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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Jan 18th 1917

My dear Sam

Of all the bad weather you ever saw we have been having it for nearly two weeks, cloudy days, rainy, cold & sleet, the most miser weather I ever ~~saw~~ saw to encline us, only thoughts of how the poor animals & doubtless many human beings are suffering. The negroes certainly are, yesterday there were 3 funerals among those we have around us. So many left the country & went north, & wonder how they stand it, some have returned & others have begged former employers to send them money to come home.

During the sleet, Tuesday I think, 2 large limbs of the cedar tree in front were broken off by the weight of the ice, fortunately the sleet soon melted but oh it was so cold! We have plenty of coal, & dry chips up

stairs as we can keep good fires, only keep one in the chamber in the day, & a little in the nursery at night to undress by. The chamber is literally our living room, we take our meals in here on a little table. Sundays I try to warm the dining room as I always expect Reuben but last Sunday was so very cold he did not come. I don't know how he can pass his time (outside of his regular work) these dark days, can't see to read or write I should think, one day for awhile we could sit see to do any thing, never saw it so dark in the daytime.

Sister Sally & myself have been vainly hoping to see each other, have not been together since our return from Auburn, she wants the details of our visit. I wish you could know Fred's children, think you would be pleased with them.

It is now $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 & almost dark your Father is warming hat & gloves to go out to feed, has not taken off over shoes or over coat.

since he put them on this morning, it is
right hard on him to feed in bad weather,
worse on the stock because they get their
feed so irregularly. 2 cows, 3 heifers, 5 yearlings
& a baby calf watch anxiously (except the baby
calf) for his coming. Sometimes old Jim
gets over in time to help out at night with
feeding.

This morning he (Jim) knocked at the
window & said "Naamah is not able to come
out this morning" so I had to hurry as
they say, make chamber fire, dress, make
kitchen fire, work over bread, straighten up
chamber & then cook breakfast which I
ate in the kitchen alone, Dr came in
sometimes afterwards for his.

So far my letter has been rather doleful &
I must tell you of a piece of good fortune.
Maybe I told you I had written to Robert
Locke and asked him if he would look out

the \$600.00 I wrote you about. He answered promptly that he would, would go to Merrillville that evening to look at a house & lot offered as security for the amount, to send him a check, I did so by return mail, this ~~evening~~ morning the papers came, "gilt-edge" security he said, 4 per cent interest so I feel very much relieved. ^{mortgage on} The house & lot ^{which} is valued at \$1000.00 & there is additional, an Insurance policy for \$1200.00 with the loss clause payable to me. He says I must not hesitate to call on him so I acknowledged the receipt of his letter & told him I would be glad to have him lend out \$600.00 now at interest in the bank at 4 per cent, time out Feb 29th. I think I answered your last letter but do not remember answering your question about Frances & Frederic, she is teaching in Coalfields Ky, it is an old town, between 2 rivers on one side & steep hills on the other, only 2 or 3 blocks wide & more than 2 miles long. Fred says it is the watering trough for

the liquor drinkers from the dry countries around & from Ohio & West Va. Crowds come in with suit cases & carry them back filled with whiskey. From the front porch of Frances boarding house she can look over into Ohio, West Va & part of Ky.

Fredesis is chemist - in the mining bureau in Pittsburg.

The weather has been so bad I have not seen any of the neighbors but Mrs Powell once, so I have no news. Sister Sally writes once a week & gives me the Hannedale news. Mr Brown still lives but has lost his mind entirely, they hardly think he can live from one day to the other. Maria has had a trying time he has been sick so long.

Tell Maria I will be glad to have that promised letter when it comes. I must stop now & make the nursery fire. The dampness keeps me very rheumatic. Please excuse mistakes.

Your Father joins me in much love to
you all

Your devoted

Mother.

I have not heard from Warr or Henry since
yemas.

Feb 19th 1917

Very dear Son
you all
your devoted
Father.

Dear as news & there is nothing to write of. Your Father writes with me in much love to

Well, here we are without a fire & plenty warm, what do you think of that! This evening I had Hannah's help and did a little gardening, planted mustard, turnips, & sprinsek, it is the first time the ground has been dry enough since every thing was killed, it was not really dry enough but I was so anxious to get something in. This morning I put in some onion buttons & tomorrow will put in some carrots, will let the ground get a little dryer for peas. Your Father has been selling hay today. I have had sold 4 tons for him in Danapolis, today Mr. Boggess came out, carried off 1 large wagon load & will come tomorrow with 2 wagons, hay is in demand now, so much fed to the stock that even weather. The best brings \$11.00 a ton at the hay houses, not quite so good \$10.00. We have used a good deal, a horse, 3 cows, 3 calves, & 3 calves have made it fly, they look so poor you

would hardly believe how much they have eaten, but Johnson says they alone never keeps any thing fat, the geese will soon be putting out & that will help them.

I wonder what you all are doing tonight, the Almanac predicted ~~very~~ cold weather for St. Louis. It is right strange I have been trying all winter to get an Almanac, succeeded only a few days ago, I am at a loss without one, usually there are so many they are in the way. I wonder if your school children won't have some sort of celebration on the 22nd. Rose Stoner told me they would have something at their school, you remember Lucie teaches it this year. It is right funny Rose comes to borrow books to read & always comes before the breakfast things are cleaned up, & stays until the mail comes, (10 o'clock) they get up before day & eat breakfast by lamp light. How visiting day is Saturday & that is the time I am busiest. Rumber came in yesterday while we were at dinner & spent the night, this morning Mrs Bright-Phoned him that his cook was there & wanted to let him know "the big black cow died

Feb 19, 1917

last night," did not say what was the matter, she had a calf about 1 month old & was about his best cow. His cows are stalled every night but she did not come up Saturday night until late in the night & went off again before morning. Reuben could not imagine what caused her death. This is the most unfortunate case I know.

