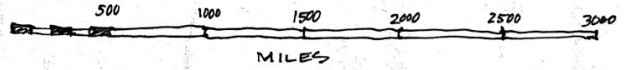


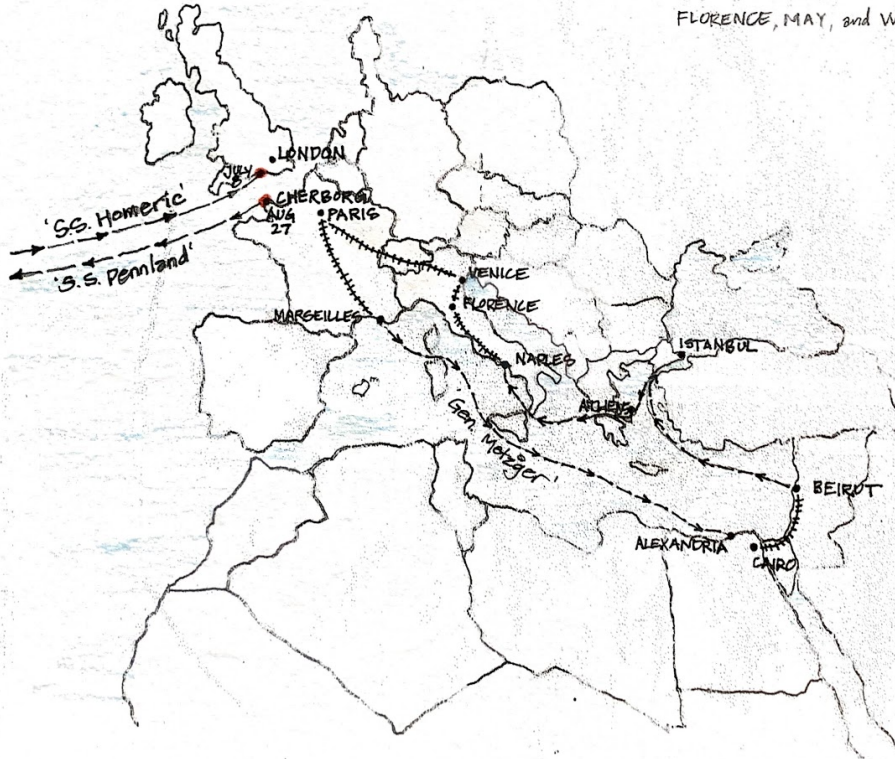
# 1927 Trip

2ND DRAFT

1927

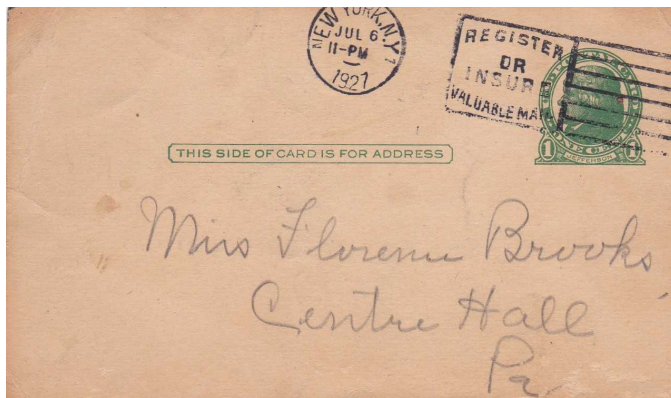


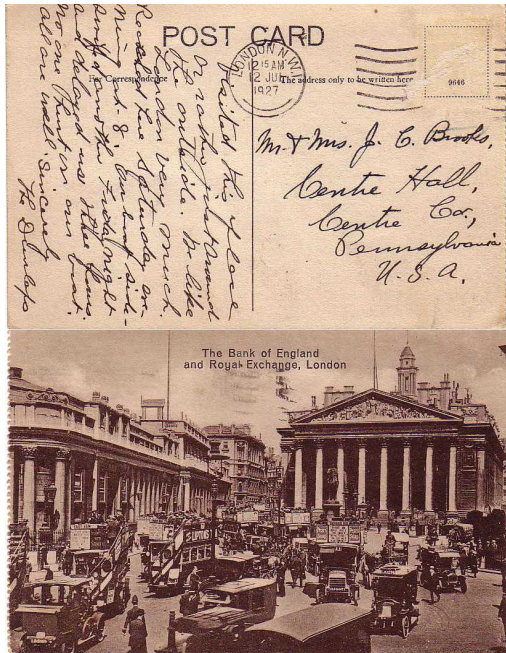
FLORENCE, MAY, and WILTON



New York (July 6th)

