

Enclosed (at end of) in my letter of
Oct. 30 - 1956
to Ed. ~~Farrar~~

Abridged Biography and Obituary of

Dr. Ellet Joseph Waggoner:

Born January 12, 1855, at ~~Burlington~~ ^{Waukesham (?)}, Wisconsin; K

Died suddenly of heart attack, at Battle Creek, Michigan, the night of May 28, 1916-- aged 61 years, 4 months, 16 days. He was the 6th of 10 children-- having four brothers and five sisters.

His father, Elder Joseph Harvey Waggoner, one of our early pioneers, had accepted Present Truth in 1852-- so Dr. Waggoner was born into the Third Angel's Message-- which he early accepted with his whole heart, - which he ably taught and defended, and to which he faithfully adhered throughout his life.

His early teens were spent in the ~~xxxxxxx~~ fine Adventist home of Bro. Charles Lindsey at Burt, Niagara County, New York State, - working his way on their large farm while attending school at Lockport.

Also attended, and graduated from Battle Creek College. Married a college class-mate, Jessie Fremont Moser, whose parents had accepted the Truth in her very early childhood.

He was also a graduate of Ann Arbor University, Michigan, there receiving his diploma as Doctor of Medicine.

On Pacific Coast was connected in its early days with the St. Helena Sanitarium.

Also served some time as Instructor in the newly established Healdsburg College.

Together with and following his father in the same capacity he served for a number of years in the eighties as editor of the "Signs of the Times," on the old Pacific Press at Oakland. It was during this period that two daughters and a son were added to the family, - the latter dying in infancy.

Participated in a strong way at the Minneapolis Campmeeting of 1888, leading out with Elder A.T. Jones in what seemed to many as a "new" doctrine of Righteousness by Faith, - but which Sister White herself heartily approved and declared to be "in verity the Third Angel's Message."

Took active interest always in every missionary endeavor. Together with his family he felt it grand privilege to be part of the group on the ship "Pitcairn" on its trial trip, 1890.

Later in same year in conjunction with Elder Geo. B. Starr conducted a Bible Institute in Chicago. Remainder ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ of winter taught in Battle Creek College.

The following summer found him traveling in Europe and assisting in the various campmeetings. To show his gift for language, in anticipation of the work awaiting in Scandinavia he assiduously studied Danish on board ship on his way over, and on arrival in Denmark and after his first sermon, was able to discard interpreter and do his own preaching in Danish. Made and kept many warm friends.

Rejoining his family on the old Lindsey farm, return was made to Oakland and in harmony with General Conference decision preparations made for moving to London, England. From early spring ~~xxxxxxx~~ of 1892 till late autumn 1903 Dr. Waggoner was editor of the British "Present Truth" at its old headquarters 451 North Holloway. At one time his life seemed to hang as by a thread over a period of several weeks, with severe illness-- brain fever-- resulting from a very heavy program, many responsibilities and long hours. He never spared himself. But prayers were answered and he was spared to continue his writing and pastoral and evangelistic ministry. New recruits were also raised up.

During occasional weeks or months of work elsewhere, his writing and editorials continued unabated. At one time, immediately following the Armenian massacres, one trip he was asked to take led him--in company with Eld. A.T. Jones-- through Turkey. Many were their interesting experiences, but great the relief of their London family and friends on their safe return.

Summer 1897 spent leading out at the new and large school at Frederickshavn, Denmark, as Bible instructor.

1899 helping at Lausanne, Switzerland, campmeeting,--also meetings in America.

1902 summer spent teaching Bible--Skodsborg, Denmark.

Campmeetings (mostly just three or four large tents, with people in lodgings) in which he took heavy share---as in Bath, Birmingham and other cities. Also ministerial institutes. One at Deal, on the Kentish sea-coast, was of special spiritual and physical refreshment. Public open-air evening meetings by the sea, for the crowds. Also open-air meetings each summer in London.

Co-operated with Prof. Homer Salisbury in the first school (1901) to be started in England---in Duncombe Hall, North London. Taught Bible. His knowledge of the Bible was great and his presentation such as made the Bible come alive. Could quote large sections from memory-- especially delighted in and memorized Isaiah, Psalms, John, Romans, Galatians, Hebrews.

Autumn of 1903 returned to States. Two weeks vacation at Lindsay farm, and Niagara, then became Bible instructor at the Emanuel Missionary College at Berrien Springs.

