The International Grenfell Association Inc. SCHOONER GEORGE B. CLUETT

To..... Sheet No..... Date..... 191

Parker Snow Bay,
January 8, 1916.

Dear Capt. Comer:

Rumor comes to me that Peter is arranging that three of his servants are to work for us this summer. I do not credit the rumor, but Capt. Comer, don't permit it on any account. Our supply of food won't last us until we get plenty of meat at the best, and we simply can't feed more Eskimo than we must to get our work done. Peter knows that I would not under any condition hire any of his servants; rather than do so we ought to go to Flint; we must keep free and independent, keeping our own establishment, and doing our own work with the help of our own servants.

Mene is definitely engaged now to work for us from January 1st. to Sept. 1st. Egungwa and Iwaako are hired to work for us from about May 1st to Sept. 1st and Egungwa is to sledge for us whenever he can and we need him. We can not consider hiring or feeding any one else, except for occasional bits of work that may be necessary. To conserve our food supply I am urging Mene to go to Kratek walrus hunting, and he wishes to do so. Egungwa and Iwaako, too, will stay up the coast hunting walrus. We can't keep about us continually, people who will merely be dependent upon us.

I would come up with Mene but my footgear is so poor I can't now. I'll be up later. Everything is all right at this end of the line. Best regards.

W. Elmer Ekblaw.

Sunday January 16 1916
North Star Bay Greenland

Mr. Ekblaw

Dear Sir Our clan came last night with two other natives & get the Doctor to go back with them as a native had met with an accident having had his right thie cut down away by a harpoon or lance on his sled (as I understand him) he is going to leave here this evening No doubt but our People get away since the weather cleared up

I am all alone here as Henry has flew the coop I think that all the women have gone to some camp meeting as I have not seen one around here since the Doctor left he must have been the Star

Our Lantern chimnies are both cracked and if we cannot get other shall better get some large lamp chimnies

Kindest Regards

Sincerely George Comer

Mrs. E. K. Blair

Parker Arrow Bay

The International Grenfell Association Inc. SCHOONER GEORGE B. CLUETT

To Capt. Geo. Comes Sheet No. 1 Date January 17 191[illegible]

My dear Capt Comes:

By Dr. Hunt I am sending with this message one fleet lantern shade - that you may continue your search for an honest man. By the three Eskimo I am sending ten boxes, of which they may cache some if they find their loads too heavy. They will leave tomorrow morning, I think.

The southward bound party left on the 16th - yesterday and since they have not returned I suppose they have got a fair start. The ship seems quiet and peaceful now.

I am getting most of our cache of boxes away. There are but 15 boxes left on the land, but there are some dozen or 15 left on the ship besides my personal luggage. I was making ready to go to North Star Bay by the very first sledge, but since Dr. Hunt must go away, I'll have to stay.

Just because you are alone, don't starve yourself. I fancy that with all the Eskimo gone your meat supply has run short, so don't hesitate to use for yourself the grub you need.

Everybody aboard ships is well, and now that the light is coming back things look more cheerful. You must be lonesome; but it won't be long until our family is all at home" and then we'll begin to enjoy ourselves. Good luck and best regards.

Cordially
Ek.

The International Grenfell Association Inc.

SCHOONER
GEORGE B. CLUETT

To Capt Geo Comes Sheet No. 1 Date January 27 1916

Packet Drow's Bay
January 27, 1916

My dear Capt. Comes:

Eginguse, Erik, and Boasman are here this evening and if the weather permits will take loads of boxes to North Star Bay tomorrow. Will you please record what they bring up to you and send me a list when they return.

I shall send by them, too, the lantern globe which, in the excitement of getting off to Cape York, I neglected to send you as I promised. I hope you will pardon me. I am all the more sorry, since I realize how lonely and comfortless your home is now!

When Dr. Hunt gets back so that I can consult with him as to what is best to arrange for Dr. Henry, and so I may give him charge of matters down here, I shall leave for North Star Bay by the first sledge. From there I shall go to Etah as soon as I can.

