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Doris Holmes Blake - Correspondence with Doris Sidney Blake, January - March 1947

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National Museum, Wash.D.C.
18 Feb. 1947.

Dear Doris:

I am sorry that we hurt your feelings about the Dutchman. No doubt he is a decent fellow, I hope so, and if you yourself can take him not too seriously and not be too intimate but preserve a friendly good fellowship I think you may get along without any serious complications. Don't let yourself get mooney over him and neglect your studies. I hope the clock arrives safely. The one I bought has not an illuminated dial, which would have been a dollar additional. It has a softer alarm and Dad goes right on sleeping after it rings without any shock of waking up at all. Fortunately I am a light sleeper at that time of day, and am usually awake anyhow. I expect you are too.

The mornings here are getting lighter. But we have strong prospects this summer of having Daylight saving in the District, which will begin the last of April. You will probably have it up there as it is customary.

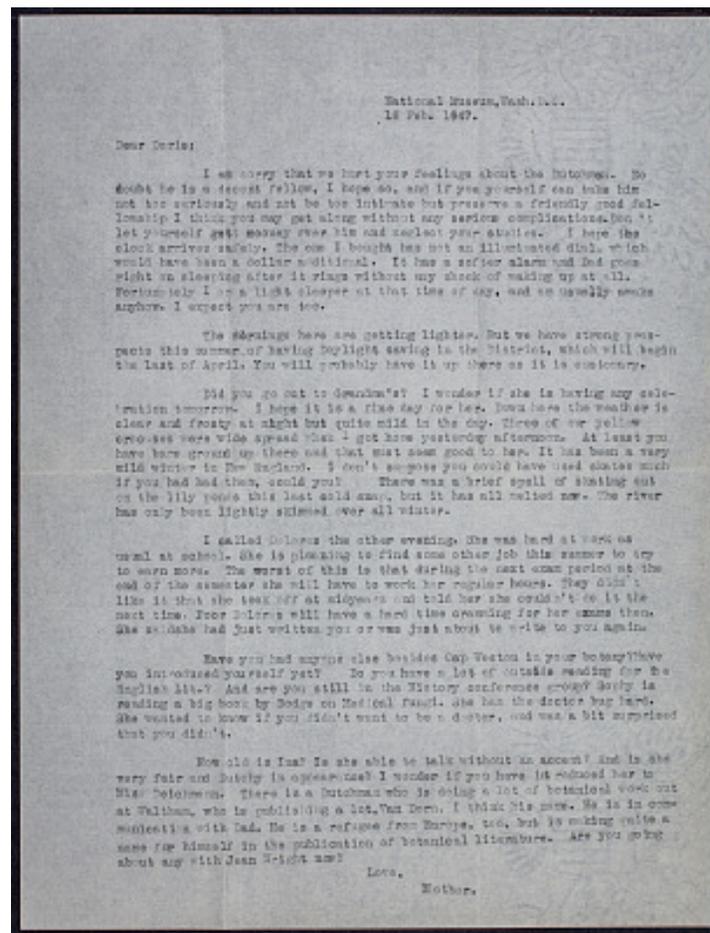
Did you go out to Grandma's? I wonder if she is having any celebration tomorrow. I hope it is a fine day for her. Down here the weather is clear and frosty at night but quite mild in the day. Three of our yellow crocuses were wide spread when I got home yesterday afternoon. At least you have bare ground up there and that must seem good to her. It has been a very mild winter in New England. I don't suppose you could have used skates much if you had had them, could you? There was a brief spell of skating out on the lily ponds this last cold snap, but it has all melted now. The river has only been lightly skimmed over all winter.

I called Dolores the other evening. She was hard at work as usual at school. She is planning to find some other job this summer to try to earn more. The worst of this is that during the next exam period at the end of the semester she will have to work her regular hours. They didn't like it that she took off at midyears and told her she couldn't do it the next time. Poor Dolores will have a hard time cramming for her exams then. She said she had just written you or was just about to write to you again.

Have you had anyone else besides Cap Weston in your botany? Have you introduced yourself yet? Do you have a lot of outside reading for the English Lit.? And are you still in the History conference group? Sophy is reading a big book by Dodge on Medical fungi. She has the doctor bug hard. She wanted to know if you didn't want to be a doctor, and was a bit surprised that you didn't.

How old is Ina? Is she able to talk without an accent? And is she very fair and Dutchy in appearance? I wonder if you have introduced her to Miss Deichmann. There is a Dutchman who is doing a lot of botanical work out at Waltham, who is publishing a lot, Van Dorn, I think his name. He is in communication with Dad. He is a refugee from Europe, too, but is making quite a name for himself in the publication of botanical literature. Are you going about any with Jean Wright now?

Love,
Mother.



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