THE CUBA FAMILY ARCHIVES FOR SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORY AT THE BREMAN MUSEUM

Mss 387, Gordon Family Papers

Box 5, File 8

Gordon, Samuel – Correspondence, 1945-1946

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August 2, 1945

Lt. Samuel L. Gordon, MC, USNR, '38-'41M
U.S. Naval Air Base,
Navy #957, c/o FPO
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Sam:

Although I have written your mother expressing our sympathy over the loss of Jack, since you are away I did want you to know that all of us at Emory feel keenly your loss - and ours. We have lost so many of our younger alumni - all exceptional boys - but to us the death of Jack is the saddest of all. I think that you and your mother know how much those of us who knew him personally and worked with him loved him. I always refer most affectionately to the students who worked in the alumni office as "one of my NYA boys" and Jack was indeed one of my favorites.

We plan to carry a tribute to Jack in the September issue of the Alumnus. I wrote your mother this, and she called me this morning. She seemed quite brave, as only one of her fortitude can be. She said she had just returned from the mountains and would probably go back in a few days if the hot weather we are now having continued.

We used to hear from you indirectly when you and Warren Duffee were together. We have Warren's new address but have no idea where he is. We know of many Emory men in the Marianas, Volcanos, and Philippines. If you would like a list of any of the groups let us know.

Let us hear from you whenever you feel like writing.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Duncan (Mrs. J.R.)
Acting Secretary
DESTROYER SQUADRON FIFTY ONE

USS Harada (DD 585)
2 October 1945

Dear Sam -

I was delighted to hear of your new assignment - the living and working conditions with sound girls - rate for the Pacific, and I know you're pleased to be in your own specialty.

Sam, I have so great big beautiful points and an eligible for wealth to maintain duty. I have put in my chit and am hoping to receive stateside orders soon, although I may have to wait for a relief. I know you must be p - of over the 60-point score required for doctors. However, I think that will soon be relieved. You must be fairly close to be anything, aren't you?

I was shocked by the news of your brother's death, Sam. I have been thinking of you much since I heard, and wishing that I could be there to grasp your hand, to let you know in some way that I wish I could help.

Since the surrender of the unspeakable sons of unprintable fathers, we have been up and down in the Yellow Sea, supporting the occupation landings in Korea and China. I haven't...
DESTROYER SQUADRON FIFTY ONE

after anywhere yet, but have seen a lot of
Manchuria, Korea, and North China. It's an
impressive area. The cities are huge and
apparently prosperous. I think the whole-
region is a powder keg, worse than the Balkans
so many conflicting interests, corporative
population, areas which has changed hands
often enough to take on the styles of geographical
negotiable instruments, with the fellow in
possession getting the payoff. Several wars
have started here, including the present one.
God grant that we remain strong enough and
smart enough to prevent another.

The climate is delightful just now—
crisp autumn weather, very invigorating after
the sweltering heat of a summer in the
Philippines. Later on, I understand, the
cold becomes quite intense, with ice forming
in some of the harbors, but I hope to be
headed home way before it gets that cold.

Perhaps 1'll see you along the
way. At any rate I hope we'll make
contact soon in Atlanta somewhere. Write
when you can, and let me know how you are
going along.

Yours,

[Signature]
My Dear Samivel:

We had all look forward with so much anticipation to your return from your long absence, that I can readily realize how much it meant to you to be coming home again and with what eagerness you approached home. It must therefore have been an even greater blow if possible, to find that the Lord had taken your good mother just as you were expecting soon to see her again. This loss, for almost all men, is the most bitter bereavement that they have to suffer. I can express to you, from my own experience, my deepest heartfelt sympathy and condolence. Most of us have to go through this heart-breaking experience, when our mothers are taken from us and something is taken out of our lives that never can be recovered. It is especially hard when the loss is so sudden and without warning. You have Nance and Samby for comforting and consolation and these will help you, I know, at this hard time.

