of any other crinoline?” A few weeks later it is evident that efforts in this regard were also in the works at home as he advised in a December 4th letter that, “You can make the engagement with Ella Izard & we will get married by letter, but you must make her promise to die before we meet & to remember her ‘hubby dear’ in her will.” A marital partnership remained in question. On a trip to Canton in August of 1860 David reported an encounter with a merchant. “The Old China Merchant cannot understand why ‘Mr. Young King no have catchee wife-o’; and when I tell them Mr. ‘Ole King have catchee wife-o, long four piece chil-o,’ they say ‘No 1 good chanc-ee.’ The above is the Canton dialect...”¹⁸ This “pidgin” English spoken by the China Merchants was specifically developed for business purposes to bridge the communication gap with Westerners.¹⁹ The portrait of ‘Houqua’ that hangs in Kingscote’s library is of Wu Ping-chien (1769-1843), son of a China merchant that was popularly dubbed “Howqua” or “Houqua” by western businessmen. Conversations with Wu Ping-chien, who adopted his father’s moniker, were invariably in polished pidgin, according to George Danton in *The Culture Contacts of the United States and China*.²⁰ He was a great friend of Americans and became fabulously successful,

¹⁶ David King Jr. Letter to his parents, 5 July 1860. Newport Historical Society. Box 144.

¹⁷ David King Jr. Letter to his parents, 26 September 1859. Newport Historical Society. Box 144.

¹⁸ David King Jr. Letter to his parents, 8 August 1860. Newport Historical Society Box 144.

¹⁹ Jacques M. Downs, *The Golden Ghetto*, (1997) p. 74.

²⁰ George H. Danton, *The Culture Contacts of the United States and China*, (1931), p. 27.

reportedly worth twenty-six million Spanish dollars in 1834 and possibly the wealthiest man in the world.²¹ His mastery of the pidgin dialect was likely passed on to the merchant quoted who was possibly a descendant of the Wu line which fostered several generations of merchants who were well-disposed toward Americans.²²

Eventually David King, Jr. did take an American wife in China, Helen Van Cortland Morris of New York. It is interesting to note that Miss Morris was a cousin of Mrs. Maitland Armstrong, mother of Edward Maitland Armstrong, future husband of David King, Jr.'s daughter Gwendolen.²³ Prior to their marriage David seemed quite pleased with his circumstances in China, declaring in a letter of July 1868 to his father "...as I may have mentioned I find Foo Chow a very healthy place, and during the summer months when I am constantly occupied in buying & shipping teas, it is very interesting." He also referred favorably to "our fine house boats."²⁴ Quite possibly the marriage was arranged between two amicable families by the familiar tone Helen engaged in a letter to her mother-in-law on July 16, 1870 from Foo Chow. "I am delighted with Foochow and we think ourselves first the two happiest people in the world."²⁵ In the same letter Helen confessed that she had been ill for about a month but staunchly declared "I suppose everyone must become acclimated." Unfortunately Helen did not acclimate. In a correspondence of Gladys E. Bolhouse, a former Curator of Manuscripts at the Newport Historical Society, she stated, however without documentation, that the new Mrs. King "died of dysentery in China while pregnant on September 27, 1871."²⁶

²¹ Arthur W. Hammel, Ed, *Emminent Chinese of the Ch'ing Period (1644-1912) Vol. II*, (1943), p. 877.

²² <http://www.newsmakingnew.com/lmharvardpart2.htm> How the Money Works at Harvard.

²³ Margaret Armstrong, *Five Generations: Life and Letters of An American Family 1750-1900*, (1930), p. 390.

²⁴ David King, Jr. July 1868. Newport Historical Society. Box 144.

²⁵ Helen Van Cortland King. ND Newport Historical Society. Box 199.

²⁶ Gladys Bolhouse. Newport Historical Society. Box 144.

II. DAVID KING, JR. AND ELLA LOUISA RIVES: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

According to David King, Jr.'s 1873 diary, January 1 was his "last dinner in China." He traveled extensively in the Far East and Europe before returning to the United States where he established himself in New York City and forthwith set to the task of finding a suitable wife. In an undated letter to his mother in Newport he informed her that he had engaged a house at 16 East 30th Street for seven months and was seeking a man servant and a cook, also stating "...I am looking forward to a ride with Ella this PM."²⁷ Diary entries in the spring and summer of 1874 report socialization with quite a few young ladies, but his attentions were primarily focused on Miss Mindlum and Miss Rives. On May 27th Miss Mindlum set sail on the steamer "Russia" with a farewell bouquet of flowers from David King, Jr. June 13th found David visiting the Rives family in New Hamburg, New York and thereafter Miss Mindlum's departure from his life was permanent. By the fall he devoted his attentions exclusively to Ella Louisa Rives. Their courtship and marriage proceeded summarily.²⁸

IRIS

The Humming Bird

Miss Rives

*Our August eve in Paraguay~
Ah! Gorgeous land remembered well~
The crystal shower's sunlit spray
In rainbow splendor round me fall
That evening iris seemed a queen
In more than poet's frenzy decked~
Violet, gold, sky blue and green
With flame and rose and sapphire flecked
And never yet had hum-bird's wing
O're fairer rule been known to spring*

*And yet tonight the scene I view
That rainbow's glory doth renew
In Pauline's joy the rose doth dwell
In Ella's eyes we find the ciel
The violet comes when cometh May
And flame springs up in Helene's way
The sapphire shines in Hannah's eyes
And fold abounds in Annie's guise
While he that loves the emerald's shell
Will find that gem of hope in Relle*

*Enchanting vision here displayed!
Too fleeting joy! To last not made!*

²⁷ David King Jr. ND. Newport Historical Society Box 144.

²⁸ David King, Jr. Diaries 1874, 1875. Kingscote. Bedroom # 1 closet.

*That Iris fair of Paraguay
Eclipsed to night must fade away
That shower gone the sun's bright rays
Broke forth in rich resplendent blaze
And nature's triumph seemed complete
If here to night no sun we greet
Bright stars we have – and Ella's mould
Doth nature's triumph still uphold*

* The Newport Historical Society. King Family papers Box 134, Folder 3. Hand written. ND.

David King, Jr. Diary Entries 1874

<p><u>Monday November 16, 1874</u></p> <p><i>PM to ride with Miss Rives, Kentucky being charged to carry her & I rode a nag from Dicklet. Such a lovely ride, and all was bright as I could wish it.</i></p>	<p><u>Thursday November 26</u></p> <p><i>PM rode out with Ella then to Washington Square _dinner at Uncle Edward's; a fine Rhode Island turkey & excellent dinner.</i></p>
<p><u>Tuesday November 17, 1874</u></p> <p><i>Mr. & Mrs. Rives, Miss Ella, Miss Kean with Jay, dined with me at Delmonicos.</i></p>	<p><u>Saturday November 28</u></p> <p><i>...our engagement was announced by the twins at Mrs. Chapman's</i></p>
<p><u>Monday November 23, 1874</u></p> <p><i>To see Ella at 4 and at 5 to see Mr. & Mrs. Rives where all was settled most agreeably and pleasantly.</i></p>	<p><u>Saturday December 16, 1874</u></p> <p><i>Rather cold. Engaged rooms 95 & 96 per "Russia" for Jan 27. Dined at Mrs. Geo Rives & had a lovely ev'g with my darling at billiards & C.</i></p>
<p><u>Tuesday November 24, 1874</u></p> <p><i>Gave Ella her solitaire engagement ring. Drove Ella out in T cart, very cold & afterwards to 8 Washington Place</i></p>	<p><u>Sunday December 17, 1874</u></p> <p><i>Engaged Dr. Potter & Grace Church for Jan 7 at 3 PM</i></p>
<p><u>Wednesday November 25, 1874</u></p> <p><i>Beautiful day. To Wall Street & saw Uncle PM to ride with Ella & it was delightful; rode down with her in carriage, she thinking it very improper & had a nice chat at 8 Washington Place</i></p>	<p><u>Friday November 29</u></p> <p><i>Rode a little way, but Ella not there as arranged found her at home & had a most agreeable afternoon.</i></p>

David King, Jr. Diary Entries 1875

<p><u>Thursday January 4, 1875</u></p> <p>Moved from the Knickerbocker Club to the Boeroont house. Gave a dinner at the Union Club</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Will</td> <td>C Robbins</td> <td>H Fish J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newbold</td> <td>H Cline</td> <td>H Russell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jay</td> <td>C Gracie</td> <td>Geo Rives</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bronson</td> <td>W Kane</td> <td>A Wadsworth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F Sherman</td> <td>C Hone</td> <td>Sam Howland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W Sherman</td> <td>W Thome</td> <td>Geo Wetmore</td> </tr> </table> <p>S Craig Mother & Father arrived at the Boeroont</p>	Will	C Robbins	H Fish J	Newbold	H Cline	H Russell	Jay	C Gracie	Geo Rives	Bronson	W Kane	A Wadsworth	F Sherman	C Hone	Sam Howland	W Sherman	W Thome	Geo Wetmore	<p><u>Wednesday January 17</u></p> <p>Ella & I to Grace Church & to walk on the Avenue</p> <p>Lunch with Mr. & Mrs. Sherman</p> <p>PM went to see Annie my sister at I-- Morris</p>
Will	C Robbins	H Fish J																	
Newbold	H Cline	H Russell																	
Jay	C Gracie	Geo Rives																	
Bronson	W Kane	A Wadsworth																	
F Sherman	C Hone	Sam Howland																	
W Sherman	W Thome	Geo Wetmore																	
<p><u>Friday January 5, 1875</u></p> <p>Went to Grace Church to rehearse - Jay late</p>	<p><u>Friday January 19</u></p> <p>Moved to Washington Place No 8</p>																		
<p><u>Sunday, January 7, 1875</u></p> <p>Slept very well & got up about 9</p> <p>Jay came round about 2 o'clock & we took a cocktail at ½ past two we drove to Grace church and at a few minutes past 3 PM the Bridal party arrived & the ceremony of my wedding/marriage with Miss Ella Louisa Rives took place. Afterwards to 8 Washington Place where we had a brilliant reception of some 300 people & at 6:30 we left town for Philadelphia</p>	<p><u>Saturday January 27, 1875</u></p> <p>Left for New York per "Russia" for Europe</p>																		

Once David and Ella returned from Europe in October of 1875 they established a yearly routine of spending the winter season in New York City residing in rental property, and traveling to Newport for the summer season. David recorded on June 15, 1876 that he “gave up 16 East 30th & Mrs. Ward took possession. Downtown & left by 10 o’clock train with Ella & the maid Victorine for a summer at Newport. Arrived at 8 PM & took possession of Dr. Potter’s house, servants & horses arrived by boat this morning.” The highlight of that season’s stay in Newport was the birth of their daughter Gwendolen on October 2. “At half past one o’clock this morning my dear wife presented me with a daughter...the baby whom we shall call Dora Gwendolen, weighed a fraction over 9 ½ lbs. I was a little anxious at one time about Ella but all passed well.”²⁹ Following their Newport season they “took over from Miss Denison the house 18 West 37th Street on November 8th.”³⁰ 1879 found the family in Europe again where their second child Phillip was born on June 12.

At 20 minutes to 5 o’clock this morning at Paris No 1 Rue Bel Rufino, corner of the Champs Elysees, my wife Ella was delivered of a son. 5 hr 40 min labour. He is a fine boy weighing in his flannels 11 lb 9 oz. As the event was passing the sun was just gilding the windows opposite, and the Arc de Triomphe casting a shadow. I am very much pleased and wish for my son that he may lead an honorable & useful life. Ella seemed very well after it.³¹

Early in the 1880s a new pattern was initiated in the King family’s annual movements, which continued until David King’s death in 1894. What prompted a seemingly spur-of-the-moment change from spending the winter season in New York City to establishing a residence in Washington DC is unknown. . However a diary entry of September 21, 1881 states “went to New York by boat to look for a house for winter.”³² Then on January 1, 1882, the Kings were, “At my hired house No 1202 18th St. N.W. Washington.”³³

²⁹ David King, Jr. 1876 Diary. Kingscote. Bedroom # 1 closet.

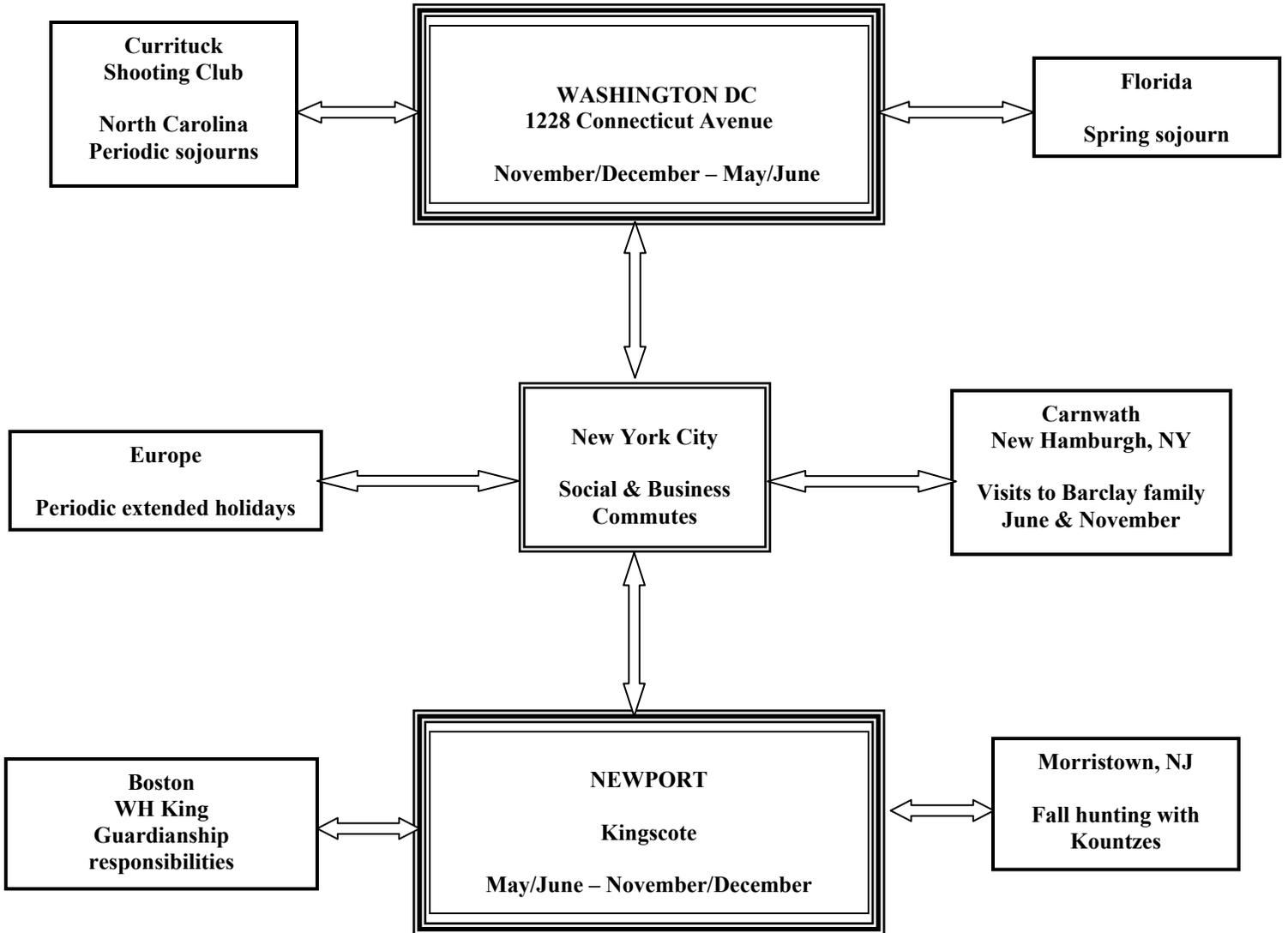
³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ David King Jr 1879 Diary. Kingscote. Bedroom # 1 closet.

³² David King Jr 1881 Diary. Kingscote Bedroom # 1 closet.

³³ David King Jr 1882 Diary. Kingscote Bedroom # 1 closet

DAVID KING, JR. FAMILY LIFESTYLE 1882-1894



Representative Composite Year	
David King Jr. Diaries Miscellaneous Entries	
<p><u>November 19</u></p> <p><i>Closed up Newport & we left for New York, 8 Wn Place [Washington]</i> <i>Went with Isaac Bell to the theatre & saw Henry Irving "The Bells" & "The Stratagem"</i></p>	<p><u>June 6</u></p> <p><i>Returned to New York</i></p>
<p><u>November 20</u></p> <p><i>Ella & chicks to Carnwath & I to Currituck</i></p>	<p><u>June 22</u></p> <p><i>Arrived this evening at Newport</i></p>
<p><u>November 29</u></p> <p><i>Left Baltimore @ 8:15 & home in Washn @ 9:30</i></p>	<p><u>August 27</u></p> <p><i>Much trouble in the matter of WHK proceedings. Left Boston & went to Brunswick Hotel; permission to enter his apartment was denied me.</i></p>
<p><u>March 6</u></p> <p><i>Room at Gordon's \$10/per wk</i> <i>[St. Augustine, Florida]</i></p>	<p><u>August 30</u></p> <p><i>In the court Judge Barker decided WHK had been legally confined & surrendered him to the custody of the asylum. Return to Newport this evening</i></p>
<p><u>April 14</u></p> <p><i>Downtown and borrowed \$20,000 of Chase & Higginson to pay off mortgage notes due today</i> <i>[New York City]</i></p>	<p><u>October 13</u></p> <p><i>Stormy, rainy day in New York with Wetmore. To see Cardinal Mc Closky's remains lying in state at the Romanish Cathedral - not imposing - to the Met Opera House</i></p>
<p><u>May 20</u></p> <p><i>Family left at 11 AM for New York</i></p>	<p><u>October 29</u></p> <p><i>To New York with Ella 10:10 AM enroute to Kountze's to pass a few days & shoot rabbits. Dined at Delmonicos & then to see the Mikado</i></p>
<p><u>June 2</u></p> <p><i>Ella chicks & family moved to Carnwath</i></p>	<p><u>November 9</u></p> <p><i>Closed up & left Newport @ 10 with the family & went to 8 Washington Place. Left New York @ midnight for Washington</i></p>
<p><u>June 4</u></p> <p><i>Ella came down river & we went to Newport by boat</i></p>	<p><u>November 10</u></p> <p><i>At 1228 Conn Ave packing, and left @ 4:40 for Baltimore enroute to Currituck for shooting</i></p>

DAVID KING, JR. DIARY 1883:

Informal record of yearly expenses annotated in the back of the diary:

Wages	2690.
Stable	1014.
Greenhouse & grounds	1003.
Butcher	1050.
Grocer	546.
Baker	86.
Milk	287.
Coal & Wood	294.
Fruit & Veg	515.
Flowers	80.
Wines	490.
Gas	189.
House furnishing	41.
Taxes	480.
Sundries	2500.
Furniture	
Salmon fishing & purchased land	513.
Club dues	443.
Rent	3500.
New York & Florida	5951.
Cash	1200.
Pair horses	1000.

The Winter Season in Washington DC

1882 brought a new dimension to David King, Jr.'s family. Henceforth they spent the first six months of the year based in Washington DC where they were frequently in the company of United States elected and appointed officials and foreign ambassadors. It can be surmised that both David and Ella were familiar with the political world through his Uncle George Gordon, as noted above, and Ella's Grandfather, Senator William Cabell Rives of Virginia, who served four terms as United States Senator between the years 1832-1845. Before and after his Senatorial career he was appointed Minister to France from 1829-1832, and again in 1849-1853.³⁴

Although David King, Jr.'s specific role in the Capitol is not divulged in his diaries or correspondence from this period there are possible clues. In October of 1881, representing the State of Rhode Island, he accompanied Senator Soames to receive a French Delegation in New York and escorted them to Newport by steamer. The Kings also entertained a group from the delegation at dinner.³⁵ It can be noted that David King, Jr. spoke passing French, "...I am happy to say that only tonight we had three French gentlemen at dinner, and the conversation was carried on entirely in French, and in which I joined..." he reported to his parents from Canton on December 12, 1862. Several of Ella's lengthy letters written in French confirm her fluency in the language.³⁶ They both seemed well suited to mingling in diplomatic circles. He also mentions Senator Nelson W. Aldrich with familiarity in the following letter to George Peabody Wetmore, as well as in his diaries. Aldrich was elected to the senate on October 4, 1881 "and became such a leading figure in the Senate and in the national government that he was often referred to as the 'general manager of the United States.'" ³⁷ It was also said of Aldrich that he persisted in "...the constant delightful occupation of singling out the men who were really the strong ones at Providence, of drawing them to himself as his real constituency—these were the tasks that possessed his mind."³⁸ The relationship with Aldrich suggests the possibility that David King, Jr. became a lobbyist (although not of the Providence contingent) to assist in promoting Aldrich's "important financial interests in Rhode Island and elsewhere."³⁹

Whatever his capacity, David King, Jr.'s correspondence with George Peabody Wetmore in 1884 and 1885 confirms that he esteemed life in Washington DC and was well connected enough to carry weight in the Republican Party and the Capitol.

³⁴ <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index+R000285> Biographical Directory of the United States Congress.

³⁵ David King, Jr. 1881 Diary. October 28,29,30.

³⁶ PSNC Archives. Misc. letters of Ella Rives King.

³⁷ <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us> History of the Rhode Island General Assembly. 2/19/2002, p. 4

³⁸ Nathaniel Wright Stephenson, *Aldrich 1841-1915*, (1929), p. 50. RIHS Mss 938 Box 2 folder 1.

³⁹ <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us> History of the Rhode Island General Assembly. 2/19/2002, p.4

1228 Con Ave
Washington
Dec 17, 1884

Dear George,

...I am sorry to hear that you have bought a house in New York; if so, I shall be forced to abandon the hope of seeing you located in the finest city in America or in the world for an American! The Treas'ry disbursements here are \$300.000. per mo. Nearly all spent here, besides there is the money spent by the Winter residents! And yearly increasing!