Friday Evening  
On the Homer  
Dear Floreny  
We are located  
in our cabin  
May and I are in  
a two berth one  
together sail  
right after mid  
night Lots of  
love Auntie Floreny





### England (July 9th)

At 7:30 on the evening of Friday July 8th, Florence and May sighted land for the first time in eight days. Their relief was short-lived as they were jostled awake by the impact of their ship, the Homeric, and a small Italian boat. Though no one was injured, it gave the passengers a few minutes of excitement after an otherwise dull journey.

The next morning the sisters stood in line for two hours awaiting customs to land in Southampton. In the process Florence was approached by an officer who questioned if she had any liquor or cigarettes in her suitcase. She replied, "Oh, mercy no!", horrified at the accusation.

Their sight-seeing began while on the train to London. They were enthralled by rolling fields and gardens bright with colors. Florence noticed a pattern in the villages they passed, keeping an old-fashioned design, many adorned with ivy-covered roofs. By 8 p.m. they reached London and the Ambassador Hotel. While delighted to be on solid ground,

they were a bit disappointed by the English cooking but deemed it much better than what they had been fed on the boat.

Sunday morning was left free for the party to do as they wished. Florence, still exhausted from the trip, was glad for the opportunity to relax.

On Monday, July 11th, the party began their official sight-seeing. Having been away from home for a week already, Florence and the rest of the group felt a bit more at home after seeing a statue of George Washington in Trafalgar Square. They then visited the haunts of Dr. Johnson, Fleet Street, and the tower of London which had mostly been converted into a museum full of jewels and gold. The tower was also where many soldiers, who Florence learned were referred to as "beef eaters", were stationed. In the afternoon they visited Westminster Abbey and the House of Parliament, which was in session so they could not see the inside. They then finished their day by visiting the grave of the Unknown Soldier, viewing Buckingham Palace from the outside, and spending some time in the British Museum. Florence expressed her desire to one day return.

On Tuesday, July 12th, the party visited Coventry which Florence proclaims as "the land of real poetry". They began with the Castle of Kenilworth, the titular place in Sir Walter Scott's novel. Next were the homes of Ann Hathaway and Shakespeare, which were preserved rather well. Their graves were nearby in a churchyard. What followed was a visit to Warwick castle which was still occupied by descendants of the original family. However, they were very poor and had to rent the castle during certain parts of the year in order to keep up with costs.

Florence took note of the beauty of rural England, lush with vegetation and flowers.

Wednesday the 13th was spent at Stoke Poges where the party found the churchyard home to the yew tree under which Thomas Gray wrote his famous elegy. The Pennsylvanians in the group found themselves cheering at the mention of William Penn, who had lived there with his family. The group then enjoyed a ride on the River Thames and a walk-through Windsor Castle where the King and Queen lived

for ten weeks out of the year. Their day ended at Hampton Court, which was built by Cardinal Wolsey, and where the group learned of Henry VIII's tendency to behead people.

### **France (July 14th-July 18th)**

On Thursday, July 14th the party reached Paris. They felt sadness after leaving London and were unimpressed by the trainride. They yearned for the beautiful flowers and hedges they'd seen in the English countryside. However they were happy with Hotel Littre which came with beautiful rooms, delicious food, and waiters eager to pour wine instead of water.

Sightseeing of Paris finally began the next day. Notre Dame was not only a breathtaking piece of gothic architecture, but the inside was home to magnificent paintings, carvings, and stained glass windows. Next was the Arc de Triomphe, followed by the church of the Sacred Heart, the Eiffel Tower, and Napoleon's tomb.

The following day the party traveled to the Grand Palaces, Versailles and Malmaison, which Florence said has gardens almost as beautiful as the ones at Windsor Castle, but not quite.

Florence and party reached Claymen, France after waking up at 7:30 a.m. to begin their drive. Much of their adventure in France was haunted by the remnants of battles from WWI. They visited battlefields where many American boys fought and lost their lives. Beginning at Claymen, then to Meax, and finally Belleau Woods where the American cemetery Aisne Marne is located. The American Flag waved proudly above the graves of six thousand American soldiers. Each grave was marked with a white cross and the name of the soldier. Nearby cemeteries showed German graves adorned with a single black rose, French graves marked with crosses similar to the ones of Americans, and British graves with marbles slabs on top.

