

April 8, 1915.

Mr. E. K. Rossiter,
15 West 38th St.,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Rossiter;

I believe I said I would send you a list of the low bidders on our chapel now under construction. This list was as follows:-

Thomas W. Rogers, Brandon, Vermont
Tyson, Weare & Co., - - -
W. Shelton Swallow Co., Burlington, Vermont
R. H. Howes Construction Co., 7 Water St., Boston
H. S. Libby Co., 46 Cornhill, Boston
H. Wales Lines Co., Meriden, Conn.

We made a contract finally with Thomas W. Rogers at \$51,945.

The brick of which I spoke were furnished by the Sand Lime Brick Company, Glens Falls, N.Y. at \$12 per thousand, but I learn they are not designed for exterior work and can be had in only one shade. This information may not be correct as to the latter point.

Faithfully yours,

E.K. ROSSITER ARCHITECT
15 WEST 38TH STREET
NEW YORK

April 9, 1915

Mr. John M. Thomas, President,
Middlebury College,
Middlebury, Vermont.

My dear President Thomas:

I have just returned from a visit with Mr. Hepburn, the result of which is that I shall take the train next Tuesday, April 13th, which reaches Middlebury at 5:44

I am very much pleased with this opportunity to become acquainted with the Campus; character of the buildings erected thereon, and to talk over with you some of the individual features of the proposed Dormitory.

I thank you for the letter received this morning, which contains a list of names of the Contractors whom you recommend.

Yours very truly,

E. K. Rossiter

I shall bring with me the plan of basement, showing the apt. that we have set-off to the overseer of the grounds and a revised elevation of the front facade, likewise blue prints of the "Commons". Should I remain with you until noon of the following day. I may possibly have an opportunity to see the young Morgans - a somewhat dangerous venture I fear for the slight tincture of Latin blood in my veins might tempt me to declaw with the punchman that I can stand anything but ventilation.

Middlebury-001012

April 28, 1915

Mr. John M. Thomas, President,
Middlebury, Vermont.

My dear President Thomas:

The blue prints of the proposed Dormitory and Commons, along with the specifications (the heating excepted, which Mr. Kimball is now working upon) are ready for the Contractors, and by this afternoon's express, or at the latest tomorrow morning, they will be sent to the various firms whose addresses you have furnished me.

In talking the matter over with Mr. Kimball he proposes to install a tank in the Basement of the Dormitory and heat the water by means of a coil taken from the central plant. He tells me that it will cost about \$6.00 per running foot to lay the heating and watermains in a trench dug for the purpose. It has occurred to me that whether, in view of the fact that we wish to keep the expense of the building down to a minimum, it would not be well to rule this item of cost out of the building, as it properly is an incidental expense and quite outside of the structure itself.

I assume that the Chapel will be heated from the central plant. If so, a manhole might be put in at the nearest point and a branch line taken to the Basement of the Dormitory. Could you ascertain this information? Doubtless the Overseer of the grounds will be posted and possibly Mr. Rogers may be.

The only changes you will note in looking over the

Middlebury-001013

E.K. ROSSITER ARCHITECT
15 WEST 38TH STREET
NEW YORK

April 28, 1915

plans, which will be sent to Mr. Rogers, are the re-arrangement of the rooms in the South wing of the Dormitory; an extension of the "Commons", which provides for two additional tables; a Game Room; a Writing Room off the large Lounging Room in the 2nd story. In this building we have shifted the location of the stairs and excavated only such portions of the building as are requisite for coal bins, household stores, milk etc.

I thank you for sending me a copy of the Middlebury Register, which contained a perspective view of the Chapel now in the course of construction. The beautiful steeple which has been designed makes me feel all the more desirous to retain the cupola, which will give a distinction to our own building, which I am afraid without would make it border somewhat on the common place.

Yours very truly,

E. K. Rossiter

135-8

April 29, 1910.

Mr. E. K. Rossiter,
13 West 38th St.,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Rossiter;

I have just received your letter of April 28th and am glad to know that the plans and specifications are being send to builders for estimates. I agree with you that the cost of running heating and water mains to the dormitory should not be included in the cost of the building. We have not included it in the erection of the chapel.

I believe a representative from the Richard D. Kimball Company is here today and I will submit to him the question as to the branch line. I have no doubt it can be so arranged.

Faithfully yours,

1358

June 11, 1915.

Mr. E. K. Rossiter,
15 West 38th St.,
New York City;

My dear Mr. Rossiter;

I have your letter of June 10th.