There is very little left to take from the ship now in the matter of supplies but I wish to get the personal goods up as soon as possible. We have still about six or eight loads cached along the route, that we should get over soon.

Sincerest regards.

Loyally

W. Elmer Ekblaw

North Star Bay
Jan 24th 1916

My Dear Mr Eckhaw

when Kaskadungo come on the 23rd at 10 am he had only one load of Bread he said he had left the other box some where on the shore as he had to leave some loads when the other two sleds came they brought 8 persons they come at 10 am of the 25th they are to leave to day to return

Doctor Hunt sent back word that he would be back from up north about the first of February

all well here (that is myself) have got along quite well looking one little particular the question of meat is going to be a serious one for I cannot see any in sight but for a short time

Sincerely

George Comer

P S

I think Doctor Hunt intends to come down to the coast on his return

North Star Bay
Greenland
Sunday Jan 30 1916

My Dear Mr Ekblaw.

Doctor Hunt is leaving here this a m for it would be returned from the North on the 28th the three sleds came up from the vessel with 18 boxes all told

Keep on the good work and Come yourself when you can.

Kindly yours

George Comer


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The International Grenfell Association Inc. SCHOONER GEORGE B. CLUETT

To Capt. T. A. Comer Sheet No. 1 Date Feb 1 191 6

Parker Snow Bay
February 1, 1916.

My dear Capt. Comer:

I am sending loads of boxes up again by Ameeya and Anoka. Will you please take note of them. Since they will come from caches along the coast I do not know how many they will take.

Give the two boys something to eat while they are at Uneak. I guess we must give those who sledge for us something to eat when they come in, or we can't expect to get much help, but it does cut in pretty deep on our food supply, I fear.

Will you please pay Ameeya for the meat he brought you, whatever you think it worth?

I shall come up by the next sledges that leave after these two boys. I would have come up with them, only I couldn't get ready in time after Dr. Hunt got here.

Dr. Henry is sending a pair of kamiks up to you. If you can acquire any material for kamiks and stockings, I think it would be well to do so if you can get it at a fair price.

I am expecting to see you very soon.

Loyally yours
W. Elmer Ekblaw

The International Grenfell Association Inc. SCHOONER GEORGE B. CLUETT

To..... Sheet No..... Date..... 1916

Nerkre, Feb. 26, 1916.

My dear Capt. Comeau:

We got into Nachvak Feb 20 in a utter, cold, driving leggard. Stayed there the next day at Kood-looktoon igloo. Too stormy to leave. On Feb. 22 went to Keatek: Stayed at Ootaks igloo for two days because of heavy storm to north of us. On the 25th went to Nerkre and got in just as cold leggard began blowing.

Ootak with 13 dogs, Eguegwak with 19, and Pooadlooneh with 13, all dogs in splendid condition came up with Mene and Me. I had engaged them to take big loads to North Star Bay from Etak. When we got here we found the ice all gone between here and Etak. There has been no communication for-ward for a month. Mac has been unable to get down, and the Eskimo unable to get up to here.

Eguegwak and Pooadlooneh go back to Keatek. Ootak will go with Mene and me over the glacier to Etak, for Mene has never been across that way and Ootak said it was not safe for us to go alone. It has blown a gale here all day.

I have hired Koodlooktoo, Ootak, and Pooadlooneh to take loads to North Star Bay in addition to Eguegwa and Eglee, but they are not to come up to Etak until safe, asked the Eskimo again. If any of these men comes down deal generously and kindly with them as our resources permit. Give them something to eat and let them sleep in the Eskimo room if they wish.

I have told the Eskimo up the coast that we will pay them one package of plug tobacco for each rabbit they bring us, they to keep the fur themselves, so if any comes in pay accordingly.