We have been having rains every night but if there is none tonight I will look for sister Sally & Lucy tomorrow, they have been trying to come for some time. She wrote what a terrible time they had going to Betty Blake's funeral, the hour was 3 P M, it began to rain when they left the house (3 miles from Hannesdale) rained harder & harder & by the time they reached the cemetery it was pouring down & almost freezing cold, many without umbrellas, the drive home was terrible, rain, & north wind right in their faces but they reached there safely before night. It was yesterday week. Gov. Father & myself have enjoyed reading

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'Daddy Long Legs' by Jean Webster, did you ever read it, it was a young present from Lucy Harriot your father.

Fred writes a good deal about the grain crops being much injured by the snow weather, only wheat was not hurt, he seems to enjoy the little visits he makes to Ambrose on the farm. Frances writes of much snow in Ky, says she enjoys it tho', she had been playing the violin at revival meetings in Catlettsburg, America plays at Sunday school & church in Montgomery. I think Fred has brought his boys up well, he is a companion for them, & they are companions for him. I hope with this moderate weather the hens will give us some eggs, we have not seen a fresh egg since before 7 mrs.

The apples you sent are still holding out & keeping nicely, I did not let them freeze - They are so large we take only half one at a time, enjoy them very much, & so does Benben.

We lost several goats during the bad weather, one large "Billy" has been down for some time, eats & drinks but cant stand up yet.

This seems a very childish letter but I see no more,

your father would consent to go, but am very much afraid I can't get his consent but I
will "work on" him as the
dickens say & let you know
what he says. He is now
in camp in the rocky
place. I have to put-
up my letter to finish
by lamp light. He seems
to think every thing
would go to destruction
if we were to leave but
there is it much
better to go. Reuben
was with us to dinner
Sunday, left early, his
cock was sick, he had
no help & seemed
thoroughly discouraged,
is making very little

It is just 3 o'clock & so dark that
I have to take my writing to the window to see.
I never saw the like of rain & storms we have
had this spring. Before dinner the cloud was as
black as could be & we expected a terrible storm
but had only rain, from the looks of the clouds
now we may have a storm very soon. This
morning I saw we would have rain so I hurried
to plant some more snaps, (have some just coming
up) & some butter beans, set out $\frac{1}{2}$ a dozen
tomatoe plants, lost more, but no time to set
them out before the rain. The spinach, mustard
& lettuce will soon be ready for use & beets &
carrots are growing nicely so I feel as if we will
have some thing to eat after a little while.

Yesterday I hired a boy to work my flower garden,
he forked it up, he & I together picked out

letter & every thing so high. There are early times to try new seeds particularly for me. Yes, that Hopkins business is the same Fred was pulling you Father to settle when you were here. Not a word made in the matter yet - attas' Willie Nelson urged him to bring suit at once. I never saw any one so hard to get to work, just let every thing work along. We have had a heavy rain but no storm, still raining some. I + them I planted annuals. I used very large rose bushes that died, but the little ones put out to replace them are growing nicely. It was nearly a days work but I had some other little jobs done, one was to fix for, & plant a little okra in the enclosure across from the fig tree. That reminds me, the fig tree is much killed back, just beginning to put out some buds low down on the limb. I am afraid there will be no fruit, how we will miss it!

Your bulletin came & I was much interested in it. You must have spent much time thinking out the work, no wonder you had n't time for writing letters with that & all the other work you had to do. I think you & Fred do too much, you both seem always to be thinking of some thing that will give you more to do. His letter for this week has not come yet, all was well when he wrote last

think I wrote you
of the 2 cows in
one day & night -
I never expect
the writing pen
& ink are both
bad, the ink has
been doctoring
the ink & ink
shaken every 3
few minutes is
pale, then to
thick. Your father
has come up &
written with me
in much love to
you all, & his
to Anne & the
baby
You devoted
Mother.

AP 4 1917

Today's mail brought me 2 pictures of
Sluey's boy but not a line from him, it distresses
me that he will not write. Lloyd is certainly
a beautiful boy & I wish very much that I could
see him. In one of the pictures he is playing
with a little calf as they must keep a cow.
That makes me think of our cow - the most
promising of your Father's Jersey purchases (in the
fall) is as they say "down" & can't now be helped
up, seems to have no use of her hind legs, we
counted largely on the milk & butter we were to
have from her very soon but I am afraid she will
never get up. He bought the Jerseys on speculation
if she dies the profits will be considerably reduced
if there are any. I begged him not to invest his
money that way, would never buy anything that
can lay down & die.

I hope the trouble with George's ear was not serious.
Anne seems to be the healthiest one of the children.

is not she?

Sund ay afternoon we had services, a very small congregation, it is enough to discourage Mr Tucker. Next Sunday he will have afternoon services at Hannesdale, offered to call by & take me down but said he could not bring me back, that he would go on to have night services at Uniontown, that suits me exactly I want to stay all night, may be go out to Dr Cameron's for the night & come home on the noon train. Lucy Minge has returned to Hannesdale & I will see her, & call to see Maria Brown too.

Mr Tucker is a great worker, he will have on Easter day 3 services, & 2 communion services. Julia Harris invited us to go to town to church & to take dinner with her but we cant drive Annie where we will be among so many autos, she will never be anything but a goose about them.