The group next traveled to Chateau Thierry and Rheims which Florence described as "a city of 100,000 ruins" due to the German soldiers who occupied it for three days during the war. After Rheims, the party drove along the Hindenburg line and took in many large craters caused by mine explosions. Then came Soissons, which was another city ruined by German troops. And finally Compiègne, where the Armistice was signed in 1918.

The entire day was filled with remembering the deaths of soldiers which cast a dreary cloud over the group. Being able to see where the Armistice was signed let the otherwise disheartening day end on an uplifting note. The party also felt great cheer on their way back to Paris when they saw the airfield where Lindbergh, the American aviator, landed after becoming first person to cross the Atlantic alone. They made sure to give a patriotic, "Harrah for Lindbergh!"

### **Egypt (July 24th-July 25th)**

The party docked in Alexandria, Egypt, on July 24th. Florence described the landing process as tedious and difficult, so the group was not very enthusiastic about Alexandria until they caught sight of the Nile River. They then traveled three hours to Cairo where they made themselves at home in the Victoria hotel. They spent the day visiting museums teeming with Egyptian Antiquities, pyramids, shopping in the bazaars where merchants tried to charge more than the products were worth, and seeing Holy Sites such as the spot where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus took refuge after fleeing to Egypt. Florence found herself intrigued by the “graceful black clad women” and men with turbans who “added romance to the scene.”



## Israel (July 25th)



Florence and party traveled from Cairo to Jerusalem by train. The environment was much different from the vegetation-filled countryside of England and France, being mostly dry and sandy. She attempted to imagine herself as Moses traveling through the Holy Land.

Once they finally made it to Jerusalem, they were awed by the charm which “no other city possesses.” Everywhere they went they were reminded of the Savior.

Florence found herself fascinated by the history and religious culture of Jerusalem, noticing that it was filled mostly by churches, mosques, and synagogues.

The party visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the tombs of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, Calvary, and Bethlehem. Bethlehem is different as it was untouched by the earthquake that had battered Jerusalem only weeks before.

While in Bethlehem they saw the Nativity and then returned to Jerusalem by the Tomb of the Kings. Next they visited the mosque of Oman which was used as a Christian church during the Crusades of the Templars. The rock that Abraham prepared to offer his son as a sacrifice was also said to be there.

After the mosque they set their sights on Jericho and along the way passed Bethany, the home of Mary and Martha and where the tomb of Lazarus is located and the inn of the Good Samaritan. Along the road was the River Jordan which Florence described as a “swift flowing muddy stream.” They soon realized that Jericho is remembered only by the one remaining wall.

Their next trip was to Galilee. Along the way they passed near the Damascus gate and climbed Mount Scopus. Eventually they reached Bethel where many holy events occurred.

At some point they entered Palestine where there were plans to develop agriculture. The group were then able to visit Jacob’s well and truly feel that yes, Jesus did rest there and speak to the Woman of Samaria.

They continued their trip by driving to Nazareth, where the original home of Jesus is marked by a church. While in Nazareth they also saw Mary’s well which was the only source of water at the time.

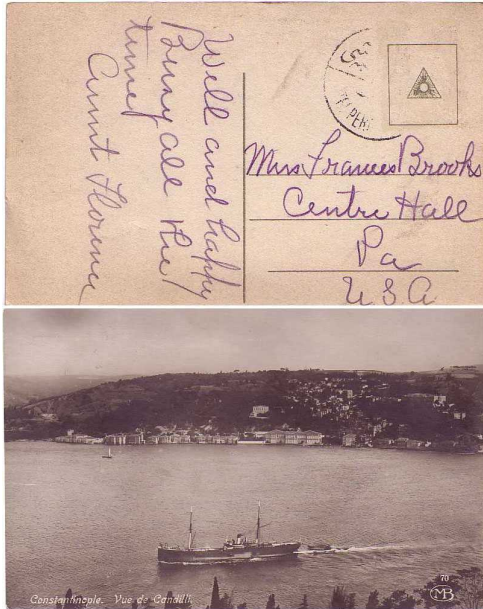
Finally they reached the village of Cana of Galilee where Jesus performed his first miracle. They finished their day by soaking in the view of the Sea of Galilee, imagining the great storm that Jesus had calmed.

