

Two letters from Lela Sheehan  
(nee Elizabeth Janet O'Grady,  
formerly Mrs D.H Middleton-Stewart,  
Charlo's mother- addressed to Charlo)

55 Adouridge Road  
Earls Court  
Jan. 26th - 1935  
- She died during the war.

My dear son

I wrote to you on Sunday a long  
letter most of it was replies to your ques-  
tions. This Col. Stewart who says he is  
a cousin of yours, he may be therefore  
a son of the Stewart who disappeared  
because this man was a married man  
with children - you ask since about  
his father - mind you his mother might  
not have told the children about the  
father's "disappearance" because what  
he did in a temper, a rash act still  
he would have been "bad" for murder.  
The mother might have told the children  
that he was dead - I think I was told  
that he was a ship captain, your dad  
or your grand mother told me this -  
Now regarding your idea of a boarding  
house for girls, if you need Indian girls  
who come here for passage on the Proves-  
sions, yes, it would be good, because  
they have to find their own "degs" with  
"land lakes" that are good diggers and are  
not very rich, I happen to know because  
I met a Mahomedan "girl" who had come  
from Hyderabad to pers her M.D. examina-  
tion, she was an extremely nice woman and  
told me all the trouble she had to put up with

from her bed, I was leaving from here  
last night, to go to Baker Street where she  
had told me to go. She asked me to come  
and see her, and I did but some how I  
never did, as I was not sure if it was 35 or  
55 Baker Street. He had bought the flat about  
India and the trouble I had was here & there.

Either there a house for this purpose  
and a witness in India, I am sure you'd  
get more than you can put up, and of course  
they pay well. I can see the poor  
either this, or do something for the poor  
unemployed men. I can see the poor  
I'm sure of the "common" kind, you  
would be astonished to know that there are  
thousands of public school men, men who  
lost their jobs after the war, from to 300  
(girls are cheaper) officers, doctors, journal-  
ists & others who lost their jobs, who will  
have lots of money & yet my heart bleeds  
for them. Many of them are now  
to pay for the war, trying to get up in  
business, trying their best to help up, appear  
ances, unable to beg or sell matches, there  
is a man here on Baker Street, selling  
I believe he was once a secretary at school.  
I know, but he has a club foot - she is O.K.  
I see some of them from the Roll but can  
this 1/6 per week is uncertain & stranger too.  
I help them when ever I can. I see  
poor boys, many a week, but he  
is on the roll - I can see his name, he  
went to school a year or so he could not  
would - after a year or so he could not  
we came back to the world and is trying his best  
to get on, but I see the name of this man  
played what I see the name of this man  
I know he gets the money - I know he gets the money  
I know he gets the money - I know he gets the money

I get one of them up to clean up my flat go  
ac messages (shopping) and of course I pay him  
1/ an hour (the usual price is 90) same him  
some old scribbles (Lyrics) - another one  
I will as actually a solicitor trying his best  
to get back his "Custom" an old, I get a man  
he is not on the dole, he came the other  
day "for a meal" after he did some work  
for me put up curtains, shelves, re-  
paired my electric kettle etc. He is so little  
your dad was, only he has not the bearti-  
ful blue eyes of dad had, but on fi-  
sure, grey hair and this "gift" for re-  
pairing things - "I get you can't do  
this cloth and soap, it's slow."  
I said - he took it - and did something  
and sure it's going fast & beating  
the other cloth by 7 minutes. I laughed  
and told him about how he'd be  
dad was - I gave him £2.00 he needed  
sadly - he said he will return it as soon  
as it could.

The man below, I gave a reference for  
him he is speaking as "Nestle's".  
I must tell you about a man I met  
at Lycos restaurant - I was having  
dinner and curry. He coffee & beer -  
I saw him looking longingly at my  
plate - "Dinner & curry is a very good dish!"  
He said - "Have you been a professional?"  
"I can't remember this" I said - he said his  
tip and went on with coffee & beer -  
Telepathy told me he would not afford it -  
I explained to the waiter - "Bring me another  
plate of rice" I then handed it to him.  
"I'll pay for it" I said and left. He was  
after thanking me heartily with a drink into it.  
"This is my best meal for 100  
days" he said -

