ART - ASK

Ashburn, F.
PPR 3/45

BROOKS SCHOOL
NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

July 5, 1945

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County, New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you so much for your letter in regard to Bill. I am sorry to say that I have heard nothing from Mrs. Winsor since school closed, and have had no intimation from her that Bill would not come back to Brooks next year. I was not altogether surprised at what you wrote, in spite of this, as I have felt that Mrs. Winsor was not wholly satisfied, and believe that Bill, in spite of what I believe to be real progress, is still hoping himself to find some shortcut to real educational goals.

As I say, I certainly believe that Bill made real progress, not only in his work but in general maturity. I wrote Mrs. Winsor that since his English was still weak and he had dropped his Latin in the middle of the year, it seemed to me that he should be a first former again next year, although going ahead to second form work in algebra and ancient history. I also wrote her and told Bill that it seemed to me almost a certainty, if Bill was sufficiently interested, for him to make up the difference in English so that in a year or so he could return to last year's first form, with which he started. In a technical sense he could cover the ground in English with a good tutor this summer, but so much of the work at that stage is of the sort which is best assimilated slowly and which is so fundamental to many things which come later, we thought it wiser for him not to be rushed at this time. This is, of course, a debatable matter, and if you felt that other factors weighed importantly enough, it would not disturb me to have him do the English this summer and go ahead immediately with the second form. In this event, the material he should cover is outlined in detail in the Definition of Requirements pamphlet of the Secondary Education Board under the heading English I. I would very gladly order you a copy of this if you would like to have it.

In all frankness, I feel it would be a great pity for Bill to shift schools now, and, so far as I know, this is an impersonal opinion in spite of my personal interest. When Bill came to us, as you know, he was a rather bewildered and in many respects poorly prepared little boy. Before we could make much progress scholastically, a good deal of time had to be spent on digging and supporting. As the year ended, the results began to show. There is no doubt in my mind as to Bill's basic ability, but I feel he is just beginning to get his roots in here and that as a long-range proposition it is of immense importance for him

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to see this undertaking through. My supposition is that he still finds it hard to accept steady demands and standards, and hopes that by making a shift he will be able to ~~accomplish~~ this. Often I believe he plays rather skilfully on his mother's fears. So far as I have been able, I have investigated carefully the background of all such, and believe that they are for the most part groundless. The last real word I had from Mrs. Winsor was in March.

I need not tell you how interested I am in Bill's case, nor how much it would mean to me to be able to do anything that would help you in any way. If you have any definite suggestions at any time, please feel free to call upon me.

Always sincerely,

Frank D. Robbins

FDA:JL

July 26, 1945

Dear Dr. Ashburn:

Thank you for your letter. I am very sorry that Mrs. Wimmor has made her decision not to send Bill back to you.

Bill has been here for about ten days with his father and his half sister and brothers. He seems to have accepted them all without any difficulty. I think he shows a great improvement over last summer.

With my best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

BROOKS SCHOOL
NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

July 24, 1945

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I have just written, reluctantly, to Mrs. Winsor in regard to Bill. A wire from her last night stated that she definitely planned to change Bill this winter. Under the circumstances, I feel that it would be improper for me to urge the matter further and that I must fill Bill's place.

I need not tell you how deeply it grieves me to have been unable to accomplish more for the boy and for you.

Very sincerely yours,

Frank D. Robbins

FDA:JL

...evelt:

July 24, 1945

Mrs. Donner Winsor,
Hacketts' House,
Southampton,
Long Island, New York

My dear Mrs. Winsor:

Thank you for your wire. As I told you over the telephone the other day, I am genuinely sorry that the decision has been made to withdraw Bill, as I cannot honestly tell you that I think it is a wise one from his own point of view. He really seems to me to have been making steady progress, and while his knots were not wholly untied, I do believe the goal could have been reached before too long, and I also feel it would have been good for Bill to have to see this thing through. Having watched him very closely all during the year, it is hard for me to believe that he was an unhappy boy or that the problems were as heavy as he considered them.

I hope very sincerely indeed that he finds himself in his new school and that the results of the change will be altogether happy. We were glad to have had him here and feel genuine regret that we were not able to produce more tangible results.

Very sincerely yours,

s/ Frank D. Ashburn

FDA:JL

5

BROOKS SCHOOL
NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

May 28, 1945

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York 11, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It is, I fear, late for me to attempt to help with Billy's summer problem, but as I wired you this morning, if you are still looking for a good older boy to be his companion, I think I can recommend one to you without hesitation.

The boy's name is Tom Baring. His father is in the British Army, now back in London on his first leave in almost five years. He is a real Baring. His mother was Virginia Ryan of New York. She has not been well in recent years, so I have seen relatively little of her, and I think Brooks has been as much home for Tom as any place.

At first he had some difficulty. He was an Englishman at heart and found the American adjustment hard. He has shown steady progress in every way and I think he is a fine boy. He is in our present fifth form, but turns eighteen in October, so will graduate a year early and has already been accepted by Harvard. He plans to go back to England in the early fall and enter the British Navy if possible; if not, the Army. Here he has taken an active part in the School life. He is a good tennis player, but most of all I think he is a good person, reliable, pleasant, and steady. My feeling is that his influence on Bill would be wholly good.

