

Personal.

U. S. Consulate,

FEB 9 1903

Lourenco Marques, S. E. Africa.

John T. Granger, Esq.,  
No. 1, Broadway,  
New York, U. S. A.

My dear Mr. Granger:

Yours of December 15th has been duly received, and I note that my letter of nearly two years ago, written at sea, duly reached you.

I was also glad to hear from you, and to learn that you and Mr. Kauffmann were both kind enough to think of me now and then. May we meet again at the Arlington, and many times.

Before writing anything more about myself I wish to tell to you again what my Grandmother, Hannah S. Hollis, nee Pratt, often told me about her Grandfather, Thomas Fracker.

When she was a very small girl her Grandfather Fracker used to tell her about the part that he took in the Boston Tea Party, when they threw the tea overboard.

My sister-in-law, who was acquainted with the Tilestons of Dorchester ( Boston ) Mass., has told me that members of that family have told her of an ancestor of theirs who helped to chuck the tea overboard. So we may as well take it as an established fact that the original old Thomas Fracker had a hand in the Tea business on that memorable night.

I must also tell you about a story that was told to me about a Mr. Fracker, who went to an official reception in Washington years ago. I forget what kind of a reception it was; but I believe it was some official affair at which the President received with the members of his Cabinet, and their wives.

I was told that Mr. Fracker handed his card, or told his name, to the functionary whose business it was to announce the guests, and that he called out, "Mr. Fracker"; that the President said "How do you do, Mr. Fracker". Then he passed on to the next party in the receiving line, who said, "Why how are you Mr. Whacker." The next in line greeted him as Mr. Tacker, and at the bottom of the line he was Mr. Terbacker. No, I am forgetting; at the foot of the line he was Mr. O'Flaherty.

After I returned to Lourenco Marques, in 1898, I took up the ordinary routine work of my office, looking after American interests, and endeavoring to advance American trade in this part of the world, and, although I was kept busy enough, nothing extraordinary occurred until Oct., 1899, when the Boer War broke out.

This town being the only port in the neutral and "buffer" state of Mozambique through which the Transvaal could communicate with the outer world it immediately became very lively indeed. In Dec., 1899, U.S. Consul Macrum, at Pretoria, decided that he wanted to go home, and I was ordered to take charge of the Pretoria Consulate. This I did; arriving there on December 14, 1899, and I was not able to return to Lourenco Marques until Feb. 11, 1900. While in Pretoria I was kept busy from 18 to 20 hours per day, looking after American interests, and also looking after the British interests that had been placed in the care of the American Consulate at Pretoria.

By referring to "Foreign Relations of the United States", page 538, you will see that I had my eye on certain seizures of American goods ( The "Foreign Relations" mentioned are for the year 1900 ), and by referring to pages 619, to 623, of the same volume, you will see that I arranged with the Transvaal Govt. a method for looking after sundry material interests of British prisoners of war. I have never heard that the Transvaal Gov. made any modification of its terms as set forth in the said correspondence. This finishes up my service in the Transvaal



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Lourenco Marquez, S. F.

For the next 11 months I was kept busy enough here looking after American interests at this port.

In Sept. and Oct. in 1900, when the Boer refugees had the foreign volunteers in the Transvaal Army retreated through this port I had my hands full, as many of the foreign volunteers (were Americans and Irish) Americans, and the Portuguese Govt. did not know how to handle them. The Portuguese Governor of Lourenco Marquez gave me a frge hand, and I so handled these men that what promised to develop into a tragedy on a big scale was prevented, and these men were quietly and peaceably shipped out of the country, and eventually reached the United States.

In January, 1901, I left here, on leave of absence, and went to the United States, and, as you know, had the pleasure of meeting you in Washington.

Now there is not much more to tell. I arrived back here in August, 1901.

On July 19, 1902, at 10-50, P.M., at Durban, Natal, our little son, Theodore Prince Hollis, was born. Prince is not a family name with us. The giving of the name was a whim of his mother's.

The child and his mother got very sick out here and it became very necessary to send them to the United States, where they now are. The birth of the little Theodore is duly registered in the Department of State, and this makes him a good and genuine American citizen.

I guess that he is the only one of the Fracker family who has been born so far away from God's Country.

For reference to sundry incidents connected with the administration of my office I beg to refer you to the book of Richard Harding Davis, entitled "WITH BOTH ARMIES"; also the book by Fred W. Unger, entitled "WITH BOBS AND KRUGER".

The ~~xxx~~ statements in both of these books concerning me are substantially correct, with the exception of the shooting mentioned on page 347. The rioting and the stoning of the Consulate occurred fast enough; but no Portuguese were involved in these disgraceful acts; neither was there any shooting.

The incident of Ryan and his revolver is nothing, to put it mildly, but fiction, as nothing of the sort ever occurred.

I enclose you a press cutting of an article written by Unger, which is substantially correct.

I also send you a copy of my letter of the 5th inst. to Mess. James T. White & Co., and beg to express the hope that you can co-operate with them and give them some little information, as indicated in my letter.

If you could manage to see Col. Michael, at the State Dept., perhaps he would give you access to a rather lengthy biographical account of myself that is now on file there in the archives.

I think that this about completes the biography of myself and immediate family to date.

I shall always be most pleased to hear from you, and to learn how the family history is progressing, and anything that I can do for you further will be cheerfully done upon application.

With very best regards to your good self and to Mr. Kauffmann I remain,

Very sincerely yours.

*W. Stanley Hollis.*

2 enclosures. Kindly preserve press cutting.

*With Both Armies & Unger*

**George Fearing Hollis Papers**

**1852 - 1903**

**MSS.0471**

**Box: 1 Folder: 6**

**MISCELLANEOUS - Letter by William Stanley  
Hollis to John T. Granger, 1903 February 9**



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