

October 10, 1918.

Dr. Ellsworth H. Huntington,
Yale University,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Professor Huntington:-

I am getting in a large amount of time on the three thousand year record of the Sequoia. I was enabled to collect samples last summer by the aid of a grant from the American Association and I have now some 22,000 measures added to the 25,000 which I had two years ago. I am writing this matter up for Clements and want to ask you a couple of questions.

(1). Do your small samples which you showed me in Milton go back as far as the year 1580? You see that will be about 330 rings. In spite of two visits to the redwoods and twenty-three samples which I have in my laboratory I do not feel absolutely sure about a ring that sometimes comes between 1580 and 1581. Where are those short pieces and is there anyway by which you could send me for special examination all of them which appear to have over 300 rings? It may be, of course, that not many of them have that many.

(2). In referring to your date of center called in your book "First Year of Tree". Do you mean the innermost ring which you were able to count to and which was not necessarily at the center? Or do you mean an estimated center which sometimes you could not reach? For instance, in the Centennial tree at Enterprise, a sample of which I have brought to the laboratory, the innermost ring which I count is 1120 B. C. I believe this is the tree which you have numbered 116, although I could not find any number on it. You marked it cut in 1876 which is very close for it was cut in the winter of 1874-75. You have the date of beginning that is, the first year of tree as 1191 B. C. That would allow seventy years for the missing rings at the center which would not be far out. Although this tree did not have a number on it, it had been counted by you; for there were two or three grooves on the surface showing that you had worked at it. I notice that you obtained very great differences between readings which was probably because one of your grooves went down on a side which had received very little development. The piece I have here in the laboratory very nearly follows your easterly groove which undoubtedly counted a larger number. At the center of this stump there was a very con-

No. 2. E. H. H. 10/10/18.

siderable hole, probably two or three feet long and a foot and a half wide. I am giving that by memory only. This stump was surrounded by ferns and was near the little brook which was the outlet of the Millside. It was only a few hundred feet from the cleared area.

I shall be very much interested in your answers to these questions and meantime hope that you will get this letter successfully for just at the present moment I do not know your exact address but someone has told me you are in Washington.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Director of the
Steward Observatory.

AED/AB.