When I get to Etak, I'll write you at greater length. There is almost no food along this part of the coast, though there is an abundance of meat at Keatek. Conditions - Bad weather, open waters, and poor dogs - are unfavorable to successful hunting.

Good luck to you.

Sincerely,

W. Elmer Ekblaw.

North Star Bay
North Greenland
March 22nd 1906

Dear Friend Mr, Ekblaw

There is but little to write but all is well here. No change since your left, there has been several attempts made to get down to the vessel but open water prevents

Sigloo did get down but had to return by the way of the Ice Cap, I think all the gear in that Mr Macmillan sent down came all right and there two natives returned North

Several families moved away today to go further north as they are short of food, Sigloo is going to leave here to morrow weather permitting,

To day when I went out at noon to note the temperature I saw a Bear on the meat Platform which is attached to the house so in order to read the thermometer I had to come in and get the rifle and shoot the Bear, nothing unusual about that

but we have the skin. The last of the coal is in the coal box but the sun is getting higher each day and warmer weather will soon be here, we have had two quite severe wind storms

The bear was a small one a year old perhaps. the natives skined it and took the meat it was very lean

The ice is now 48 inches thick here

Kindly excuse the old envelope in which this is enclosed

Your Friend

George Comer

North Star Bay

March 7 1916

Dear Mr Ebbelaw

Two natives Ark Putt to Sarah too and Calotenguak arrived here with a load on the 3rd of march I think everything that Mr. Macmillan sent came but heave not opened the boxes as yet thinking that the Doctor might come back from the vessel with them as they started to go there the 5th but had to return on the 6th on account of open water they are leaving to day to return north, Ark Putt to Sarah gave me some meat - and I gave him a pipe

There have been to fine natives

Inglus managed to reach the vessel but had to return overland so there has been nothing brought up from there

The natives moved out of the other part of the house yesterday but it smells something strong in there

Mr Norman nearly lost his life by some foolhardy attempt and it took a large party to find and bring him in unconscious but he came around allright

No change here but still in good health

Kind Regards yours to a cinder George Comer

Regards to Mr. Arnold when you see him

also Mamie

March 27, 1916

My dear Capt. Comer:

I got your letter of March 7th today when Okpuddyahalo got back here. With him came Cotah, Eginguah 2d, Arklio (Pooadlunah's son) who will take loads of stuff for us to Umenak, and three other sledges. It is the first chance anyone has had to come up here, because of open water; Ever since March began it has been stormy and windy, with a great deal more snow than we have had at Etah the two years past. The temperature has been above zero most of the time.

Mac left on the twenty-second with six Eskimos. He couldn't get started sooner on account of not being ready. Everything is all right up here - plenty of meat. I killed a caribou the other day, and before that several others were killed.

I shall start back down the coast about April 1st, as soon as Mene comes up here - if it is possible to do glacier work on the way back I shall get to Umenak about May 1st; if the snow is too deep or dog-food scarce I may go straight to Umenak.

I was sorry to hear about Mr. Norman, but I was glad that every one else was all right. I hope you are getting along all right. I'm getting anxious to get back. I suppose by this time you have heard something of the southern party.

Since Ootuk, Eginwah, and Arkli's succeeded in getting up here, I can send considerable stuff down so we will be in pretty fair condition to face the summer. We ought to get some corking good work done. Whenever you get a chance send me a list of the boxes that have come. I can not send you a list of the boxes I shall send, for I can't tell what they will be. Eginwa will bring 2 boxes of equipment and 1 box of small items of grub. They will be dog-biscuit boxes marked "Comer". The first I shall send will be Army Hard Bread, and 3 caribou skins for Dr. Hunt's sleeping-bag. Then I shall send things in the order they can take them. If Siglo comes up too, I can get almost everything down that I has hoped.

