

Chapter 18

1926- Dr. Osgood

Cable communication after this date indicate that the Worhleys-Emersons reached Yunnanfu Jan. 13, 1926. After confirmation from Mylne, TCM agent in Yunnanfu, he sent a request from them to notify families. It was cabled back to remain there to see Dr. Osgood who will also advise the UCMS.

Dr. Osgood, a missionary to eastern China and recently retired, the MacLeods, returning from furlough, and Dr. and Mrs. Bare, new missionaries, had set out for Shanghai. They detoured south to Yunnanfu to meet with the Worhleys and Emersons. In touch with them Dr. Osgood rode on ahead to meet the Worhleys and Emersons in Hsiakwan. He conferred with them all morning. The rest of the party caught up with them and they were all invited to a Chinese feast. Afterwards Dr. Osgood again met with Dr. and Mrs. Worhley.

Unfortunately both families had decided to volunteer no information but just to answer questions. Of course, Dr. Osgood had read all their letters. They did most of the talking, but complained afterwards it was no real investigation, so they felt cheated. The only conclusions were that they would not return to Batang nor work under the UCMS. Otherwise Dr. Osgood said he could come to no conclusions nor give any decisions until he had been to Batang for the investigations.

1-3-26 Mrs. Shelton wrote Nina H: "I'm still hoping that the young folks may be kept for Tibet but have no way to tell if it can be done. It's a great pity to have folks ready and eager to help & work for the Tibetans" not to be allowed. *She is ignoring the fact that it was their decision not to face the Mission to resolve the problems. This is what alienated the TCM.*

She mentions that the rumors of civil war in China are never mentioned in their letters. 1-17-26 in reply to Dr. Hardy: "there is much that is dark and mysterious about the whole affair & it is difficult to understand the outcome. Mr. Morse writes he is also leaving. Half of you are coming out, you leaving this Fall & Ogdens before many days leaves the station just where it was 10 years ago, no advance forward & no enlargement." *Another bitter truth!*

She also questioned the wisdom of opening Chengtu as another station, while recognizing the connection would be good. "It does seem to me, as Morse visited the Tigi, that itinerating could be

done again if there was anyone to do it, & if Yengin can't be opened there are other places possible." *In hindsight she was very right that another station could be opened- Morses would have been very willing to go into Inner Tibet.* The reference there was to a visit on vacation that he made to see the Tigi, in the Fall of 1925 upon the Tigi's invitation, but without the Chinese officials' permission in Ba! He was severely reprimanded by the Ba officials and by the Mission and was forced to write a letter of apology to the American Consul.

Then Mrs. Shelton to Bro. Corey: "I admit I needed the reprimand - there is no excuse for saying it even if I knew it to be true. There was only one motive & that was a perfect panic that Batang & the Tibetans could lose Dr. Worhley. He has been too fast (to leave?) that is true- but seeing what he did there wasn't much else for him to do was there? He could hardly accuse an older man to save himself. *He already had accused Dr. Hardy - and himself refused to resolve the accusations!* About all he could do was get out. Of course Dr. Shelton never said anything but the kindest things of anybody & always saw the best in everyone. He & Dr. Hardy got along very well- medical etiquette was most courteous between them. That's what I don't quite understand about this now. I was most foolish to write Miss Young what I did- though she was most distressed & also stated that some very unkind things were said of me, (!) much to my surprise, though no doubt I needed them. Dr. Hardy had been so kind I did not know he thought any ill of us.

My heart is sore over the Batang situation - it seems a pity to make it fail over personal grievances; because on every field & every place there has been so much bitterness. Batang seemed so free though we had our differences. I can't imagine a personal feeling that would be great enough to destroy the wish to live & serve the Tibetans." *Where does that put the Worhleys and Emersons?*

I'm sorry I have made things harder for you all. I did not expect Miss Young to use my letter, as it was to her in confidence as hers was to me. I will keep the situation in deepest confidence. Have written to the MacLeods about it. I wish he were there as common sense seems to be badly needed. *True!* I think you have written in the right way to both myself & Dr. Worhley & only hope that they may see in time to save us, the Mission & themselves great regret. Sincerely..." *Too late!*

James Maquis Peterson was born 1-23-26. 1-28-26 The Petersons wrote welcoming the Bares and inviting them to share their home, which plan had been approved by the Mission. Pete commented that it was good that new missionaries had a long trip to introduce them to the country so that the Batang homes looked like palaces when they

arrive. I well remember the first day we had in Ba I ran and tuned somersaults on the grass for sheer delight in its beauty.” Pete told them he had been assigned evangelistic and pharmaceutical work at the hospital. They would have bed and baths awaiting them. Reply 3-10-26 Bares expressed their appreciation noting they would arrive St. Patrick’s Day.