Except for a later period again in Denmark, his later years more definitely followed work along health lines, but always, even when retired, Bible teaching and garden--where he always felt closest to God---were his main enjoyment. But of all work, his preaching of the Word and Bible classes held first place, --which continued to the last. When he fell asleep for the last time it was as he put down his large open Bible, from which he had been studying the funeral sermon he was to deliver next day for the child of a fellow doctor (Dr. Colver). His last thoughts were of the resurrection-- his hope firm in the Truth he had upheld through life, and in the coming of Him who is "the Truth" and whose righteousness by faith he had so long taught---and had also consistently lived out, as those nearest to him could testify. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

My father was also a graduate of Ann Arbor University, Michigan, and there received his diploma as Doctor of Medicine. I had this, or the graduation program, with the date and all the names of his class--but have no idea where it can be now. And can not at all remember the date. Maybe it might yet some day turn up--if it was not left with some boxes left in care of my husband's aunt in Tennessee, which were all burned, with the house, week before our return to States.

My father did for some time, however, have a medical practice, as I see in a letter from Cousin Ellet Sanders five years ago. He failed to find any of the books or writings I had asked about, but says: "I do remember when I was about seven or eight years old of his pulling a tooth for me.* Also I remember of his working with Dr. Green, who was a medical doctor and lived in the first house west of the Waggoner home." He does not state if that was in Burlington or Battle Creek---but possibly the latter, as I know both my parents had lived there. It was all before my time, and I do not remember those dates, or the sequence of events, though doubtless have seen and read and heard them as a child.

doubtless

I do not know date of his ordination to the ministry---but even as a doctor and teacher know he did preach also. Cousin Ellet also says he "first heard him speak at the campmeeting at Stockton, in (Calif.) August 1885." But of course that was much later---as I was born that year, in Oakland, and my father had already moved to Oakland years before that, connected with editorial office of Pacific Press.

I believe this answers the question as to why my father was generally referred to as "Dr" E.J. Waggoner. He was also many times called "Elder Waggoner"---but did have the title of medical doctor---and kept it at first so as to differentiate between him and his father, who also was writer and author and co-editor of Signs of the Times. Later, after Grandpa's death, it would not have mattered quite so much, but even then there could have been some question, in hearing the name still often spoken of, as to who was ~~me~~ meant, and the title still stuck, ---it was a legitimate M.D.

However, I know that even on Pacific Coast my father was connected in its early days with the St. Helena Sanitarium.

He also served some time as Instructor in the newly established Healdsburg College.

I simply don't know exact dates. I do know that together with, and later following his father, he served number of years in the eighties as editor of "Signs of the Times," in the old Pacific Press in Oakland, California. My Grandpa and Grandma Moser lived just around the corner from the Press, in an upstairs apartment. So I knew them much the best, of my grandparents. My sister Bessie was born Nov. 26, 1882. The house my folks lived in at that time was not so good as later---stove smoked badly, I have heard, and was the cause of my sister wearing glasses from about the time she was six. I do not remember her any other way. I was born at 1465 Castro Street (few blocks from Pacific Press but on same street), Feb. 27, 1885. I rarely remember dates and numbers, but somehow that street number stays by me. Believe I still have a childhood book somewhere that has the address in it. I forget exact birth date of our little brother, Ernest Eugene, but he died at nine months of age, when I was four years old. Was a beautiful child

(My father was M.D. - not a dentist - but - doubtless it was only a first tooth - at Cousin Ellet's age - my husband told / didn't say I pulled lots of teeth in my mission field -)

and I remember how badly I felt to see him buried; but I also remember trying to comfort my mother--at our first meal after funeral--by reassuring her that Jesus was going to come and would "go down into that hole and bring Baby Ernest up and give to us again." I knew the "Blessed Hope" at an early age. If today's antibiotics, etc., had been known back there he could have been saved. I thought I had had ~~it~~ back there, and my mother thought so too, until I myself had it, and HARD, on our last furlough to States from mission field. Past 50 it is far from easy. Nearly passed out completely---having nursed our two girls through same thing, same time.

whooping cough

Maybe I'm making too many side remarks---but you seemed to want more than my former biography gave---and I do believe I'm answering in this a few more of your questions. What I leave out, as I partially re-copy from my first draft of some years back, I'll add later,--so as to get through sooner. If not entirely in sequence, they can be put in right order--if I recall at all some dates.

