From the Kate Gleason Papers, "Rochester Voices," Rochester Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Division, Rochester, NY. www.rochestervoices.org

Thursday Feb 92

Fathers letters of Jan 31 and Andrews letter of the same date are received, also Kates of Feb 3rd. Mother is delighted with the way things are going at home. She took her letters to her room to read them and spent 3 hrs on the job, Then she started to answer Fathers letter herself but the pencil wasnt sharp so the job was given up. I am patiently waiting for the express package and suppose our creditors will go on the war path before long. Say Kate you know Mother spent nearly all of her money before she left Rochester, Now its all right we have the package

It just got here and it was over four days after the letter enclosing the receipt. Everything in the package was all right; the package came to pieces and the express man said the Co. was not responsible for money sent in an ordinary package. The climate in Sacramento is something grand just like one day in May at home. Only two days has it rained since we have been here and then only light showers. It is cool early in the morning so that a wrap or light overcoat comes handy but after nine or ten o'clock no overcoat is required. The air is bracing which appears to be just what Mother wants. Her voice sounds as clear as a bell and what is more she eats here things she hasn't tried before in a long time. An egg in the morning milk and toast why I suppose she would tackle almost

anything. I have been conservative in my reports on her health for it would be too bad to raise false hopes, but Aunt Kate says she is getting better. The fact is Mother is as happy as the day is long, mending the boys clothes occasionally doing some cooking and the rest of the time standing me on my head. Why Aunt Kate would smile a smile of delight if mother proposed to erect a Gothic roof over the chicken yard. I have been to San Transaises and know the climate there. It is foggy at times colder in the morning and evening than at Sacramento and the trade winds they say will start up in two or three weeks. I was afraid if I went there to stay that mother would follow me and sure enough when I told her to day that I must start she said she would go. Aunt Kate then decided to go next week

so Mother will stay here and go with her then. Aunt Kate thinks that the sea air will do Mother good, but that if she had to stay all day alone in San Francisco while I was at work the effect would be bad. Anyway while Mother is on the highroad to recovery, you can bet your life we will regulate things so that she can recover.

The family here are all very anxious to see the family group, Aunt Kate never says even a picture of Father. What would be the matter with cutting off Andrew's and Elinor's heads and then send the picture on to Ma. Mother won't allow the picture to come on as it is for

fear Andrew will not make a proper impression. The youngsters in this family can cry on the least provocation Willie and Luke are fighting and crying most of the time. These are the boys I described as tow headed youngsters. Willie is 3 months older than Eleinor and a bundle of nerves, but very smart, one of those infant prodigies with a large head & small body and lots of sand. He stands at or near the top of his class in school.

I will tell you of a ride I took with Eugenia the girl of about 16 yrs. She gets out of school at 3 O Clock so yesterday afternoon at that hour I had the old war horse belonging to the Hughes family

curried within an inch of his life, and with bridle and saddle blanket all complete. The girls here don't use saddles only a blanket and sircingle. I rented a horse from a livery stable and got a beauty for 75 cents the afternoon. Now the girls east can talk of their riding and their prowess in athletics but find me one who can do as our blooming cousin did on that ride. I brought the old horse around to the front of the house and that girl vaulted on the horse while the horse stood on level ground, and she had on the regulation riding skirt. You know its a regular circus act to vault to a ladies position on a horse and do it as she does it. We rode all over the city and then to the outskirts where we went through East park, an immense place a mile square with a drive around

the outside entirely shaded by green trees. The fashion of the city repairs to this park afternoons to ride or drive. The old Hughs horse carried himself proudly he is a retired race horse and the bustle and excitement fired the old fellow. Eugenie proposed a race and away she went like mad with many admiring eyes following her and many sarcastic ones following me for (I went with her) only I was a little bit late. But soons my horse marmed to his work and the old racer slacked his pace slightly and encouraged I plied the whip so that the wind blew through my whiskers. When Oh Lord I saw why the old war horse slacked up an immense tree trunk right across our path and that girl

steered her horse right for it and cleared it as slick as ever you read about the girl in the novels doing it. The people here appriciate and admire that sort of thing and the men took off their hats as she tore by. My horse knew his business if I didnt and took the jump without even slacking up to gauge it, and I sailed by Miss Eugenie in dead silence for the old horse was blown. My horse was from a riding academy so was used to jumping but I wasnt and didnt take the proper position so my back

is stiff to day. Eugenias pride is hurt because I caught her but she must learn not to run an old horse against a young one for more than half a mile. 3/4 of a mile with a jump near the end tries a horses metal. Eugenia is the only beauty in the family tall rather dark jet black hair an elegant complexion and a style that is bewildering. As Mother says she is the beauty still though dressed in Clothes made from the cast off garments of the older girls. We have made ourselves very much at home here and can give You any information You

may disire. If it might be as to income Emma + Adda each earn $75. per month of which they pay to the house $35. each. Of course teachers dont get paid for three months every year. Charlie earns $22 a month of which about $10 goes to the house Jennie earns $60 + Katie will be doing the same after the first of March they probably spend most of what they earn. Hughs himself probably earns about 2.25 a day and brings home probably almost all of it. You see Jennie + Katie dont contribute much to supporting the family of 12 in all

they support themselves and a little more leaving 10 for the others. Mrs Hughes keeps two cows and a lot of chickens which must reduce the family expenses considerably. If they were an ordinary family they would be very comfortable but the girls have expensive tastes such as singing lessons piano lessons painting etc, and therefore Aunt Kate has to make every cent count. Charlie is a very fine young fellow how bright he is remains to be seen, but he is not the young prig you took him for. In his letters to Andrew if you can magnify into big jokes what appeared to be foolish stuck up remarks you have Charley.

My next letter will be from San Francisco.

Yours
Jim.