Our architects have never made inspection oftener than once a month. In the case of the chapel, where it is particularly necessary to keep down expense, we have agreed on four inspections only, our superintendent of buildings giving special care to oversight of the work and keeping the architect informed each week. I think it would be better for you to come about once a month during the early progress of the work, and we can tell better later how frequent visits will be necessary as the work progresses,

We have always found Mr. Rogers entirely honest and his work of good quality, but of course questions arise during construction in which the architect can be of great service.

Faithfully yours,

E.K. ROSSITER ARCHITECT
15 WEST 38TH STREET
NEW YORK

June 14, 1915

Mr. John M. Thomas, President,
Middlebury, Vermont.

My dear Dr. Thomas:

I am in receipt of yours of the 11th inst., and will gladly act upon your suggestion regarding our inspection visits.

The precautions that are being taken by Mr. Rogers convinces us that care will be observed on his part and that his Sub-Contractors will be chosen with reference to turning out the most substantial and workmanlike jobs.

I have just written Mr. Rogers of our approval of the firm of A. Schwoerer & Son, who bear a most excellent reputation in this City for high grade work in Roofing and Sheet Metal.

Mr. Muller will initiate the monthly visits by making an inspection on Wednesday, June 30th.

We have been wondering whether the fireproof nature of our building would not render unnecessary the installation of fire escapes. The greatest conflagration that could ever happen would be the possible destruction of a bureau, chair or trunk. The chances are so remote of any such mishap that they are practically negligible.

In preparing the working drawings of the Dormitory and Refectory it occurred to us that a better seating system than the one originally contemplated may be adopted. That you may learn of our latest thoughts of this matter we will send a blue print for

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E.K. ROSSITER ARCHITECT
15 WEST 38TH STREET
NEW YORK

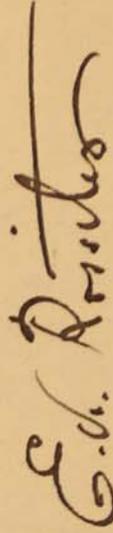
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June 14, 1915

your approval. You will note that we have gained quite a little space. By running the tables the long way of the room we increase the width of the aisles; locate the lights in the center of the panels, and provide for a vista as one enters the room which will bring into greater prominence the mantel at the far end, which we wish to make an Architectural feature.

We believe that all the drawings have been furnished that are needed immediately, and others will be supplied as rapidly as possible.

Yours very truly,



June 15, 1915.

Mr. E. K. Rossiter,
15 West 38th St.,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Rossiter;

I have received your letter of June 14th and note that Mr. Moller will make an inspection on June 30th. Doubtless you are right as to the need of fire escapes, but it will be necessary to conform to the state law. I suggest that you communicate with Doctor C. F. Dalton, secretary of the Board of Health, Burlington. If we are not required to put on fire escapes, I think we shall be satisfied to omit them in view of the character of the building.

May I inquire if it would be possible within a reasonable time to consider any changes in the arrangement of the dormitory rooms? I mean nothing more radical than the closing of certain doors and the substitution of a common room or social room in place of a suite or portion of a suite on each floor, or possibly at the end of each corridor. I do not know that we shall think any such plan advisable, but I would like to study it with the assistance of a committee from our faculty.

Years ago Middlebury students lived in college buildings as a matter of course. The college, however, failed to make adequate provision for them, both in capacity and in facilities, and gradually students have sought accommodations elsewhere. There are now six fraternity houses in which the majority of the students live. Only two of the houses are owned and none of them are permanent as a fraternity structure.

I would like to get all or practically all the boys on the hill, as we term it, in Hepburn Hall and fraternity houses that may be built around it on college grounds. To do this it might be advisable to offer a group of suites, or perhaps half a floor, to a fraternity, maintaining a small social room for their use.

My question is when it would be absolutely necessary to decide on this matter?

Faithfully yours,

July 5, 1915.

Mr. E. K. Rossiter,
15 West 39th St.,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Rossiter;

I am very glad to have your letter of July 2nd with copy of letter from Dean J.W. Votey of July 1st. It is also very gratifying to me that fire escapes will not be required on the new buildings. I may say that Dean Votey is at the head of the engineering school of the University of Vermont and has the reputation of being strict in the matter of fire escape requirements.

I shall be very grateful for any opinion you may secure for me as to the quality of work done by the Meneely Bell Company and Meneely & Company. The latter firm has the better figure and if we can be assured of the quality of their work, I think we will wish to give them the order. They have placed chimes at Cornell, at Christ Episcopal Church, Hartford, and an Episcopal church near the Yale campus. If these chimes are satisfactory, it seems to me we would be reasonably safe. The other firm, Meneely Bell Company of Troy, evidently does the larger business and has the better financial rating.