We thank you so much for your kind invitation to visit you, I would be delighted to do so if

April 30 - No - May 1.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

1917

Dear Mrs Duggar

I'm lying at an angle of about $\searrow$ so I can't
promise anything you could call a letter, really in writing
or contents. But I'll try. As soon as I can travel I'll be
home & I have post-cards & information for you.
I should have written before but ⁱⁿ the past two weeks
I have been too ill to leave my room much except
two weeks. & one of these Miss Dugder (my nurse)
controlled my joints & the other I had a friend
with a very young baby visiting me - you know
the kind - good, but having to having something

done to them every hour at least. as we didn't do much
exploring. La Jolla is a most lovely & beautiful place
and would be ideal for children. But I don't think it
particularly cheap unless you eat at the Cafeteria
there. & that will wear you from food forever in a
week or two. I inquired about houses large &
small, & you could get one with four bedrooms
from \$50⁰⁰ to \$80⁰⁰ with living-room dining-room
kitchen, & in some cases sleeping porches &
verandas. But I'll give you the names of real-
estate agents there and all the information
I have when I see you. From my point of

MAY 1, 1917

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

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view The trip was a failure on a whole - so the doctors say. I seem to have gone to the wrongest place I could, and now am here being patched up enough to make the trip home. I came up to Berkeley hoping to spend the summer with one of my best friends - a girl I lived with two years in Paris. Berkeley is most beautiful - I'd like to live there, somehow it reminds me of the hills around Florence and it has the water too. But I'll be so glad to get home I'll never leave it again I think, anyhow. Not without Julie and Dr Baumgarten. Time's up! I'd have to stop and I haven't said

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL

27TH AND VALENCIA STREETS

MAY 11 1913

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

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anything. But you'll forgive me won't you? I'm
still supposed to be quite ill. When I get
home will you come to see me?
Please give my regards to Mr. Duggar (or should
I say Professor Duggar?)

Yours

Caroline Tisgue

I am not in any club nor do I
do any readings except the news papers
slight stuff which requires no effort
of memory - just to pass the time
& fill my head with things that do
not worry or make me sad.

On Thursday mornings I go over to the
club to cut gauge with three or four
other women folk. on Friday afternoons
I go over to fold the same with
many of my kind. There is so
much chattering that one can hardly
hear herself chatter & I do not see
how we pile up as much finished
work as we do, but we do.

PH. THACA
MAY 21 1917

9 East Ave.
May 28th

My dear sweet Marie:

I think of you very, very
often & would write, but some three three
days I can't really think of anything
to say. My interest in things is so
faint that there is no stirring in my
mind of any thoughts & all I can tell
you is that you are always so dear
to me & I would love to see you
stalk for hours with you. Your dear
letters are always so inspiring
still one thing I like to hear

My nursing lessons are all over. Truly
sponge are keeping on with real
lessons under the Red Cross banner.
Gertrude is quite anxious to go to
New York after her graduation take
a course in a hospital. Mrs. Sterrett
has offered her apartment to her own
daughters Annarella, & Helen Schurman
& Gertrude for July Aug. She will
be away & the girls can have the
experience of keeping house in
addition to their hospital work.
I am very much in favor of the
plan even if they are never called
out as aids but Mr. Kelly feels that

is a considerable strain ^{that} ~~it~~ ^{truly}
has the sturdy robustness that a nurse
should have & so I do not know how
it will turn out. She is so very
anxious to do something congenial
& to earn a living. These feeling pervade
the air here & I suppose girls every
where feel the same drawing to a
life of purpose rather than one of
social idleness. There will be no young
men of an interesting age to play
around with now that they are all gone
to war or to work & the girls want
to serve their country, too, in some
way. There has been such a big exodus
from Cornell that are really nicer than
ever 2000 have left.

in N.Y. City said she met a French woman who said she had four sons in the trenches & she wished she had four more. As there really still exists the old time spirit of sacrifice in the mothers of today & even more abundant.

Clifford is an artist of the new type & it was interesting to hear her describe one of her pictures called "The Two Symphonies." She had one picture sold in a recent display of artfuls of her type in N.Y. hers was one of 26 picked from over 300. That is good, is it?

MAY 21 1917
Bertram Willcox went to France in our ambulance unit & is now safely (?) on the other side. He was quite sick Mrs. Willcox said, when he first landed having had some poisoning on ship board. Their trip was uneventful but the boat that followed them had a truck with a submarine but chased it away by firing upon it. My heart aches for mothers of grown sons. Mrs. H.S. Williams spent the winter with Clifford

It may interest you to know
that Baron White has just "gone
alpha Phi" much to the disgust
of some of the others. She is
taking a graduate course in
history with Dr. Burr & thinks
at present expects to teach.
Mr. White looks very old this
winter takes no part at all in
things at home or abroad. He goes to
special lectures & always is at chapel
Sunday mornings.

My love to all the darling children

especially to my own Louise.

Always affectionately
Jesse Hilly.

Gallien, Ala. June 26, 17

Dearest Madrie,

Here we are
safe and sound at the old
camping ground. Louise is
up in the top of the Mi-
mosa tree, now one mass
of pink and purple. We
all wish that you and all
the family were here. Mother
and Father are looking
unusually well, and they
send you lots of love and
abundant thanks for the
"wonderful sun-preserved".

The mocking birds are singing
merrily and the vireos can
be heard between their out-
bursts; the honey suckle per-
fumes pervades everything,
and the cherubines are
in the pop-gun stage.

In spite of all this, though,
the whole country is suffering
for rain and the crops in
danger. It was cool and breezy
last night, but I have no
doubt that the midday sun
will be significant of the
true climate.