1228 Conn Ave
Washn
Jan 4, 1885

Dear George,

I enclose N & F Pass: doubtless you have mine. The President's reception last night was creditable to the country and you would have been proud of the Republican Court. I saw our new Senator yesterday & he was well, looked & talked well. I tried to get him to go last night, but he thought it no place for a lame man. Aldrich told me you were to be the next Governor of RI on which I congratulate first myself from a selfish nature & then you. I like Washn a little more every day, and all the ladies holding any official position are delighted with it...⁴⁰

Anna White, commenting on Washington etiquette in *Youth's Educator for Home and Society* in 1896, was not enamored by references to the "Republican Court" as was David King. She firmly stated, "We do object to that hybrid term 'Republican Court,' of which we so often hear. It is senseless and an anomaly; or, if it have a meaning, it is still more to be deprecated, as incompatible with the spirit of the framers of our excellent constitution."⁴¹ Despite strong public sentiment against courtly illusions in the political realm, David King's use of the term seemed to have little ill effect on his social standing in Washington DC considering his distinguished associations. It is interesting to note the social tension present in a nation on the cusp of major social change and the attitude of the privileged class. An emergent middle class "...led the arbiter of culture on the one hand to insulate themselves from the masses in order to promote and preserve pure culture, and on the other hand to reach out to the masses and sow the seeds of culture among them to ensure civilized order."⁴² David King Jr.'s lifestyle, delving into the political world then withdrawing to the exclusive realm of Newport, private clubs, and European travel seems well suited to this observation of the era.

⁴⁰ RIHS Mss 798 Boxes 4 & 5.

⁴¹ <http://www.history.rochester.edu/ehp-book/yethas/chap6.htm> Anna White, *Youth's Educator for Home and Society*, (1896)

⁴² Lawrence W. Levine, *Highbrow Lowbrow: The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America* (1988), p. 206.

David King busily brought in the New Year of 1882 by calling on “the Judges of the Supreme Court, Senator Anthony, Representative Spooner, Senator Hill, Bayard Edmonds, Cameron, Allison, Aldrich and Sherman Pendleton,” and was entertained at dinner by the Assistant Secretary of State meeting “Baron & Baroness Havre, Mr. & Mrs. Senator Hale and General & Mrs. Perk.” On March 3rd of 1882 David King purchased a lot on Connecticut Avenue where he built his Washington DC residence.⁴³ During future tenures in the Capitol the King’s were also entertained at the White House as noted in a diary entry of January 13, 1885, “Dined at Col Bonaparte meeting Gen’l Schofield, Mr. & Mrs. Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Newbold and Judge Gray. Afterward to a reception at the White House,” and on January 13, 1887, “To the White House at Pres Cleveland’s reception to the Diplomatic Corps. Senator Whitney took us so we entered before the crowd with Mme Gallatin.”

On November 13, 1888 David King was appointed assistant commissioner to the Paris Exposition of 1889 by President Harrison. The Department of State outlined his duties as a “scientific expert – one of the nine assistants to the Commissioner General” and that “It now remains to assign you to duty, to give you such general instruction as will enable you to perform the duties of the office intelligently, You are hereby assigned to the *Ninth* group, *Horticulture*...Your general duty is to make a thorough examination of the articles exhibited...and report to the state of such...as shown in the Exposition. This report will be published by Congress, and is intended for the benefit of the people of the United States.”⁴⁴

This was certainly an exciting assignment for the King family. The Universal Exposition of 1889 in Paris, commissioned to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the French Revolution, was a monumental extravaganza spanning two hundred acres and hosting sixty thousand exhibits. With the Eiffel Tower as its centerpiece the Paris Expo drew an attendance of 32, 354,111, the largest of any world exposition. The United States displayed the largest number of exhibits and won one-third of the merit awards.⁴⁵ David King was among those distinguished Americans receiving the honor of *Chevalier du Merite agricole* on November 23, 1889.⁴⁶

January in the capitol was perpetually a social whirl for the Kings. In 1893 they attended ten dinner parties and a tea, and hosted four dinners for ten to twelve people. January entertainments that year also included attending a theatre party, a small dance, a musicale, a ball, and David King enjoyed two “Man’s dinners.”⁴⁷ Another important part of his social agenda was a passion for Whist and card parties such as one on January 16, 1885, “Went to a card part at Aulick Palmers with ladies, senators & C home at 4 AM.” On February 16 of 1891 he hosted a man’s dinner in Washington inviting “Col Barret, Ad Franklin, Gov Carroll, Col Ernst, Vail, to dine and play Whist~delicious dinner,” and one worthy of a sophisticated host of the era as evident in the menu he recorded.

⁴³ David King Jr. Diary 1882

⁴⁴ Letter from the Department of State, Washington, January 10, 1889. Newport Historical Society, Box 199.

⁴⁵ Dennis B. Downey, *A Season of Renewal*, (2002), pp. 7-9.

⁴⁶ Merit award. Newport Historical Society. Box 199.

⁴⁷ David King Diary 1893. Kingscote. Bedroom # 1 closet.

Oysters
Clear Soup ~ Terrapin
Bonchas (?),
Capon boiled & farced
Saddle Venison
Chestnut Puree
Baba
Ice Cream.⁴⁸

Despite the hubbub of social life David King, Jr. was very much a family man, frequently horseback riding and walking with Ella and his “chicks” and enjoying small dinners at home with relatives; “Con & family arrived. [most likely Ella’s sister] Dinner at home, ‘very cute,’” he remarked on January 28, 1893. After spending a month in St Augustine Florida in 1885 David reported on his return April 3rd that he was “Glad to be with my charming family again.” On November 29, 1885, following an annual sojourn to Currituck Shooting Club, David “Took Ella by surprise, but it was a joyous meeting with my dear wife and chicks.” His children also enjoyed their father’s individual attention at Christmastime that year when he took Gwendolen on a personal shopping trip on December 21st and Phillip on December 22nd. Christmas day was a quiet, pleasant family affair.

Christmas 1885

At 1228 the chicks got their stocking presents, and we went to Church. After 1 o’clock dinner, the presents were distributed, and they were many. Mrs. Rives sent a thanks. Gave the servants \$5. ea. PM E & I rode together, rather cold ~ had tea at 7:30

Excerpts from Gwendolen’s letters to her mother lend a child’s perspective on their home life in Washington DC.⁴⁹

January 28, 1888 ...Last night we paid a visit to Papa, and he said he forgot all about himself while he was in company with his dear children.

February 15, 1888 ...Papa got a letter from you and he read it to me. I wonder if your Valentines are pretty. I suppose so. I have go two. One I think comes from Francoise and the other from Phillip. Imagine how he spelt Washington. It was this way “WARHINGTON”...

⁴⁸ David King Diary 1891. Kingscote. Bedroom # 1 Closet.

⁴⁹ PSNC Archives. Letters of Gwendolen King.

- February 14, 1891 ...Constance and Hester came today and we had a very nice lunch. Afterwards we took a walk and I went with Connie behind the Whitehouse and saw the President's dogs...Give Grandpa my best love and tell him that Brunette is very well. By the way they call her "Kitty" or "Kit" in the stable. I miss you very much and am very very glad you are to be gone such a short time. Papa dines out tonight...
- February 21, 1893 ...After you left I drove home stopping on the way to 'order' the waiter who is coming. I played violin & learnt my lessons in due time Miss B came home & we went to visit Aunt Conn...I rode this morning at the school for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. Brownie went very well...We are going out this morning to execute some commissions & go to the art exhibition...
- March 18, 1893 ...The oranges arrived this morning & they are splendid. I sent 3 doz to Aunt Con, 14 to Aunt Grace [most likely her Great Aunt, wife of Ella's uncle William Cabell Rives, Jr.] $\frac{1}{2}$ doz to James & 9 to the servants & we have a lot left...This afternoon Aunt A [most likely David's sister] & myself went to the Capitol where I showed her everything though the Senate was not sitting...

Gwendolen's letters indicate a familial structure typical of the King's social standing in the era. A domestic staff managed the household and supervised the children and the parents were very engaged in social and leisure activities and travel. However there is a distinct sense that as parents, David and Ella are connected with rather than distant from their children. As for the children's schooling, Gwendolen was tutored at home and it is interesting to note how strongly she felt about this from her remarks in a letter of February 20, 1892 regarding a friend, Una Foley. "...She is at boarding school which she thinks perfect bliss but though boarding schools may be all very well in their way I would not leave home for anything, it is bad enough when you go away for a month." However, as was the typical course for a young boy of the day Phillip attended boarding school in Concord Massachusetts at St. Paul's.⁵⁰ It appears he also received some educational experiences abroad. Phillip returned from Europe with Newport friends on August 3, 1892 and his father recorded that he "reached New York by the 'Teutonic' from Liverpool 8 AM. We came to Newport by one o'clock train 2 Wetmores, d'Hauteville, Paul & Grafton fellow passengers."⁵¹

⁵⁰ David King, Jr. Diary 1892

⁵¹ Ibid.

Regular visits to Carnwath in New Hamburg, New York to mingle with the Barclay clan are described in excerpts from young Gwendolen's letters to her mother. At age eleven, Gwendolen's personality appears to be developing an element of panache similar to that of her father's.

New Hamburg 1887 ...We went down to the river yesterday with Louise and there we learnt some very sad news. It was that, that, that-----Poor "Old Jimmy" gave up the ghost! More than two months ago! And another man has already taken his place! It really is quite sad don't you think so?

New Hamburg

November 18, 1887 I could not resist writing "*un petit mot*" to you. The horse I rode yesterday is Uncle Regie's mare they are going to call her Brown Bess, you and I will have some nice rides together won't we? Phillip went out with Aunt Mamie in the village cart and had a lovely time. How lovely your dresses must be according to Grandmamma's account.

European holidays are extensively recorded in Gwendolen's letters. Generally the children were established in a specific location, either with caretakers or family, while their parents traveled to other countries.

Ventnor August 25, 1888 ...I am so glad you are having a nice time at Trouville it must be very nice...Louise has been there and she says there is a beautiful beach...Phillip's shovel was carried away by waves. I will tell you how it happened. We were sitting down on the beach when all of a sudden we heard a roar and jumped up just in time to save our dresses from getting drenched. The shovel was carried away and we got our shoes wet...

The sun is bright
The sky is blue
And everyone is
Waiting for you (inspiration)

Basses Pyrenees to Madrid

March 1889 I have two messages for you from Admiral and Mrs. and the other from Mr. Bunse. Which one do you want to hear first? Well as I don't know I will tell you that the Upshurs send their best love. Mrs. Upshur says that she feels homesick and lonely without you. Admiral Upshur says that he is very much in love but he fears it is a hopeless case. You see how everyone loves you? Indeed they cannot help it. Mrs. Upshur sends you a kiss but the Admiral says he doesn't dare because of her David King...

Pau to Legation of Sweden

March 15, 1890

(Note I kissed each page)

...Aunt Conn went to the meet at Morlass in a brake so of course was not home to lunch. To console me she let me have a glass of light beer which was very nice....My dress is very pretty...I wore a brown ribbon in my hair and Aunt C.B. gave me a pair of gloves. I put on the lovely clove leaf bracelet you gave me and Franklin Roosevelt gave me a very nice bouquet of daffodils...After having arrived at the Grand Hotel...I was introduced to some boys and girls and did not miss a single dance...The supper was no good for the greedy grown guests who did not dance had been stuffing the whole afternoon...

Paris

February 12, 1892

...Mlle A says that she heard many ill natured remarks about her never getting the noblesse to come to her salons, etc.... but I think she will get through all with her sweetness and affability. That sounds like a book phrase, does it not, but it is not it all came out of my own head!...My music, my work, and my lessons are all going on well...much love for Papa and hoping he is quite quite well again...Medlar is quite well and sends love, he is fonder of barking and of the fire than ever...

Paris to Monte Carlo

February 20, 1892

...I had a visit from Mrs. Bell yesterday morning as I was practicing the fiddle so I had to play for her and she played for me (dreadfully out of tune, oh, oh!) She very kindly asked me to dinner tonight which I declined because of the dancing class. Julia Hunt came to see me yesterday afternoon (while Mlle A was giving her weekly hour lesson to one of her pupils) and we had a nice talk. We will meet at Miss G's concert tomorrow. I think of sending a Colombin cake to Phillip (my gift you know)...

Examining the King's lifestyle, outside of European holidays, it can be observed that David and Ella were frequently absent from their home in Washington DC during their typical December to May tenure at 1228 Connecticut Avenue. As years went by it appears that they spent more time together as a family and actually living in Kingscote than they did the Washington house. J. Walton Ferguson's *Kingscote* (p. 21) and John Cherol in *The Magazine Antiques* (Sept. 1980 p. 482) both date the naming of Kingscote on June 1, 1880. However, Downing and Scully in *The Architectural Heritage Of Newport, RI* (p. 134) and Richard Grosvenor in *Newport* (p. 61) date the name at William Henry's purchase.

III. KINGSCOTE AND SUMMER SEASONS IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

William Henry King's mental health declined in 1866 and he was committed to the McLean asylum in Somerville, Massachusetts.⁵² His brothers George Gordon and Edward both served terms as his guardian until their deaths. David King, Jr. was appointed his legal guardian in 1875. Eventually, David King Jr. began renting Kingscote from William Henry's trust for the summer season. Considering his romantic sensibilities, open-hearted nature and appreciation of horticulture, it seems that David King Jr. would have quite naturally been drawn to his Uncle's charming *cottage orne* which is particularly picaresque and organic, and in harmony with the natural outdoor environment that occupied so much of his time. Plans for alterations and an addition to make the house more suitable for the family's use and social life were developed and implemented in 1880-1881.⁵³ On September 8, 1881 David noted in his diary that they "inaugurated the new dining room." Mr. & Mrs. GH Warner, Mr. & Mrs. Griswold, Count Luppe-Weisenfeld, Royal Phelps, Mrs. Garner, Mrs. P Stevens and Mr. & Mrs. Rives were their first guests. This event marked a future permanency of residence for the David King Jr. family's Newport seasons.

Throughout David King Jr.'s diaries there is a strong sense that he and Ella enjoyed a very compatible relationship and a high level of mutual regard from their evenings "*tete a tete*," to their ardent horsemanship and love of the outdoors, to the refined social skills they shared. His sensitivity was genuinely demonstrated in a diary entry of June 4, 1877, "Had a good talk with E thinks I am unhappy --- don't know why & I shall try to be cheerful in future." Shortly thereafter David was in Quebec salmon fishing for three weeks and returned on July 30, "...so glad to see my dear wife & child again." When Ella's mother passed away her father, Francis Rives, wrote to David in February of 1888 expressing his wife's appreciation of their marriage. "She had a deep attachment to you for your own sake as well as for the husband of our dear oldest daughter and a profound esteem for your character."⁵⁴

As summer weeks passed they rode together frequently around the Point, Ocean Drive, and on the beaches. It can be surmised that Ella was hardly a timid equestrian by remarks referring to her spirited mounts such as "E rode 'Scamp' and came off," stated very matter-of-factly on August 12, 1881, and "Took a ride on 'Telephone'; E's horse broke away from Edward & so she could not ride," on January 7, 1882. Also scattered among Newport days were many walks together on the cliffs and beaches. A passion for the hunt took David and Ella on an annual sporting sojourn to their friends the Kountzes in Morristown, New Jersey. The Morristown hunting party they joined in October of 1885 included Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt, Miss Hall, Miss Bresse, Mrs. H. Carroll, Mr. Olin, Mr. J.J. Van Alen, Mr. W. Thorne and W.C. Robinson.⁵⁵

It appears that the Kings closest friendships were with Mr. and Mrs. George Peabody Wetmore, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Bell, the above mentioned Mr. and Mrs. Luther Kountze and the Swedish Minister and

⁵² *Newport Daily News*, March 15 1894. "Mrs, Ross fails to secure Millionaire King's release."

⁵³ Historic American Buildings Survey No. RI-307. "Kingscote" p. 4

⁵⁴ PSNC Archives. King Family Correspondences.

⁵⁵ David King, Jr. Diary 1885. Kingscote. Bedroom # 1 closet.

his wife M. and Mme de Reuterskoild. Their expanded social circle in Newport who hosted them at musicales, balls, dances, teas, and dinner parties, and their own guests at Kingscote, included an impressive array of society's most distinguished.⁵⁶ Listed in *The Ultra-Fashionable Peerage of America* as "...an exclusive social caste as valid at certain European courts as an hereditary titled aristocracy—a powerful class of ultra-fashionable millionaires..." they were the Astors, the Belmonts, the Goelets, the Lorillards, the Shermans, the Van Alens, the Warrens, the Winthrop, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Kernochan and Mrs. Van Rensselaer.⁵⁷ Although a Newport obituary commemorated David King, Jr. as "...a gentleman of large wealth [who] held a high position in Newport's summer society" the Kings were not so benighted to arrive on this list.⁵⁸ As explained by de Lyon Nichols, disciple of social arbiter Ward Mc Alister, "Wealth... forms the principal ingredient entering into the composition of this big social trust..."⁵⁹ However, the Kings co-mingled quite successfully with this exclusive set during seasons in Newport despite their lack of comparative wealth and a grandiose summer "cottage."

David King Jr.'s estate inventory was valued at \$187,560.85 in 1894.⁶⁰ However this did not include a valuation of his real estate holdings, which according to several diary entries he turned over properties fairly regularly, or foreign investments and currencies in which he speculated. In an informal ledger of 1886 David King noted:⁶¹

<u>Newport properties</u>		<u>Other property</u>	
Rhua house & furniture	50.000	Lt & Stables (2) 19 th St	12.000
½ Needwood house land & fur	12.000	Lot & House 1228 Conn Ave	40.000
7/12 Washington Farm	20.000	Lot 1226 Conn Ave	11.500
		4 lots on 116 th St NY sold	12.000

A July 6, 1886 ledger entry recorded "Russell & Co Chile shares, sold @ 5/6=net 86. 12. 6 after paying out 49. 10. 0 (investment). Balance paid to me HK & S Bank."

William Dehon King wrote of his brother that "He had the faculty of giving his attention to business when required and he could as quickly throw it all aside and become for the time absorbed in the delights of society and to exhibit no sign that he had ever known the meaning of Bills of Savings."⁶² From this it can be presumed that when the Kings entertained they entertained well. From a ledger entry of July 1, 1887, "to Worth's bill paid 646." (\$12,225.99 as converted to year 2001 dollars⁶³), presumably Ella also dressed well.⁶⁴ It is also interesting to note that Ella gave David "a life of Beau Brummel," the continental dean of men's style, on his birthday in 1885.⁶⁵ Some seasons in Newport they hosted up to ten dinner parties. However, there is no record in David King Jr.'s diaries of hosting more elaborate popular entertainments such as dances, theatricals or musicales. Surveying the all-single dinner guests of August

⁵⁶ David King Diaries. 1881-1892. Kingscote. Bedroom # 1 closet

⁵⁷ Charles Wilbur de Lyon Nichols, *The Ultra-fashionable Peerage of America*, (1904), pp. 7-19, 23

⁵⁸ *The Newport Mercury*, March 10, 1894, "Local Matters"

⁵⁹ Charles Wilbur de Lyon Nichols, *The Ultra-fashionable Peerage of America*, (1904), p. 28.

⁶⁰ Inventory of David King, Jr. Estate. Probate Court of Newport, RI. Book 47, p. 429

⁶¹ PSNC Archives. Formerly in Kingscote Guest Bedroom closet.

⁶² PSNC Archives. King Family correspondences.

⁶³ <http://www.westegg.com/inflation/infl.cgi> Inflation calculator. S. Morgan Freidman.

⁶⁴ PSNC Archives. Formerly in Kingscote Guest Bedroom closet.

⁶⁵ Lillian Eichler, *The Customs of Mankind*, (1924), p. 525

10, 1885 (p. 27) the intent of a little proper match making is a strong possibility, and interestingly they hosted a like dinner party most summers. June and July were fairly quiet months and the social season went into full blossom in August and September. Teas are mentioned only occasionally in David King's diaries and usually as a casual referral to one person or couple joining them. Whist playing continued in Newport. On November 5, 1883 David "Had a Whist party at home J Whipple, Eyre, Jay, Lawrence, Willing & the quail were delicious." Typically they also had two or more house guests each season.

The Kings appeared to have a special relationship with the Swedish Minister de Reuterskoild and his wife Louise, both in Washington and in Newport. "The Reutenskoilds arrived at Meunchingers" announced a diary entry on September 3, 1887, and within the month they had four social engagements together. The De Reutenskoilds chose their Newport lodgings wisely. "They [Society] would only look with favour upon the discrete little hotel with its dependent cottages owned by Mrs. Amanda Meunchinger;...But then Amanda Meunchinger was as exclusive as Newport itself; she would never dream of harbouring anyone not already admitted to the sacred circle," explained Elizabeth Drexel Leehr in *King Leehr and the Gilded Age*⁶⁶. When the de Reuterskoild's returned to Sweden in 1888 David, in accord with his romantic nature, commemorated the relationship in a poem for Mme. De Reuterskoild.

*It seems but a dream
Since I met thee
And now thou art
Going away
But waking I neer
can forget thee
And I wish oh I wish
You could stay*

*When the Sultan shall
Shalom before thee
and Pashas shall kneel
at thy shrine
exultant you'll say
they amuse me
was Washington ever so fine*

*But in your case
the regrets are ours
and in parting for
me & for mine
our friendship unlike
fading flowers
will blossom again
in good time*

*When afar on the breast
Of the billow
On the fiords or the
Bosporous sea
Where Lennart & Baby
And you go
I shall ever think
kindly of thee
If the fates as we're
told in the classics
Are spinning our
Lives and our time
May you be the finest of fabrics
And happiness ever be thine*

*Amusement! Tis much
to be sought for
and in seeking I think
you will find
that society all the
world over
must leave ever
some regrets behind*

*Adieu for the present
my good friend
pray pardon my rhyme
and my verse
please think of the boy
left behind thee
and wish him much
better not worse.*

*In Memoranda
to Louise de Reuterskoild*

*DK Wash'n
March 30, 1888*

Driving out in their carriages was a weekly ritual. David often drove Ella but it was also common for him to drive other Newport socialites such as Mrs. Ammidown, Mrs. Kernochan, Mrs. Van Alen, Mrs. J. Miller, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Mrs. P. Lorillard and Mrs. Coxe. This was as important a social rite as was making calls and bound by rules of etiquette as stated in an early manual of the era that "...you must not call or pay a visit to a lady before two o'clock PM, nor after four, as if you call before that time, you will interrupt those avocations which more or less occupy every lady in the early part of the day: if later than

⁶⁶ Elizabeth Drexel Leehr, *King Leehr and the Gilded Age*, (1935), p. 114-115

four o'clock, you will prevent her from driving out."⁶⁷ It is interesting to speculate by what process a lady was chosen for the outing and what the desired social outcome was. These excursions are distinguished from coaching parades which are distinct and separate entries in David King, Jr.'s diaries. Another important social scenario appears to be who one "took in" to a dinner party in their carriage, such as "Dined at Ward Mc Allister's at 'Needwood.' Took in Mrs Burden," on September 26, 1887. At least it was significant enough to be consistently documented with almost every dinner party attended.