Mr. Piffles the solicitor has £30,000 worth of  
 stocks & shares, but as he has gone bankrupt  
 he can't touch it nor practical although  
 he has his office till he pays for his  
 solicitor's fees - there are several  
 tens waiting for Briefs, if they had no pri-  
 vate income, they would be on the dole -  
 17/6 is not enough for me to pay 10/15 -  
 or £1-0-0 for a room and work coffee & bus  
 I thank God for my pension and that is  
 why I help those that are down & out  
 look at David & Frank - my sister's  
 sons - David thro' his own folly was down  
 & out here in London and in Nareington  
 house - a place for a boy & a cut thro' that  
 pay 1/6 for a bed & I think a cup of tea in the  
 morning - within 5 minutes of receiving  
 their letter from there I went to my  
 then to a restaurant & told them to my  
 lot of money over that took them to my  
 like some on release did my best for them  
 but David & Frank the charge of a lifetime  
 that came to Frank (i.e. Ben) it is too long a  
 story - but I was disgusted with David's  
 behaviour - Frank joined the J. R. A. I never  
 saw him again - I heard he was wounded &  
 then David went off to Australia had a  
 number of girls at the boat to wish me  
 goodbye - probably he told them all - separately -  
 that he was married to you as well - I never  
 see a single person from him - I never  
 is my fate - I am paying the debt on this life for  
 something I must make do in a previous life -  
 thank God for my re- incarnation - and hope  
 in my next life, I will have paid the debt - and hope  
 for better treatment - all my dear, I am  
 jolly hungry so will say good night -  
 with love from your ever loving mother  
 Della

my novel  
 "God's Scotland"  
 laid yard  
 is at the  
 publisher  
 I don't say  
 whether  
 they will  
 keep it or  
 keep out of  
 my hand  
 I don't know  
 what to do

55 Adongrady Road  
 East Court  
 Jan 27th 1935

A happy and prosperous New Year -  
 many thanks for years of the 5th. I  
 received that night - that is 18 days from  
 my paper to London - now, when shall I  
 receive it - yes - success a school teacher instead  
 of a journalist regarding my novel - !!  
 certainly not. I did the correct thing as it  
 was not a plea for publication - however the  
 man was brilliant, clever, religious & a  
 individual but - unfortunately he did  
 the wrong thing - he suggested a  
 different ending to my pen - I did not like  
 it so I took it away! and after he  
 left I told him to go - I was sorry he  
 was all that could be desired, such  
 a very amusing & happy man, he used  
 to make me laugh so heartily -  
 he told me "I was to give your priority"  
 laugh, you laugh with a girl of 10 years  
 I don't know how he was also very  
 set off here here - he was also very  
 why to go, he refused to go, till I told  
 him my superior had taken the room -  
 yes, I am sorry he was great company  
 but very erratic & I so I will not stop  
 him, although he made my lonely life so  
 happy, not unhappy

her  
 novel  
 "God's  
 Scotland"  
 yard  
 13 at 14  
 publication  
 ...

This morning when I opened the curtains I looked  
out to see a snow card morning - the whole place  
was covered with a white blanket of snow it is  
now 3-30 P.M. The snow is still on the ground  
with the wind and a shell also there was bright sun  
shin - I am sitting by the fire side writing  
this after breakfast & eating my dinner  
yes I love my flat - Col. Samson & his wife  
have the two top floors I have the ground  
floor garden, and the basement. The latter  
I have let to a Mr. Flanagan & his friend -  
Mrs. Fox & her husband have taken it they  
are parents of mine but her last letter  
sounded her home to her 3 years apartment  
my front room (my living room) is 25ft.  
by 15. then there is another room 12 by 12  
with a balcony looking out on the garden  
then I have a kitchen with three shelves  
store & a bath, then a small room where  
I keep my coal &c. - old stove & pipes a man  
fixed some & another to my two bush trees &  
that were in Dublin, they both died in a  
week. This man is sitting on his legs, he is  
so cheerful & happy. All at all he pays me  
a small rent, for his room I see that he  
has needs - pay I give per week for  
this flat but I get down rent at 1-6-6 -  
I have just finished paying for the gas  
return, the basement is let unfurnished  
it is in the best one of the best loca-  
tions - so that that -  
after word of his wife congratulations, but  
who is she? I mean her name -  
so you are going to the sea, Howell to  
a hot dinner & bad luck - where were you?  
so Katie escaped an accident where were you?  
at the shooting party. -

How to your questions regarding your  
dear father and my marriage  
now tell me what girl of under  
20 when marrying both father and  
dear about what district the  
Priest comes from, where & where  
did her bride groom's father meet  
and how many years he & his  
mother & family lived in India &  
how he married & where about  
was the ship that went down with  
his father & all the "riches" -  
your questions are too many but  
I will reply to the best of my ability  
at least what I was told by your  
father - what John told his wife my  
mother, and she told you, I can't look  
for -

Now first of all I was not married in  
1880 but in July 7<sup>th</sup> 1881. and you  
were born on April 18<sup>th</sup> 1882. exactly  
seven months and 12 days after -