I was glad Mr. Muller could be here last week and I hope it may be arranged so that one of you can visit the building once a month, at any rate while construction is going rapidly forward.

Faithfully yours,

ROSSITER & MÜLLER
ARCHITECTS
15 WEST 38TH STREET
NEW YORK

July 9. 15

Dear Mr. Thomas:-

I enclose a Communication just recd. from the Economy Concert Co. I hope to be able to furnish shortly some data about the Bell-funders. The Gray Co. supplied a set of Chimes for an Village Church a few years ago which is badly out of tune. and for my ear everytime I hear them. I shall hear if the Hartford set in

a day or two. My truly yours
E.H. Rossiter

Head visit to the buildings
will be made by myself.

13 July.

Dear Mr. Rosseter: Excuse this pencil
written note. I am laid up for the
time being. The Christ Church churches
are the best in Hartford and I
understand they were arranged for
by Mr. John Tracy - of Tracy Garbox &
Robinson of Hartford. If you wish meet
with him I am sure he will give you
all the information he has.

With kind regards

Yours
Edward Hatford

E. K. Rosseter

THOMAS W. ROGERS,
GENERAL
CONTRACTOR

Brandon, Vt. Feb 24th 1915.

Dr John M. Thomas
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Sir:-

Mead Chapel

I have figured the change called for in the blue prints marked Feb 15th 1915. and quote you a price of Ten Hundred and Thirty One Dollars, This estimate does not include any price on interior work only around the Four extra windows.

kindly advise at once as the marble is being held up at a great expence to the Marble Co.

Very truly yours.

Thomas W. Rogers

March 1, 1915.

Mr. Thomas W. Rogers,
Brandon, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rogers;

In accordance with the arrangements made between Governor Mead and President Brainerd as contained in his memorandum of February 27, 1915, a copy of which I enclose, I will authorize changes called for in the blue prints dated February 15, 1915, for which you have quoted the price of \$1031.

Faithfully yours,

THOMAS W. ROGERS,
GENERAL
CONTRACTOR

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Brandon, Vt. July 26th 1915.

Dr John M. Thomas
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Sir:-

I estimate the extra cost to change the wood frame construction as shown on detail furnished by Allen & Collens, Architects from grade I50'0" to grade I75'4" on the Tower of Chapel Middlebury College, for the sum of Four hundred and seven dollars (\$407.00) This estimate does include any change in the exterior or interior wood finish from that shown on the original plans or any metal work, I understand by the Architects there will be none.

Very truly yours.

Thomas W. Rogers

The Rutland Herald.

ALL THE NEWS WHILE IT IS NEWS
THE TRUTH—NO MATTER WHAT IT COSTS

RUTLAND, VERMONT, January 6, 1915

My Dear Dr. Thomas:

Personally and in behalf of The Herald I wish to thank you for the interest you have manifested in our very successful report of the inauguration of the chimes in the Mead Memorial chapel, and for your co-operation, lacking which it would have been impossible for us to have carried out the plan.

I wish you might have been with me when I called upon Mrs. Mead Tuesday afternoon and explained that I had prepared an account of the event and that I wished to read it to her--that part referring to arrangements being made for her to hear the chimes over a telephone wire. She was nearly overcome and the tears streamed from her eyes.

Mrs. Mead called me on the telephone today and read to me a letter of appreciation which she wished to have printed in the Herald but I suggested that it be sent to The Register as we are modest and do not wish to take any more credit than we have done in our news story and in a brief editorial mention which appears in today's Herald.

In the article which Mrs. Mead read to me today over the telephone she specially mentioned me. Now I would not offend her but if she sends it to The Register it would please me if my name was omitted and the phrase "a representative of The Herald staff" or something of that sort be inserted. I am simply a staff member. I believe you will appreciate my position.

With personal regards, I am,

Dr. John M. Thomas,

Very sincerely yours,

Nancy C. Shaw

President, Middlebury College.

Middlebury-001026

College of Agriculture
Tohoku Imperial University
Sapporo, Japan
Oct 9, 1915

President Thomas,

Most honored Sir:-

I am just writing to inform you that I have reached Sapporo safely and begun my work in College.

I found that text books, schedule, and everything had been all fixed for me. I have lessons of 15 hours

a week which keep me busy, especially so, for the present, because I have never had this kind of experience before.