Other activities such as lawn tennis matches and golf outings appear in the diaries but it seems that David was particular fond of yachting and quite pleased to be involved in the Goelet Cup on August 5, 1887 when he "went out in the 'Palmer' Rutherford Stuyvesant & raced for the Goelet Cup Schr prize. Had a long day, sailed over the course in 5 hours & 20 minutes & we were the first schooner, although Stuyvesant thinks that with the time allee the Sachem 12 will get the cup." Two days later he "Embarked on the Yacht 'Varuna' with Geo Rives, Frank Sengis, owners, & J Brownson for a cruise to the Eastward. Had a fine run over to Vineyard Haven and walked to Cottage City this PM."⁶⁸ A sail to the Vineyard following the Goelet Cup was the typical agenda for the yachting set of the era who, "...always welcomed their next port of call, Vineyard Haven..."⁶⁹

David King Jr. was active in the Newport community as a trustee of the Newport Hospital and as a member of the Newport Reading Room, the Newport Historical Society, and the Redwood Library. A diary entry of August 20, 1883 notes that he "went to a meeting of citizens to effect an organization for maintaining good municipal officers – was elected president." He was also a governor of the Newport Casino where the Kings attended numerous dances and balls during the summers as he pleasantly remarked on August 31, 1883 that "Ball at the Casino very good indeed & well managed & a very credible affair. Took Ella & Amelie." [most likely a daughter of Ella's Uncle Alfred Landon Rives, twenty years old] The Kings also regularly attended Trinity Church as a family, which was often recorded in his diaries as "All hands to church."

Eleven year old Gwendolen's letters from Newport to her mother visiting the Kountze's in New Jersey demonstrate a strong attachment to her mother, and an easy comfort within Kingscote's domain and the environs of Newport.

October 29, 1887

Dear Mamma,

We are getting on very well considering that you are not here, the only thing was that the Brown's hens laid no eggs so we didn't have any. It is just like a day in June here the air being soft and balmy and the sun warm. Clyde sleeps in my room and seems to be very happy there. I am going to ride this morning at quarter past ten.

⁶⁷ <http://www.lahacal.org/gentlemen/calling.html> *The Gentleman's Page: A Practical Guide for the 19th Century American Man. Hints on Etiquette*, 1836.

⁶⁸ David King Diary 1887. Kingscote. Bedroom # 1 closet

⁶⁹ Ed Holm, *Yachting's Golden Age 1880-1905*, (1999), p. 121

I have come back from my ride very hot and tired and it was splendid. I hope you will catch a great many rabbits and that the chase will be a great success. Don't forget to write to me dear Mamma and give Papa my love.

Your loving daughter

Gwendolen

PS Phillip sends his love⁷⁰

Kisses

OOOOOOO

October 30, 1887

Darling Mamma,

We went to lunch at Aunt Annie's yesterday and had a very nice time. Phillip Birkhead showed us his tricks and I think they were very amusing.

It is not so fine here as it was yesterday but the sun is out and I think it will be fine later. Mademoiselle and me have a surprise in store for you next Friday you will know it. I have put it in the envelope, and I am just going to give Alma her messages. A buggy is just now passing, in which a man and his wife (who is dearer than life) are seated dressed all spick and span for church please don't forget to look at the rhyme.

Yesterday Mademoiselle, Phillip King and me went upstairs to the garret to look at some of our childhood toys. The chien Anglaise does well still. Now I think I have told you all the news so I will say good bye.

Ever your loving

Gwendolen

Kisses⁷¹

OOOO

David's pastimes with the children included swimming, "to bathe at the beach with chicks" (July 14, 1885), riding, "Rode 13 miles on Sampson, Gwendolen on Brownie (August 5, 1893), fishing and picnics.

September 23, 1882

Went out in the (._?) on a fishing excursion & pic nic on the rocks. Georgie & Annie, Ella, Gwendolen & Barclay Rives. Captain King caught a lot of blackfish, scup, one 'skate' over 30 lbs. Had a nice pic nic on 'sleepy hill' WHK: place on Harrison Avenue.

September 13, 1887

Took the children on a pic-nic & fishing party - a lovely day.

⁷⁰ PSNC Archives

⁷¹ PSNC Archives

August 13 1892

Fishing party to Dumplings J Pepper, Roger Wetmore, Phillip, Gwendolen & Miss Bonhaner... P fell and sprained his ankle."

At sixteen Gwendolen's pen revealed a young lady about town, "...In the afternoon I went with Kitty on a drive. Today is very fine and I am going to ride. This afternoon as Aunt Annie does not want to drive I think of taking Miss B for a drive and afterwards we are going to see the eternal King wedding gifts!....," she wrote to her mother in New Jersey on October 20, 1892. The wedding was recorded in her father's diary on November 2 as "Ethel E King married to Louis Mc Cagg a very handsome house wedding. Many guests & all very well done indeed. Danced a (_ ? _) with Miss Livingston, one of the Bridesmaids." On October 23, 1892 Gwendolen wrote her mother at the Knickerbocker Club in New York. "...Katherine Duer came to lunch yesterday and I took her on the Ocean Drive in the cart afterwards... Kitty is growing every day she is quite a cat now. Medlar does not seem very well and his back is all rough notwithstanding all my care...James says that Papa's horse is much better the vet has stopped coming and Larkspur is given gentle walking exercise every day..."

November 4, 1892

Dear Mamma,

Papa got back safely last evening and seemed very pleased to find himself at home. I gave him a good dinner too! Aunt A & he have gone to Boston for the day to see their Uncle. Mrs. Ross has been trying to kick up another row I believe.

It has been pouring the whole morning so we have not been out but we will go this afternoon rain or shine! A good chance forsooth, of showing my new waterproof! Fraulein is dusting books very industriously... I took Aunt Annie for a drive and walk yesterday afternoon and about five o'clock Miss B & I went to see Aunt Georgie but she was not at home...Nuit stays with us "par preference," "par amour pour Louise" Hiedler (?) will rarely condescend to give us much of his company, occasionally however, he descends from the "turret chamber" looks around & sniffs with a supercilious air and then returns with renewed ardor to his "lady love"!

[The notorious Mrs. R. Webster Ross persisted in attempts to release William Henry King from the Mc Lean Asylum on the grounds that "...he was committed from Rhode Island to an insane asylum in this state without authority from the law..."⁷²]

Personification of their pets runs freely throughout Gwendolen's letters. In one she included a drawing to illustrate Nuit attempting to climb onto the sofa in her room, particularly pointing out the merits of his hind legs.⁷³ Such a keen sentiment for the canine and equine world may have been fostered by her father who remarked in his diary on October 2, 1883 that,

⁷² *Newport Daily News*, Tuesday March 15, 1894. "Mrs. Ross Fails to Secure Millionaire King's Release."

⁷³ Gwendolen King, May 25, 1896. PSNC Archives.

“Ruby” my black & tan setter, died last night in the stable; she was bred in the Isle of Skye & I bought her in Edinburgh, Scotland; such a beautiful dog, an affectionate kind creature, always ready to hunt and performed well in the field; in Florida last winter she was a great companion. I think she was about 10 years old.

David King, Jr. laid Ruby peacefully to rest on the grounds at Kingscote marking her grave with a small engraved headstone. Ruby was later joined by another one of his hunting companions, Clyde, and Gwendolen’s pal Nuit.

Life at Kingscote proceeded pleasantly, involving an abundance of outdoor activity and an agreeable balance of socializing with extended family and Newport society. As well as many Kings in Newport, Ella’s brother George Lockheart Rives also had a summer residence in Newport and they were frequent guests at Kingscote.⁷⁴ Unfortunately the harmony enjoyed by the David King Jr. family was shattered by his unexpected death in 1894.

⁷⁴ *The Newport Social Index*, 1915

Overview of the Summer Season at Kingscote David King, Jr. Diary 1885	
<u>August 1</u> <i>Wm Beninger arrived to stay with us this AM</i> <i>Yachts arrived</i> <i>Dined at Geo Wetmores 18</i> <i>Took in Mrs Johnson</i> <i>Played whist – home at 12:45</i>	<u>August 15</u> Drove out Mrs Kountze Mr & Mrs Kountze Mr & Mrs R Goelet to dine Mr & Mrs Robinson W H Fearing Mr J R Newbold Regie & Mrs Clift
<u>August 2</u> <i>To church with Ella & Gwendolen</i> <i>Mr & Mrs Walker Smith arrived this morning to stay with us Rainy</i>	<u>August 17</u> To drive Kountze & to the dance at the Casino
<u>August 3</u> <i>Yacht race for Goelet Cups</i> <i>“Puritan” won sloop race Fortune the schr race</i> <i>Gale of wind blowing – very exciting</i>	<u>August 19</u> Lawn tennis Drove Ella in the country
<u>August 5</u> <i>Dinner party at home</i> <i>Mr & Mrs WW Astor</i> <i>Mr & Mrs C Pomeroy</i> <i>Mrs Whitney Mrs Pierre Lorillard</i> <i>Mr W Sherman Mr & Mrs Smith</i> <i>Jack Bruesford</i>	<u>August 20</u> Mr & Mrs Lawrence came this AM to pay is a visit
<u>August 7</u> <i>Rode Ella’s horse</i> <i>Dined at Egerton Winthrop’s</i> <i>Took in Mrs Winthrop</i> <i>Mrs d’Hautoville on my left – very pleasant dinner</i>	<u>August 21</u> Rode with Ella Mrs Kernochan’s Ball I went & it was as usual handsome & C Home at 2__
<u>August 8</u> <i>Bathed with the chicks</i> <i>Funeral of General Grant in New York</i> <i>Drove Maud this PM</i>	<u>August 24</u> Rainy day NE storm Dined at the W W Astors; took in Mrs Kernochan To Casino dance
<u>August 10</u> <i>Rode with Ella</i> <i>Dinner party at home</i> <i>Miss Buckley Miss Winthrop Miss Dresser</i> <i>Miss Wilson Miss Griswold</i> <i>Regie, W Thorn, Winthrop, L Rutherford,</i> <i>W Travers</i>	<u>August 26</u> Dinner party at home Mrs Belmont ex President Arthur J & Mrs Rogers J & Mrs Lawrence Mrs J Thompson C Vanderbilt G Redmond Mrs H Helzar(?) A very pleasant dinner
<u>August 11</u> Drove out Mrs Van Rensselaer The Kountze’s arrived this evening	<u>August 28</u> Beautiful day Drove out Ella Pomeroy arrived this morning Ball at the Casino very fine

<p><u>September 4</u></p> <p>Dinner party at home M & Mme de Rustenkiold (Swedish Minister) Mrs Gray, Mrs Buck Winthrop Mrs OPH Belmont Iswolski Mrs. Ammidown Tom Barker Dr & Mrs Mitchell Regie & Wyllys P Dr & Mrs TR were supposed to have been asked for the 11th but we managed to get them in ok C Winthrop Ball in the ev'g was charming</p>	<p><u>October 3</u></p> <p>Misty Mrs Van Rensselaer Mr & Mrs A Coxe Miss A Ogden to dine Mr H S Fearing Mr Van Alen</p> <p>Rode out with Ella</p>
<p><u>September 7</u></p> <p>International yacht race "Genestra" Brit vs Puritan Amer</p>	<p><u>October 4</u></p> <p>To Church PM to Villalon Mrs Ammidown to tea</p>
<p><u>September 10</u></p> <p>Unveiling of Perry statue in the parade & banquet at Ocean House a splendid celebration & I wish my dear father could have been present Miss Fellows & Mr Soley to dine</p>	<p><u>October 10</u></p> <p>Up the river in Goelet's yacht "Norseman" Parker Post Whipple 2 Goelets Poker Smelts (?) about the yacht PM drove out Mrs Lorillard Ev'g commerce party at the Clifts</p>
<p><u>September 11</u></p> <p>Dinner party at home Mrs John Jacob Astor Miss Wolfe Mr Leary Mr Cleft Mrs Rives Bishop & Mrs H C Potter Admiral & Mrs Baldwin Major Bryce A charming dinner Drove Mrs Rives in the buggy</p>	<p><u>October 14</u></p> <p>Left New York @ 8 AM Wickford two hours at 1:30 & home at 4:40 Dinner party at home Dr 7 Mrs Magill Mr & Mrs E Neil Dr & Mrs Rives Miss Ogston Gen Crawford Dr Francis Miss M Whitney</p>
<p><u>September 12</u></p> <p>Drove Mrs Ammidown in buggy a beautiful day Wyllys returned Rode on horseback Dined at the D'Hauteville's Clark & Hig remitted L 102.1/5=\$495. to G G King her a/c</p>	<p><u>October 15</u></p> <p>Beautiful day Drove Ella this PM Dined at the Bonapartes Mr & Mrs G Tiffany, Mr & Mrs Neill Mr & Mrs King & the B's Very jolly dinner</p>
<p><u>September 24</u></p> <p>Drove out Mrs V A Mr Barber & Cap De la Chine to dine</p>	<p><u>October 17</u></p> <p>Lovely day Drove out Mrs V A Dinner at home Butler & Laundress left for N.Y.</p>
<p><u>September 28</u></p> <p>Left at 8:30 Mr Jay & Mrs Lawrence with me to town Got out of Somerville & went to see Uncle William found him well in appearance & glad to see me. Met Ella & Miss Sears from the train at Fitchburgh Depot & went to the Somerset Club to lunch</p>	<p><u>October 18</u></p> <p>Beautiful day To Church Mrs C C & Miss Pomeroy sat in pew Walked on cliffs with Ella - called on Mrs P Lorillard Nice tea & evening tete a tete with Ella</p>

IV. KINGSCOTE: A WOMAN'S DOMAIN 1896-1916

On Ella's birthday, March 8, 1894, David King, Jr. died suddenly in Washington DC of peritonitis following a bout with appendicitis. The funeral services were held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Washington on the morning of March 12 and his remains were transported to Newport by steamer for internment at Island Cemetery in a plot nearby the King family's burial lot.⁷⁵ A local obituary stated, "Word was received last night of the death in Washington, after a brief illness, of Mr. David King of this city. It was not known generally here that he was ill, and the announcement of his death came with startling suddenness to his friends and relatives..."⁷⁶ A sense for the forty-one year old widow's dismay and grief are found in a letter from a J. J. Johnston, physician, in response to her inquiry into the management of her husband's case.

...An operation on the first day would not have altered the condition or removed the risks and therefore no one can say that if it had been done then, his life would have been saved. Wish that I could say something that would give you more comfort than these words can. Knowing as well how you feel, I realize that nothing can make this burden less.

Mr. King's death has grieved me most deeply. I am perfectly candid in what I have here said, and have tried to let you see how it happened.⁷⁷

Ella and the children repaired to Europe following David King's death where she faced decisions regarding where and how to establish herself and her children for the future. In the fall of 1895 Ella communicated with her brother George Lockheart Rives, who was an executor of David's estate, regarding a possible purchase of Kingscote. He responded to her in Paris on November 11, 1895 offering realistic advice.

It seems to me that the price he asks, \$75,000., is reasonable...On the other hand, I doubt very much whether property along Bellevue Avenue is likely to increase in value...Therefore, I think that you would be pretty safe to be able to buy either next spring or any future time...

The more important and more difficult question is whether you can afford the purchase. Your income from personal property is in the neighborhood of \$17,750.
Add net rent of Parker and Needwood cottages, say, 1,250.
Net rent of 1228 Connecticut Avenue, say, 2,500.
Makes a footing of \$21,500.

[Inflation calculator: \$21,500. (1895) = \$422,535.93 (2001 dollars)]⁷⁸

⁷⁵ William Dehon King, "David King" PSNC Archives, King Family Correspondences.

⁷⁶ Newport Historical Society Obituary files.

⁷⁷ J. J. Johnston. April 29, 1894. Newport Historical Society. Box 144

⁷⁸ <http://www.westegg.com/inflation/infl.cgi> Inflation calculator. S. Morgan Freidman.

The other Newport property and the farm, together with the rest of your Washington property, practically bring in nothing above payment of taxes and interest. So for the present the above is about the income which you and your children can fairly count upon one year with another.⁷⁹

Ella's brother advised that the reduction in her income from the purchase of Kingscote would require her to establish a year round residence there. "...rent the house for the next summer..." he suggested, with "...an option of a sale to you for \$75,000." Then he concluded, "...when Henry King dies, your children will come into I suppose \$400,000....this would put them and you in quite a different financial position..."⁸⁰

With Rives family members in Washington DC, as observed in Gwendolen's letters, one may question why Ella Louisa Rives King's sentiments ran so deeply towards Kingscote that she was willing to abandon the home they built in Washington DC that she enjoyed for twelve years? One possibility was that without her husband the social venue would change dramatically in a city where, "Women rule by virtue of their husband's official position...", according to *Youth's Educator for Home and Society*.⁸¹ Nor, does it appear that she considered New York City, which was also a familiar option. Another strong attraction in Newport was the Catholic Order of the Cenacle. According to J. Walton Ferguson's study of Kingscote in 1977, Ella Rives King became very involved with the Order and converted to Catholicism "shortly after World War I."⁸² Although this time frame is not documented by Ferguson, a ledger entry of David King, Jr. on April 11, 1889 reviewed "Ella's a/c" and noted "Convent 432."⁸³ Perhaps she had been closely involved with the Cenacle long before her conversion, and found some comfort in maintaining a significant affiliation with them by establishing herself in Newport.

Ella did follow her brother's advice to delay acquiring Kingscote. It was another five years before the purchase was transacted and in the meantime she addressed the details of settling her late husband's estate, and awaited the settlement of William Henry King's estate after his death in 1897. Nevertheless, the passing years obviously did not hamper her desire or resolve to own the nurturing domicile of Kingscote. In 1900 Ella Rives King purchased Kingscote from fifteen heirs of William Henry King in five separate deed transactions; one on January 22, two on January 31, one on February 6, and one on June 20, for a total of \$60,000.00. Two of these transactions were with her children Gwendolen and Phillip who inherited one twenty-fourth share each.⁸⁴

⁸⁰ George Lockheart Rives. November 11, 1895. PSNC Archives.

⁸¹ <http://www.history.rochester.edu/ehp-book/yethas/chap6.htm> Anna White, *Youth's Educator for Home and Society*, (1896) p. 1.

⁸² J. Walton Ferguson, *Kingscote*, (1977) p. 28.

⁸³ David King, Jr. Ledger/Day book, 1889. PSNC Archives. Formerly at Kingscote. Guest Bedroom closet.

⁸⁴ Historic American Buildings Survey. No. RI-307 "Kingscote"

In the interim years before her purchase of Kingscote, Ella did rent the house according to two of Gwendolen's letters, both written on May 25, 1896 from Newport to her mother at The Shoreham in Washington DC. Gwendolen at nineteen appears to be a mature and independent young woman whose affectionate relationship with her mother continued to deepen over the years. "Two hearts must beat as one," she declared. Apparently Ella's travel was related to estate matters, and her daughter was sensitive to her task at hand, "I got your dear letter this AM and am so glad that the New York part of your work is over. I hope that we get the grey & chestnut... Well good night & sleep well my dearest__my own precious jewel__all I have." The second letter is equally consoling. "I am thinking of you on that beastly train today with such hard work before you in Wash. Poor dear sweetheart. Well, it will soon be over & you will be in Newport before you know it!"⁸⁵

The two letters also paint a picture of opening Kingscote for the season and tending to responsibilities such as visiting her father's grave and the King family clan in Newport. "It is a perfectly beautiful day today & I have been busy. I had the china carried down from the attic & have given directions about the stable & have sent Andrew on one or two errands and have ordered food for two days...", reported Gwendolen. "I mislaid the key of the linen closet so fearful excitement this AM but fortunately I found a key which fitted... The place is looking too lovely for words as Andrew has put out the palms on the circle, etc. Aunt A after very kindly helping me with the china has gone out..."

Today Aunt Annie & I went to the cemetery on foot. We got all the lilac on the place and arranged it on Papa's grave. Some of it in the shape of a cross and the rest in a big bunch at the foot. Then I picked all the dandelion (___?) out of the grass & threw them & the faded flowers away so the lot will look very nice tomorrow. The Whitney's lot had a good deal of lilac in it but it was put into vases which I dislike. It was perfectly lovely out there with a lovely breeze flowing.

Gwendolen had quite a sense of humor concerning her King familial obligations. "I was talking trash to Aunt A & of course succeeded in taking her in, said I: A, well its so poor an existence this life that I think I'll go to the Lily Pond and hang myself!" That afternoon at the Boston store on Thames Street she encountered, "two most horrible apparitions, they were Aunt Sally & Natika. Aunt Sally untidy even for her she looked positively dreadful..." "Tomorrow we dine with Aunt Gussy!" exclaimed Gwendolen, "Too fearful but of course impossible to refuse. I shall try & go to see Aunt Georgie." Of the lunch she declared, "Nothing exciting to tell you about that."⁸⁶ [Sally may be a nickname for Sarah Birkhead. Gussie is most likely Mary Augusta Leroy King]⁸⁷

⁸⁵ Gwendolen King, May 25, 1896. PSNC Archives.

⁸⁶ Gwendolen King, May 25, 1896. PSNC Archives.

The May 1896 letters make no mention of preparing for the pending event of Gwendolen's coming out party at Kingscote on Tuesday August 25 of that summer. It was carried off with the typical aplomb and lavish style of Newport's exclusive social set and executed by their favored vendors

The Newport Mercury August 29, 1896

"Kingscote" the summer residence of Mrs. David King on Bellevue Avenue presented a fairy-like picture Wednesday evening the occasion being the "coming-out" ball of her daughter. The house was handsomely decorated by Landers, the floral decoration being by Hodgson. Mrs. King wore Black tulle with jet trimmings and was assisted in receiving by her daughter in a white tulle trimmed with pink roses. Mrs Franklin Bartlett and Miss King led the cotillion which was participated in by nearly fifty couples.

Soon after Ella took possession of Kingscote preparations were underway for Gwendolen's marriage to Edward Maitland Armstrong of New York. Their wedding reception at home in Newport appears to be the first and the last gala event hosted by Kingscote's new owner.

