

PC/11/13/2/39

P.O.Box 278,
Hillcrest,
Natal.

June 16th. 1970

The Very Rev. Gonville French-Beytagh,
56 Gredgar Square,
London, E.3.

My dear Beyt,

You will be surprised to receive a letter from me. I hope that you are enjoying yourself in London, and eating and drinking in moderation.

I am coming to the conclusion that I shall have to write what one might call a monograph on Geoffrey Clayton, because it seems that there will not be enough material to make a true biography. However, before I decide on this I should like some help from you

I may or may not have told you that Arthur Blexell did some research for me on Geoffrey's pre-Johannesburg life, but it really did not amount to very much. It may be that Geoffrey purposely did not maintain the links he had with England, when he came to South Africa, and I have been told that that was one of his characteristics, but I do not know if this is true. I really want to write to you about Calder Marshall. I have heard two stories about him, one is that he gave up his attempt to write a biography because he encountered too much opposition in South Africa from friends of Geoffrey. The other story I have heard is that he himself came to the conclusion that there was insufficient material. I asked Arthur Blexell to get hold of him, and I should have thought it was not a difficult thing to do, but Arthur is no longer young, and perhaps he did not pursue the matter very pertinaciously. Do you think it would be possible, while you are in England, to get into touch with him and see whether he has any material? Dick Yates for example, tells me that Calder Marshall has in his possession correspondence between Geoffrey and ~~Bis Yates~~ *himself*. Bishop Stredling is of the opinion that Dr. Devey of the S.P.C.K would know how to get into touch with Calder Marshall. It would be a great help to me if you would do this.

I hope that you are enjoying your holiday, which I am sure you deserve.

I am going up to Johannesburg at the end of July to spend a couple of weeks in the Wits library, which I was astonished to find is the repository of all diocesan papers relating to Geoffrey. I expected to find all the records at Derragh House, but Bishop Stredling tells me that the diocese does not keep records. It seems strange, but apparently true.

Yours ever,

Alan Eaton