Peter Brown, tenant, farmer,
government demonstrator for
the colored (re agriculture), and
auto owner, met us at the

train last night and brought
nearly home in a few
minutes. Louise and I broke

the weary wait in Meridian
by a car ride through the
residential district, cooling off
afterwards with ice cream
sodas. Well sweetheart, I have

not seen any of my old places
yet, although I kept a close
lookout at Macon, Westpoint,
Artesia, Demopolis, and else-
where. I have not given up
hope yet. Meanwhile, we are
eating heartily of fresh peaches,
milk and butter, and cornbread,
and I shall try to improve

the "weight of my personal
appearance" with the hope
of rising ^{somewhat} in the estimation of
the bestest girl of mine.

Father's face shows only
to a slight extent the effect
of his operation, and I feel sure
that the last traces will disap-
pear soon. We are to go to
Laneville tomorrow I believe,
and I may not get an oppor-
tunity to write, so now, sweet-
heart, I send you extra tales
of my love even though you
may be gallivanting around
in the abundance of your
freedom and with I know
not whom. Mamma kisses to
you and a hug for each of the
little ones. Father and Mother
join in - also Louise and Mother sends
you in - also the love from Mary & Ben.

My wife to enjoy the lakes &
enjoy the view. The day
after you left 2 goats were
found dead, leaving about
6 out of 20, that were to
make one fortune. It is
there during in the
distance I wish it
would come near.
Since you left I have
thought of so many things
I wanted to talk to you
about, during the way -
Kiss the children for me;
send love to you all and
which you better join in
your sweetest brother.

The lock returned to us today,
a pretty good indication that you reached
home safely. I suppose you have been too
busy to write, hope the warm trip did
not make you sick. We are so much
obliged to you for having the lock fixed &
I will do my best to have Peter put it
on, it will be a big my to be able to
lock the front door on the outside, have
please send us the bill.

I expect you are as busy as can be packing.
My letter will have to go straight, to reach
you before you leave. Tell Louise she must
try to write me about her camp life. I
wouldn't be surprised if she gets home
sick & goes over to you all. I ask you

find it very hot in St. Louis? We had a
 little rain the Tuesday after you left & Friday
 night some more, not much enough tho'.
 I planted snaps & butter beans, could not
 get the other part of the garden cleared off
 until too dry to plant, hired a little boy
 Saturday morning & by staying with him
 had the ground cleared up & forked, now
 I am waiting a rain, thought we would
 have a good one just at dinner time
 but the cloud passed over, it is still
 cloudy & we hope for it tonight. The grass
 certainly has brightened up some. A note
 from Aunt Mulviller says they had fine
 rains & she & Lucy had worked themselves
 almost out to death planting all the vegetables
 again, were canning some, & had made
 some jam. She told also of a fish fry
 they had on the creek, as much fish as
 all could eat; about 12 whites & 12 negroes
 (line handlers.) Mary does has moved out
 & Lucy is keeping the hotel until fall, then

JULY 2, 1917

she expects Belle's Nelson to take it. &
know Lucy hates it for she said ^{when she looks up} she never
would keep hotel again.

Yesterday night we had a supper set for 5
& burned a bonfire on the Drake place,
(Marion Brown's place) they have the man
in jail.

The whole community ~~was~~ swimming with
about the swimming pool, crowds are
there every evening. I am so sorry Minnie
chose to take you to Danapolis instead
of the pool, then to Allenville or Gallin
for the train, there was plenty of time
& I would like you & Louise to have seen,
& tasted of that beautiful stream.

One evening last week Mrs Powell
asked me to ride down to the swimming
pool with her first to see it. I went, found
many mothers there with their daughters
& many men, the pool was full of men,
women & children. I did not like the
appearance & was glad I had no daughter

to want to go in. I would prefer a bath at home to going in that crowd, but I am determined I know. Even Miss Chadwick was a looker on there one evening.

Yesterday Remond stopped in about 11 o'clock on his way to see about some cows he had out near Alden Mills. I gave him a lunch knowing he would be late getting back, put up dinner for him which he did not get until dark, spent the night of course & hurried off this morning. It was so hot I hated to see him go & feel that Sunday is not the time to attend to business. The rain helped his crops some, but only a little. Mrs Tucker gave us a good sermon yesterday evening, not many at church, swimming pool & auto riding more attractive.

John Father went to Mr Hatch's this morning to try to buy from him a bushel of wheat but Mr Hatch was hiring to the train & told him to come tomorrow & he would see

mes. I imagine the children are enjoying the change, hope you & Maria are too.
Mrs. Douglas was here yesterday evening to find out if you & Father would rent him the whole of North Side for 5 years, by writing 1918.
John A. said he has his suspicions, thinks Mrs. D. was talking for him to please the office.
\$25.00 a year + to fix at his own expense the necessary repairs. He pointed out some more ground, says it must find out if it is for his use or not. He plans to write to Tom & Father & write with me in much love to you all.
I have been "looming around" so much that I can't write very well but hope you can read it.
Not many minutes ago I saw stopped by to say "how day" & to tell us she left you all packed for your trip, by this time I hope you are comfortably fixed in your summer home & find it all you may desire, & Louise, I wonder how she likes camp life. I hope she will write us.
I wish you could see "Home" now, the recent good rains have brought out every thing wonderfully, the lots are so green & pretty, it is worth rising early to look at them sparkling with dew, & to take in

Yours devotedly
Mother.

the cool fresh air. It is beginning to get warm now but the sun is needed to make things grow. If St. Louis has had such good rains as we have your farm work I am sure can go on. The paper today speaks of overwhelming crops of corn & other food stuffs, how thankful we must be, we could live on corn if there were nothing else.