But I am simply trying to do my best to be a friend of young men. I believe that, beyond my power,

there are incomparable help and comfort from God for me, and I am in the field of action, with me strong

principle and high aim, which our Middlebury gave me. I am sure, President, that my Middlebury life has been one of the most valuable and happy one in my life, and I am ever grateful for your kind and thoughtful guidance.

My classes are as follows:

- | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| English | 2 | year class
(3 divisions) | George Eliot, "The Mill on the Floss" |
| | | | |
| History | 2 | year class
(of engineering department) | Arthur Help's essays. |
| | | | |

Miss Kellogg wrote me, the other day, about your great favor on Mr. Fujimura. I thank you, President, for that, and I beg ~~you~~ your thoughtful guidance on him ever more.

With best wishes
for you all and for our College
I am

Gratefully yours,
Nobuyuki Kawamura

P.S.
Please remember me
to all of the faculties

December 1, 1915.

Professor Nobuzo Suyemitsu,
College of Agriculture,
Napporo, Japan.

My dear Mr. Suyemitsu;

I was very pleased indeed to receive your letter of October 9th and to learn of your work in the Tokoku Imperial University. It must be very gratifying to you to return to your own institution and to have a position of such great promise and usefulness. I am confident you will find the work congenial and it will certainly offer you many opportunities of helpful service.

I am very glad you look back so kindly to the years you spent in Middlebury College. I wish we might have had when you were here the opportunities that will be available when our new chapel is completed. We are now having service for all the students in the gymnasium and I feel as if I were doing more for them than I ever could before. The new chapel will further increase my opportunities. Our new dormitory for boys is advancing rapidly and will be a very desirable addition to our plant. Mr. Fujimura seems to be making good progress.

Thanking you for your kind wishes and hoping to hear of your prosperity from time to time, I am

Faithfully yours,

924
December 31, 1915.

Principal Isaac Thomas,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Thomas;

I have received your request for a special report as to members of our Freshman class from the Rutland high school. I shall be very glad to bear the matter in mind and to secure the information for such a report as you wish. You will be pleased to know that the instructors report to me that the class as a whole shows marked improvement over previous years.

I hope before too long you will visit us and see our new buildings. Doctor Mead's chapel is an especial delight to me. The lines seem perfect and remind me of the sentiment that architecture is frozen music. I am sure the building will enable us to impart a certain quality to our work which we could not secure without such a building. The new men's dormitory will be the largest and perhaps in some ways the finest building on the campus, its equipment as a home for young men being unusually complete.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Faithfully yours,

28
May 26, 1915.

Doctor Henry H. Vail,
Milton, Mass.

My dear Doctor Vail;

I am very glad to have your good letter with reference to the prospective Hepburn Hall. I am sure it is such a building as you will thoroughly approve and I hope you will find time at Commencement to study the plans. Mr. Hepburn has been considering the matter for several years and has taken occasion to inspect dormitories at Princeton, Williams, Yale, and several other institutions, and has tried to embody the best features. The fire proof construction with composition floors throughout are what we ought to have, but I was afraid we could never afford them.

The contractors are the same as those of the Head Chapel, so that excavation has already begun and the two, or rather three, buildings will follow one another rapidly.

If things get dull and monotonous four or five years hence, I think I shall manipulate for another Educational Commission.

Faithfully yours,

April 1, 1915.

Vermont Marble Co.,
Proctor, Vermont.

Gentlemen;

In accordance with the suggestion of Mr. Collens I am writing you to say that we do not desire the two small windows over the side doors on the front of the chapel. I wrote Mr. Collens to this effect yesterday, so that you may hear from him also.

Faithfully yours,

February 25, 1915.

Vermont Marble Coll.,
Proctor, Vermont.

Gentlemen;

I have your letter of February 24th with reference to the Mead Memorial Chapel. Just as soon as I possibly can after receipt of the figures from Mr. Rogers I will take up the matter of the changes with the Honors and come to a decision. I regret that the matter came up but could not act otherwise.

Faithfully yours,

VERMONT MARBLE COMPANY

MAIN OFFICE, PROCTOR, VT.

PROCTOR, VT., Feb. 24, 1915.

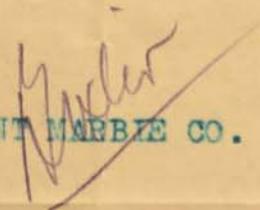
John M. Thomas, President,
Middlebury, Vermont.

Dear President Thomas: MEAD CHAPEL.