The Newport Mercury, September 14, 1901

The marriage of Miss Gwendolen King daughter of Mrs. David King to Edward Maitland Armstrong of New York was celebrated at Trinity Church at noon on Thursday Rev. Henry Morgan Stone officiating. The Church was handsomely decorated for the occasion by palms and potted plants while clematis vines were garlanded about the pillars and suspended from the gallery. Cut flowers smilax. White roses and lilies of the valley were conspicuous in the scheme of decoration.

The bridal party entered the church to the strains of the bridal chorus from Lobengrio. The bride was clad in a gown of plain white satin trimmed with mousseline de soie and carried a shower bouquet of lilies of the valley and white orchids. The bridesmaids wore gowns of white organdie with pink picture hats and carried pink roses. They were as follows Miss Landon Rives and Miss Mabel W. Pomeroy, cousins of the bride, Miss Una H. Soley, Miss Julia Stuyvesant Rogers, Miss Marian Howard Armstrong, sister of the groom and Miss Romola Dahlgren. The best man was Mr. John Hill Prentice and the ushers were Mr. Arthur Osgood Choate, Mr. Richard Lewis Morris, Mr. William Benjamin, Mr. James M.A. Darrach, Mr. Rogers Hammond Bacon, Mr. Phillip Gordon Birkhead, Mr. Phillip King, and Mr. Noel Armstrong, brother of the groom. After the ceremony the party left the church to the strains of Mendleshon's wedding march and proceeded to "Kingscote" where a wedding breakfast was served and a reception was held. Elaborate floral decorations transformed the house into a bower of beauty. Roses were predominant to the decorations.

Kingscote
Le 12 September 1901

Menu

Consumme en tasse

Oeufs Farcie en Bellevue

Filets de Boeuf aux Champignon Frais

Haricot Verts

Poussins Rotie au Cresson

Salade d'Ananas

Glace Fantaisie

Patisserie

Fruit
Medoc Royal Bruit 1893

Bonbons
Appollinaris

Following Gwendolen's marriage a new pattern emerged in the life of Ella Rives King, in which Kingscote and her children predominated. She continued to enjoy periodic European holidays although she seemed to regret lengthy separations from Gwendolen to whom she was as devoted to as her daughter was to her. Anticipating her return from Paris in 1909 she was delighted to hear from Gwendolen.

I was about to begin this letter to you, when to my great joy, yours of the 12th was brought to me. I feel quite wonderfully pleased that this should be my last letter to you before I sail. I do hope that you can manage to be in town on the day that I arrive if we do not get in very late, for I do so long to see you!⁸⁸

Ella continued frequent jaunts to New York City where she tended to personal business, visited friends and was in close proximity to Gwendolen who now lived in Babylon on Long Island. "Don't forget that I am going to town on Monday_Belmont, of course. I go to Dr. (???) on Tuesday & Thursday at 10:30; the latter is a long appointment & I must go & cut off coupons on either Wednesday or Friday AM. What day will you come?"⁸⁹ New York visits also included many lunch dates, the Opera and Philharmonic, and personal avocations such as "...went to the dog show this AM beau-ed by Mr. Fisher who appeared just in time...I must run to my lecture 'The Intolerance of the Catholic Church' by a Jesuit Father."⁹⁰

Phillip became a source of constant worry for Ella whose emotions seemed to vary between annoyance and genuine concern, which she regularly confided to her daughter.

...It is really frightful that Phillip should apparently have no sense of honor about money and no sense of responsibility about anything. I don't understand at all that absence of morals about money – apart from other things its so common. Like most ills I think it springs from intense selfishness, and this horrible modern idea that amusement must be had at any cost...⁹¹

...Phillip lunched with me today, and I am sorry to say that his expected "job" is put off until March. He was actually in tears over the disappointment, and had so hoped to have the signed contract to show me to-day." He knows how much I hoped to have gone abroad with that anxiety off my mind. I asked him to go with me to Babylon on Tuesday – you don't mind, do you? He seemed very much pleased at the prospect, and it will do him good to see you & the children and distract his mind for a little from his troubles...⁹²

⁸⁸ Ella Rives King. October 22, 1909. PSNC Archives.

⁸⁹ Ella Rives King. December 4, 1914. PSNC Archives.

⁹⁰ Ella Rives King. February 22, 1915. PSNC Archives.

⁹¹ Ella Rives King. October 22, 1909. PSNC Archives.

⁹² Ella Rives King. February 10, 1912. PSNC Archives.

Gwendolen was sensitive to her brother's problems and remarked to her mother that "...I think from his quick recovery that drinking too much was as much the trouble as anything –of course he only did it because he was discouraged & worried."⁹³ Her receptiveness in her brother's regard is surprising considering the overwhelming woes her husband's drinking and lack of work brought to her marriage.

...Maitland is not drinking at all & seems perfectly normal. He has several things in view & I think if he gets work now, or soon, he will be all right & be able to do it__ On the other hand, from past experience, I am afraid a long waiting round here would be very dangerous...He thoroughly understands the situation & knows that in the event of his not working & keeping straight I will not live with him...Do not fear I shall loose my head for I have definitely made up my mind not to live with M under any circumstances unless he is all right and working...Did you see the unpleasant paragraph in T.T. about us this week? Fortunately no names were mentioned...⁹⁴

...I am very glad I decided to stay on here for I feel it is an important time...What I hope to persuade him to do is to go & live at a very nice sanatorium at Riverside. He can come to town daily from there. His going there voluntarily would have a very good effect on him & make a good impression on his friends. He is absolutely straight now, but of course, none of us can feel sure it will last...I am afraid I may run short of friends. Just in case I need it can you send me a cheque for \$25 or a little more? I will not use it unless I have to...⁹⁵

It appears that Gwendolen was willing to work her hardest to help Maitland straighten himself out. "...I think I had better stay till Monday__" she wrote her mother. "Maitland is doing so well that I think he deserves this amount of encouragement on my part."⁹⁶ However Gwendolen's rationalizations failed to soften Ella's dissatisfaction with her son-in-law, whom she viewed far less kindly.

...I saw Mr. Pendergast who said Maitland had gone to your box a few days ago so he supposed that you [gave] the key. I am so sorry that you continue to trust him with it I suppose you think you might hurt his feelings but I do not think it right to consider that with a person of that sort who has never considered anyone but himself. You will not find it easy to spoil the baby, if you find yourself without money.⁹⁷

⁹³ Gwendolen Armstrong. October 28, 1910. PSNC Archives.

⁹⁴ Gwendolen Armstrong. September 13, 1908. PSNC Archives.

⁹⁵ Gwendolen Armstrong. September 18, 1908. PSNC Archives.

⁹⁶ Gwendolen Armstrong. September 6, 1908. PSNC Archives.

⁹⁷ Ella Rives King. February 14, 1912. PSNC Archives.

Moreover, much of Ella's time began to evolve around Gwendolen's hardships, which consequently influenced and strengthened her role as grandmother to David King Armstrong born in 1903, Edward Maitland Armstrong born in 1905, and Gwendolen Ella Rives Armstrong born in 1911.⁹⁸ Kingscote became the hub of her life and the natural aura of intimacy and tranquility at Kingscote evermore complimented the lives that transpired there. An undocumented magazine clipping commented on the impact this misfortune had on her life.

...She has always been a well-known figure in Newport, but in the last half dozen years has appeared brokenhearted because of the marriage of the red-cheeked Gwendolen King with E. Maitland Armstrong, an architect, brought so much unhappiness to the daughter. Since that affair Mrs. King has not taken her accustomed place in society. She has a tremendous fortune, but a good slice of it went to straighten out the affairs of the Armstrongs...⁹⁹

The Newport Social Index of 1908 lists Mr. and Mrs. E. Maitland Armstrong in residence at Kingscote, thus it can be surmised that stays for the Newport season were typical. "...I enclose the key of the trunk sent yesterday. Other express will go tomorrow...you will (DV) see us on Friday. My tenants take possession on Saturday."¹⁰⁰ However, there were times that Ella had the grandchildren alone when Gwendolen was compelled to deal with her husband's problems. In September of 1908 Gwendolen wrote, "...Have not had any letter from Daisy Van Alen. Of course the children can go to the party. Will you get Brother's dress?...Give kisses to the children...I am sure you will understand my staying on here..."¹⁰¹ In preparation for the children's summers at Kingscote Ella diligently pursued arrangements.

...She told me that the young girl who taught Alice was Miss Richardson the daughter of the organist at Trinity Church__English people. They live on the corner of Catherine Street & Cottage Street so I stopped there on my way home and saw Mrs. and Miss Richardson; she is a very nice intelligent, fresh looking girl...She said that she would be pleased to teach the boys and to come at 2 or 2:30 and stay for an hour & a half or two hours...I will "treat" the boys to the lessons for the time that you are here__five days a week__and I think you will like Miss Richardson...I went to the Cenacle this afternoon and had a nice talk with Mother Marnzana; she says that Madame Dupraille is in New York just now...she would be very glad to give the boys French lessons...Perhaps on the French lesson days they could have shorter English lessons...¹⁰²

⁹⁸ J. Walton Ferguson, *Kingscote*, (1977), p.27 *no documentation of birth dates.

⁹⁹Undocumented clipping. PSNC Archives.

¹⁰⁰ Gwendolen Armstrong. June 9, 1914. PSNC Archives.

¹⁰¹ Gwendolen Armstrong. September 6, 1908. PSNC Archives.

¹⁰² Ella Rives King. May 6, 1912. PSNC Archives.

Despite the loss of her riding and walking companion, it did not diminish her motivation to continue an active life. Ella Rives King "...is a tall blonde, so well preserved that she seems to be the living refutation of the fifty and nine Summers that have nearly all been spent by her in Newport," reported a magazine clipping. "...The secret of all this is her great love for healthful outdoor exercise, not the least of which are the two hours she spends daily in the saddle at dawn..."¹⁰³ She was also fastidious about personal care as she reported to Gwendolen, "...Miss Ball is coming later to "do" my head, face & neck. I do like a white, smooth, clear skin!"¹⁰⁴ Correspondence between mother and daughter does not mention Ella hosting large dinner parties or attending elaborate entertainments, however Ella developed a fairly active and apparently comfortable social routine at Kingscote.

I dined with Mrs. Barrow last night—the Smith's also---and of course had to play Kuhn Kaun. It was not too stupid, but games certainly do bore me! Today your Aunt Maud and Mrs. S. Sherman lunched with me; I asked them both, separately in the street yesterday...This afternoon I walked to the Cenacle and back; it was cold and windy and a lovely sunset...It is useless to try to tell you how sad and lonely I am without you, but you know, a little!¹⁰⁵

Mr. Ferguson arrived of Wed. PM, departed this morning for Madison near New Haven, en route to NY. He took me for a drive yesterday morning, and the Ocean Drive was delicious. Your Aunt M came to tea on Wed. We were joined separately by M. La F. & Mrs. D. Kane whom I was so very glad to see. The Smiths dined here last night...¹⁰⁶

...We are going on Tuesday to Boston for a few hours in order to see the lilacs, etc. at the Arboretum, and talk of going in June to Woods Hole to see the Walsh rose collection, would you not like to go? All day excursion in a motor car. On Monday I am to lunch with the G Rives and on Wednesday with Mrs. Corkin. On Monday too, Mrs. Fearing, her sister Mrs. Henry & Mrs. W Smith are coming to tea...Mr. DuFais insisted a few days ago on escorting me into the Redwood Library & it really is delightfully improved and best of all the old librarian has a job there that keeps him happy & busy. You go in from Redwood Street. I feel quite settled, clocks going, etc. The lilacs are lovely. I shall be so glad when you come.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰³ Undocumented clipping. PSNC Archives.

¹⁰⁴ Ella Rives King. May 6, 1912. PSNC Archives.

¹⁰⁵ Ella Rives King. October 27, 1914. PSNC Archives.

¹⁰⁶ Ella Rives King. November 13, 1914. PSNC Archives.

¹⁰⁷ Ella Rives King. May 22, 1915. PSNC Archives.

...Mrs. Fearing and Mrs. Lorrillard came to see me yesterday and asked about you, and were both so nice. Mr. Dyer is at home and I have had two little chats with him in Bellevue Avenue; he talks rather slowly but looks remarkably well. I am lunching with the Smiths to-day...¹⁰⁸

I suppose you are having the wretched weather too! It is such a pity on a holiday. Your Aunt Maud & Evelyn came to see me this morning, and we exchanged happy New Years...I am very busy, of course, but am going to tea with the Fearings, as they send their motor for me; the walking is fearful...¹⁰⁹

One can sense the importance of the security and stability that Kingscote provided and attention to the details of maintenance and enhancements to meet her needs was a preoccupation. "I am delighted to hear the improvements are under way," wrote Gwendolen. "...I think it will be awfully nice to feel you can stay there at any season that you want to."¹¹⁰ "I think your Aunt Maud is going to take the furniture from the North spare room (which I offer her at a bargain) and then I shall send for the set that is stored in Washington...I am having the Bowery Street side-walk repaired, and the front gate is red leaded," Ella reported to Gwendolen on December 4, 1914. Apparently Ella rented out Kingscote when on a European holiday. "I went through the house yesterday and it looks very nicely & will still more so when the cleaning is finished. Mrs. Moore says it was left filthy!"¹¹¹

Correspondence between Ella Rives King and Gwendolen Armstrong between the years 1909 and 1916 mention Gwendolen's encounters with Phillip and Gertrude (Phillip's wife) in New York City. However he is absent from Newport and appears to have established a life that no longer included the world of Kingscote. According to J. Walton Ferguson in *Kingscote*, Phillip died in France in 1923.¹¹²

July of 1915 brought another tragedy when Gwendolen was widowed at thirty years of age with three young children ages twelve, ten and four. "Your father was laid to rest in a most beautiful spot and this autumn I will bring you up to see it," she wrote to her boys at Kingscote from Danskammer Farm in New York, Roseton on Hudson. "You were sweet & dear yesterday & I know that you will both try to be the comfort to me that Papa would have wished if he had known that he was going to leave us..."¹¹³ One can only imagine what mixed feelings Ella must have experienced over this sad event in her daughter's life but offering comfort and support to Gwendolen became an ever larger mission in her life. "...I am so sorry that you have to go through the terrible ordeal of going through Maitland's personal belongings, for I know there is nothing so distressing...I am so thankful for the heavenly weather especially on your account...sunshine does help our sad hearts and the winter won't seem so long."¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁸ Ella Rives King. December 5, 1915. PSNC Archives.

¹⁰⁹ Ella Rives King. January 1, 1916. PSNC Archives.

¹¹⁰ Gwendolen King. November 2, 1910. PSNC Archives.

¹¹¹ Ella Rives King. May 22, 1915. PSNC Archives.

¹¹² J. Walton Ferguson, *Kingscote*, p. 28. No documentation.

¹¹³ Gwendolen Armstrong. July 20, 1915. PSNC Archives.

¹¹⁴ Ella Rives King. December 15, 1915. PSNC Archives.

It is evident that Ella became responsible for assisting her daughter's and grandchildren's financial support.

...I would much rather continue for the present paying all your expenses. Next year, after everything at Marlborough including planting, etc. has been settled, and after you give up the house and decide on where you will spend next winter, and about the furniture, and about the boys, then we can make some other arrangements. I think it would be easier for us both, if after next summer I could give you a definite allowance payable quarterly...¹¹⁵

In his Kingscote study J. Walton Ferguson noted that Gwendolen and her children came home to live at Kingscote following Maitland Armstrong's death, however Ferguson does not provide documentation leading to how the two women reached the decision or when the event took place. In a letter to Gwendolen on January 1, 1916 Ella closed, "Well I know how much I am thinking of you, and hoping that things will go well with you during the coming year." Evidently at this point the decision had not yet been made. The scope of this study is was not intended to go beyond 1916. However, the letters from subsequent years are being catalogued and archived at the Preservation Society of Newport County and may provide these missing details. Upon Ella's death in 1925 her obituary stated that, "She leaves one daughter Mrs. E. Maitland Armstrong who made her home with her mother. Mrs. King had been a summer resident of Newport for about 50 years, and took deep interest in the affairs of the community."¹¹⁶ At any rate Kingscote became for Gwendolen the same haven it was for her mother. In 1968 Gwendolen passed the house on to her daughter Gwendolen Ella Rives Armstrong who bequeathed Kingscote to the Preservation Society of Newport County in 1972. Kingscote's destiny was that of a woman's domain for close to eighty years.

The story of Kingscote is a sentimental journey of David and Ella King, Jr. and their daughter and granddaughter. Both Kingscote and the King family shared characteristics and qualities that were mutually agreeable, such as character and charm, intimacy, romantic leanings, adaptability, and an accord with nature. To develop and maintain such a complimentary relationship for nearly a century is a testament to human values expressed in architecture. A decade's neglect during the term of William Henry King's illness did not diminish the inherent values of the house, nor did the alterations implemented by David King, Jr. During the tenure of three generations of David King Jr.'s family Kingscote's physical adaptability and nurturing qualities complimented the life changes of its occupants. Kingscote continues to tell their story with a quiet charm and dignity equal to their lives.

¹¹⁵ Ella Rives King. December 15, 1915. PSNC Archives.

¹¹⁶ *The Newport Mercury*, Week ending March 7, 1925.

V. ADDENDUM: KING FAMILY SERVANTS

Servants in the King's employ are documented in the 1880 Newport Census records. The records for 1881, 1882, 1883, 1885 and 1892 are David King Jr.'s personally compiled servant data that are informal notations in the back pages of several of his yearly diaries and in a day book.¹¹⁷ In particular, they point out a fairly regular staff turn-over between the years 1880-1885 that was not atypical of the era on the whole, but certainly reflects their transient life between Newport and Washington DC. Also notable is the common predominance of Irish servants. Only two servants continued in the King's employ during this period, the Coachman Edward Moran and a Housemaid Margaret McIntosh. David King did remark upon a "faithful nurse" of four years and a butler that remained in his service for over two years, however most staff positions turned over once or twice a year. A certain detachment from his servants is evident in the lack of last names or name errors in his diary entries. Nonetheless, respect for commitment and job integrity is evident in his generous gift to Fitzgerald.

The longevity of Coachman Edward Moran and the fact that his wage was the highest paid implies his position was one of elevated responsibility and status in a household where their horses were revered and horsemanship a vital part of their lives. A Coachman's duties are outlined in *The Horse and Buggy Age in New England*:

A coachman's job was no sinecure. The daily routine was exacting and strenuous. A coachman had to be up early to feed and groom his horses and muck out the stable. There were Carriages to be greased and washed and harnesses to be cleaned and oiled and polished. It took half an hour to groom a horse and about the same time to wash a carriage. A coachman with three horses to look after had his hands full. There was a never ending succession of details which required attention during the intervals between morning shopping tours and afternoon drives...For all this the average wage was sixty dollars a month.¹¹⁸

Moran had a groom to execute the more tedious aspects of stable management, but he also bore the weighty responsibility of safely and efficiently transporting four of the King's valued horses and two carriages from Washington DC to Newport via "Adams Express," per a day book entry on July 1, 1887 (cost \$125.)

Apparently David King was willing to pay the typical wage for a good coachman, however it seems odd that the groom's wage was equal to the butler's. It is also interesting that these two staff positions turned over most frequently. In the four year period between between 1880-1883 five butlers and six grooms were employed. David King's 1876 diary related a particular butler problem that points out a reality when household members included barely known servants. The butler Kirttand could not have been

¹¹⁷ David King, Jr. Diaries. Kingscote. Bedroom # 1 closet

¹¹⁸ Edwin Valentine Mitchell, *The Horse and Buggy Age in New England*, (1937), p. 127

long in his employ since David and Ella honeymooned in Europe from January 27, 1875 until October 10, 1875 according to his diary from that year. On February 16, 1876 he wrote, “Bound over by Judge Kilbreth to keep the peace for 6 mo. in my own recognizance for \$300. for pushing Henry Kerttand, my butler, out of my presence, whereby his eye was blackened & he thrown down.” The case was resolved on April 3, 1876 when, “My case of Kirttand vs King came on before a sheriff. Jury to assess the damages for an assault Jan 17th. After hearing witnesses & C Olin summed up for me very finely & the plaintiff followed – the jury awarded Kirttand \$100. damages! We drove home.” King made no further comment on the matter.