I don't know exact time my folks moved to California from the East. I already wrote you at some length, I believe, in a former letter of my father's home life--his reading, singing, rocking us, etc., and helping us with verses, etc. I remember him studying and reading Hebrew aloud. I overheard a lot of talk and worry too, by my mother and others, at time of Johnston (?) flood in Pennsylvania, where my father had gone to attend campmeeting or some kind of meeting. No radio news back then! Remember seeing a letter at last come through from him, all soiled and ink-blurred from the water. I also remember hearing of, and seeing pictures in our papers or leaflets, of persecution of Sabbath-keepers down in some of the Southern States. I remember too, small as I was, much that was said about "Righteousness by Faith"--and the Scriptures quoted by my father. He was very much in earnest.

He did participate in a strong way, as is well known, at the Minneapolis Campmeeting of 1888, leading out with Elder A.T. Jones in what seemed to many as a "new" doctrine -Righteousness by Faith--but which Sister White herself heartily approved and declared to be "in verity the Third Angel's Message." Of course it was not a new doctrine, but by some ardent souls had been eclipsed by "Law" teachings --which of course was needed too, as the Christian world in general had tried to do away with the Law. However (as Dr. Paulson used to say): the Law alone as a topic, without Christ in the heart, giving it life, leaves one as 'dry as the hills of Gilboa.'" Of course many did accept and find real and new blessing.

Question has been asked as to when my father received his own special experience that led to his special personal study along this line. I have copied it and sent in, as from preface of book, "The Everlasting Covenant,"--also marked a paragraph in leaflet sent in, the paragraph being quoted from his own words, in more detail---but I believe gave no date. I see it was at a Healdsburg campmeeting in 1882. By the way, I do not wish to have returned to me the pamphlet sent in last week. I did make such a request, I believe, in margin, but all I cared about was that one paragraph---and I copied that, and have inserted it in his book, by the Preface. The letter was sealed and mailed before I remembered I had not crossed out that request.

His intense interest in missions and the early missionaries, and our visitors and guests from overseas missions, all made its mark on me. At four years of age I made up my mind I wanted to be a missionary.

My father and sister and I were part of group on trial trip of ship Pitcairn, 1890.

Later that same year--1890-- though still connected with the Press and work in Oakland, he, with all the family and several other workers with their wives, all went in one car, by train East. Elder Loughborough and wife were among the passengers. I have picture taken of most of the group, at one of the stations. Do you have it? ~~Would you~~ like to see? I might send. My sister and I were the only children in that car, but I remember a little girl about my age used to come in from adjoining car, to play with us. I remember telling her incidents and all about our church in Oakland, incidentally mentioning A.T. Jones and Sister White. She asked who they were. I was astounded at her ignorance, and remember exclaiming, "You don't know Brother Jones and Sister White! Why, where do you live?" I really thought everyone should know them. I had known them from birth.

I do not remember why the crowd of workers were going East, or what the occasion. But I know we spent the winter in Chicago (or early part of it) where my father in conjunction with Eld. Geo. B. Starr conducted a Bible Institute. Remainder of winter, taught in Battle Creek College.

1891

In early February, he had to move over to College entirely, as the rest of us were quarantined for scarlet fever. My Cousin Ross ran errands for us, as he already had had the fever. Had my 6th birthday in bed there. Mother had extra hard and prolonged time, and later on, more fully to regain strength, my father took us all to the old Lindsay farm in New York State, to remain while he was sent over to conduct various meetings and assist in campmeetings in Europe. I especially what he told us about experiences in Scandinavia. He studied Danish on the ship on way over (voyage took much longer then than now) and after first sermon with interpreter began his own preaching, in Danish. I heard later how well he did. Also made many warm and permanent friends. Still 1891 when he returned to U.S.

At end of that summer he returned to States, spent a few days at farm, and it seems to me we spent few more months in Battle Creek; I know I remember much snow somewhere.

Returned to Oakland a few weeks before my seventh birthday in early 1892, and in harmony with General Conference decision preparations began to be made immediately for moving to London, England. Left Oakland, I believe, in early April. Few days at Farm before sailing from New York.