Nance has of course told you how well and how and how actively your mother was enjoying her visit to the city so recently and what delight she took in her grandson. She appeared to be in good spirits and though still suffering from the loss of her son, your mother courageously carried this heavy burden of sorrow. She got a good deal of fun out of her experience in being obliged to take a room at a 42nd. street hotel where she shrewdly comprehended the type of citizens that were harbored there. While quite respectable, it was clear that it was hardly first rate, but with her southern sociability, she completely won over the manager (and I think also the owner) of the hotel. He put all the facilities of the hotel entirely at her service and it amused your mother greatly that the manager recognized that she was not in her proper element there and so wished to make it up to her in every way. Her accounts of hotel life on the shady side of 42nd. street were most amusing and were told with much amusement to herself as well as for us.

You will feel partly consoled, I hope, that your good mother was able bravely to make her own life bearable and to take enjoyment in the normal course of her daily living and experience. Her sudden end, without suffering was perhaps one of God's mercies that we do not always understand and is so hard to accept with resignation. Hoping you are well and with love from us all, to you and to Nancy.

Affectionately,

[Signature]

Cuba Family Archives
Dear Sam:

Thank you for your kind letter. I appreciate it more than I can tell you.

Your mother was very dear to me, and her friendship was proven many times in the years we knew each other. She was always solicitous of my comfort and I was always glad when she would wait with me. Our last talk together over the phone on the evening of Nov. 9th, will ever be remembered—she was so
precious and sad - I could hardly get to sleep that night thinking of her. I am so happy to recognize in you the same noble qualities of your mother. Your friendship will ever be cherished and a "keepsake" of your mothers will be one of my most treasured possessions. Hope you and Nancy will return to Atlanta in the near future. With kindest regards.

Most sincerely

Annie Mae Bowen
Lieutenant Commander Samuel L. Gordon
1028 St. Charles Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Commander Gordon,

Your dear mother was one of my Gray Ladies who worked at Fort McPherson. We are very grieved to hear of her passing — she was an inspiration to us all. There was nothing that was too much work or too much trouble for her to do for the men at this hospital.

She was always so sweet and kind. We shall miss her but we shall never forget her.

No matter how much she suffered over the loss of her son, Jack, she was always cheerful and smiling when she arrived at the hospital, although those of us who knew better realized that her heart was breaking.

You have every reason to be proud of your mother. With deepest sympathy to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Lamar Slaton Hitt

Mrs. Edward G. Hitt, Chairman
Hospital and Recreation Corps
(Gray Ladies)
Atlanta Chapter,
American Red Cross.
The American National Red Cross
Atlanta Chapter
848 Peachtree Street, N. E.
Atlanta, Ga.

November 14, 1945

Lt. Comdr. Samuel L. Gordon
1028 St. Charles Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Commander:

The many friends of your mother at the Atlanta Chapter Red Cross join me in extending to you our deepest sympathy in your great loss. Mrs. Gordon had been very active in the Gray Ladies Corps and will be greatly missed by the boys she served so faithfully. Her loyalty to her duty was a great inspiration to everyone.

The loss of Jack when a Japanese prisoner was a great shock to her and the work she did with other sick and wounded men in the hospitals was probably some measure of comfort to her.

Sincerely yours,

Oby T. Brewer, chairman
Atlanta Chapter Red Cross
Dear Sam,

Many thanks to you for that lovely letter. I gathered strength and courage as I read it just as I did one year I mothe wrote one soon after the fall of Corregidor. Fancy me going around paralyzed with fear when my boy was in those early Pacific battles and then to get a faith-inspiring letter from her after the
news she had received. I wrote and told her that she put me to shame. Now you have given me the same feeling as you are certainly your brother's own son.

I am more than pleased to hear that you may get down to Michigan one of these days and that you will bring your family with you. How much it would mean to me its claims your wife and boy for my boy your family, even if for just a brief moment.

I am so elated over it and so afraid that you might not be able to
find one that Iatten to
tell you that I work in
the Courthouse and my
number there is 34431
Ex. 173.
The phone at home is in
Franpee's name, 3-7970.
So some fine day I
shall expect a call
from you. Until then,
God bless you, son-
Sincerely yours,

Ellis B. M. Arthur
POST CARD
THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

London
12 45 PM
29 DEC
1945

Lieut.-Com.

Samuel Louis Gordon
1028 St. Charles Avenue N.E.
Atlanta, Ga.

