

Levi Pennington

People

---

10-5-1947

## Pennington to Bertha May, October 5, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi\\_pennington](https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi_pennington)

---

### Recommended Citation

Pennington, Levi T., "Pennington to Bertha May, October 5, 1947" (1947). *Levi Pennington*. 195.  
[https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi\\_pennington/195](https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/levi_pennington/195)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the People at Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Levi Pennington by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact [arolfe@georgefox.edu](mailto:arolfe@georgefox.edu).



13 Marion Avenue, So. Glens Falls, N.Y.,  
October 5, 1947.

Dear Bertha May:--

Your letter of September 28 got to me yesterday just as we were starting for a picnic on the shore of Lake George, and I read it in the car. It had been sent to me in a letter from Mother.

I am sorry, though not so surprised as you are, that Gladys has decided to be married again, and to a man who does not seem to be the sort of man who can make her happy nor useful. One would suppose that with her repeated unsuccessful matrimonial experiences she would be very careful before ever trying married life again. It would seem that she should not marry a man unless she had had a long acquaintance with him, so that she could know, as far as it is humanly possible to know, not only that he was of her sort but that he would continue to be. A man who has long shared her religious convictions and attitudes, who is as old as she is or older, who is steady in his habits, industrious, considerate, in a good position, who has shown his stability by many years of right conduct and faithful service to God and humanity, who is free from objectionable habits such as the use of tobacco, liquor, etc., who is willing and able to take on the responsibilities of providing for his wife and if necessary for her descendants, with such a man she might have a chance for a happy married life. But with a man who is not truly and deeply religious, with a man who has habits that are not in line with her ideals, with a man who would be willing to go across the river and escape the health requirements of the medical examination required in Oregon -- well, it does not look from this end of the line as if she'd have too much chance for happiness if she marries that man you have told us about. Of course you have not told us much except that the man has been divorced (which of course Gladys has been repeatedly), that he has worked in a pool hall, that he smokes, and that he is not a Christian and proposes that they be married in Vancouver. Well, none of those things seem to me to recommend him as a husband for a woman who makes the religious claims that Gladys makes.

Having said all that, one must face the facts that marriage is an intensely personal affair, on which even otherwise sensible people will not take advice, but go right on and make their own mistakes, to their sorrow, and the sorrow of those who love them. If Gladys wants to "cut you off her list" because you do not approve of her marriage, that is to her discredit, not yours.

We are all so glad that you are feeling better than you did after you had taken that tumble. And naturally you are a frequent topic of conversation whenever we are with folks who know you. These are all interested in your work, and many of them would like to be remembered to you.

I do not know when I shall be going back to Michigan, but it will be some time this week, and I think tomorrow. Yes, I have just made the reservation to go tomorrow, leaving Albany at 10:42, and arriving in Detroit at 10:10 at night. Mary and Cecil will drive me down to Albany where I take the train, the Empire State Express.



I've had a good time here, but it will be fine to get back to be with "mine Ketina" again. And it will be fine, too, when we get back to Oregon and see you again. That determination of yours to be home oftener suits us, you may be sure.

We are all hoping that you have not been homesick, and that your health keeps up. Don't let this proposed marriage of Gladys upset you, nor anything else, for that matter.

I finished the reading of Cecil's doctor's dissertation yesterday afternoon, and last night he and I went through it discussing the changes that I had to suggest, most of which were nothing more than the correction of typographical errors, spelling, etc., with a lot less of that than I would have expected, for he is a good speller and a careful typist. Hope he finds a publisher for his book. It is over 250 pages long now, and he has not written the concluding chapter, which will bring the total close to 300 pages.

But it is nearly church time, and I must get ready.

With love from all three of us,

Miss Bertha May Pennington,  
830 S. E. Sellwood Blvd.,  
Portland 2, Oregon.