Early spring of 1892 to late autumn of 1903 our home was in London. During that time Dr. Waggoner was editor of the British "Present Truth"--a much larger magazine than the one today that I have seen. His office was at the old headquarters of our publishing ~~xxxxxxx~~ work--451 North Holloway. Had charge of the work in North London, pastor at Duncombe Hall---which we secured for church services, soon after arriving. They were meeting upstairs in an old Theater when we arrived. During all those years he was busily engaged in editorial and ministerial work, Bible studies, evangelistic meetings (of course Bible studies, etc., general meetings, Birmingham, Bath, and ~~xxx~~ on Kentish coast---together with group of other ministers. Was one of a quartet which always sang at the general meetings when the ministers from various sections came together: Washburn, Harris, Meredith, and my father. It was really good! Also big meeting at Portsmouth. Lodgings where attainable; tents only for meetings, dining, and books. First converts after we settled in North London home, were the four Wright sisters who lived across the road; they came over to our house steadily for some time for Bible studies; became hard workers and good helpers in the work. Gertie Wright Brown now is doctor in Edinburgh.

Hard to mention what was done year by year--during those eleven and a half years. Even when obliged to be absent from London now and then, he still was editor and would keep in touch with the office and send in his editorials, etc. Was a hard worker--except for a few weeks when critically ill in hospital with brain fever. Many prayers went up, and the Lord answered. Also English people are so kind--when you get to know them. Always had Sunday night meetings as well as Sabbaths. The public attended well. Outdoor meetings too in summer.

One of the trips he was asked to take, seems to me was about 1895. Anyway it was following the Armenian massacres--a trip through Turkey in company with A.T. Jones. All of us certainly rejoiced at their safe return. Many interesting experiences they had had.

1897 spent summer leading out ^{at} the new and large school at FredericksHAVN, Denmark, as Bible instructor. Workers from all parts of Scandinavia there. Beautiful place--with view of sea from the large windows. Never saw a more beautiful baptism. Also had health and food studies (and sample of prepared dishes) every p.m. Two weeks at Skodsborg on way home: the royal property had just been bought, and there was real pioneering, before sanitarium was ready for patients.

1899: Helping at Lausanne campmeeting, Switzerland. Eld. O.A. Olsen was present. Also had to make trip to States--various meetings--- left us in Neuchatel, Switzerland (to learn French) then called for us on his return. (I was able to translate for him at Sabbath meeting-- from English to French.)

1900: Return to London, via two weeks at World Fair in Paris. Continued regular work. *Eld. Bartlett became assistant editor, helped him much.*

1901: Co-operated with Prof. Homer Salisbury and wife--who came over to start the first Adventist school -in North London. My father taught Bible. Quite a large group attended regularly for the year. School was held in Duncombe Hall---a class in each corner, and Bible and "assembly" hour across front, both sides. A wonderful beginning, later built up at Watford. Even to me, used to them at home, his studies in Bible were wonderful. Could drill and teach till the Bible seemed to come alive. Did enough repeating, in various ways, till one could not forget. Many visits to British Museum.

1902: By request spent ^{for 3 months} teaching Bible daily at Skodsborg, Denmark. Much growth in sanitarium buildings and large number of workers and patients. Family accompanied him. (Henry Harrower, from North London, grandson of charter member there, was taking nurses' course there. He and my sister later married in States, ~~when~~ he took medical course.) Short trip to States--for meetings, etc.,--somewhere about that time. (Maybe in 1903. Brought one of my younger cousins back, who) had lost to ~~depression~~ ^{Germany} and needed more care than I was able to give. (I went to Denmark from Denmark - returned March 1903 to London)

1903: He and Mother spent few weeks again in Denmark--teaching. We girls in London home, with my French friend from Neuchatel. Usual work all summer. Then called to teach Bible at the new school in its "infancy" at Berrien Springs. Still building, but big classes. Sailed from England September 1903. Hard storms. Few days at Lindsay Farm, then Berrien for all winter, till summer 1904. Have met from time to time students from those classes and they all got so much good from them. All liked him much. Prof. Magan too, and my father, fast friends.

May 21, 1901 -- goes back a little, and the date does not mean much, but I'll put it in, as I just ran across a short letter from my father to his sister Ruby, on way back home after some meeting in USA. It is dated as above, on RMS "Majestic" stationery, from "Atlantic Ocean, near Queenstown, Ireland," stating he expected to be back in London "~~day after tomorrow.~~" Nothing of any special interest to anyone else, but found it in old letter from Cousin Zee. No importance, but just another "date"!

