

Letter from Audrey Rhoda NESBITT nee GIBSON, (daughter of Frederick Thomas GIBSON & Rhoda CLARK) to Dorothy GIBSON nee PERKINS (wife of Charles Herbert GIBSON)

Frederick Thomas and Charles Herbert were half brothers, with shared father Henry GIBSON, but separate mothers Francis CAIN and Eliza CLARK.

47, Fife Street

Bulawayo

S. Rhodesia

19th Jan 1949

My dear Dorothy

Thank you so much for your air letter card which I am answering very promptly while still on holiday as I know, that once I get home and into the swing of things again, my correspondence will go to the dogs.

It is nice to know that the family arrived safely and gave you all so much joy. We live in a land of plenty here, and it seems the least that we can do to send some of our good fortune over to you when you are hindered with so many restrictions and rationing.

Please congratulate Uncle Charles for me, how very nice that he should be invited to be Mayor of Croydon and I am sure he will make a very good one. I feel quite sad at the thought of all the social functions I shall be missing, as I am sure I should have enjoyed them immensely.

Thank you for thinking of me, and thank you also for your very kind offer to get something or other for me, which is unobtainable here. Quite honestly though, I can think of nothing although I do appreciate your offer.

Yes thank you Denise is quite recovered now and is her old self again. She is really the reason why we are here on holiday, by the sea, instead of sweltering in Byo's heat. We are at Umkomaas, 30 miles down coast from Durban but our time is nearly up and we are moving off in two days time and shall leave Denise at her new school in Pietermaritzburg en route for Byo. She has been growing rather rapidly and is at an awkward age just now and that is the main reason for her illness I think. It was glandular fever something I have never heard of, but as it is a tropical disease, you should have no cause to fear it. Pietermaritzburg differs totally in climate from Byo and I am hoping that that fact alone will benefit her greatly and of course, I also hope for great things generally from the school as I have heard that it is a good one. Your fur coat sounds most exciting and what a lovely Christmas present.

Andie? Has promised that I may pay you all a visit later on this year – possibly August, so my trip will only be postponed after all, (all being well) and I am greatly looking forward to it all. It will have to be a flying visit, though, in every sense of the word, as I must not be away for too long and consequently must come by air. However I am looking forward to seeing you all.

Andie joins me in love and best wishes for a very happy and prosperous year to you all,

Yours very affectionately

Audrey

P.S.

I will hand your letter over to Dad and Mum when I return to Byo.