A day book of David King’s shows a significant jump in wages in 1888-1889. a servant named Louise was paid a monthly wage of \$90.00. “A/C Louise from April 1888 to April 1889 12 mo. @ 90. 10180.” Her position is not identified. The highest paid female employees prior to this are cooks earning \$25. and in one instance \$40. Although Louise’s last name is never recorded, there is a Louise with the family for at least nine years, albeit it may not be the same Louise. Louise appears in Washington DC in a March 31, 1887 letter, “ This evening at six o’clock the *ralie papier* (?) passed by our house and Louise, Phillip and I went to see it pass by...” November of 1887 finds Louise at Carnwath with the children. ‘Dearest Mamma, We are all well and blooming and are doing our lessons faithfully. We went down to the river yesterday with Louise...” In 1888 Louise is with the children at Ventnor as mentioned in Gwendolen’s August 25th letter to he mother. Louise is also among the day book notations of servants’ wages in 1889, which includes a concierge indicating they were Paris staff during David King’s commission to the Paris Exposition. On May 25, 1896 Gwendolen was opening Kingscote while her mother tended to business in Washington DC and wrote, “...Am I to furnish Louise with blankets or will she come provided?” In a letter from Ella in New York, to Gwendolen at Babylon on February 14, 1912 she remarked, “...Louise has sent me (__?__) some needed stockings, too narrow (__?__) for the baby’s caps; I told her to make them in the autumn but had forgotten them...” The seamstress ability definitely suggests a housekeeper capacity for Louise. If this is in fact the same Louise it would indicate a strong loyalty to her mistress following David King, Jr.’s death in 1894. In the third article of Ella Rives King’s Last Will and Testament she bequeathed \$500.00 to a Louise Peake.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁹ The Last Will and Testament of Ella Rives King, Newport Probate Court, Vol. 88 p. 61

1880 NEWPORT CENSUS OF SERVANTS RESIDING AT KINGSCOTE				
NAME	POSITION	AGE	ORIGIN	CITIZENSHIP
John Lew	Butler	35	Ireland	Unknown
Edward Moran	Coachman	28	Ireland	Unknown
Patrick Coghlin	Groom	26	Ireland	Unknown
Thomas Ferrell	Valet	15	New York	USA
Bertha Gruenwald	Lady's Maid	24	Germany	Unknown
Margaret Mc Intosh	Housemaid	40	Ireland	Unknown
Hannah Connely	Laundress	35	Ireland	Unknown
Ann Barry	Cook	50	Ireland	Unknown
Francoise Dumis	Nurse	23	France	Unknown
Margaret Fitzgerald	Nurse	30	Ireland	Unknown

1881 PERSONAL SERVANT RECORDS			
NAME	POSITION	WAGE	COMMENTS
Edward Moran	Coachman	\$60.00	
John Lew	Butler	\$45.00	
T, Farrell	Valet	\$15.00	
Ann	Unidentified	\$15.00	
Margaret	Unidentified	\$18.00	Most likely Fitzgerald. Jan 7, 1882 " <i>Margaret Fitzgerald left this morning to marry Peter Matthews. She has been a faithful nurse for 4 years. Gave her \$50.00</i> "
Margaret	Housemaid	\$18.00	Most likely McIntosh
Kate O'Connell	Unidentified	\$20.00	
Patrick Lewis	Groom	No entry	
Patrick Lawless	Unidentified	\$45.00	Possible name correction for P. Lewis
John Magnon	Unidentified	\$45.00	Listed as a groom in 1882
Hanny	Cook	No entry	
Andrew	Butler	\$45.00	Sept. 5, 1881 " <i>My butler J. Lew left my employ after two years & more service. His health was bad. Andrew came in his place.</i> "
Bridget	Unidentified	\$12.00	
Charlotte	Cook	\$25.00	" <i>came December</i> "
Annie	Scullery	\$10.00	
Katy	Laundress	\$12.00	

1882 PERSONAL SERVANT RECORDS			
NAME	POSITION	WAGE	COMMENTS
Edward Moran	Coachman	\$60.00	
J. Magnon	Groom	\$45.00	
Robert Callon	Butler	\$40.00	Jan 8, 1882 "New butler came this morning. John Callon. * Name discrepancy
Margaret McIntosh	Housemaid	\$20.00	
Le'onie	French nurse	\$20.00	Jan 2, 1882 "Leonie - new French nurse came" June 30, 1882 "Leonie went to Providence to see Dr. Miller. William the butler took her. Margaret Matthews came to look after the children."
Charlotte	Col'd cook	\$25.00	Possible 'colored' cook
Annie	Scullery	\$10.00	
Katy	Laundress	\$12.00	
Thomas Fane	Boy	\$15.00	

1883 PERSONAL SERVANT RECORDS			
NAME	POSITION	WAGE	COMMENTS
Edward Moran	Coachman	\$60.00	
H. Moran	Groom	\$45.00	
Margaret McIntosh	Housemaid	\$18.-20.	
Anna Kempfle	Nurse	\$20.00	
Johanna	Cook	\$25.00	
Ann Matthews	K-Maid	\$14.00	"till June"
Frances Conbay	Butler	\$45.00	
William	Footman	\$30.00	* first footman noted
Mary Kimmens	Laundress	\$20.00	
Oliver Tisdale	Butler	\$50.00	Although Oliver does not appear in the 1882 list Oct. 7, 1882 states "Oliver came as butler @ 50."
Henry	Groom	\$45.00	"Came July to November"

1885 PERSONAL SERVANT RECORDS			
NAME	POSITION	WAGE	COMMENTS
Edward Moran	Coachman	\$60.00	
Margaret McIntosh	Housemaid	\$20.00	
George Valentine	Butler	\$45.00	<i>"George has Thursday afternoons and Sunday. Nov 16th engaged George Valentine as butler @ \$45. per month (157 W 20th St) and English Protestant - married, to go to Washn. Oct. 17, 1885 "Butler and Laundress left for NY" The Kings did not leave Newport until Nov. 9</i>
Christine Laspe'	Cook	\$40.00	
Julie	Kitchen maid	\$14.00	
Jeannie	Laundress	\$20.00	
Wm Duggan	Groom	\$28.00	
Elvine	Nurse	\$20.00	
Wm Humphrey	Footman	\$30.00	
Elizabeth	Cook	\$30.00	<i>"June - November"</i>
Clare	Kitchen maid	\$14.00	
Charles Rodgers	Butler	\$45.00	<i>"came December"</i>

1892 PERSONAL SERVANT RECORDS			
NAME	POSITION	WAGE	COMMENTS
Helises LaBrass (?)	Butler	No wages listed	
Ernest Dandowen	2 nd Man		
Frederich Neilson			<i>"fired"</i>
Emile Lindbloom			<i>"Dec- April"</i>
Elizabeth			<i>"left October"</i>
New cook			<i>"left Nov"</i>
Matilda			<i>"left end Dec"</i>
Annie Rodgers			<i>"Jan - Feb"</i>
Ida Person			

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EXHIBIT A

THE KING FAMILY OF NEWPORT COUNTY RHODE ISLAND

ELLA LOUISA RIVES FAMILY OF ALBEMARLE COUNTY VIRGINIA

1 David King Sr. MD (1774-1836)

+ Anne Gordon

.....2 George Gordon

+ Elizabeth Seaver

.....2 Anna Maria

.....2 David Jr. MD (1812-1882)

+ Sara Gibbs Wheaton

.....3 William Dehon

.....3 David Jr. (1839-1894)

+ Ella Louisa Rives (1851-1925)

.....4 Maud Gwendolen (1876-1968)

+ Edward Maitland Armstrong

.....5 David King

.....5 Edward Maitland

.....5 Gwendolen Ella Rives (1911-1972)

+ Anthony George Barclay Rives

.....4 Phillip Wheaton

.....3 Theodore Wheaton

.....3 Sarah

+ Phillip Birkhead

.....3 Mary

+ Wyllys Pomeroy

.....3 Georgianna

.....3 Annie Elizabeth

.....2 Edward

+ Mary Augusta LeRoy

.....2 William Henry

William Cabell Rives (1793-1868)

+ Judith Page Walker

.....2 Francis Robert Rives (1882-1891)

+ Matilda Barclay

.....3 George Lockheart

.....3 Ella Louisa

+ **David King, Jr.**

.....3 Francis Robert

.....3 Maud Antonia

.....3 Constance Evelyn

.....3 Reginald William

.....2 William Cabell Jr.

+ Grace Winthrop Sears

.....2 Col. Alfred Landon

+ Sarah Catherine MacMurdo

.....2 Amelie Louise

+ Henry Sigourney

.....2 Ella

EXHIBIT B

DAVID KING, JR. LETTERS FROM CHINA

**Newport Historical Society
Box 144 Folder 2**

New York March 12 185-

Dear Parents,

Does it meet with your approval' my going to China next Fall! I was talking with Uncle & he has advised me to go, & I have accordingly written to Mr. Walsh of Russell & Co telling him that I am ready to come & shall hear from him in time to go next Fall. It is true I am quite young but it is rather an old head on young shoulders. I am ready to go into the world & do what I can for myself & family the sooner I do it the better. I feel sorry to go so far from home, but I sincerely hope that I shall not get so weaned from that sacred spot as some of our acquaintance has.

I have seen just enough of the world to know what Home is & what parents & Brothers are. There is nothing to be done in this country unless a man has plenty of capital & I'm not going to be a clerk all my life, it is too senile. I will write you again soon.

Love to all the children

Aunt Annie & all

I am your own

Most truly affectionately DK Jr.

Shanghai November 21, 1858

My Dear Parents,

I wrote you last mail of the partial engagement I had made to go to S_ in the house of Wetmore, Williams & Co., and of my intention to leave H-K the next day for Shanghai. By the date of this, you will see that I have arrived here, and I have commenced work. I called on Mr. Walsh, when I arrived, and told him that I had engaged myself to W.W. & Co. for no specified time, and that I hoped, whenever there was a vacancy in R & CO's that, he would remember me, and that I should like much to avail myself of it. So that now I think I am on the road to success, although: I think I have to live in China, longer than I should have had to, had I gone at once to R & Co's.

I have a very nice room at W.W.& Co's & the (chow-chow) food exceeds anything I have experienced before. My salary (\$600 per annum) is small but still I have only the expense of clothing & washing. As I was dressing myself this morning, who should come in but, "old "Chim." I looked at him & asked him, who he was! & what he wanted! He says "you no sabe me, my name b'long Chim and I thought a moment & sure enough, there he was looking as spruce, and nice as possible.

He is now Mr. Walsh's servant, but he is coming to live with me, when Mr W returns home. He particularly inquired after my fader, modder, Wheaton, Sarah, Annie May & even Georgie was not forgotten by him, also Uncle H & last of all Anthony (not Marc). & when I wrote to "the American side, he wished to be remembered; he is 28 years old.

I like Shanghai much better than Hong Kong, perhaps the reason is because I have more to do & some prospect of getting home, to 'my own dear native land.'

Do you recollect Miss Bowers (that took a seat in our pew one Sunday) fro Connecticut. I understand she is on her way out to Shanghai, as missionary. Do you think it best to fall in live with her, in the absence of any other crinoline? To day is Sunday, and while you all at home are getting to church and enjoying the pleasures of the Sabbath I am at work in the office, although: I am not required to. Your last letter speaks

of the grand ball, I should like much to have been there. Willie must have had grand sport Plover shooting, and I really envy him.

I am rather sorry the Ogden's do not take, I don't see why they should not, they are very agreeable & quite pretty. I would not mind having them out here, to take down some of these affected English people. Tell Willie to go to a counting room and make some money, and particularly apply himself to his written & figures, it is very important, in the days of competition to write well, and he certainly writes the poorest first of any person I have seen for a long while.

I am glad Aunt Annie enjoyed herself the past summer give my best love to her, & tell her that I would write her if time permitted, but as it does not I must await next mail 'en passant' I would mention that three or four of those tidys would look very neat on the backs of some of my chairs.

I am glad to hear that Sarah has improved so much. I think myself that she is to be the belle of the family & Wheaton the beaux; tell him to write me, as it is a great pleasure to hear from him or from any one at home.

Give my best love to Father & all the children. I am glad to hear that business is brisk, and that, that fortune is fast accumulating, now that one of the incumbents is dropped. Willie & Wheaton should be cast off from the ship soon, to "sink or swim" & then for the tour of Europe with our four daughters, passing a couple of winters in Paris & a summer at Baden & c̄ As time will not allow me to write more I must now close. I write Uncle by this mail & remain Yours Most Truly & Affectionately

David King Jr

Shanghai Dec 4th 1858

My Dear Parents,

Your usual semi-monthly letter came to hand on the 30th (-?-) I am happy to notice your regularity, having missed only one mail & then I believe it was not your fault. I have been writing all day & my hand is very cramped to night as you must not think this a specimen of my penmanship.

I am now very comfortably situated at Messrs W.W. & Co's having three rooms & two servants to attend on me. I suppose if a person did such a thing, that is luxuriated so much, in Newport he would be put down, by all the old maids, as going to ruin first; but be things as they may, I am gradually getting into the customs & ways of China & like it pretty well although: when I look back upon what happiness & bliss I have left behind, it makes me feel very down hearted.

I get up every morning & walk a mile or two before breakfast; now this would seem a very hard thing to do at home where you breakfast at 7, but as we do not until 9, it is not a great deal to brag of. We had a Thanksgiving dinner here, a short time ago & the old Turkey put me very much in mind of one I enjoyed very much last year in Brooklyn. It is the custom when a young gentleman arrives in S_ to go round & call on all the ladies here, sending in his card & even if he has never seen them before, following it in & saying how do you do Miss or Mrs. so & so & c. Is it not horrid. Can you imagine your 2nd son David, not much out of his teens, 'going the rounds,' & putting on all the dignity of a man of 30. I have done it, & I can assure you that when I found myself, one time conversing with a dignified Scotch lady, & another time with a tip-top aristocratic H-English lady, that I could not believe I was the same little fellow that come out in the "Surprise." It is really "surprising" to see what a man can do, when thrown upon himself & with nobody to back him. Mr. Walsh was the only soul I had ever seen, in Shanghai when I arrived.

I was very pleased to note, that Wheaton had improved, & that in him, you were able to trace, good traits, which time should strengthen not efface": also that Sarah had

improved & the three little ones also. You can make the engagement with Ella Izard & we will get married by letter, but you must make her promise to die before we meet & to remember her "hubby dear" in her will.

I am sorry for Dunn, but trust that ere this, horse flesh has decreased in value & that he has been able to purchase a new one.

I feel sorry for Craig that he should have been jilted, but glad for Miss Bessie.

Your letters are very interesting, full of gossip; and I must say that I like to hear, what is going on in the fashionable world.

Papa sends me an order for books 15000 miles, in an uncivilized country, where books are hardly heard of. Tell him I do not think it can be executed also put him in mind, that I have got a letter of his in which he says "My dear David your book purchases pleased me much. I think I have got all the books I want now & am going to lay on my oars, while I glide down the (----) books. Tomorrow is Sunday & I would like much to go to church, but as the mail leaves day after, I fear I cannot. I made my debut in church at S. last Sunday. They have got a most melancholy church here, & one feels as that: he was going into the grave, an entering it instead of a church; the minister also is stupid. But aside from church going, I believe I have not missed a day, since I left the shores of America, to ask for the assistance, & protection, of my Creator.

Just one year ago today, you came to see me in New York how little did we think we should be separated so far apart, one year from that time. Christmas to is near, how I shall miss the usual merry time.

I find temptation all around me, but I know my path & with strength of mind & a will do to right, I keep on, & pursue the even tenor of my way, never deviating from the right path & I owe all this to my good bringing up & early lessons, which I never shall forget.

I am not exactly contented where I am & shall not be, until I get into the house of Russell & Co which I hope will be soon.

Please send me some Newport newspapers, it is pleasant to read the advertisements. Did you read Twain's speech at the Liverpool 4th July dinner? How much, he makes of 'that fierce Gray bird with bending beak'

I shall have a chance to shew W, W, & C what they make down in Newport, in a week or two, as the other clerk is going away & then I shall have sole charge of everything in the office & the way I am going to work will be surprising. Working hard is the only solace & it is of course much better to do it; but there is one thing, which is to be carefully noted, & that thing, I wish you would impress upon my brothers, (who may wish to visit China & who probably look upon C, as a country, where it rains fold, & (--?--) & where they have only to stoop down, & fill their coffers, & return home, "Oriental Nabobs") & that is "fortunes are not made so easily now, as in the days of Messrs E & WH King, (& further) in those palmy days, a Chinese merchant never knew, what it was to loose any money & always calculated how many Dollars he would make on an Invoice, not ever dreaming of losing anything. But as I have commenced, I must go ahead; but as I said before; place me back in AAL & B's shop & I would not come out to China, unless as Special Agent.

But my dear parents I will not growl any more, I am contented with my lot & am happy & hope at some future day to make my friends happy.

Trusting that you are all enjoying the best of health (which is certainly the richest of God's blessings)

Believe me truly

Your Most Affectionate Son

Love to Uncles & all the family

David King Jr

Shanghai 21st December 1858

Dr & Mrs. King

My dear Parents~

Yours of the 28th Sept came to hand some says since, and with my usual degree of punctuality I hasten to reply en passant I would say that some of the good habits (instilled into my giddy school boy head, by my much respected teacher Dr Lyons), are beginning to make themselves manifest in our boy David; such as e.g. punctuality (mentioned above) and akin to this, never to procrastinate. Ah! I shall never forget those two years spent at West Haverford nor I don't think Willie will either & if you could possibly put Wheaton under Dr L's charge for two years, it would be a great assistance to him, in after life: but I'm getting into a soliloquy & must return to my letter. Today is Sunday & it is to day that I think, most about home & of all that is dear to me, how much I should enjoy having a few notes from the "Gift of Dr George Binkley", interspersed with remarks from brother Mercer.

I see by that paper that your particular friend Usher Passens, (the man you like to make tipsy on Whiskey Punches & then laugh at him but this is too disrespectful), has been distinguishing himself at Put-in-Bay, reading a history of the Battle on Lake Erie (to an assembled audience), in which he figured 45 years ago within seeing distance of the place where he then stood; the old Dr has got considerable ambition has he not. I am delighted to hear that you are to have Uncle & his family with you all winter, it will serve to moderate the dreariness of some of those long winter nights, which otherwise must be so lonesome in Newport. I should like much to see the four brothers, all together with the Redwood Bill on the table, it must be amusing. How do you get along in N_ this winter, & who is there spending the winter besides Uncle. I suppose at this time you are all preparing for Christmas & I trust you will have had a merry time through the holidays, ere you receive this. I should like much to have been among you, but console myself with the familiar phrase, "absent but not forgotten."

I expected to give up all society when I came out here, but I really never was so gay at home, Messrs W.W. & Co have had a dinner party every day this week, 14 ladies & gentlemen each time, Mrs. Williams wife of one of the partners lives in the house & that accounts for it. She is a very nice person, from Boston. I receive the very kindest treatment where I now am, & being an utter stranger & not so cold & heartless as I have expected to find it; but the truth is I do my duty well & any gentleman doing this can receive naught else but kind treatment anywhere. However I shall not be content until I get safely (--?--) in Russell & Co.

I received a letter from Uncle last mail and I assure you it is a great pleasure to me to get letters from him.

I (--?--) Willie still keeps the idea of being a merchant (or quill driver) before him. I write him by this mail advising him to take one of the professions, and told him how hard I had to work & promised to assist him if he were ever in want & I able to do so. I hope he may be persuaded to choose a physician's life, his advantages would be so great.

That Mr. Dana you write me that Tuckerman was going to send me a letter of introduction to I know very well, and it was his confounded son, that jumped into Russell & Co's just ahead of me, when he had no claim on the house or whatever & is just from Columbia college & knows nothing about business. But however we must try and take things as they come if they are a little provoking once and a while.

Give my love to all inquiring friends. I am glad to hear of the engagement of Miss Bessie

[missing passage]

Keep the Estate on Fort Dunham advertised in the newspaper, the latter is a great medium for effecting Sales. And now I believe I have made up a letter & hoping that you are all well.

I remain Your Most Affectionate

David King Jr

Canton June 3rd 1859

My dear parents,

I have to own receipt of your favors 14th & 29th Mch; the latter enclosing a letter from Willie, addressed to you, but in which he states he encloses a letter me; I suppose therefore you must have made a mistake, & enclosed the wrong letter.

I must say that I never was as hard up for something to write you, as now; Canton is such a quiet place & nothing going on. I went into the city the other day & what the Chinese ever wanted to keep foreigners out for I don't know; there was nothing whatever to see except some old temples. I visited one called the Temple of Horrors, where there were all sorts of Images of horrid torture & punishments going on, such as boiling a fellow in melted lead & other awful sights. I went also on Magazine Hill & had a birds eye view of the city, it is very large & that is all you can say of C.

I learn from one of your letters that uncle prefers my going into R & Co's rather than my joining Low's. I regret to say, that it is too late to change now, as I am a fixture here for a long while. I made up my mind to work hard, & do what I can for myself & family here. I am afraid I shall not see home for a long while; at least for 5 years; however it is not very long; the time passes very quickly out here.

I was sorry I could not see Mr. Ward; he was at Hong Kong but did not come up to Canton; he has gone to Shanghai, and from there will probably go to Pekin; I shall defer visiting Mrs. Harrison until next mail.

The question seems to be whether there will be war or peace, and we are all anxiously looking for the next mail to see how it will be decided. It certainly looks very like war, & I think England will easily be drawn into it, especially should Germany be attacked. This will put up freights for American Ships; but I hope there will not be war, as it only deranges the world, & a war on the Continent of Europe, must affect the whole world seriously. I suppose that Newport is now quite gay & the summer fairly commenced. Do you take your afternoon drives with the "Black Prince" every afternoon, I hope Thomas has taught him to trot faster.

Mrs. Low sent her love to me the other day. I suppose I ought to write her, but I have not the time,. I hope Hattie is well, I never shall forget the pleasant little dance I had with her one evening at Mr. Archer's house. My letters should be addressed to the Care of Messrs CT Smith & Geo Archer. Hong Kong.

We have a very cool little church here in Honam; it is kept cool during service by punkah's over your head, & set in motion by coolies. Parson Gray is a very nice Englishman & I like him much.

I enclose a letter to Willie. It gives him my opinion, of what he had better do. It certainly is quite an event in his life & decided a great deal. I rather advise the merchant, although: you would probably prefer that he should be a Physician. He certainly has a capitol chance for being a good practitioner. Have you decided what is best to be done with Wheaton.

We have two meals a day breakfast at 9 & dine at 4, do you not think these good hours. I amuse myself pitching quoits after dinner. The Bowling Saloon will be finished soon & then we shall bowl in the evening.

I shall send you a lot of Japanese lacqed. Ware, by some of our ships to arrive in November about also a few of the Japanese coins.

That tooth powder you gave me I have used constantly given some away, & finally somebody stole the bottle; I should like a little more. I would give a great deal for three hours with Berry, my teeth seem to be decaying. Also 2 dozen thin very thin, white very white stockings would serve to fill up a bundle they should have good tops, that will stretch. Please send them to my friend Mr. Stanford at Low's who will forward them by first opportunity.

I never was so hard up for something to make up a letter to you before; but there is nothing to say. If father has any funds, (when he sells the house) that he wishes to invest, he had better let me operate for his account, in China goods. I should only do so when there is sure profit.

*I have nothing more particular to say but love to all inquiring friends & remain
Ever your own*

Dave

Via Marseilles

Canton, 12th December 1862

My dear Parents,

The river steamer arrived this morning, placed me in possession of your pleasant note, or rather Mother's, of September 24th @ 30 c and as the home mail closes here tonight, I hasten to answer it.

I duly appreciate your news given at length in reply to my accusation of your being 'secesh'; there is much truth in what you say about our rulers, but the war was commenced by the South without any sufficient cause for it beyond the mere loss of power, and they saw that with that they would loose their slaves; Their measures to carry slavery into the new territories would be frustrated and slavery confined, will sooner or later die out; and this their attempt to overturn the best government on this earth, God grant that they may not succeed. I now go in for Lincoln's proclamation of emancipation; formerly I was much opposed to abolition, as, placing myself in the position of a slave-owner, it did not appear to me that my rights were respected, for the Gov't to take away my slaves, which are my bread & my life; but after the action of the whole Southern people, I have no sympathy with them, and bringing them on their knees (-?-) for mercy; I would cheerfully lend my aid to do this if I did not consider that I had other duties before this, more incumbent, and that I am now carrying out my destiny. I greatly respect your deep consideration for the "two noble minded women" in the South, but what are they among four millions, and where such a great question is at stake.

I am sorry that you did not succeed better in the celebration of your silver wedding day; most merrily would I have joined you in spirit, had I known the day, the "lucky day" for me, I will not say the same for you i.e. on my account.