If you ask the Priest in Madras  
about Father Berestred or Beniston  
who married us in the secret they  
will know what district that was  
I could not tell you how many years  
the old father was at sea, but your  
father was 20 or 22 when he married  
you to the records of the ship  
and will show when he married me  
was 33 or 34 - I will try to find out  
exactly how old he was & how long  
now to you -

But before I go etc I must tell you that  
your dear father had a Brother, I sh<sup>d</sup>  
Captain I think a married man who  
and a temper got hold of age of his men  
and thro' him over board & he  
drowned - I fear the law got  
him & perhaps really he disappeared  
no body got to know of it or see  
all would get to know of it & he  
some to see see a message  
your father's father had a plantation  
in the West Indies (where were fast  
gone) when the Negro Slaves was abo-  
lished, he sold the plantation & went  
to Banker - the whole family family  
& moved to - the family need contin-  
ually some Gallopards & goods  
from New Castle to Providence India  
where almost all of them and our relation  
lay buried - I tell you say that  
Aunt Rebecca told you that "John David was  
discovered" He was got back from  
America" They were all which what  
David did she mean not my dear  
father because he was over in America?  
"By his express hands" who is he  
at all at all that when I went to Dublin  
all I know that the statue of Ser<sup>ts</sup> I say  
I stood before the statue of Ser<sup>ts</sup> I say  
his son John Gray of Green  
were owners & published of Dublin  
free news & papers - I am certain  
of success I got all the papers they  
said me by miles I don't know they  
were my father's bills - but all  
this is ancient history, it is interesting  
but what's the use? The source of it  
may be "Pennywise & Pound Foolish"



now to your questions - Well - I must  
put your nose to the grindstone  
and shut the windows, the good ones -

1. Was he dropped off Bombay or Madras?
2. I don't know, but it must have been Bombay
3. I thought now many years before you married?
4. I don't say when, but may be 1803
5. Did she know he was in Bombay, if so how

many years after you were married?  
 She died & was buried in Bombay, but  
 I could not tell you how many years  
 4. & 5. Buried in Bombay - she was not  
 present when you were christened & did  
 not sign the marriage register & did  
 she sign the marriage register?

She was present in the church, but did  
 not sign the register - I did not get  
 mother & brother did - I did not get  
 neither do I know where & what parish  
 they married - what day & to whom  
 yes I did hear that she had been buried  
 in the sea, then or when I do not know

It would be interesting to know  
 all these years will you be able to get  
 or claim any property? Yes  
 Dalmaney or New Hall? Yes  
 But it will be interesting to know  
 your certificate that Col. Stewart is a loc.  
 son (direct) of your father - this will  
 be to save you as he is very well  
 off & would give you a good  
 chance to marry in the future?  
 what does he come to you for?  
 give me my advice to you put him  
 up before he goes to Scotland -  
 now he is free

If you are supposed to retire at 52 years of age you ought to have retired at least April, this coming April you will be 53 years of age. That man told me that he gave you all part of "up" to the age required for you to join in the S. A. and now much he put it up". I don't know but I was astonished to learn that you were coming out to S. A. call for me had already gone out there.

Now this is the truth and nothing but the truth. If any body says this is not so tell them to go and ask the real world. Armanis & Sefhara

of the Noble story. Now my dear lady \$550 per annum ought to be sufficient. But a searching passage for you, my all be off & deal with money. This may be in the flat tick is that a piece you can take let the others on peace and comfort.

Let the agent take the risk of your own way on peace and comfort. But let the agent take the risk of your own way on peace and comfort. I have this flat on a 3 year agreement, but in any case letters would come to me if you addressed when not knowing my address) or if letters to of the National & Commercial Bank. If you did not know the bank ad. There is always the local Pension office for you. Yours truly your loving mother Lela Sheehan

Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 1935-

P.S. I don't know whether you know I think  
 I told you long ago that your Dad was  
 in the I.C.S. at Messick in his young  
 days, came out to the billet, <sup>it's how long</sup>  
 he was in the billet I don't know  
 but he resigned it because his boss  
 spoke to him for being unpunctu-  
 -al continually, and he objected to  
 the Judices in the same office  
 so he just <sup>quit</sup> resigned and that in  
 his resignation then put off to  
Bombay, whether that was before  
 he got news that his letter had  
 gone down in his ship, I don't  
 know the recess of it or whether  
 it was confirmed that it did go down  
 "like all hands" or what really  
 did happen. It was however after  
 he had checked the I.C.S. long after  
 that he joined the S.P.N. & was  
 from straight across the billet as  
Station master, he was offered better  
jobs but he said no, he was content.  
many years after he met me he  
was shown to be a confirmed  
drunk but he met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> job  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> job. He proposed had hit  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> job his name came out one year  
in the 1<sup>st</sup> year same year  
with some other with  
some other with

I have written - see ~~scribble~~  
this on my piece before posting  
it -