Esayoo tells me that the snow is very deep overall of Inglefield Gulf — the information isn't reassuring

I shall be loathe to leave Jot up here alone for the summer; Mac's starting so late make his chances for getting back across Smith Sound much smaller, particularly since the open water extends so far up Kane Basin that he planned to head for Cape Camperdown instead of Cape Sabine. Jot will have his hands full if he has to stay here alone until the ship comes.

I wish you would continue in charge of supplies and affairs at Etah, at least until your ethnological work keeps you busy. You have everything well in hand, and if you will, there is no use changing.

Qotah is to receive 1 large knife; ~~1/5~~ 3-1 lb. package tobacco; 1 piece plaid cloth and trimming for his wife; 10 lbs lead; 8 tins solid alcohol; 100 primers. He will bring you a piece of sole material for kamiks for which the preceding pays.

Arklio is to receive the same except for the lead and primers.

We can pay Egingwa next summer.

Sigloo deserves good pay: 1 pipe; 1 hatchet; 1 pr. pants; 20 packages plow-boy tobacco; primers, powder, lead.

Evik (of Cape York) 1 bundle cloth for wife's shirt; one scissors; 2 yds ribbon; 1 pipe; 10 pkts. Oronoco tobacco; 1 saw or hatchet; 1 spool thread; 1 thimble; 4 tins solid alcohol.

Egingwah (of Cape York) – the same, except he is to receive one shirt under in addition.

Angodlablabs (of Cape York) – material for wife's shirt; one scissors; 2 yds ribbon; 1 pipe; 5 pkts Marine tobacco; 1 saw or hatchet.

Angmalokto (of C. York) same as preceding, except 1 large knife in addition.

Koodlooktoo (he has promised to come to Etah for some stuff but if he fails to do so, (as I half suspect) he is to receive nothing; if he brings a load, pay him the same as Arkilo.

I shall ask you to pay off these men, in case they come to Umenak before I get there. These things I have promised to pay them; if I get back I shall tend to them myself. If I don't, will you please. Evik, Egingwa and Ang. Mablabs will probably live at Umenak this summer.

Too bad open water prevented Sigloo's bringing a load back. I hope we get the rest of our stuff over.

Egingwah will bring you the puck axe you wish.

I guess I've written enough for this time. Give my regards to Hendrick, Peter, or any of the rest who may be sojourning at North Star Bay.

Sincerely

W. Elmer Ekblaw.

P.S. - Sunday - March 26. - Heavy wind and storm yesterday and today have driven out the ice again, and it looks doubtful if the men can get away with any loads when they go.

Ek.

Barnard

April 9 1916

Dear Mr. Ekblaw

Outah and Egengvar and others came the 6th they brought 14 boxes in all Dog Bread 2 box, Army Bread 1, Two small boxes not marked, Sausage 1 Rice 1, Prunes 1, Potatoes 1, Bacon 1, Boxes marked Camel 3,

I had a note from Doctor Harvey and will send it as it will explain better than I can now remember, I was pleased to learn that the little schooner Cape York reached Upernivic alright there has been no chance to reach the Devil by the sea Ice since you were here

Henry and Erick went down the 6th and could get to where the Boxes were but no farther. They brought back 4 boxes 2 of apples one of syrup and one of potatoes Pleasant but cold weather here, no coal

It will soon be may 1st Think I will send you a box of the chocolate it looks to me as though you could use it now as well as later

Kindly Yours Comer

April 16 1916

North Star Bay

North Greenland

and all is well

Dear, Eskilaw

Aeglee came from Etah with 4 boxes and Two Bags no pursian he is returning to day to the northward and will see you

Kashingwa brought us a mall bag of coal from the vessel he and Poolla's family have gone north

am sending you a letter from the vessel

Donner

Mr Eklow

Uuaranak, Thule,
June 9, 1916.

Capt. George Comer,
Saunders Island.