I have Coleridge Works and will look for his translation of Schiller's Wallanstern to which you refer me. Poor Mr. Ines, his mother is not alone in her sorrow.

I am sorry to see that Uncle Ed allows the currency to affect him so much, he cannot alter our difficulty, and why fret oneself about an affair over which we have no control. I can imagine a Southerner living in his plantation becoming alarmed at his prospects, but a large real estate holder in the North, No! I hope on his account and for all of us, that January 1st or next Spring will bring this war to a close.

You ask me what I think of your money disquisition? You say that "gold at Richmond (when you were there) was forty per cent below par"! I wish I could have brought a million \$ at that rate; but your qualification, that you got \$14 Confederate dollars for \$10. gold ones shows that gold was at a premium of forty per cent, it was the poor Confed Paper that was so down; bright & yellow gold never goes below par.

I was pleased to hear your pets were all well, and that they are about to resume their studies under a French tutor; the acquisition of the French language is an accomplishment indeed. I am happy to say that only tonight we had three French gentlemen at dinner, and the conversation was carried on entirely in French, and in which I joined, tho. not as satisfactorily as I could wish. Mr. Delano's three eldest daughters 17, 16, & 14 respectively speak it fluently & play on the piano, oh, c'est superbe. (-?-) I hope some time to see & hear the same from nearer & dearer friends.

Am over delighted that father is well, and does not allow the 'cares of state' to sit heavily upon him. I am sending him by the "Eureka" a box cont'g a cane to assist in holding him up, on such times when he may need it; the box also contains three other canes,. All made from the solid oak timbers of the old frigate (English) "Uniden", it was on board this vessel that _____ was prisoner, when he composed the famous song "Oh! The star spangled banner long, long, may it wave o're the land & c & c " and she was condemned & sold in Hong Kong the other day, bought by Chinese & broken up. The canes are all mounted with Ivory handles.....

Excerpts from China Letters:

Hong Kong Sept 26, 1859

"...I was on board the 'Surprise' the other evening, among all the missionaries & people she brought out, and I can say that I have not passed a pleasanter evening since I have been in China they sang all the old fashioned songs I used to hear sung almost every night, at our boarding house in Brooklyn and then amused ourselves playing all the old fashioned games & c."

Hong Kong July 5, 1860

"...I am now inclined to think that I was cast in a happy world, I do not find the world as you represented it to me, viz cold & harsh; of course there are exceptions to this rule, but so far as my experience goes, I find that if you make up your mind to take it easily, everything goes on easily. In this respect China is ahead of the rest of the world, money is easily made here, and as this item is at the bottom of all selfishness, it is not being thought so much of here you don't see that grinding of one another that is to be noticed at home."

Hong Kong 8th August 1860

"The writer is now in good health and is really getting quite contented with tea making some money before (--) and the now expected arrival of his brother..."

I have just been on a trip to Canton, where I went for a week's vacation. The Old China Merchant cannot understand why "Mr. Young King no have catchee wife-o"; and when I tell them Mr. "Ole King have catchee wife-o, long four piece chil-o," they say, "No. 1 good chanc-ee"; the above is the Canton dialect, perhaps you may be able to translate it from instinct.

Foo Chow July 1868

David King to his Father in Newport

You are not pleased with Newport and your description of the residents makes me think that you may have imbibed the views of Sir Charles Bell on the London physicians! As you say, the industry of the place is too confined and if I may ever, I should never think of settling down in the place: a residence of four or five months there each year, would I think add to one's days, but its no place to bring up a family.

**EXHIBIT C: LETTERS OF ELLA RIVES KING TO GWENDOLEN
 KING ARMSTRONG**

Paris France
October 22, 1909

*Babylon, New York
Etats Unis d’Amerique*

Thursday evening

21 October

Dearest Gwendolen

I was about to begin this letter to you, when to my great joy, yours of 12th was brought to me. I feel quite wonderfully pleased that this should be my last letter to you before I sail. I do hope that you can manage to be in town on the day that I arrive if we do not get in very late, for I do so long to see you! I enclose Auntie’s (-?-) sad letter, which please keep for me. Ella’s photo is painful, I think; what a pity about her teeth. I am glad she is busy and interested, at least. I wrote to her a few days ago, our letters evidently crossed each other. Yes, Aunt Sadie’s (-?-) death makes another great gap for me, and I was certainly very fond of her; we used to have such long placid talks, and lately she always seemed to lean on me. Julie & I had a very pleasant evening, seeing La Cornette, and she thoroughly enjoyed the clothes which were lovely. Today I lunched with Mrs. Griswald Gray – ten women I think, all uninteresting to me, except Mrs. J. Burdow (-?-_) whom I like so much. It is really frightful that Phillip should apparently have no sense of honor about money and no sense of responsibility about anything. I don’t understand at all that absence of morals about money – apart from other things its so common. Like most ills I think it springs from intense selfishness, and this horrible modern idea that amusement must be had at any cost. I am very sorry on your account, because it seemed such a nice arrangement and \$600 is a lot of money. I should write to him if I were you in plain words, amicably of course, but decidedly.

I came in the other day and was horrified to find the air poisoned by camphor tar – reeking! I had to complain and in some way it was removed. It was the crank, Miss Pomeroy of course; I don't know what they told her. I am sure that Babylon will turn out well for you. Mattie is in town for a week, and seems not in the least better; she says she simply can not live without the little child. They go back to La Rochefor--- but the work is taking longer than she supposed. They are only (-?-) there. I believe the (-?-) is full but I saw only one familiar name on the (incomplete) list Mr. Frank Abbot. My things have nearly all come home and I expect to get off without the slightest trouble leaving the hotel at 8:15 AM. I have written to the Belmont Hotel to send their young man to meet me and I have plenty of American money. So send a letter to Sandy (?) Hook or (-?-) or whenever one can % Wm Rives.

*I suppose two weeks from to-day Nov 4th I hope to be with you.
Your Devoted Mamma*

Newport
November 4, 1911

*Mrs E M Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island*

KINGSCOTE

Friday evening 3 November

Dearest Gwendolen,

*I was so very glad to get your wire, and to hear that you like the sample, and also that the children had arrived safely. I hope Brother's cold is better. I was rather annoyed at C's want of judgement in sending him out on such a very cold day without a hat or long stockings; she likes to keep them indoors so much, and I think she is getting fat and lazy! Miss M does not think Brother gets enough fresh air. I am glad too for your sake to hear of Parker for that arrangement will ensure you peace for a little while at least. I met Mrs. Foley this morning, and had a little walk together; she said Una had been with the Borlands for quite a long visit, having a delightful time. Late this PM I paid Mrs. Roche a visit; she has taken 18 East 77th Street. Monroe (-?-) R bought two baby dresses as a present to Cynthia wrapped around his person! One Irish lace and the other old embroidery & lace. The baby is probably to be called Cynthia Aileen. This morning I met Pauline and she said they moved to the Kings yesterday, their own house being unendurable. They had both read *Ethan Frome* (my copy) and were greatly depressed by it.*

Saturday AM it was with deep pleasure my beloved child that I read your letter just now, of yesterday. I must run off & will write tomorrow. I think you can left the dahlias as soon as the flowers are finished & keep the roots in the cellar in the coldest driest part . They must be neither frozen nor baked.

Your ever devoted Mamma

Grand Central Station
Jan 18, 1912

*Mrs E M Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
NY*

Hotel Belmont
New York

Wed 11:30 PM

Dearest Gwendolen,

I hope you will like the blue flannel that I got for you & that they promised to send to-day. We have just come home from the opera which was very delightful. The MC (___) went (Dolly Potter – she is to have another baby in the Spring) & Mr Kendall, the other beau did not appear. I had tea with your Aunt Maud today and she spoke very affectionately about you. Phillip came in at seven o'clock & I could not let him stay so I told him to come to lunch with me on Friday, he is hopeful about the L. America position & will know soon. Mabel lunched with me & is coming on Tuesday to stay with me for 2 or 3 days. I also spent most of the morning downtown, definitely changed my departure to 21 Feb – the same room. I'll write again & go & see you on Tues, unless you prefer another day.

Your loving Mamma

Ella to Gwendolyn Grand Central Station to Babylon
Excerpts:

Feb 9 1912

Phillip has I believe this time, a job with the United Fruit Co and expects to sail on the 17th for Leon (-?-) Costa Rica to be an overseer on a fruit plantation, chiefly bananas; I am afraid the climate is not very healthy, but in other respects it will be much better for him than NY.

Feb 10 1912

Phillip lunched with me to-day, and I am sorry to say that his expected "job" is put off until March. He was actually in tears over the disappointment, and had so hoped to have the signed contract to show me to-day. He knows how much I hoped to have gone abroad with that anxiety off my mind. I asked him to go with me to Babylon on Tuesday – you don't mind, do you? He seemed very much pleased at the prospect, and it will do him good to see you & the children and distract his mind for a little from his troubles. He is very much better physically than for some time __ I think the appendicitis etc had been coming on for many months __ and better on morale also.

Grand Central Station
NY
Feb 14, 1912

*Mrs E M Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
New York*

Wednesday 14 February

Dearest Gwendolen,

We got back on time yesterday, and I think Phillip enjoyed his day very much: at any rate I am very glad that you have met again. I forgot to tell you that Mrs. Watson came to see me on Monday, and sent her love to you; she came to buy a little dog to replace one that she got in Canada last summer and that was killed in Boston by a motor car; she has gone back. I went this morning to the LL office & there met Capt Swich, who arrived last evening; he was very nice and cheerful, and begged me to sit at his table, which of course I said I should be delighted to do, but no doubt I shall take some meals in the restaurant. I also saw Mr. Pendergast who said Maitland had gone to your box a few days ago so he supposed that you gave the key. I am so sorry that you continue to trust him with it. I suppose you think you might hurt his feelings but I do not think it right to consider that with a person of that sort who has never considered anyone but himself. You will not find it easy to spoil the baby, if you find yourself without money. Louise has sent me (-?-) some needed stockings, two narrow (-?-) for the baby's caps; I told her to make them in the autumn but had forgotten them. Let me know if you want anything (--? --)

Your loving Mamma

Newport
May 6, 1912

Mrs. E. M. Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
New York

Amanda and Gustave A Muenchinger	Meunchinger-King
Cable address	The White House
"Amanda" Newport	Redwood

Catherine
5th may

Dearest Gwendolen,

I had a very nice chat with Pauline yesterday, and saw the children and Mr. Hadden who is staying there and who as best man this morning and Dr Porter who strolled in for tea. I left Gruneville sitting on the floor arranging the centerpiece for the dinner party, of yellow daffodils and forsythia. The house looks very well and there are quantities of spring flowers coming up all around the house, Pauline looks very well, and seems very placid and says she has enjoyed her quiet winter, reading a good deal, overhauling her (-?-) etc.

She told me that the young girl who taught Alice was Miss Richardson the daughter of the organist at Trinity Chruch__English people. They live on the corner of Catherine Street & Cottage Street so I stopped there on my way home and saw Mrs. and Miss Richardson; she is a very nice intelligent, fresh looking girl__I imagine not more than twenty, with a nice voice and quiet manner. She said that she would be pleased to teach the boys and to come at 2 or 2:30 and stay for an hour & a half or two hours. Pauline says she goes on a bicycle. I told her I would speak to you next week and give her the answer on my return. I will "treat" the boys to the lessons for the time that you are here__five days a week__and I think you would like Miss Richardson. She seems very direct & very unassuming & amicable but has a (-?-) look in her eyes.

I went to the Cenacle this afternoon and had a nice talk with Mother Marznana; she says that Madame (or Mere) Dupraisie is in New York just now,

making a retreat, but is to return next week and that she would be very glad to give the boys French lessons. She says that she manages children very well and seems to interest them; I know her and she seems a very cheerful person. The salut is at 4:30 and lasts 15 minutes and they could have the lesson before or after. Perhaps on the French lesson days they could have shorter English lessons. I can of course, tell you more about all this on Wednesday. Your Aunt Maude likes to lunch at 12:30 and I told her that she would find me at that hour; but I was not sure about you, but we had better not make it later than one o'clock.

Louise is packing for me and Miss Ball is coming later to "do" my head, face & neck. I do like a white, smooth, clear skin! I take the one o'clock train tomorrow. Mr. Norris Wells is here and says the cold winter has killed several shrubs at his place.

Bon soir, ma cher, je t'aime.

Newport
May 6, 1912

*Mrs E.M Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
New York*

Amanda and Gustave Meunchinger
Cable Address
"Amanda" Newport

Meunchinger-King
The White House
Redwood
Catherine

Monday May 6

Dearest Gwendolen,

Your letter reached me this morning and I am sorry that Elizabeth is leaving so soon. If I were you, I should get a temporary person as waitress for the coming two or three weeks, and look quite separately from that, for someone to wait on you, and go out with the boys. As to doing out the nurseries I can have my housemaid attend to that if it would work better. I fancy you can find someone really better than E but of course it would have been a great comfort not to have to change. I will look for you but of course could not decide for you. It is pouring to-day, and I am not as sorry to leave Newport as I otherwise would be. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday.

Lovingly, Mamma

You would have a chance to try a new maid at Carnwath if you don't want her at Babylon. June will soon be upon us.

Newport
Rhode Island
Nov 13, 1912

*Mrs. E. M. Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
New York*

Friday 13 November

Dearest Gwendolen,

Mr Fergueson arrived of Wed. P.M., departed this morning for Madison near New Haven, en route NY. He took me for a drive yesterday morning, and the Ocean Drive was delicious. Your Aunt M came to tea, on Wed. We were joined separately by M La F. & Mrs. D Kane whom I was so very glad to see. The Smiths dined here last night. They have not yet got their strip. Dr. Terry has two colts in the lot. Jack has been invited by Admiral (-?-) to be on his staff on the Virginia and is delighted at the compliment & the change. I am glad that somebody in our family seems in the way of success. Phillip Birkhead told me through the telephone that Phillip had gone to Mt. Clair N.Y. to spend Sunday and had been quite ill with ptomaine poisoning but he recovered. He wants to convince him to return to /72nd Street, where (-?) healthy food etc., and I trust he will. Keep the cloak, of course, I do not need it at all. I will send you in a day or two Baby's three [new] hats, clean & the (-?) one enlarged a little also an extra one tres simple for mild days in winter. I do like babies to look fresh! Well, I must run; I have ordered (-?) (-?) curtains for the spare room, the double sashes are on & a new threshold is now being [laid] under the front door.

Lovingly, Mamma

Newport
October 27 1914

*Mrs. E. M. Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
New York*

Tuesday evening

Dearest Gwendolen,

It was a great comfort to get your letter this morning, and I am so glad that the journey was so comfortably accomplished. I suppose you have had a busy day but do not get too tired. The motor was shipped yesterday, two boxes went by express as well as the (-?-) and a box by post.

I dined with Mrs. Barrow last night----the Smith's also----and of course had to play Kuhn Kaun. ItI was not too stupid, but games certainly do bore me! Today your Aunt Maud and Mrs. S Sherman lunched with me; I asked them both, separately in the street yesterday. Mrs. S is playing croquet tournaments at the Shaw Safes and is much pleased with it & with Newport in general. This afternoon I walked to the Cenacle and back; it was cold and windy and a lovely sunset. I had the furnace lighted this morning. I hope you have heard from Dr. Price. I have just written him to give me an hour on Wed 4th Nov. I shall, D.V. go down on the 3rd by train as it's election day, I won't go on Monday.

It is useless to try to tell you how sad and lonely I am without you, but you know, a little!

Your loving Mamma

Newport

Dec 4, 1914

*Mrs. E M Armstrong
Babylon
New York*

KINGSCOTE
NEWPORT

Friday 4 December

Dearest Gwendolen,

I was so glad to get your letter of Tuesday, and I am glad the furniture has been done__I hope the stuff looks pretty well, and I am sure the chintz is lovely. I think your Aunt Maud is going to take the furniture from the North spare room (which I offer her at a bargain) and then I shall send for the set that is stored in Washington. I will try to speak to Ella; her clothes for the day time are perfectly correct. These damp wild days have been very like Europe but to-day is brilliant. I am having the Bowery Street side-walk repaired, and the front gate is red-leaded. I am sending a parcel of old linen sheets etc to the house for destitute patients of incurable cancer, cared for by the Servants of Relief, they must be holy women indeed! On Tuesday the Cenacle Chapel is to be dedicated. Don't forget that I am going to town on Monday__Belmont, of course. I go to Dr (-?-) on Tuesday & Thursday at 10:30; the latter is a long appointment & I must go & cut off coupons on either Wednesday or Friday AM. What day will you come?

Lovingly,

Mamma

PS I left out \$1.70 for eggs as that had better go in your accounts.

F'r Aunt Maud is coming to tea

Grand Central Station
December 14, 1914

*Mrs. E.M. Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
New York*

Hotel Belmont
New York

Monday

Dearest Gwendolen,

I found your note on my arrival here a little while ago, & am so sorry that you were feeling depressed. Death is always overwhelmingly sad. I am very sorry to say that I never thought about flowers, & I could so easily have sent them. I am sorry that the family behaved so strangely towards us, and apparently the Times is the only N.Y. paper in which the notice appeared. I lectured Phillip on the foolishness and impropriety of making any fuss, and trust that there will never be any unpleasant words but I for one can never feel much respect for your two Aunts after their singular conduct ever since your Uncle Willy inherited his fortune (they never noticed him before that) but I shall never speak of all this to anyone but you. It was lovely in the country. I'll write very soon. I hope you will also. In haste,

Your devoted Mamma.

Grand Central Station
Feb 22, 1915

*Mrs. E M Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
New York*

Monday

Dearest Gwendolen,

How nice it is to have such a beautiful day for the holiday! I went to the dog show this AM beau-ed by Mr. Fisher who appeared just in time. I did not see Ella but Mabel who told me that she was there, but very unhappy because her tiny little Pom had died early this morning at the vet's, so she can not have taken her to Newport after all. I am so sorry & will call her up later. I had a pleasant lunch at the G Rives yesterday and he is much better; the family have heard a rumor that Millie has cut off her hair short & are nearly wild! I cannot believe it. Kreislie played divinely & the whole Philharmonic was lovely ___ I do wish you could have been there. There are a good many (-?-) at the show and they are sweet. Helen is going to Nassau with the others if there is a room to be had. I must run now to my lecture "The Intolerance of the Catholic Church" by a Jesuit Father. I'll expect you at 10:45 on Thursday.

Love, Mamma

Newport
May 22, 1915

*Mrs. E M Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
New York*

Saturday May 22

Dearest Gwendolen,

Your check reached me safely, and I will deposit it on Monday (I have not had a minute) and keep a separate menu of (-?-) account. I hope you'll get something substantial from Parker Ave but as usual there are repairs. A tile drain at P cottage has stopped up & it was found to be solidly filled up with fibrous roots from trees. The stable roof is hopeless, but has again been patched. I went through the house yesterday and it looks very nicely & will still more so when the cleaning is finished. Mrs. Moore says it was left filthy! I also need to see your Aunt Georgie who seems as usual, the cottage looks quite sweet and she seems (-?-) contented but probably does not remember that she is paying less rent than for houses with higher ceilings, etc. She seems determined to have a (-?-) sunk in the ground in which she can keep several cans of gasoline & keep it locked. Callon thinks it a mistake. She gets her chauffeur & car on the 25th, I believe. I met Mrs. (-?-) this morning, and she says that her younger daughter on her 18th birthday received a tiny Buick. Your aunt Maud has been in bed for two days with a bad throat, but is better today. We are going probably on Tuesday to Boston for a few hours in order to see the lilacs, etc. at the Arboretum, and talk of going in June to Woods Hole to see the Walsh rose collection, would you not like to go? All day excursion in a motor car. On Monday I am to lunch with the G Rives and on Wednesday with Mrs. Corkin. On Monday too, Mrs. Fearing, her sister Mrs. Henry & Mrs. W Smith are

coming to tea. The girls are playing tennis at the Casino every day, but of course not on dirt courts. My blouses & corsets are in the custom house, and I went there this morning but there was no one there, so I shall try on Monday to get them. Newport is certainly a funny place! Mr. Du Fais insisted a few days ago on escorting me into the Redwood Library & it is really delightfully improved and best of all the old librarian has a job there that keeps him happy & busy. You go in now from Redwood Street. I feel quite settled, clocks going, etc. The lilacs are lovely. I shall be so glad when you come.

Lovingly, Mamma

KINGSCOTE
NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND

Wednesday 15 Dec

Dearest Gwendolen,

I was so glad to get your letter this morning, yesterday there were no letters, and no newspapers except the precious Daily News! I would much rather continue for the present paying all your expenses. Next year, after everything at Marlborough including planting, etc. has been settled, and after you give up the house and decide on where you will spend next winter, and about the furniture, and about the boys, then we can make some other arrangements. I think it would be easier for us both, if after next summer I could give you a definite allowance payable quarterly. According to my C & D cheque books I sent you \$500 on 15 Nov and \$300 in Dec. If both reached you according to your accounts, there remain only \$3. I'll send a cheque for Bert (-?-) as soon as you send me the bill and if I am wrong about this account let me know, of course. Today is very cold & windy but sunny. I've just chosen half a dozen little plants in the greenhouse for your Aunt Maud's Xmas present. I've also ordered my turkies; the 8th is for this house. The coats are being sent off today ___ all four & pay Cattuach & do hope you have the valise & also Fortnuff. Brother's asparagus plant is growing wonderfully. Emmiline has come home looking very nice (-----end unreadable)

Lovingly, Mamma

Newport
December 15, 1915

*Mrs. E M Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
New York*

KINGSCOTE

Tues 5 Dec

Dearest Gwendolen,

Just two lines to say that I am off to-morrow by the one o'clock train, and I will call you up soon after I arrive at the Belmont. It will be a joy to see you on Tuesday morning. I am so sorry that you have to go through the terrible ordeal of going through Maitland's personal belongings, for I know there is nothing so distressing; and by yourself; and it is better to face it at once than to feel it hanging over you. I'm afraid my dull little news bores you very much! Mrs. Fearing and Mrs. Lorrillard came to see me yesterday and asked about you, and were both so nice. Mr. Dyer is at home and I have had two little chats with him in Bellevue Avenue; he talks rather slowly but looks remarkable well. I am lunching with the Smiths to-day. The garden is beautifully put away for the winter with fertilizer & marsh hay. I am so thankful for the heavenly weather especially on your account and hope it may last a few weeks longer; for sunshine does help our sad hearts and the winter won't seem so long.

Lovingly, Mamma

I know it was \$125. ___ a slip of the pen.