It does me good to see my little garden grow, butter beans, snap, & beets planted recently are growing so fast, then I have carrots & parsnips that should be up soon, also egg ask, the 3 egg plants that remain are doing finely & I hope will bear fruit. That reminds me we had some very nice black berries yesterday & day before. I have been reading "Drive back to Eden" & am more interested than ever in gardening. A city man took his family to the country & they all tried, & succeeded in making a living from this garden, poultry, & a cow.

"Caneboothall"

July 16th 1917. -

Dear Ben: -

Man Lou has been writing you, yet I think I may be able to get a sheet also in her envelope. She will, doubtless, tell you all the secular news - of kin and neighbors.

Had you come to us one week later, the Conebroke would have looked so much better - and you would have enjoyed - as of yore - a little of the Alabama sun, for now we have had nearly a whole week of clouds, rain, thunder & lightning - til we felt like another 1916 would be ours. But kindly for us - some gentle showers fell after the first stormy threatening - and for our good the whole face of the earth is beautifully fresh & green; - grass about 3 in. or high, and appears to grow up over all

each night, the high wind blew
down many walnuts & such
like - many limbs (deadened)
fell about the yard & gardens,
& the famous old Elm tree, on
the line between Mrs. Powell and
our property lot, fortunately fell
over our side - breaking off -
about 6 feet from the ground.
By winter time it will be seasoned
& dry perhaps & make winter wood
to put away. The old China
tree just in front of the brick
walk parted with some of its
superfluous branches much
to our relief & fell outwards
from the house.

The stock are enjoying
the delicate young herbage -
& every one is happy in seeing
the late seedlings spring up so
quickly - beets - corn and
every thing in young green tinges.
The peaches too are filling with
fresh sap & ripening in to sweetmeats
I found a few pears ready to be
plucked.

2nd sheet

Your mother is delighted with the prospect of a fifth garden for the year - having already lost 3 plantings.

The Haymakers are glad with the prospects of a fuller yield & good mowing soon of succulent shoots.

When you were with us there was a scarcity of hen's eggs - but the thief was caught in the act. - The cook found a large snake (of the chicken variety) down behind the stanchions & she killed it - 'twas about 6 feet long & had eggs in it so she thought, but when I went to see him, I found he had made a bad mistake & instead of robbing my nest of an egg he had actually gotten down a white down - Knob ~~stick~~ with the Knob - bar attached - which I had used as a nest egg. I am still using it in a nest again.

The milk women never would
have caught up with that bit
of Snake down - had it been
weighed down with the iron
bar attachment.

"Annie" the horse is full
of life now - & quite rejuvenated
with the newer pasture favors.

I presume you & gone you
are of the Big Pool exulting
tions that these people have
- especially on Sunday. As the
Darkies say = "all the Whitefolks
now are giving the Baptists"
& just take the water. Ride
15 - to 20 miles to get a Dip. -
Even stay away from church
services to watch the bathers.
'Tis late & I must close. A recent
card was from Fred in Washington
City to attend some meeting.

Love & kinness to all.

affectionately, yr Father -

W. H. Sawyer

I am here and in
 full possession of my camp
 appetite, thus showing that a
 part of my anatomy is intact,
 though my heart is all back
 there with you, it is.
 It is pleasant enough as to
 temperature in St. Louis - for a
 moment - , and my may fe-
 ver is on the list of the de-
 cadent, I am glad to say. It
 was showery all the way, or up
 to within a stone's throw of
 St. Louis, that is to say, Granite
 City. The house was just as we left
 it - had not moved an inch, and
 the yard not particularly disrepect-

MP4, St. Louis, July 24/17
 Madrie,
 Give my love
 to Agnes,
 the putaway
 basket
 for your
 own, being
 I met the
 Golden
 and the
 little.

I am here and in
 full possession of my camp
 appetite, thus showing that a
 part of my anatomy is intact,
 though my heart is all back
 there with you, it is.
 It is pleasant enough as to
 temperature in St. Louis - for a
 moment - , and my may fe-
 ver is on the list of the de-
 cadent, I am glad to say. It
 was showery all the way, or up
 to within a stone's throw of
 St. Louis, that is to say, Granite
 City. The house was just as we left
 it - had not moved an inch, and
 the yard not particularly disrepect-

ful to the house, as the house is.
Just as you said, I found no
sheets, but I did find a thick
and a thin white counterpane,
and I'm using these: they will
make good bladders too if it
warms up in real jolly fashion.
But it was so cool last night
that I drew up a blanket. Oh
I forgot to say that lack of a
pillow case did not outwit
me. I found that one of my
freshly laundered, soft white shirts
had a hole in it where it should
not be, so I buttoned this over
the pillow and it made a
very comely fit. Of course the
sleeves are superfluous; but if
a burglar should appear, why
then I could wield that pillow
with telling force thereby.
Any way I slept beautifully but
most comelously last night.

after a bath and shampoo.
It was convenient to be at the
house too, for I had many pa-
pers to bring over this morning.
Tonight I shall ^{go} to see the Ewings.

If they should invite me to come
to them I would be loath to do
so, for I see where I shall have
to work with unwonted vigor.

I was out at the farm this
morning, and the crop is coming
along better than could be ex-
pected, but not humming. They
have had only one little rain.
Two big rains that drenched
the city did not reach the
western limits. I was just
in time to catch the cabbage
caterpillars and start the
spraying. The whole engineering

school is behind in sending in their
announcements for the circular
which is to be prepared, so I sent
out hurry calls today - and hope
to startle them in their sum-
mer lairs.