USA
Dear Sir or Madam,

As I have sent you a few weeks ago a "Jahrzeit Tablet" and I have not heard yet anything from you, I assume that this matter has slipped your attention. May I therefore appeal to you a second time. If you are not able to send me the full amount I asked you, please forward me as much as you are able, but give this matter your attention as soon as possible. May Almighty God bless you and grant you long life.

Yours truly,

SOLIUL BRANDMANN
222, Empire C., North End Road, Wembley Park, Middlesex.

Will you please furnish me with the addresses of the other children of the deceased. —— Thank you.
IN REPLY
REFER TO NO.

U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
LAKEHURST, N. J.

16 Jan., 1946

Rev. Norman F. Frizie,
2190 East Jefferson,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Norman,

It was a source of infinite consolation to me when I found your letter amongst brother's correspondence as I had to pack the trunk of arranging brother's estate following his demise November 12, 1935. Your thoughtful expressions of sympathy did reach to lighten and hearten filled with grief, and I'm confident that brother derived as much transport from your kind letter as I did, for I am certain you can appreciate the magnitude of my bereavement when I was informed of brother's passing three days prior to my arrival in San Francisco December 15th.

Truly, the war has taken a tragic toll on my family, leaving me an old, lonely, and mournful man, who will forever live in memories of the past and long for release of happiness that can never be fulfilled.
U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
LAKEHURST, N. J.

As you can tell, I'm still in the navy; however, I expect to be discharged March 2nd, resuming my studies following my separation from the service.

During the year which lies ahead, I hope to hear from you often, for it would be a source of profound satisfaction to me, if we could continue the friendship that Jack had to leave behind.

With best wishes for your continued success, and with steeped appreciation for the many kindnesses shown my family.

Sincerely,

Respectfully yours,

Kenneth Gordon, Lt Cmdr., MC, USNR

Displaymen,
Naval Air Station,
Lakehurst, N. J.
March 31, 1946

Lt. Comdr. S. L. Gordon, (MC) USNR
Naval Air Station
Lakehurst, New Jersey

Dear Sam:

I'm really ashamed of myself for not answering your letter of last December and thanking you for the snapshot. Perhaps you are now out of the Service but this will probably reach you through the usual forwarding channels.

After leaving you in San Francisco, I went up to the Naval Separation Center and found Jane waiting for me there. It was fortunate for me that I didn't go up to the Mark Hopkins with you. She had received misinformation regarding the landing of the ship and felt that this would be the logical place to meet me. We had a great reunion and enjoyed a vacation, even spending several weeks at the cabin in the mountains.

I'm now in active practice and things are going along fine -- in fact, business is too good to really enjoy a lot of the things that we had hoped to do when we were overseas and talking about our futures.

Best regards to you and your wife and hope that we will be seeing you some day in California.

Most sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas M. Hearn, M. D.
Hi Sam,

So sorry I have been so damned long in answering your letter. But when you get out here this summer and look at the establishment over you will be able to realize how busy I have been.

We have had some very fine weather this past winter here. I think I have been grand & display Montana as it has been. I am a bit undecided how to address this letter but as you should be out of the Navy by now I will take a chance at the new York address and it can be forwarded.

Tomorrow is the day when I go to my wholesaler and attempt to buy something to sell. I am one of those small town merchants who is not in line yet at the uniform counter. Someday my turn will come.

Don't disappoint me on this trip in the summer. If your family hasn't grown any since last I saw you there will be plenty room for you and your as long as you wish to stay. Plus a stone full of groceries to eat from.

I remain awaiting your ETA.

Cork
June 10, 1946

Dear Dave,

I am finally getting around to answering your letter— which I had intended doing much earlier, but with the addition of a new daughter and the adjustment that goes with that and trying to start a practice, I’ve just didn’t get around to it.

I do not wish to open old wounds, but I have felt your family loses very deeply and want you to know that I feeingly sorry I am.

I am gradually getting a practice started and doing as well as I can. I hope to do so early in the game.

I am using another Dr. office in the afternoons which works out very well gradually getting all of my own equipment, but not looking for any office of my own now since
The present situation is O.K.

Write and let me know about your plans for the future.

Sending love to Nancy.

Love,

[Signature]

[Signature]