He is anxious to get a job this summer; a decision just reached, otherwise I should have been in touch with you long ago. If you are still interested, I can send him down to see you, and meantime would appreciate any information as to exact dates, salary, or anything else you think important. If there is no longer an opening, please forgive my bothering you. I think you know how regretful I am that I was so slow in making the suggestion.

With warmest personal regards in which Phyllis joins,

Always sincerely yours,

Frank D. Ashburn

FDA:JL

Baring knows both East and South - Hampton well.

WESTERN UNION (41)

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A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

BC89 17=LAWRENCE MASS 28 927A

MRS FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT=

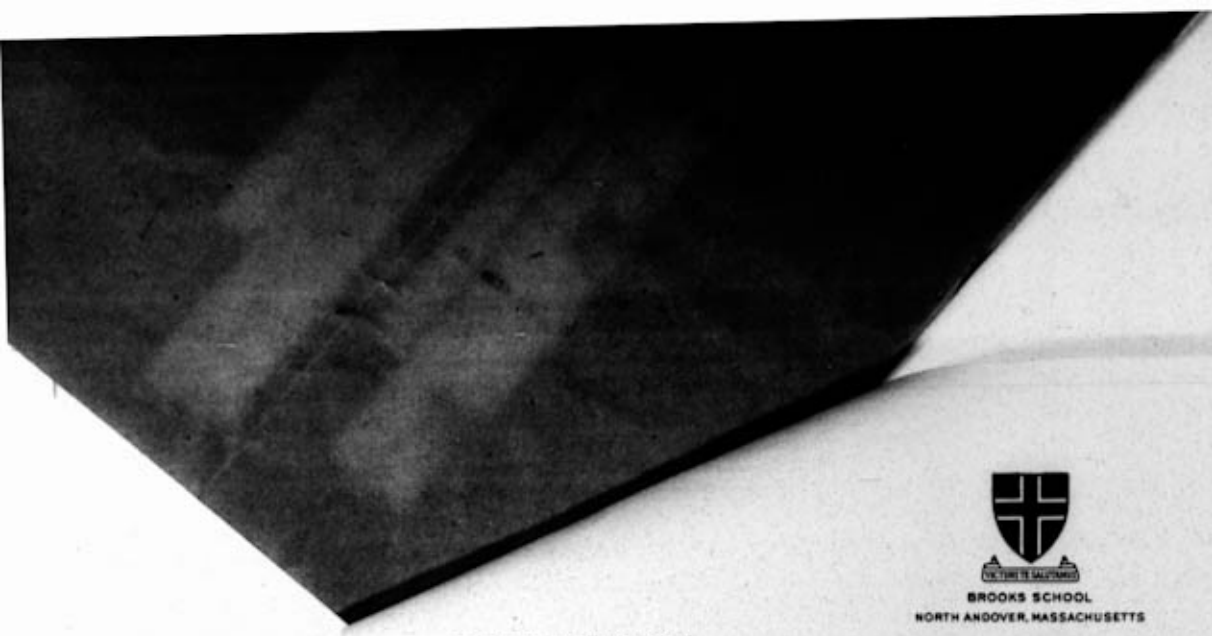
APT 15A 29 WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST NYK=

IF COMPANION FOR BILLY STILL NEEDED HAVE ONE I CAN RECOMMEND WITHOUT QUALIFICATION. AM WRITING DETAILS REGARDS=

FRANK ASHBURN.

MAY 28 AM 9 43

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



BROOKS SCHOOL
NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

April 30, 1945

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York 11, New York

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for your letter in regard to a possible tutor for Bill this summer. I fear that the possibilities of which I know have already made commitments, but I shall investigate thoroughly and will let you know promptly if I can discover someone whom I could recommend wholeheartedly.

Bill's path still stretches far ahead of him, but I do believe he has moved ahead and that his progress up to now shows more in the intangibles than in actual marks. He told me that he was going to write you after his grandfather's death, and I was much pleased that he showed such concern about it. You will be amused to know that he was afraid the letter would never reach you!

Please allow me to add, what I am sure you realize better than anyone else, that the continued sense of personal loss which people of all types and classes have for the President and which I encounter all the time is a most moving and touching thing. I wonder if anybody ever before has come so close to the hearts of so many, many people. And always, too, I hear the affection for him coupled with admiration and affection for you.

Very sincerely yours,

Frank D. Ashburn

FDA:JL

April 27, 1945

Dear Dr. Ashburn:

I had a letter from Bill's mother this morning, in which she asked me if I knew of some young man who would spend the summer vacation with Bill on Long Island. He would act as tutor and companion to Bill.

I realize that so many young men who would ordinarily be available, are in the Services, but if you should know of anyone, I would appreciate your letting me know.

After I had seen Bill, I meant to write to you that I felt there had been progress and development, and since my husband died, I had a most understanding letter from him. I had not thought that Bill knew much about his grandfather from the point of view of what he stood for and what he meant to so many people.

With every good wish,

Very cordially yours,