### **Smyrna (August 1st)**

The party entered Smyrna's beautiful gulf next. Smyrna was the home of one of the "Seven Churches of Asia," the churches mentioned in Revelations 1:11, where Christ instructs John of Patmos to send scrolls of what he has seen. There wasn't much for the party to see there except for the Bazaars because the great fire of 1922 destroyed the majority of the city. The party leaves for Constantinople very soon after visiting Smyrna.



### Constantinople (August 3rd)



The route from Smyrna to Constantinople allowed the party to see many other places in passing. The route was along the coast of Asia Minor, so the party went through the Aegean sea, passed the Island Mitylene and the Plains of Troy (a place that was visited by St. Paul twice), they traveled through the famous Hellespont, the Propontis of the Ancients, through the Dardanelles and the Sea of Marmora. The Dardanelles were what the party expected them to be with their old fortifications, and Florence found the beautiful scenery very interesting.

Florence considered Constantinople to be one of the most beautiful spots in the world, and from the sea it looks even more spectacular. Constantinople is technically made up of three cities, and it has the only city in the world that is on two continents, Europe and Asia Minor.

As soon as the party landed on Constantinople they were taken in a steam launch for a ride on the Bosphorus. Florence wrote the banks of the Bosphorus were lined with "magnificent marble palaces, charming villas, and pleasure grounds." They also had an amazing view of the Black Sea on the ride, but they couldn't enter because of formalities that would have taken too much time.

While in Constantinople, the party stayed on the ship and would travel into the city in the morning and afternoon. They were able to visit several places when they traveled into the city each day. They saw St. Sophia, a Christian church built by Justinian, but is now a Muslim mosque. Florence found St. Sophia to be very impressive with its domes and semi domes and its many columns made of precious marbles, including ones that were originally part of the temple of the sun at Baalbek and columns that came from the temple of Diana at Ephesus.

The party also visited the Blue Mosque, which Florence said they considered to be even more beautiful than St. Sophia. The entirety of the upper portions of the mosque and the ceilings were covered in beautiful blue tiles, and the tiles were dyed so they'll always stay their beautiful blue tiles. The Blue Mosque is able to hold 10,000 people at one time. Everyone must remove their shoes or wear slippers over their shoes to enter, and then the men worship in the main auditorium and the women worship in the galleries.

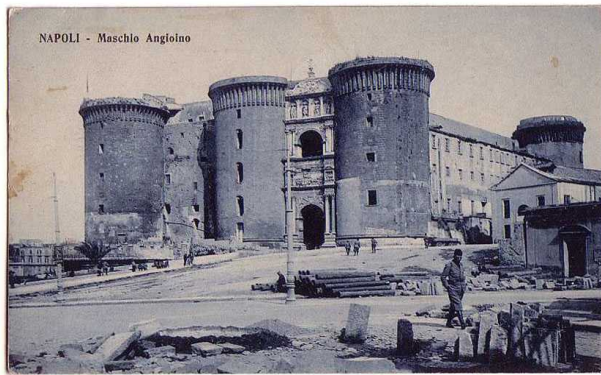
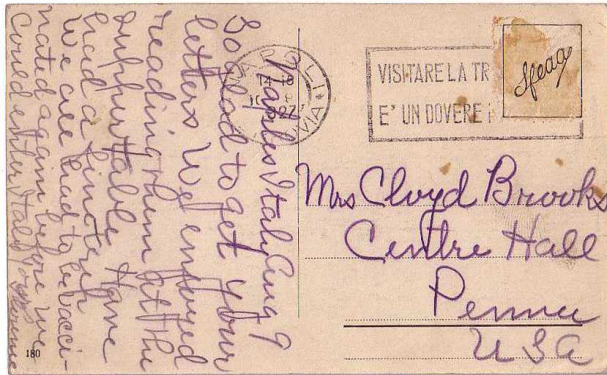
Next, Florence and the rest of the party visited the Basilica Cistern. The building over this cistern was supported by 368 Doric and Corinthian columns. The party was told that old manuscripts were found that said there were 200 cisterns in the city, but only 100 had been discovered at that point in time. The Basilica Cistern had only been found 19 years before their visit.