1903 - 1904. Teaching Bible at Berrien Springs. Was in B.C. last months of 1904, but can't rightly remember his work. We all ate across street at East Hall. All very busy--at least my father, sister and I. Personally I worked at first, after leaving Berrien, for and with El d. G.C. Tenney--proof-reading in his office -on "Medical Missionary" and "Good Health", etc., etc. Then in composing room mornings---and studying typing and stenography in p.m. at Graham School of Shorthand, conducted by Bro. Cornell---who had been S.S. teacher in London church for quite a while. The looks of my letters just now wouldn't show that I had really once been a good stenographer. Excuse mistakes--I keep letting thoughts get ahead of me.

with Paulsons, at Hinsdale, Ill.

1905. I myself arrived at midnight, New Year's, between 1904 and '05. Really can't give any dates or real happenings exactly the rest of year. Mother visited me in early spring, with the flooring announcement she was going to start proceedings. No real reason at all, except the planned marriage with E.S. "Nothing" could stop it.

1905-1906. Somewhere in there came the break-up--never started nor wanted by my father, regardless of gossip. (Will add few lines on another half sheet - if not in this envelope then in another, same mail, if possible, as this is getting too heavy.) Resulting dropping from organized work - because of notoriety, etc., but not from because of any change in his teachings or in his love of the Truth, and his adherence to it. I believe many months were spent at Lindsay Farm in New York State. I attended wedding of my sister and Henry Harrower in March 1906--beautiful wedding at home of a Doctor-friend; can't seem to remember name just now but knew him well, and never forgot name till this moment! Dr. R---? The home was in Battle Creek.

1907. I see the remaining letter enclosed in that old one of Cousin Zee's--dated from Burt, N.Y. April 25, 1907, addressed to Aunt Ruby. So evidently had been at Burt (the Farm) -I don't remember if again, or if still. He states they had secured passage for Denmark to sail May 2. Would be leaving Burt April 30. Spoke of its being "rather sudden" though correspondence had been going on for some months. Expected to teach English to University students,--private lessons. Had assurances "from several persons of influence. Seemed to be the only thing that offered any prospects just then,--and he could "at the same time be going on with (his) other studies. Gave address to the boat (of Scandinavian-American S.S.) Also temporary address in Copenhagen. Most of letter personal xx about farm and health--of Aunt Ruby and Uncle Jasper,--with words of encouragement. Regretted not being able to visit them and his mother again before sailing. Short of money, and visit would be too short anyway. I myself received regular letters from my father--if ~~any~~ any have been kept, I don't know where. Nor date of return to B.C.

1908 to 1909 -or later? Don't know, but believe teaching in Denmark. Visited Skodsborg often. I don't remember date of return to B.C. nor when he accepted position at Sanitarium---in Laboratory mostly. From 1910 (or later ?) to 1916. Work at B.C. San. Taught as chaplain, and in Sabbath-school, etc. Strict Sabbath-keeper always, and followed Sr. White in health matters. Death May 28; funeral May 31, Burlington. The relating information, already sent in detail.

P.W.H.

Left "organized work" but never left the Truth. (around 1905?)

The Battle Creek Tabernacle was packed when at 2 p.m. Wednesday May 31, his lifelong friend Elder A.T. Jones preached his funeral sermon.

Battle Creek.

Laid to rest in the Burlington cemetery (20¹/₄ miles from Burlington, which was for many years the old homestead of his parents, and where his mother (Mrs. Marietta Waggoner) were buried. His father, Elder J.H. Waggoner, had already long before died in Basel, Switzerland, of similar heart attack without warning, on completion of his book "From Eden to Eden," - the same monument marking his resting place as that of Elder J.N. Andrews.

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Among his many writings and leaflets, etc., are the books:

"Fathers of the Catholic Church", August 5, 1888, published in Oakland, California (Pacific Press)

"The Gospel in Creation", 1893, published in London, England, International Tract Society.

"The Glad Tidings", (verse by verse study of book of Galatians), published 1900 by Pacific Press Pub. Co., Oakland, California.

"The Everlasting Covenant", --London, England-- (1903 ?)

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Just found down south, and have borrowed, small volume of oldtime tracts, containing two (from "Apples of Gold" Library) by Dr. E.J. Waggoner, and entitled:

The Power of Forgiveness", May 1894
The Cross of Christ", August 1894

P.W.H.

("Everlasting Covenant" has already been mailed to Washington-- temporary loan--and can speak for itself.

The books "Gospel in Creation" and "Glad Tidings", as well as above-named tracts, are full of the truth and power of Christ's righteousness by faith.)