Miss Horner spent her vacation
in Charlevoix. She says you get the
best accommodations to Mackinaw
(spl?) at 9 A. M. from Charlevoix, ar-
riving ^{at M.} about 1 P. M. The early
train makes the connection with
~~some~~ time to spare. However, if the
train is late you can go on
to Harbor (something) and catch
the same boat there. I will look
this up ~~very~~ carefully. She says M.
is well forth the day.

I shall send some cdy this
evening - with much love collect,
also a Sat. Even. Post of July 21.
I have not been able to find the
7/14 issue at any stand.

Do keep well and keep away
all harm from our three precious

Central Lake, Mich.
Tuesday, July 25th.
1917

Darling Louise,
I am longing to hear
from you. Do write to me once a
week at the least. Did you receive
your father's letter with the dollar in
it also mine with a dollar in it?

I had a nice letter from Mrs.
Lang saying that you were looking
so well and I am sure that if
anything had happened to you some-
one should have let me know. But
still I can't help being a little
uneasy as it is over a week since

I received your last letter.

1917

Do you realize that your four weeks will now be up. Next Thursday or Friday I suppose you will all be starting off for Mackinac Island and I will meet you there. Write me all the particulars - just where and when I am to meet you, etc. as I must make my plans, you know, to get there in time.

Your father went back to St Louis Sunday night so Aunt Agnes will go up to Mackinac with me. "Lad" will be in St Louis about three weeks and then return here. He has caught wonderful fish, bass & trout, and hated to go back so soon. I only

hope the weather will be comfortable while
he is in St. Louis.

Do write me how much more money to send
you.

We have delightful motor boat trips every day
and I know you will enjoy them when you
come. The Hausing children arrived Sunday
and are staying at Fishers Lodge down the
lake. They are the children of Dr. Albert Hausing.

All the boys are picking cherries in a cherry
orchard not far from here. They make minicuts
a bucket and they think they are millionaires.
Georgie cut his foot while in swimming so
he hasn't been able to go with the other boys.

He says he is still waiting for a letter from
you & will answer it the day he receives it.

Georgie is getting so sweet and cute. He thinks
he is a big boy. Harry and Joe Webb are the
most devoted of little friends & go about with their
arms around each other. I wish you could have
heard Harry yesterday telling Joe that if he knew
Joe Lewis he certainly would like him. He was
"the nicest old thing".

We are going to have cherry pie for dinner
and I wish you could have some.

I hear the mail man on his motor cycle
so I must hurry. I do hope he will bring a letter
from my two little girls. With a heart
full of love, Sweetheart, I am you loving
"Maddie".

July 1917

Sturgeon Bay Wis July 30
Mrs M. B. Duggan
Macinaw Trip given up
will travel by train
arrive N. W. Station
Chicago 9: P. M. Thursday
will travel with another
girl, if plan unsatisfactory
please wire Reply.
Camp will charge expenses.
Louise Duggan

Dear Mrs. Burslem, I have just re-

ceived a notice from the telegraph office that they have a telegram for me collect. Will you please phone Mr. Austin to pay for it for me & to phone the message to you. Please write the telegram down for me as Jack might forget or get it mixed. I will be so much obliged. Very truly,
Mrs. B. M. Duggar.

ST. LOUIS

M. B. H. Wednesday July 25th 1917

Dear Dr. Persica, I have just sent
a wire to Seattle hoping to help
a bit in securing the exemption
of Mr. Schmidt, or rather in
having him reserved for patho-
logical work. Our laboratory was
hit hard by the drawings. In
addition to the three men al-
ready gone, Schmidt, Pessier, and
Henry were drawn. Neal, Hoffman,
Dodge and Chambers have not been
heard from, and I do not know
their numbers. Dr. Burt tells
me that Farrow is now in the
midst of examinations for a sec-
ond lieutenancy, and is at Jeff. Barracks.

How are you all getting on
dear heart? You can bet that I
would give much to hit the trail
back to you - even if pollen is
still rampant.

I called at the Ewings last
night and found them all outex-
cept Miss Margaret, and she was
entertaining a hawk (I did not
get his name) at short range,
so I only passed a few words
with her. Anyway, I learn that
the Dr. Post now left has been
drafted, and this upsets Dr.
Ewing so much that it is not yet
certain that Mrs Ewing and Cher-
lotte will be able to go as planned.
Aug. 5. I shall doubtless see them
later.

I understand that Mrs.
Leigh is acting Director in so
far as there is one, but I

have had no business to trans-
act through the office.

I learn that arrangements
were made whereby the Ducks
were to occupy "the residence"
during the summer. They duly
appeared, remained ten days,
and then mysteriously disap-
peared, afterwards telepho-
ning Mrs. Leigh (a few days
afterward, by the way) that
they found it inconvenient for
them. When apprised of it
by mail, Dr. Moore was sur-
prised. (?)

Tell Bessie that we had
two fine young squabs nearly
grown, and then a calamity
happened. Evidently some one
has been shooting or trapping
pigeons, and ours were caught.

The young ones were without wa-
ter, and yesterday I found them
dead. Many pigeons were lost across
the way too, it seems.

I am sorry to have to re-
port that I found another batch
of June bills, including milk,
Polar Wave, Dairy, &c. amounting
to about \$60.00. Any how I am
living comfortably. How are you
getting along with Frank and
Bessie and Jack as lieutenant
providence seekers?

I saw von Schenk today, and
he of course invited me out to
Florisant for a week. I'll go out
some day soon, but I have too
much to consume so much
time going and coming. But if it
should become very hot, well might.

I am going out to see Shipley
or the Lodges tonight.

With best love to all, and to us
for you my dear from your adoring
H. Adams.