They also made sure to visit some of the 5,000 bazaars in Constantinople. The bazaars sold anything you could think of, but each bazaar only sold a handful of things themselves. The party had to haggle to get the prices of what things were actually worth, and if they couldn't they would move onto the next bazaar.

### **Greece (August 5th)**

To get to Athens, Greece the party traveled back through the Dardanelles and then they went West through the Grecian Archipelago. They arrived here August 12th, five weeks after they had left on their trip. Florence wrote at this point they felt as if they were on the way back home to their friends and family.

Florence did not write letters home while the party was in Athens, Greece.



### Italy(August 10th)

Florence was thrilled to visit Naples, Italy. The party's hotel was directly across from the bay, and Florence said the moonlight on the water was magnificent. She said the beautiful parks, and the many trees and flowers made it even more beautiful. While in Naples they saw the King's palace which was built in 1600 and the Galleria which included hundreds of shops. They also saw where Nero's baths, a meeting place for people, but it was also where Nero killed his mother.

Then, they saw the island where Peter and Paul landed on their way to Rome. Finally, they saw the National Museum which contained many Greek sculptures and relics from Pompeii; they saw jewelry, household utensils, gold ornaments, furniture, and parchments.

The party next arrived in Rome after a five hour drive from Naples. Here they saw the "Church of St. Paul Without the Walls" the church that is built over the tomb of Paul, Caesar's Baths, the English cemetery where non-Catholics were buried,

including Shelly and Kents, the Roman Forum, and the Pantheon. They also saw the Church and monastery of the Franciscan Monks, where the tomb of the Unknown Soldier is held and a memorial built in honor of Victor Emmanuel, the First King of United Italy, the Church of Ara-Coeli, St. Peter's Church, the Capitoline Museum, the catacombs, the Coliseum, the Chapel of the Holy Stairs, and the Trevi Fountain. Sadly the party was not able to visit the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel because they were closed for three days because of the Virgin feast.

The next city in Italy the party visited was Florence, a beautiful city with its many vineyards, orchards, and mountains off in the distance. In Florence the party visited the Baptistry of St. John, the Cathedral of St. Mary, the Holy Cross Church, the Westminster Abbey in Florence, the House of Dante, the Palazzo Vecchio, and the Barquillo. The rides the party had while getting everywhere in the city were through parks and across a bridge on the River Arno, which made the travels very splendid.

Venice, Italy was their next stop. Florence wrote that the trip here was tiresome; they had to go over, through, and around the Italian mountains. The trip was long, hot, dusty, and smokey. However, once they arrived it was beautiful with its fertile fields, orchards, and vineyards. Since Venice is built on a hundred islets the streets are canals, so bridges and gondolas are used to get everywhere. The Grand Canal was bordered with palaces and spanned by the Rialto Bridge. The gondolas were everywhere and were just like the gondolas a person thinks of when they think of Venice. The party traveled by gondola to see St. Mark's Cathedral, the Palace of the Doges, and the Bridge of Sighs.

Finally, the party's last stop in Italy was Milan. Florence wrote the most important reason of them going to Milan was to see Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting, "The Last Supper." She also mentioned that Napoleon cut a door through the painting to use the building for stable while he was in Milan.

### **Switzerland (August 20th)**

Florence wrote from Lucerne, Switzerland that they were enjoying the mountains immensely. There was snow everywhere and they had to wear their coats wherever they went. They came through the Saint Gotthard Tunnel while in Switzerland. The tunnel runs for 20 miles under the mountains. When they party reached the other end of the tunnel they were met with flowers, trees, grass, and everything else fresh. While here Florence also mentioned they had their first rain since they had left London.

### **France (August 27th)**

The last place on the trip was Paris, France. They had three days to visit Paris. Florence was especially excited to see a few things here. First, was the forest in Palace of Fontainebleau, which has 1500 rooms and 130 acres of parklands and gardens. Then, she was also excited to see the great Louvre, the world's largest art museum and historic monument in Paris, France. Finally, they had the third day off where they were free to shop, if they had any money left.

### **Return Home (August 27th-)**

Though nothing was written about the journey home, Florence and party arrived back in Tyrone late Monday night, the 5th of September. After traveling over nineteen thousand miles and visiting the Holy Lands, it is safe to say that the Church Touring Guild as a whole were forever changed.