My dear Capt. Comer:

Dr. Kunz tells me that you have accomplished all that you can at Akpaak, and that you would like to come in to work here. Egingwa is anxious to go to the head of the fjord to hunt seal while the hunting is good and I have told him that he might. Mene and I will leave today for Greenville Bay - I have contemplated the trip for some time. Thus for several days there will be no sledge out after you; but a number of Eskimo are going to the island today or tomorrow and it is quite likely that some of them will come back soon; if any one of them does, and you can arrange with him to take you, come back with him. It would save Mene or Egingwa a day's trip perhaps. I hope and trust it won't work any hardship on you to stay a few days longer.

The weather has been most disagreeable here the past week - snow, wind, blizzard — so there has been no chance for work here of any kind, except that a lot of birds have been driven in about the house. I had a profitable 3 days at the head of the fjord.

On my way back from Greenville Bay, I shall stop for a day or two at Saunders Island, I think, to take a look at the birds and vegetation.

Yours truly
H. Ekblaw

North Star Bay,
Northwest Greenland.
June 19, 1916.

Capt. George Comer.

Dear Sir:

You are hereby released from duty as special assistant to the Crocker Land Expedition Party, to date from your departure from North Star Bay. Means of carriage and transportation to the George B. Cluett will be placed at your disposal within a few days; the captain of the vessel has given due notice that persons returning in the vessel should be at the ship on or before June 25th, 1916.

H. Elmer Ekblaw
In charge, Southern Substation,
Crockerland Expedition.

June 30, 1916

Captain Pickles has more recently informed me that July 1st is the date of arrival at the Cluett which he sets.

Ekblaw.

Parkers Cross Bay

July 1 1916

Dear Mr Ekblaw

Just a word to say farewell for underneath all my outward appearance I have many pleasant recollections of your kindness shown in various ways to me, may we meet again and rest assured it will be with pleasure having been Master so long I have felt much out of place during the whole voyage. There is an old saying that Standing Riggin never make good running gear i.e. that means the riggin which holds the mast in place does not make good ropes to pull on Make hells have and always will seem like mountains to men long absent from the influence of civilization. You and Doctor Hunt will get on fine together for he is one of the finest men it has been my good fortune to meet, and you may well be pleased that you have him with you

We had it rather stormy coming over the Ice cap quite thick with damp snow but Eginwar made a good job of it and we arrived at 11 pm found all well and was made welcom

Kindly yours
George Comer

Mr. Ekblaw
North Star Bay
Greenland

Etah

November 22 1916

Mr Ekblaw.

Dear Sir

we think there is a possibilit that Mr Rasmussen Vessel may have come the last fall and we shall look forward to the sleds returning should you decide to go out take the last memorandum with you and drop the unpleasant ones

I was much surprised after so much has been said about trading for Fox skin that Doctor Harney should insist on trading for all that can be got the Doctor claiming he had come to an understanding with Mr - Rasmussen to that effect but Mr Millican refused to go ahead (20 for)

we are in good health and time passes quite agreeable the Doctor insisted and demanded the box of geese so that he might use the necks claiming they were the property of the Museum, aside from the hardship of traveling the going out would have

ity interesting side we shall be pleased to hear how you are all getting along whatever I find that belongs to you will be packed up for you

there has been quite a little snow here though not extremely cold about −15° has been the lowest

With best wishes

Sincerely

George Comer

Do not feel that you have got to go out even if you have planned to go but use your own best judgement

G C

Thule, N. W. Greenland.
December 3, 1916.

Capt. George B. Comer,
Etah, N. W. Greenland.

My dear Capt. Comer:

Your pleasant note of November twenty-second reached me last night, and I speak sincerely when I say that your letter and Jot's both pleased and comforted me. Our summer together was spoiled by our misunderstanding, but I feel sure that neither of us bears any malice and that we shall forget the unpleasantness. I cordially believe you mean to be frank and square always, and so I feel a confidence in you far greater than in those who flatter me even while they are working me injury. I say these things now, that you may know I feel no bitterness, only regret, for the past, and that I believe we can wholesomely respect each other in the future. I realize full well how fallible I am and how regularly I fail sometimes when I mean to do my best I too try to be "square".