I have just come in from a
 short call at Mrs Powell's, found they were about
 to take an auto ride & I did not want to
 detain them. Mrs Whelan has been with Mrs
 Powell about 10 days & this is the first day
 we have not had rain since she came. Too
 much rain now but I hope this is the
 beginning of a hold up & that hay cutting
 can go on, it will be easier & high I reckon,
 fine too dry for the grass to grow & then too
 wet to cut it. The pastures have improved
 wonderfully & every thing has grown in a hurry.
 I hope you have had some rain in St. Louis &
 on that land you wanted to plant.
 Your letter from Central Lake was most
 welcome. I wish you could have stayed to
 books & borrow more. She asked me to go to
 Springfield with them Saturday
 evening, we would not
 very the day we expected
 because it rained. I am
 glad of a chance to look for
 our shoes & get rubber hose
 needed them very much
 My garden is full of weeds
 & tomatoes need to be dug
 as I will be busy when
 they want to get in them.
 must plant more
 carrots, 25th Turnips & other
 things. Now I must
 try some thing in the
 kitchen 9th it will soon be
 breakfast time. Much
 love to you all. How is Sam?
 Please write soon.
 Your devoted brother.

do some more fishing. I imagine you enjoyed it, & the change I am sure was good for you. If housekeeping I expect the fish came in nicely. It is fortunate the children find play mates of their own age. It will be a pleasure to Maria to have her sister I am sure. You must make haste back for I know if in St. Louis you will be working hard at some thing & you need recreation.

The rains made the figs swell & begin to ripen & I expected to preserve a quantity, but the birds destroy so many & the animals cannot reach those on the top so I am afraid I will not have a good supply, only preserved 2 yesterday before yesterday & 1 today. We have had some soft peaches that we enjoy for dinner & supper & next week I hope to have plenty of peaches to can. Maria's strawberries are delightful & beautifully clean, she must give me the exact receipt some time.

Henry & sister Sally are working hard with their sawing, do come every day I believe, write that

one day they put up 30 cans of tomatoes besides
other things. They sold 10 doz cans of tomatoes & other
things ^{a few days ago} some of dew berries, any quantity of jam
put up & now they have to fill an order of 30 yds
of fig preserves for Chicago. I don't see how they
can stand so much work.

Fred has just returned from Washington,
went to Petting & spent 3 days with the
boys, they like their work but do not like Pitching.
Frederick's manner is about the best in the draft
as Fred says he will not even have to make claims
for exemption, or appear for physical examination.
The ladies have had their sides & arms pricking by,
it is clanking up too.

Mrs Hatch & Mrs Shivers called this morning.
One of Mrs S's boys will have to go to the
war. Sam Collins, our R. R. D man was drafted
& Reuben Shivers's son Martin, others whose
names I have forgotten.

Warr says every thing is dried up out there,
cattle dying of starvation, such a long drought.

Hutton had swallows at shingle nest, and
 chick saw do the most absurd of things!
 Rainbow was with us Sunday, reported 3 fresh
 cows to the fair, there was a terrible electric
 storm & a great deal of rain so he had to
 spend the night & take an early breakfast to
 go home to milk, he brought one such nice
 green corn & for 3 days we had corn pudding.
 26th - Well, we did not hear the rain &
 the morning is bright. I ordered glass for
 the windows (out all last winter) Thomas
 brought it out & now I am trying to get
 John & Ann to put it in, it is the hardest
 matter to get anything done.

One Gibbons was one of the ones drafted, he
 has been making experiments feeding cattle
 for feed on the Allen's place. He said
 he was looking for "a successor" to Ambrose
 on the farm. I suppose he is going to the
 Seminary where they train out Baptist
 preachers.

Rose Stoner came yesterday to return some

Will send
Mallory and
Hunt
the nearest
time B.

From St Louis
To Michigan
(1917 July 27)

My dearest Madrie,

It is about
99% humidity today, after
one of the severest thunder-
storms last night that I have
seen. I was awakened by the
terrific gusts, and before I could
close all the windows there
was a blinding crash and
this part of the city was left
in darkness. There were many
other crashes in sequence, but
none so close. This morning
I saw two telephone or electric
light poles down between home
and Delmar, also a tree in
the Knight's back yard.

Nevertheless, the rain was welcome. It is said to have extended far into the County, so I am sure the crop will benefit. I shall go out there this afternoon.

Your letter was an oasis in the desert of my occupations. It is comforting to know that all are still well and happy. But you must get more sleep, Persica, by all means. So the cherries are ripe, no more! And I get no piers!

It is surprising about the Resort Special. Does it stop to take on passengers? Perhaps you can still make morning connections to meet Louise by taking the regular train. And this reminds me to ask

if she will need any money? Anyway, I am sending Louise ~~one~~ dollar for incidentals, and I enclose sixteen bits (it sounds like more!) for you, since I am sure I shall have a sufficiency for my small necessities here. It may help you to have a good time in Mackinaw in case a money order or check does not arrive in time. I am sending also checks made out to the grocers, and to "Ballou" dated Aug. 2. You can either use these to pay them on Aug. 2, or meantime send me the correct names.

Dr. Moore arrived this morning, but I have not yet seen him. An invitation to Miss Elizabeth Baxter's marriage has just arrived for me. Of course I don't know Miss Elizabeth. What is the correct thing to do, my Lady? And again this reminds me, - I find none of my cards in your desk. Can you enlighten me as to whether or no I have any?