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 22nd, we have to advise that the change in the exterior has been figured and we have given our price to Mr. T. W. Rogers. He must figure for the additional setting and for the changes in the windows.

Will you kindly take steps towards an immediate settlement of this matter? As we have tried to make plain to you, the very low price that we made was on the condition that we have the contract for winter's work. The winter has now nearly gone by and we are able to do very little with the job. We have had to stop sawing entirely. Your co-operation with this in mind will be much appreciated.

Yours truly


VERMONT MARBLE CO.

DHBHMA

SEP 24 1915

February 22, 1915.

Vermont Marble Co.,

Proctor, Vermont.

Gentlemen;

Messrs. Allen & Collens have sent me a copy of your letter of February 17th to Mr. T. W. Rogers with reference to the proposed changes in the Mead Memorial Chapel. You state that the addition of pilasters will increase the cost considerably. Can you let me have the exact figure? Mrs. Mead has written me stating her decided preference for an earlier sketch of the chapel, which showed these pilasters between each of the large windows, and two large windows on the side instead of one. I am of course desirous of meeting the wishes of Mrs. Mead so far as possible and would like to know the exact cost to the college of these changes before talking of the matter further with her.

Faithfully yours,

1952

July 20, 1915.

Vermont Marble Co.,
Proctor, Vermont.

Gentlemen;

Under separate cover I am sending to you a plan showing marble back for the Silas Wright bronze tablet presented to Middlebury College at the recent Commencement. We would like to have you furnish the back for this tablet in white marble, since we have already ~~white~~ ready a marble tablet in the chapel where this tablet will be placed.

Faithfully yours,

1771
November 6, 1915.

Supt. Carroll H. White,
Barre, Vermont.

My dear Mr. White;

I wish to confirm the informal invitation extended by Middlebury College to the Superintendents' Association to hold their spring meeting with the Head Masters' Club at Middlebury this year, and to add my personal invitation, which I would like to make as cordial and urgent as possible. We would be very pleased to have you come and do all we can to make the gathering pleasant and profitable.

Since any formal gathering of the Superintendents has occurred at Middlebury, the institution has grown from a very small college with a faculty of eleven and a student body of about one hundred to an institution with an instructing staff of thirty-two and students numbering three hundred and forty-one. The campus has enlarged from thirty acres with five buildings to one hundred forty-four acres with thirteen. Courses have increased from less than one hundred to considerably more than two hundred. Two new buildings are in process of erection, both of which will be somewhat unique in New England college architecture, a college chapel of the New England meeting house type, and a dormitory and commons building which includes several new features. It would seem to me appropriate that the superintendents should have an opportunity to see something of these changes. At any rate we shall be glad to have you come and hope you will see your way to accept our invitation.

Faithfully yours,

793
February 22, 1915.

Hon. J. E. Weeks,
Montpelier, Vermont.

My dear Judge Weeks;

I have just received your letter of Saturday and am much pleased that you liked the picture so much. I am sure it will do a great deal of good in your office. It just occurred to me this morning that the last four permanent college buildings erected in Vermont have been on the Middlebury campus, i. e., we have put up four buildings, Pearsons Hall, the gymnasium, chemistry building, and the power plant, since either of the other colleges put up any, and we have Doctor Mead's chapel in sight also. That doesn't say anything about Battell Cottage and the land there, nor the Porter Field.

I am encouraged that you still find sentiment so favorable. I have no idea the Commission can turn things over Thursday night, yet I shall feel a good deal easier when that bill is out of the way. There are some steady men on those committees and throughout the legislature, and I do not believe they can be stampeded in either direction.

I note that you say Mr. Blodgett would prefer not to have the appropriation bills pushed until after the report from the committees of education and state schools. On the way home I arranged with Redfield to appear before the Appropriations Committee tomorrow evening. My idea was to explain the bill and the cause for Middlebury, so that misunderstandings would not get current about the House, but of course not to press for action before you and our friends thought advisable. I will call you up tomorrow morning and if you think it would not be best to speak before the committee just now, I will be perfectly willing to postpone it. I would not want to do anything to disturb Mr. Blodgett or his committee. If I do present the matter I would like very much to have him and other members of the joint committees present.

I thank you for your kind words of sympathy and encouragement. I have to live from hour to hour and almost every day have some moments of particular anxiety. Mother's temperature continued about 102 for quite a time Saturday night, but it has gone down some now, although I doubt whether she has known me at all since I returned Saturday.

Faithfully yours,

Middlebury-001037