It is pleasant to hear that time passes quite agreeably for you, and that you are in good health. Mac Millan speaks in glowing terms of your usefulness, and your zeal to be serviceable, so I fancy that you and he get along well. I think too that you must like Jot about whom there isn't one streak of hypocrisy or meanness. I think Jot is a pretty square type of man, one whom I am both glad and proud to number among my friends. Dr. Hunt has been a most agreeable companion; he and I understand each other well enough now to respect each other's records and opinions and get along very well.

Under the changed circumstances I am even more reluctant to sledge south this winter, than I have always been, but I see no other way to do. As long as there was any reason other than the matter of a few dollars and cents ("damn the expense"?) for my staying, I have been willing to do so; now I feel that I ought to get back in time next fall to look for a position, especially since I feel that Dr. Hovey will probably make it impossible for me to work up the results

over

of my exile here for four years. Much as I regret to think it, I believe that not one of us can look for justice from the Museums; as a compensation for having served the expedition faithfully to the best of my ability and judgment I expect nothing but criticism and condemnation. You probably know better than I what we may expect. Anyway I feel it my duty to take some precaution to insure a living when I come home. Somehow I feel myself unburdening myself to you when you have worries of your own. I can realize how disappointing this prolonged stay in the north is; and I sympathize with you. It's a — shame!

I, too, am surprised about the fox-skins. On our way back from Etah, Mr. Ramussen talked to me a great deal about the fox-skins and did not mention any such agreement as Dr. Hovey has declared. Instead, he said he was quite done with the matter, thoroughly disgusted. He said he had been treated as a child at Etah. He was exceedingly bitter. The matter is now public property in Denmark, as the ship's company says.

It is needless for me to attempt to explain how characteristic Dr. Hovey's and Mack's letters were. I have protested against their opening my boxes, that is, the boxes that I packed at Etah. If any are opened so-called you please note the conditions of the contents. I packed everything with elaborate care, wrapping nearly everything in paraffine paper, besides lining all the boxes with felt paper and paraffine paper, and in most of the boxes packing into tin boxes inside the wooden crates.

The ship's company is a pleasant, obliging group of men, for whom I have much regard. I get along very well with them indeed. The men before the mast are of about average type, a somewhat vicious cut.

With best regards, Capt. Comer, and hoping that we shall meet again when we get home, I remain

Sincerely

R. Elmer Ekblaw.

South Upernivik, North Greenland.
February 6, 1917.

Capt. George Comer,
Etah, N. W. Greenland.

My dear Capt. Comer:

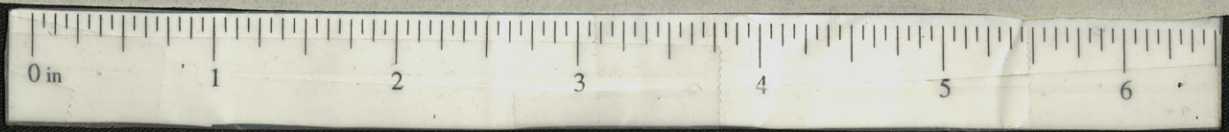
Just a word of greeting on this last mail that we can send you. Despite our difficult journey southward with open water, thin ice, and indifferent natives, the sun shines bright, we have much to be satisfied with, and life seems good, so here's a word of cheer and good-will.

Also I wish to congratulate you on the collection you made at North Star Bay last summer. I always felt that it was extremely valuable but on my way south I have learned that it has particular value and significance. I fancy that "Comer's kitchen middens" will become famous in Eskimo archaeology and ethnography!

Dr. Hunt and I are slowly but surely getting southward. We may not make the first Haus Egede, but at any rate we are across Melville Bay, and pretty sure to get home some time. We both send our regards and so does Tobias. Good luck, Capt. Comer.

Sincerely
W. Elmer Ekblaw.




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