The TCM had begun to rectify the ‘grains of truth’ in the W/E accusations. 1. Jim Ogden’s supposedly getting rich out of land, illegally owned, was brought before the Annual Meeting in Feb. when native leaders were taking part. There, the explanation was given of how the land was obtained;- that the Siling who had stolen from them all, had made restitution after the mob of soldiers threatened him and Jim O- had saved him from them- this was understandable. That the Siling had given land instead of cash or goods to repay for the checks stolen from the merchants made it hard for Ogden to get cash. Yet the produce from the land always went to support the orphans and later Jim donated that land to the new Orphanage, value placed at \$5410 Mexican. Apparently he did not mention the help he gave other natives by lending them money on their land, some of which still had not been redeemed.

Dr. Worhley had also complained that the medical assistants gave medical care they were not qualified to give. This was not true as China allowed assistants to do more than was allowed in the USA. Dr. Hardy wrote (12-8-25) to the American Consul, Walter A. Adams, in Chungking to explain the situation, to return “the certificate for Mr. Lee which corrects the defective one made in 1917 by Dr. Shelton and myself; and also enclose certificates for two other assistants. Mr. Lee teaches and is head assistant when Mr. Hwang is not on duty Hwang, Lee or Fang see that drugs I order are given and temperatures are taken, assist in operations, do minor operations under my supervision... As I understand the Pharmacy Act, all outside of said Act in filling prescriptions and selling drugs, the Pharmacy Law applies. I registered under said Act and I advised Mr. Peterson to do the same.” Others had been registered including Hwang Swen-ting, Dijang Shiao-yeh, Gezong Ondu and Lee Gway Yin, and had been given certificates.

The American Consul enclosed the certificates covering the age, character and experiences of Lee Gway Yin, Fan Tsi-han and Tsamden stating that they appear to be in order and were now filed with the consulate. “I see nothing irregular in the ordinary practice of your Hospital as described by you.” 1-18-26

2-18, 3-17, 3-23-26 Louise D- to her mother: There were no New Year dances as the Ba Lama is gone to the fighting. Ma Siling is back with a supposed victory, but his own aide, not the Siling, killed

the Ra Na Lana. The Ba Lama and the Gonka Lama are sharing the spoils.

The Duncans had dinner with Mr. Liu, school principal, and family. Louise missed her class one day as she had not re-set her watch- the Tibetans tell time by when the sun touches the mountain peaks. Unfortunately on her way, Louise walked on the wrong side of the street through Ba and got a bucket of slops thrown on her from an upper window- disgusted I guess! Freight coming with Osgood included their 1925 Christmas presents.

Dr. Osgood later wrote of his experiences: traveling to Tibet was unique, even though a China veteran himself. Riding the trails, experiencing the diarrhea and high altitude sickness. Some Tibetans accompanying them got relapsing fever with some deaths. They had money stolen and recovered some of it. Then the event of the arrival had to be experienced to be appreciated. Mr. Peterson met them 12 miles out, Mrs. Duncan and the Ogden children met them at the pass, seven miles from Ba, and down at the foot of the pass were the Hardys, Mr. Duncan, Miss Young and many Tibetan leaders. Then all the remaining trail into town were strewn with every other missionary and missionary child, Chinese and Tibetan Christians and many of the town population, including Fr. Nussbaum.

The beauty of the Batang Valley struck him after the more or less barren trail of sixty-six days from Yunnanfu- peach trees in bloom, strawberry plants, green grass! Yet the town has had its robberies, Ba is scarcely half its normal population. As they had passed, village after village was burned out on the way - he now understood a part of the desperate situation of the Mission.⁵⁹

The Bares, Dr. Osgood and the MacLeods, reached Batang Mar. 17th.

⁵⁹ World Call, VIII, No. 7 (July, 1926), P. 39. "Batang at Last!" Dr. Elliott Osgood.