Newport
Jan 1, 1916

*Mrs E M Armstrong
Babylon
Long Island
New York*

KINGSCOTE

Dearest Gwendolen,

I suppose you are having the wretched weather too! It is such a pity on a holiday. Your Aunt Maud & Evelyn came to see me this morning, and we exchanged happy New Years. Ella has gone to a Sanitarium in the Catskills for three weeks at least ___ sent by Dr. Flint___ and Evelyn is going to-morrow to stay with Maud. I am very busy, of course, but am going to tea with the Fearings, as they send their motor for me; the walking is fearful. It is hard always to realize that a new year has begun. I pray that, as Mrs. Upshur writes, it may help us all. I have a post card from Gertrude from the station at Washington, on her way to see Tom; they come on the Rochambeau & had a rough trip. M La Farge came in after tea last evening and was nice, but gave me no news. Well you know how much I am thinking of you, and hoping that things will go well with you during the coming year.

Devotedly, Mamma

EXHIBIT D

**LETTERS OF MAUDE GWENDOLEN KING TO
ELLA RIVES KING**

Mrs. David King
8 Washington Place
New York

Newport
May 9 1883

My dear Mamma,

*I am missing my self very much. Phillip is a good
boy. I am good to.*

Your loving

Gwendolen

Mrs. David King
% Luther Kountze Esq.
Morristown, NJ

Newport RI
October 3 1883

My dear Mama

*I am writing on the desk Papa gave me. I am so glad
Papa gave it to me.*

*I am a very good girl. I think Phillip is a good boy. I like
Malille (?) very much she is a good girl.*

Dear Mama come home very soon to your loving

Gwendolen

* in adult handwriting at the bottom of the page *Rather good.*

Mrs. David King
P ____ Hotel
13 Albemarke Street
London

Windermere
May 28
1884

My dear Mama

I have spent my schilling on anis. We went on the lake and had tea on land. We have lessons. I have bought some crayons. We send our love

Your affectionate daughter Gwendolen (nurse's handwriting ?)

Mrs. David King
8 Washington Place
New York

Washington
March 31, 1887

Dear Mamma,

I'm writing part of my letter today the 30th and I intend to finish it tomorrow. This evening at six o'clock the ralie papier (?) passed by our house and Louise, Phillip and I went to see it pass by; Mr Gregor and a gentleman on a grey horse rode in front with smiling faces and some purple and white ribbon was pinned on their coats. A lady was with them, she had a still more smiling face and had a large bunch of violets, she did not have any ribbon but still I think she gained a prise. Phillip and I did not see any dogs.

Today is the 31st. It is snowing dismally and we shall not be able to go out. After Miss Healy is gone I will put my india-rubber coat on and go out to post this letter.

Phillip sends his love and so do I but still we are wishing very much for your return.

I am going up to my breakfast now so I will say good bye.

*Ever your loving daughter,
Gwendolen King*

April 1st 1887

Dear Mamma,

I wrote this little note to welcome you and Papa back, as I do not think I will see you before Saturday morning. Did you get my letter? I got yours and if it gave you half the pleasure yours did me, I shall be quite satisfied with my endeavors.

Good bye

Your affectionate daughter

Gwendolen King

PS It snowed from Wednesday evening to Friday evening

PS Phillip sends his love.

Mrs. David King
% Luther Kouintze
Morristown
New Jersey

Newport
October 29, 1887

Dear Mamma

We are getting on very well considering that you are not here, the only thing was that the Brown's hens laid no eggs so we didn't have any. It is just like a day in June here the air being soft and balmy and the sun warm. Clyde sleeps in my room and seems to be very happy there. I am going to ride this morning at a quarter past ten.

I have come back from my ride very hot and tired it was splendid. I hope you will catch a great many rabbits and that the chase will be a great success.

Don't forget to write to me dear Mamma and give Papa my love.

*Your loving daughter, Gwendolen
love Kisses 0000000*

PS Phillip sends his

Mrs. David King
% Luther Kouintze Esq
Morristown
New Jersey

Newport
October 30 1887

Sunday October 30

Darling Mamma,

We went to lunch at Aunt Annie's yesterday and had a very nice time. Phillip Birkhead showed us his tricks and I think they were very amusing.

It is not so fine here as it was yesterday but the sun is out and I think it will be fine later. Mademoiselle and me have a surprise in store for you next Friday you will know it. I have put it in the envelope, and I am just going to give Alma her messages. A buggy is just now passing, in which a man and his wife (who is dearer than life) are seated dressed all spick and span for church please don't forget to look at the rhyme.

Yesterday Mademoiselle, Phillip King and me went upstairs to the garret to look at some of our childhood toys. The chien Anglaise does very well still. Now I think I have told you all the news so I will say good bye.

Ever your loving

Gwendolen
Kisses
OOO

Mrs. David King
% Francis R. Rives Esq.
8 Washington Place
New York

New Hamburg
1887

Carnwath, New Hamburg
Dutchess Cty N.Y.

Dearest Mamma

We are all well and blooming and are doing our lessons faithfully. We went down to the river yesterday with Louise and there we learnt some very sad news. It was that, that, that.....

Poor "Old Jimmy" gave up the ghost! More than two months ago! And another man has taken his place! It really is quite sad don't you think so? I am going to ride this morning with Robert the groom, on what I am sure I don't know but I am going to ride and that is enough for me (?) it isn't Griselda.

*Good Bye
Your affectionate
Gwendolen*

Mrs. David King
% Francis R. Rives Esq
8 Washington Place
New York

New Hamburg
Nov 18 1887

Friday 1887

Dear Mamma

I could not resist writing "un petit mot" to you. The horse I rode yesterday is Uncle Regie's mare they are going to call her Brown Bess, you and I will have some nice rides together won't we? Phillip went out with Aunt Mamie in the village cart and had a lovely time. How lovely your new dresses must be according to Grandmamma's account. I am waiting impatiently for your letter hoping it will soon come. I am going to ride this morning so must say good bye.

Your bonnie lassie, Gwendolen

Mrs. David King
8 Washington Place
New York

Washington
January 28 1888

My very dear Mamma,

I want to ask you something which I hope very much you will grant, it is that you will let me wear mourning for dear Grandma. Please say yes. When you write to Papa will you put in a T.S. (?) for me. Last night we paid a visit to Papa, and he said he forgot all about himself while he was in company with his dear children. I took this black paper off your table. I hope you do not miss it. Phillip is better and I think he will go out. And Mamma do think that Grandmamma is happier where she is than she could be on earth and you will see her again.

*Now Good bye
Ever your loving
Gwendolen*

Mrs. David King
8 Washington Place
New York
N Y

Washington
Feb 15
1888

15 February

1888

Dear Mamma

It is much cooler today than it has been for some time. The wind is blowing and puffing out its cheeks like everything and you bet it is not a Zepher. I send here a funny thing that was on my calendar. I wish it would happen to me. If you have a memorial card left please send it to me as I know someone who would like to have it.

Papa got a letter from you and he read it to me. I wonder if your valentines are pretty. I suppose so. I have got two. One I think comes from Francoise and the other from Phillip. Imagine how he spelt Washington. It was this way WARHINGTON. One of my cards was for Easter. I think it was getting rather ahead of time don't you? Just now a little bit of a black boy is passing, he looks just like a little old man and it makes me laugh. Papa has bought a new tea table for the library made of cherry wood a little darker than my desk.

Now Good bye

Ever your loving Gwendolen

Madame David King
(forwarded several times)

Ventnor
August 25
1888

Dearest Mamma

So this is my last letter. I am so glad you are having a nice time at Trouville it must be very nice. I would like to go there too. Louise has been there and she says there is a beautiful beach. We saw a French lady this morning she had on a white peignoir which she took off to swim out to her husband who was quite far off in a boat.

Two letters came for you this morning. I think one came from one of the twins. Today is beautiful and just right in temperature. Phillip's shovel was carried away by waves. I will tell you how it happened. We were sitting down on the beach when all of a sudden we heard a roar and jumped up just in time to save our dresses from getting drenched. The shovel was carried away and we got our shoes wet. The yellow shoes do not seem to get the worse for being but they get so very often. I am waiting anxiously for tomorrow when I expect a letter from you. Louise got two bouquets of "resida" for 3 half pence.

*Now Good bye
Ever Yours
M.G.K.*

*PS The sun is bright
The sky is blue
And every one is
Waiting for you*

(inspiration)

* drawing of people waiting
Louise, P.K., G.K., H.C.

Madame David King
Senor Jose Renigio Gonzales
Madrid
Espagne

Basses Pyrennees
March 1889

Tuesday

Dear Mamma,

We had very nice weather on Monday so Mrs Sale invited us for a drive to pick primroses which we accepted with pleasure. We drove in an open carriage of course towards Cambo in a meadow on a bank we saw quantities of Primroses so we got out and picked a great many. We have two vases full. I have two messages for you from Admiral and Mrs, and the other from Mr. Bunse. Which one do you want to hear first? Well as I don't know I will tell you that the Upshurs send their best love, and Mrs. Upshur says that she feels homesick and lonely without you. Admiral Upshur says that he is very much in love but he fears it is a hopeless case. You see how everyone loves you? Indeed they cannot help it. Mrs. Upshur sends you a kiss but the Admiral says he doesn't dare because of her David King. They are going to some impromptu charade at the Prindles tonight.

Mr Bunce's errand is that he wants you to order at early breakfast some preserved sweet potatoes. Yesterday we had a trio. Mrs Sale played the piano I the violin and Mademoiselle sang an obligato. We sent off two long envelopes and two packages of letters on Monday and 4 letters today. Mr Aloof will not be here on Thursday. It is cold but fine today. We took a walk towards the mountains "a jeu de paumie" (?) was played today at which the Countess of Balmoral was present. The winner got a 1000Franks! I had a loge d'honneur" Louise went. I hope that your epaule will be quite "?" and that you are having a nice time.

Good bye

*Your very dear
Gwendolen*

Legation of Sweden
Mrs David King

Pau
March 15, 1890

*(Note
I kissed each page)*

Friday march 15

My dearest Mamma,

I have not had a moment to write till this evening but I am going to try to make up for lost time. Both yesterday and today I have had a most lovely time and am going to tomorrow if it is a fine day. Well to begin at the beginning. Yesterday morning the sky was without a cloud and as it was Thursday L. and I set out early and we posted my letter to you and then proceeded to the parque Beaumont where we took a very nice walk in the shade.

Aunt Con went to the meet at Morlass in a brake and so of course was not home to lunch. To console me she let me have a glass of light beer which was very nice. Early in the afternoon I took a short walk with Louise and afterwards lolled, I must confess, in the garden and at a quarter past 4 came in to dress. My dress is very pretty. I send you a little scrap, it was all I could cut off. The dress is lined with taffeda, and there is a front of very pretty mousseline de soie and a sash of white moire. The sleeves are very full and plain and are buttoned from the elbow downwards. I wore a brown ribbon in my hair and Aunt C.B. gave me a pair of gloves. I put on the lovely clove leaf bracelet you gave me and Franklin Roosevelt gave me a very nice bouquet of yellow daffodils and a sprig of assparoroga [aspidistra?] tied with a white ribbon which I wore in my sash. They are very pretty. After having arrived at the Grand Hotel (all went in the R's carriage) we were ushered in the ball room. The guests were already arrived and I think there were about 50 children. I was introduced to some boys and girls and did not miss a single dance. I find that I waltz badly with a boy who does not dance very well but with a girl it is quite different. I suppose it is from the habit of dancing a great deal with girls. We had a cotillion. There were not

many favors and I got only 4 but one was a bouquet made of lilacs and violets. They were white, quite fresh and very pretty. One of the favors for gentlemen were bamboo walking sticks but they would have been prettier if they had ribbons around them. The supper was no good for the greedy grown guests who did not dance had been stuffing the whole afternoon and as the supper was paid so much a head and the grown folks were not included there was not much left.

The party broke up at eight with a gallop (?). I had a very nice time. This morning I took a ride of about 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles. I had a different horse who had more life in him than the other pony, she can go quite fast. As I only had a double snaffle she pulled a little and kicked a little but I finished very well for that. This afternoon we went to the concert and heard the 1st symphony of Beethoven which was, of course, lovely but not so grand as some of his later (?) I remarked to Aunt C that it sounded like Mozart's music and we found afterward it noticed in the notes on the program. I think we are going to another concert next Tuesday.

After the concert today we took a drive and a walk and came home for some tea. Tomorrow we are going to the "cross-country" in a dog cart. Uncle G and Aunt C, Miss G "une partie a tois" The riders are going to be costumed I believe. Dr. J.B. Green is going to run a race on a side saddle and is having a ladies pink coat made, a calico skirt, large gold ear rings a turban and he is going to have his face blackened. Quite the niger woman! He will look odd as he is so tall. Aunt C has a dinner party tonight and though I do not know anything about it I do know the dessert is good! I forgot to tell you that I have kept my room as Aunt C said she would rather have me there than upstairs. Katy Morris is a very nice girl though I do not know her well yet. I think she is just a little bit commonplace. I mean more or less like every-body else. Aunt C is out of the competition for the golf club prize as her partner is ill but she is going to try for another one which is going to be given in about two weeks. The Roosevelts are going to give a picnic before long which I expect will be great fun. We are going to ride and Aunt C, (?), R and whoever else are going will go

with the provisions. I lost the piece of my dress and there is no other I can cut off so I send you a bit of my cotillion bouquet instead. The Kids are well and so are we all and little Maud sends her love. Ding! Ding! Here are Aunt Con's guests Uncle John is not nearly ready. I am going to get (_____?_____) which is very nice for a plant. Nearly all my ribbons are lost so I am going to get some new ones tomorrow.

Do you think that Wetherel's book "Quincey" or "Quinchy" whatever it is too old for me? Aunt C thinks not. What a variety of paper I have been using. My stock of plain white paper has given out and so Aunt C has none except with a black edge or thin overland paper. I would like to know how to get some. My portrait is very good and it is also very heavy in its glass frame. There is a funny story about a gentleman who had a dog named "Guess" and when people asked him what his dog's name was he'd answer "guess." They would give all the manes they could think of and not being able to find out would ask him again his answer was, of course, "guess" I tell you! Is it not funny? I hope you are enjoying yourself but I am so anxious to see you again but as I am busy all day long I have not much time to think of it though, of course, Con is not nearly as dear as you nor so kind. I am perfectly sure you are the best mother that ever was. Nobody who knew you would contradict that. My best love and many kisses to Papa and my heart to you.

Your loving, Gwnedolen

Mrs. David King
% F. R. Rives Esq
8 Washington Place
New York

Washington
Feb 14 1891

Saturday seven o'clock

My dearest Mamma

Constance and Hester came today and we had a very nice lunch. Afterwards we took a walk and I went with Connie behind the Whitehouse. We went near the Whitehouse and saw the president's dogs. Constance is coming to church with us. I received a valentine this afternoon, I think, from Pauline Dresser.

There is a package here from Southboro addressed to you I suppose it is a valentine. I gave Dagmar a bath this morning and had the puppy up to play with her and made her run. They rushed round and round and pulled each other by the ear or tail for more than an hour. Papa took a ride this morning on Brunette. It's lovely today and the sun has shone all day. Dagmar limps dreadfully but follows beautifully. Give Grandpapa my very best love and tell him that Brunette is very well. By the way, they call her "Kitty" or "Kit" in the stable. I miss you very much and am very very glad you are to be gone such a short time. Papa dines out tonight.

Now Good bye and good night tho tis only 20 minutes past 7.

*Your daughter
Gwendolen
KISSES OOOOOOOOOOO
Multiplied by the biggest number known
Famous ink is it not?*

Mrs. David King
Hotel Saint James
Monte Carlo
Monaco

Paris
Ave des Champs Elysees
Feb 4 (1892)

Tuesday evening

Tomorrow 2 weeks since you left

My dear Mamma,

I received during lunch today a card from Mitchel asking me and Mlle Arnault to come and see her presents. We went, they are splendid. All her lingerie is shown off too. The presents are in a room next to the drawing room. I suppose you saw the list of her gifts in the "Herald" but there are loads that are not down. She says that there are many not yet come. The duke gives her two carriages besides the case and jewels. She is radiant and so very excited. Another present is a portrait of herself which is simply awful! Not nearly so pretty as she is. She had three white card-cases ornamented with small stones or "mattie" in silver. Mrs. Mitchel gives her a pearl necklace. Mlle A and I are going to try to go to the wedding, which is on Thursday at 12, as I got an invitation. There is also one for you but I do not send it unless you want it particularly. Ian Bosch has just sent the photos, I hope you will get yours safely. It poured all day yesterday but we managed to get a nice walk in the afternoon to the Trocadero which Medlar seemed much to enjoy. In your last letter you said that 15 c was enough for letters to Monte Carlo but we had to pay 15 c "part en sur" but as your letter was very heavy it may have been the reason.

It was a dear and most welcome letter. I have received the delicious fruits confits and thank you so very much they are extra good. I have to go and see Mme de Chabot, Maud Lorrillard, my unknown friend, who I met in the street and who told me she was on the 2nd andessus de l'entresol, what luck! Also Miss Howard who is at home on Wednesdays and Julia Hunt who owes me a call however.

They are going to play "Le Mariage de Figaro" at the Odeon and another piece impossible at the "Français". Very much love to Papa. I have been trying to think which I liked best, the flowers or the fruits, I rather incline to the flowers. Three of the anenemies are still fresh as is also the mimosa. I had very (?) boquets. Now Good bye.

M. Gwendolen King

No envelope

written from Paris
February 12, (1892)

Dearest Mamma,

I received your two welcome letters dated Tuesday and Wednesday respectively on Thursday eve just as I was putting out my candles. The photos are very good and the mandarins which I also got yesterday are delicious and so fresh! The orange blossoms brought up most delightful souvenirs of Nice and dear old Florida. Talking of orange blossoms we went yesterday to Mattie Mitchell's wedding. Oh what a lovely bride she made! You have read all about it in the "Herald" no doubt but it can give you no idea of the beauty of the spectacle. The long dark church with beautiful stained glass windows filled with the greatest of France and the richest of Americans. Suddenly the big doors are thrown open, the organ begins to play and, preceded by the two regimental "Swisses" the procession walks up the aisle. Mattie looked so beautiful. After the service we went to the Sacristie and I kissed the Duchess de la Roche. You could! Her Duke looks very nice and very happy but the two mothers did not. We walked home. Mlle A says that she heard many ill natured remarks about her never getting the noblesse to come to her salons, etc. (___?___) but I think she will get through all with her sweetness and affability. That sounds like a book phrase, does it not, but it is not it all came out of my own head! We are going tomorrow to the rue de l'Universite concert and I will take some sucre d'orange and perhaps a dozen mandarins to Jeanne Bidault.

I enclose a letter for Ethel, it is not well written I am afraid but it is very difficult to write a letter of this kind.

It is a dreadful loss for her, how I pity her!

My music, my work, and my lessons are all going on well.

With much love for Papa and hoping he is quite quite well again.

I am your loving daughter

Gwendolen

*PS Medlar is quite well and sends love, he is fonder of barking
and of the fire than ever.*

Madame David King
Hotel St James
Monte Carlo Monaco

Paris
Feb 20 (1892)
Early Saturday morn

Dearest Mamma,

I got three letters last evening----your very nice letter dated Thursday 18th February, a note from poor little Ethel Whitney and a voluminous epistle from Una Foley. Una's letter is dated Jan 6 and from something she says about my Xmas card she evidently did write in January; the Washington post mark says Feb 8th! I had to pay 60 c extra postage as she only put on 4 c! She is at boarding school which she thinks perfect bliss but though boarding schools may be all very well in their way I would not leave home for anything, it is bad enough when you go away for a month. Yes, I am very sorry that you come not back this week but as you say the time slips by. I have just received two more letters one from P which I enclose, and one from Aunt Georgie about the photo I sent her. I also got a carte postale from Mlle Godard to say she will come at 11 instead of 10 o'clock. I answered U.F. epistle last night. Isn't that funny not a letter for you and all for me! I had a visit from Mrs Bell yesterday morning as I was practicing the fiddle so I had to play for her and she played for me (dreadfully out of tune, oh, oh!) She very kindly asked me to dinner tonight which I declined because of the dancing class. Julia Hunt came to see me yesterday afternoon (while Mlle A was giving her weekly hour lesson to one of her pupils) and we had a nice talk. We will meet at Miss G's concert tomorrow. I think of sending a Colombin cake to Phillip (my gift you know)

We went yesterday to architectural museum at the Trocadero which was quite interesting. It rained all last night so most of the dirty muddy snow is gone but the mud is awful. I never saw such miserable street cleaning, why little Washington would be quite ashamed! Where does the 20 million go?? Into pockets I guess. I have not been reading papers. Miss A told me about it and in fact all the news of the (.....?.....)

*Now Good buy with piles of love to Papa. I am your loving daughter
M Gwendolen King*

Paris
Feb 1892

*Madame David King
Hotel St. James
Monte Carlo*

Sunday February 21

Dearest Mamma,

The dancing class last night was most extremely delightful, I do not think I ever danced so much before at the class d'Hautefield, major led the cotillion, he has been studying so hard to come home to recruit but only for a week I think, what a nice boy he is! There were two or three extra boys as one of the Gurney's the two Bassanos and Lolotte Forbes were absent. The faithful M French sat and danced nearly all the time with Miss Gurney and I had a very nice partner__Mr Clark a stuffy but good looking American boy with a good deal of twang. We went in the afternoon to Colombins where I sent two cakes to Phillip, we did not 'gouté'. I have not been to the convent. I asked Louise the address and she said 52 or 53 rue de l'Université so Miss A and I trotted down there leaving Medlar at home etc and behold no convent or anything, what is the address? I hope to get a letter this evening which I will answer at once and tell you all about Mlle Goderd's concert which is at 2:30 this afternoon. I have written to Maybel and washed my hair this morning. Now Good bye Mamma dear give my very best love to Papa and come back very soon to your lonely loving daughter.

M.G. King

Mrs. David King
% Luther Kountze Esq.
Morristown
NJ

Newport
October 20 1892

Kingscote Bellevue Avenue Newport Rhode Island (engraved)

Dearest Mamma,

I enclose a notice about you and Papa which Aunt Annie saw in the observer this morning. I always thought Morristown was in New Jersey! I am feeling much better this morning though I still have a little pain but I have come to the conclusion that the best way to do when you have a pain (if it is not very bad) is to fight against it and do everything as usual and try to forget it. I took Aunt Annie downtown yesterday morning and then took her for a tour (?) leaving the package at Miss Whitney's. In the afternoon I went with Kitty on a drive. Today is very fine and I am going to ride. This afternoon as Aunt Annie does not want to drive I think of taking Miss B for a drive and afterwards we are going to see the eternal King wedding gifts!

