

Transcription of letter dated 4 Feb 1895
from Emma Bray Cohen to her cousin Effie Loag
re: the 12 Jan 1895 death of her father Watson Augustus Bray

Fruitvale Mon Feb 4-95

My dear Effie,

Ever since our terrible loss I have tried to write you and your mother. It was three weeks ago last Sat eve that dear Papa left us. It was all so sudden. Of course he has been delicate and almost an invalid for three years but just because he has been so brave and keeps up so well, we felt that he might be spared a long time. He had walked over to lunch with me only the Thurs before and when the next morning I found him not so well we all felt it was severe indigestion. His doctor came and while he was not very apprehensive, he did not like some of the symptoms. He was in a kind of stupor from which we could not rouse him without difficulty. Although even on Sat morn we were not alarmed, for he often has severe attacks. Yet this one was different. We sent for Julie and dear Ed had not gone as usual to his office. Howard happened to arrive home that morn after a week's trips away and Gus came from S. F. early in the afternoon. Toward night I, who watched him every moment, noticed a change and do not think after 6 o'clock he recognized me. Still he did not suffer apparently. Dear Mama realized the danger and was so angelic in her bravery. We were all with him, supporting him with our tender love and so hoping, praying, that a change for the better would come. But at 8 o'clock he just ceased to breathe, that dear heart that had suffered so much. I know his business troubles broke his heart-more the losses for others than to himself. For all these 10 years he has been uncomplaining and so patient-lost all of that quickness of temper that he sometimes had when young and strong.

Oh Effie, he was so much to me! So much a part of my daily life-I cannot bear to think of it.

Mama wants me to give her love to your mother and with mine for her and for you, my dear faithful Effie.

I am yours,
Em