We received the invitation to the wedding just after you left, I have one and so has Phillip. The latest plan of the Dressers (which Aunt A had last night from Tusan (?)) is to stay here till January and then go to Washington for a few months, I hope they will it would be so nice having Pauline. I miss you "horribly" but as we are separated for such a short time I cannot complain.

I saw Georgette Brown yesterday. I believe she is staying at Bigg's. I enclose a letter evidently from Dinard. I ordered a rather stupid dinner. I find that one's ideas leave one at the critical moment.

Now Good bye, I forward two letters for Papa. With lots of love
Your loving daughter

M Gwendolyn King

Love from Aunt Annie

David King Esq
For Mrs King
Knickerbocker Club
319 5th Avenue
New York

Newport
Oct 23, 1892

Dearest Mamma

I have just received your Saturday letter which I enjoyed reading very much and I am so glad you are having a nice time. I got two letters and the package of books yesterday and they are so nice. Thank you ever so much, the prayer & hymnal are just what I wanted. Aunt Annie wishes me to tell you about my ailments but it seems rather superfluous as this morning I feel nearly well. She made the doctor come who said it was a little liver attack (!) and gave me some little pills (not Carter's little liver pills, but some others) Katherine Dyer came to lunch yesterday and I took her on the Ocean Drive in the cart afterwards. She is going away on Tuesday in a special car. Pauline Dresser arrives here tomorrow I believe. Kitty is growing every day she is quite a cat now.

Medlar does not seem very well and his back is all rough notwithstanding all my care. Just think, I have ordered ice cream for lunch today___1 quart so you see I am not very ill now though I must say I do not feel as usual and every now and then have a sort of pain and sickish feeling which lasts about 15 minutes. James says that Papa's horse is much better the vet has stopped coming and Larkspur is given gentle walking exercise every day. We had the first bunch of chrysanthemums yesterday and they are very pretty. It seems very queer that little M Lorrillard should be engaged, I can't realize it. I want to have this posted so good bye with piles and piles of love and kisses (I miss you piles) and love to Papa and to Aunt Maude and to Washington, to which place I will write tomorrow.

Your very loving daughter Gwendolyn

Mrs. David King
% Mrs. John Borland
New Hamburg
Dutchess County
New York

Newport
Nov 4 1892

Saturday November 4

Dear Mamma

Papa got back safely last evening and seemed very pleased to find himself at home. I gave him a very good dinner too! Aunt A & he have gone to Boston for the day to see their Uncle. Mrs Ross has been trying to kick up another row I believe.

It has been pouring the whole morning so we have not been out but we will go this afternoon rain or shine! A good chance forsooth, of showing my new waterproof! Fraulein is dusting books very industriously. The veils came yesterday afternoon & are very pretty I think. I took Aunt Annie for a drive and walk yesterday afternoon and about five o'clock Miss B & I went to see Aunt Georgie but she was not at home. I hear she is going to sail for Europe next week. I had no idea of it. Nuit stays with us. "par preference," "par amour pour Louise" Hiedler (?) will rarely condescend to give us much of his company, occasionally however he descends from the "turret chamber" looks around & sniffs with a supercilious air and then returns with renewed ardor to his "lady love"! Give my best love to Aunt Con and kisses to the children and tell them to give Griswold an apple cut in quarters "de ma part." We have a fire in the back parlor as it is so damp, but no furnace. I have not got much news as you may have perceived, but I love writing to you and I am sure that you like to get my letters.

Good bye

Your loving Gwendolyn

Mrs. David King
Brunswick Hotel
5th Avenue
New York

Washington
Feb 21 1893

1228 Connecticut Avenue (engraved)

Dear Mamma,

After you left, I drove home stopping on the way to 'order' the waiter who is coming. I played my violin & learnt my lessons & in due time Miss B came home & we went to visit Aunt Conn. I took her some violets but did not find her as 'invalidly' as I supposed I would. She is going out to dinner tonight. The two eldest of the kinds were very well but Ella has something the matter with her--an indigestion, I think. Uncle John has brought the loveliest pair of perrognets (perroquet?) to Maud that you can imagine. This afternoon we went to the food exhibition which was most amusing including the music & the lecture (not on salads but on light desserts) The samples are really wonderful--tea, coffee, cream chocolate, cocoa, breakfast foods, soups, cakes, etc., etc. are offered gratuitously in the greatest profusion & are all of the best. You are also given samples to take away such as small bottles of "tomato ketchup" small cakes of "Bon Ami" the modern cleaner which does not scratch, cans of "cottoline" Baker's cocoa in tins, etc., etc. it was great fun & I carried home some of the samples in a large flour bag! (everyone did the same)

It seems as cold as ever thought not as windy now. Medlar (?) went out with Ernest this afternoon & I took him this morning, he sends his love. Good night. I will write again tomorrow.

Next day after luncheon_____

I rode this morning at the school for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. Brownie went very well. It was very fine this morning though now it is clouding up & looks as if it was going to snow. We are going out in the carriage to execute some commissions & to go to the art exhibition. I have sent & am sending several letters to you which I hope will reach you safely. I must go & practice now so good bye, I'll write again.

Your very loving

Gwendolyn

Mrs. David King
% Hon Donald Caveron
Beaufort South Carolina

Washington DC
March 18
1893

*Saturday March 18
1228 Conn Ave*

Dear Mama

*The oranges arrived yesterday morning & they are splendid. I sent 3 doz to Aunt Con, 14 to Aunt Grace, ½ doz to James & 9 to the servants & we have a lot left most of which I put in the storeroom according to the directions in your Wednesday letter which I got this morning. I wrote today to Dutton & Co for the books of which I had already asked the cost which is \$4.00. I had to borrow from Aunt Annie as I only have about \$2.50 left; I have dept accounts so you will see it is all right, of course the telegrams & the express cost a good deal. I am now reading *The Life of Christ* by Farrer (?) which Aunt A has given me & which I like very much indeed. Yesterday morning we three visited the Patents Office & the treasury which was very interesting, we saw the Rogues Gallery this time__ the 25 beauties, etc. It began to snow great big flakes__ @ about 12 & snowed the whole afternoon so we did not do much except leave the various baskets of oranges, etc. This morning I took my violin lesson & on the way home met Aunts Con & Maude walking. Aunt Maude looks well, she is at the Normandie, I will go & see her tomorrow.*

This afternoon Aunt A & myself went to the Capitol where I showed her everything though the Senate was not sitting. It is quite a wonderful fact that today the streets are quite clean & dry notwithstanding the snow that fell yesterday in such quantities. It has not been nearly as cold since the snow storm. Andrew's flowers are lovely, what a pity they did not come when you were here, however I daresay he will send more soon. Phillip's letter, which will be forwarded to Papa tomorrow morning was open so we read it & then I sealed it. I have made an engagement to ride with Grace Train on Wednesday

afternoon next if it is not too cold. She rides well, I believe. I
enclose a primrose from Newport. Well, good bye dearest
Mamma, won't it be nice to see you again, Nuit (?) just bores
(?) me

Your,

Gwendolyn

Mrs David King
The Shoreham
Washington DC

Newport RI
May 25 1896

I love you



*two hearts must
beat as one*

tic/tac tic/toe tac

Dearest Mother,

*I just "take up my pen" this evening to tell you two
funny things!*

*1 I was talking trash to Aunt A & of course succeeded in
taking her in; said I:A, well its so poor an existence this life
that I think I'll go to the Lily Pond and hang myself! Says
Aunt A: Oh that's a very poor thing to do. That's the last thing
I sound ever want to do!! The unconscious joke was delicious.
I yelled and roared like a (___) elephant! This afternoon I
went out with Aunt A & did several chores with her. Then to
Aunt Georgie's. Early, soon after lunch, I had dressed up and
gone to see Aunt Gussy but Mary was the only one at home. As
it became foggy I returned home & changed my clothes. The
fog was not very bad till about 5 o'clock. About 4 o'clock I was
in Thames St & now comes No 2---going in to the Boston store I
was startled by a (__)voice saying hello Gwendolen & looking
round I saw two most horrible apparitions they were Aunt Sally
& Natika. Aunt Sally untidy even for her she looked positively
dreadful in an old coat which did not fit and a handkerchief
round her neck. On her head a disgustingly filthy white straw
sailor hat with a white ribbon & a very broad brim. "Even Mrs.
Sheldon wouldn't wear this hat she remarked" and informed
us it was Natika's last summer hat & that she was just going to
get herself a new one in the Boston store. Wasn't it funny &
characteristic!*

*It is very foggy now. Nuit has a splendid appetite and is
much better; he has discovered a most delightful nest on top of
the three cushions on my sofa*

(drawing of Nuit trying to get onto the sofa)

This is supposed to be Nuit asking to be lifted onto the sofa. Pray admire his hind legs! I have a fire in the front drawing room as it is so damp. Isn't it dreadful about the damage to Mayc---? I love you dear but must say good night

Saturday

Today has been lovely. I was very busy with my "housekeeping" all morning & also packed the (..) for Miss Borhauer—rolling it up in sheets of cardboard. This afternoon Aunt Annie & I went to the cemetery on foot. We got all the lilac on the place and arranged it on Papa's grave. Some of it in the shape of a cross and the rest in a big bunch at the foot. Then I picked all the dandelion (..) out of the grass & threw them & the faded flowers away so the lot will look very nice tomorrow. The Whitney's lot had a good deal of lilac in it but it was put into vases which I dislike. It was perfectly lovely out there with a lovely breeze flowing. Afterwards we went to see the Friar's (?) burying lot, she was my great great great grandmother. The Kings are really of Newport, aren't they? I got your dear letter this AM and am so glad that the New York part of your work is over. I hope that we shall get the grey & chestnut. Nuit is all right now.

(drawing captioned A.E.K.
after leaving here)

Tomorrow we dine (1:30) with Aunt Gussy! Too fearful but of course impossible to refuse. I shall try & go to see Aunt Georgie. I mislaid the key of the linen closet so fearful excitement this AM but fortunately I found a key which fitted. Newport is getting lovelier every day sine the rain. We had a delicious strawberry shortcake yesterday & for lunch we had a beautiful cake with coconut & icing, also strawberries & cream_ too delicious. This sounds like H.M.M.K.W.W.P. (names: Helen, Maud, Mabel, Kathleen, ?? Pomeroy)

I hope you got my letter about the cook in time. I directed it to the Albemarle but put on the envelope to forward it to you to New Hanburgh if you were already departed. Well good night & sleep well my dearest__my own precious jewel__all I have.

Sunday

Just a few lines before taking this to the post. It is a lovely day. We went to church & I saw the Vanderbilts and the Dyers. Lunched at Aunt Gussy's. Nothing exciting to tell you about that.

Aunt Annie goes to the hospital this PM so I shall take Berthe & walk on the cliffs & go & see Aunt Sally. Nuit is very happy! What a lovely peaceful day Sunday is! I love it but I miss you. Well we shall soon meet & so good bye

*Your loving
Gwendolen*

Mrs. David King
The Shoreham
Washington DC

Newport RI
May 25 1896

Dearest Mamma,

Thank you so much for your letter which I received this morning. It is a perfectly beautiful day today & I have been busy. I had the china carried down from the attic & have given directions about the stable & have sent Andrew on one or two errands and have ordered food for two days (tomorrow is 'lection day) & have walked Nuit & now I am writing to you.

I am not very well today. Although I feel quite well so I am not going to walk much off the place. I am wondering whether I ought to give two or three pairs of blankets to the stable. Am I to furnish Louise with blankets or will she come provided? I saw the Rives yesterday after having taken a lovely walk on the cliffs with Nuit and Berthe, Nuit did enjoy it so much, he is quite well now.

The place is looking too lovely for words as Andrew has put out the palms on the circle, etc. Aunt A after very kindly helping me with the china, has gone out. She is now worrying because she is afraid Aunt Georgie will refuse to pay her share of the bill for the repairs of the Catherine St house! What a lark (?) if she did! Bayard was walking with his father on the cliffs. I never saw anything so (..) his absurd likeness to his father even to his way of walking and talking. Aunt Sally & Uncle G were going to N.Y. by the freight boat. I am thinking of you on that beastly train today with such hard work before you in Wash. Poor dear sweetheart. Well it will soon be over & you will be in Newport before you know it! Good bye darling

Love from your own
Gwendolen

PS I enclose a letter from Aunt Maud which I removed from the envelope to make it tight. I have not looked at it although I am dying to know how Uncle W is!

New York
September, 6, 1908

Mrs. David King
Kingscote
Rhode Island

Albemarle
Madison Square West
New York

Please telephone to

*The Van Alens n'est pas?
And find out the hour!*

Wednesday

Dearest Mamma,

I have your letter of yesterday_ Have not had any letter from Daisy Van Alen. Of course the children can go to the party. Will you get Brother's dress? It is at Suret's & also a pique coat. I have a good deal of hesitation about going away & leaving Maitland alone for Sunday. On Monday his brother comes back & he can go to the country with him. It would be no use his going to Phila the end of the week & altogether I think I had better stay till Monday_ You can surely expect me home then & I may possibly decide to go home on Saturday but if you don't hear expect me Monday by the one o'clock train. Maitland is doing so well that I think he deserves this amount of encouragement on my part. We have decided to move up to 62nd Street this afternoon but M. will not stay there after I leave.

Old "Pat" turned up yesterday & invited us to drive at Slurry's (-?-) which we did. The Albert Grays (Marion Fish) some very nice English people, Captain & Mrs. Croft & Miss McAllister! We went to see "Girls" afterwards. We dine with Phillip & Gertrude tonight. Gertrude looks perfectly lovely she is very slight now. She is on a very strict diet mostly liquid & rather hesitated going to you on that account but I told her you did not mind. It was quite a test for Maitland last night, as everyone took champagne & his glass was filled but he did

not touch it. If he can only get some work soon I am sure he can keep right especially if it is not in N.Y.

Goodbye dearest Mamma. Give kisses to the children . This is a hurried scrawl but I want you to get it today if possible I am sure you will understand my staying on here. It is not from persuasion on M's part_ it is my own idea entirely but I would feel uneasy if I left before his brother's return especially as Phillip is not in N.Y. The King's new apartment is not to be ready before October if they were only in it M. could stay with them.

Yours devotedly,

Gwendolen

Madison Sq Sta
NY Sept 13, 1908

Mrs David King
Kingscote
Newport RI

Albemarle
Madison Square West
New York

Sunday evening

Dearest Mamma,

We went to Summit last evening but it was not very exciting so we decided to come back here late this pm.

Maitland is not drinking at all & seems perfectly normal. He has several things in view & I think if he gets work now, or soon, he will be all right & be able to do it... On the other hand, from past experience, I am afraid a long waiting round here would be very dangerous. I am going to stay two days more, at [least] & help him by talking things over. He thoroughly understands the situation & knows that in the event of his not working & keeping straight I will not live with him. If however he is able to keep right & get some work & stick to it, I see no reason why I should not be with him (or in the winter?)_Of course work is not easy to get now & I dare not be too sanguine about his keeping straight if he has to wait long----

He came north when he did, as Mrs. Mc Rea (?-yed) it. He had been quite ill from the heat & the sun & I think she thought he might become seriously ill. I shall use up the time here seeing about some things for the house & I want to see Gertrude King & I should also like to see one or two of Maitland's friends. I think he will go & stay with Jay Darrach for a while after I leave so if he does I will feel fairly satisfied. I am as sure as I can be that there is no danger of a relapse just now which is a most tremendous relief. Did you see the unpleasant paragraph in T.T. about us this week? Fortunately no names are mentioned. Noel Armstrong dined with us this evening. He had been away owing to the death of his father's brother John. This will be a slight financial relief to the family. I shall see Phillip again tomorrow. On the whole he is

much better than I had dared to hope & think that in Florida he had (-?-) relapses & did not drink steadily. Do not fear I shall loose my head for I have definitely made up my mind not to live with M under any circumstances unless he is all right and working. I shall see you very soon & wire you when I decide exactly when I shall return. I shall be glad to get back. Give my love to the boys & kisses.

Remember me to "Pat" if you see him. Good bye dear Mamma

Gwendolen

No letter from you! Noel A says his father is much better & getting better slowly but steadily. The Drs say that by January he can probably do some work. GA

New York
September 18, 1908

Mrs David King
Kingscote
Newport RI

Albemarle
Madison Square West
New York

Friday
140 E 62nd St

Dearest Mamma

I had your letter & wire yesterday. I am very glad I decided to stay on here for I feel it is an important time. Maitland has a very good opportunity from Mr. Parsons the landscape man. What I hope to persuade him to do is to go & live at a very nice sanatorium at Riverside. He can come to town daily from there. His going there voluntarily would have a very good effect on him & make a good impression on his friends. He is absolutely straight now, but of course, none of us can feel sure it will last. I have talked the matter over with Mr. Darrach at great length & he understands the situation very well. I will explain all to you when we meet. In the mean time he is very nice & I do not mind living here at all. We dined & went to the play with Phillip & Gertrude. This pm are going to see the golf match at Garden City. I am afraid I may run short of friends. Just in case I need it will you send me a cheque for \$25 or a little more? I will not use it unless I have to. We are very economical but one must eat! I may take the 4 o'clock train on Monday as I have to see someone on Mon am who will not be in town before. Well wire if I do. I hope the children get to the famous VA party tomorrow. Kisses to them.

Always your loving
Gwendolen

Mrs David King
Munchingers
Newport Rhode Island

Babylon Long Island Oct 28 1910

Dearest Mamma,

*I had your two letters yesterday * later got your telegrams!*

I however, already engaged a housemaid who came yesterday. She is not very bright but seems willing and at any rate, I must try her for a few days. If I have to change will write to the person you tell us of, or to Louise (or to you if you are still in Newport).

Erica is really a loss as she was so systematic & responsible as well as capable. I

have not yet been to the (-?-) Yesterday I took Una down to Great River to see Ethel Thatcher. The day before I went with her & her mother & a real estate man all about West___ & Roslyn, etc. as Mrs. S says she wants to buy a place & have the Cornfelts with her in the summer!

Maitland has been duck shooting & has got quite a good many ducks. I wish you were here to eat some.

Phillip wrote me and he could not come here as he had to get "on the job" but I hope he will change his mind. I daresay he could get some duck shooting if he came here.

I have put new lamp shades on all the 4 lamps, a great improvement. I seem to have still endless things to see to about the house, --it is so hard to get people to do things here. I shall be very glad to get the dog baskets, etc. Thank you very much. I lunched with Gertrude on Monday. She seemed cheerful & was glad to hear from you. Phillip was writing a great deal to her. I think from his quick recovery that drinking too much was a much the trouble as anything--of course he only did it because he was discouraged & worried. We have had two days of tremendous wind & a little rain. These dry storms are curious. All about the island you see dried up ponds. The boys

are flourishing. David likes his lessons & Miss L seems to teach nicely. Much love dear Mamma

Gwendolen

Mrs David King
Meunchingers

Babylon
Nov 2 1910

Excerpt:

*I am delighted to hear the improvements are under way,
--I think it will be awfully nice to feel you can stay there at any
season that you want to*

Babylon
NY
November 21, 1911

Mrs David King
Kingscote
Newport RI

Dearest Mamma,

I wore my new coat in the car yesterday & found it very comfortable & smart & it fits very well. The baby is well & out a great deal & I have got the boys into their routine & everything is going as smoothly as possible. I had four visitors yesterday Juliette & Mrs Davies & Mrs Porsers & Mrs Wynkoop. The former two came at 10:30 am which is an unpardonably early hour I think. Fortunately I was dressed but the house was not! & of course the baby had a mussy dress on, although she had had her bath, & was just going out. I am glad you went to the YMCA Army & Navy thing & I read all the daily news account with interest. I shall write to Julia as soon it really looks nice here. Now that I have the housemaid & the silver it will only take a few days. The baby's room looks very nice with her pretty white crib it is arranged like this:

(drawing of room layout)

She is going to nurse now so I must leave you. It is rather cold & windy but fortunately the roads have dried up as they were very muddy. I was so sorry to see Mdme Bonaparte's death. Best love from your devoted

Gwendolen

Babylon
Jan 6, 1913
NY

Mrs David King
Kingscote
Newport RI

*Babylon
Friday*

Dearest Mamma

Have just got to the point of being very busy so you must forgive this hasty scrawl.

I got your nice letter & am so glad you were to have people with you_--

I went to Great River on Wednesday taking the children to a gorgeous party of over twenty children at the Thatchers. Saw a great many people including Sybil Sellars & her three her little girl is a beauty. She said Mildred expects her baby this month. My flock is well but I really see very little of them right now. I am a little (-?-) about the school. I wrote to all the people who had said they would send the children giving the perspective tours & asking for a definite answer & only two have answered at all! Would it be convenient for us to come to you on June 16th?

A great deal of love. Devotedly

Gwendolen

Babylon
June 9, 1914
NY

Mrs David King
Kingscote
Newport RI

Tuesday

Dearest Mamma

It seems like a long time since I heard from you. I enclose the key of the trunk sent yesterday. Other express will go tomorrow. Went to town yesterday & finished my errands for myself & the house. Got three more hats!

All are well and busy and Baby thinks she is a great help. The weather is lovely & cool but yesterday was dreadful in town, -- very damp & hot--- I don't suppose I shall write you so you will, (DV) see us on Friday. My tenants take possession on Saturday.

*Best Love
Gwendolen*

Packing bill forward. Silver went today, crating finished, attic full except for linen & last blankets.

Gwnedolen to Ella Babylon to Kingscote
Excerpts:

Nov 12 1914

Maitland's salary has been cut down to \$20 a week & of course there are not many commissions to be made right now. However, they all hope for an active bond market before very long.

Nov 14 1914

I'm glad you had Mr Fergueson after al

Newburgh, NY
% Mrs. David King

*Masters David & Maitland Armstrong
July 20 1915
Newport RI*

Danskammer Farm
Roseton on Hudson

Tuesday July 20 1915

My dearest Boys

You may not get this before I see you but I thought I should write & tell you that I am here staying with Uncle Noel.

Your dear father was laid to rest in a most beautiful spot and this autumn I will bring you up to see it. You were very sweet & dear yesterday & I know that you will both try to be the comfort to me that Papa would have wished if he had known that he was going to leave us. I am well & rested.

*Your loving
Mamma*