Yesterday I was invited to lunch with Mrs. Bonns in the laboratory. Among other things he had fine green corn and delicious tomatoes. I called at the Spipleys' but they were out at the opera (open air). I am going there for dinner this evening. I shall surely see the Cellhorns and Goodes by Sunday, if they are in town. Tomorrow is registration day for the women of St. Louis, in the cause of Hoover and conservation. Did you notice the announcement of the

27 VII 1917

death of Gilda Bringham.

The Russian situation is terrible, and everything seems to depend on the power of Kerensky. We may all well regret that the Grand Duke cannot be again called to lead the army. The organization of a home guard is going forward, but so far only one regiment is arranged for and it is being made up by "bunches" of employees of big firms.

If professional men were going in I would want to offer my services; but not under present conditions.

We certainly ought to be thankful that little Nancy and Joe escaped that afternoon of the no-

for boat accident. When I saw those projecting timbers and those two little tots alone in the bow and all of us powerless, I can tell you it was a long frightful moment until they were obviously safe.

It is too bad that my mascotism in fishing has been completely superseded, but such things will happen in this old life of ours. Other curious things happen. Do you remember the forlorn-looking old maid who presided over our switchboard, Miss Priestrup? Well, she has been taking her vacation, and she concluded it by becoming a bride, appearing yesterday with her hitch-mate, a good looking army man who came all the way from California. I love you Persia with all my heart, and herewith I send it all to you anew, with love to all the chickens too,
Ever yours old Benj.

St. Louis, July 27, 17.

Please make note of the amounts of the bills you pay by check, so I can have a record in my check book

5470 Clemens Ave.,
St. Louis, July 27, '17.

My dear Louise,

There is no other writing material available, so you must excuse this paper for a brief note. It just occurs to me that your four weeks will be up late next week and probably in making arrangements to come home you will need some extra money. So I am sending \$2.⁰⁰ in case of this need.

As I recall it your mother expects that the girls will be taken on a trip to Mackinaw or

some point near by, and she
plans to meet you when this
trip is taken. That will of course
be arranged between you and
your Mother.

I am only sorry that I had to
return to St. Louis so soon and
~~can~~ not join your Mother
in the trip. It will be at
least two weeks before I can
return to Central Lake. You
must let me know of any-
thing you need, and if you
write address me at the
Missouri Botanical Garden, as
mail for the house is all be-
ing forwarded to Central Lake.
I shall be so sorry not to
be in Central Lake when
you get "home", but I am sure

the whole family will give you
a welcome so cordial that it
might include mine.

We had a severe storm here
last night, and it is very
muggy today. However, I do
not mind it as I am very
busy.

I hope that you are
still having a fine time
in camp and getting a
lot of benefit from it.

With much love,

Your affectionate, Father

28 VII 1917

My own dearest Madie,

I was disturbed, disappointed, and disgruntled to learn that you had not heard from me on Thursday even. Mail surely must reach Central Lake by a circuitous route. Your letter of Thursday, however, reached me this ^(Saturday) A. M. which is much better.

I was somewhat surprised today to have a telephone call from Carl Prescott announcing that his brother was in the city for today and tomorrow. I had them to lunch with

today at the Mission Inn, and I am to take supper with them tomorrow night at the Bellview Country Club. They wanted me to go golfing this P. M., but I could not because of a visit to the farm and also because I don't like to be at such a disadvantage when I have not played golf for ages, and "Fred" such a good performer.

We can even up the temperature soon with you today. It is I know not what, but terribly humid. I am so sorry, though, that you have been inconvenienced. I hope it will be brief with you in Michigan.

The rain here was splendid, and there is much to be done to

get the benefit of it. We are after it.

Last night I dined with the Shipleys. Of course the Mrs. is intensely conservative. They have a big garden and have put up thousands of things. Shipley was very much interested in this project of the research committee, and will lend the assistance of his advertising committee. We shall go down to a conference at the Chamber of Commerce on Monday.

While I was writing the last word Mrs. Ewing called up to ask me to supper tomorrow. Also, while I was at lunch (and had left no traces) Terry called up asking me to join him and go to Crescent for a week end. So you see I am getting my bits fouled. Anyway, I am not anxious to go to Crescent for a week end just yet. Mrs. Terry is reported to be making a great success of her canning work.

Mrs. Belden told me before I left that he was going to try that 4 A. M. fishing recommended to him by one of the natives.

Kiss Beattie and Nancy, and give Bessie a hug for me; and as to that dear sweetheart of mine, she is just the one and only shine of her old Benj.

Mo. Bot. Garden, St. L. 7/23/17
Saturday P. M.

P.S. Father writes
from St Louis that
he wishes you to get
over this summer
as Dr. Raymond Post
has also been drafted
and to Charlotte
Mrs. Spring may
not go to Baltimore
after all. Whether
it is wise or the
could come up
here & make you
a visit.

Central Lake, Mich.
July 28th 1917.

My precious Louise,

I am sending
you a cheque for \$5 which you
can ask Mrs. Clark to cash for
you; as I am sure you must
need some money. I have asked
you in my letter, but you don't
seem to answer such questions. If
you need more money and if
you need it for the trip & machine,
Leland ask Mrs. Clark to advance

for particulars as to your trip to
Machumac. Where & when shall we
meet you? Be sure to get every detail
straight & write to me as soon as
possible for it takes so long to get
information in this tiny place.

Your letter to ^{your} father came yesterday
and I was relieved to know that
there was no reason for your not
writing, but the same old one - of
putting off. Don't do it, Sweet especially
when the mother who loves you is
waiting so anxiously for your letters.

Mr. Merton, who knows Mrs. Mabley, is
here with the Tausig children. Mrs. Tausig's
mother fell & had a stroke, so Mrs. Tausig couldn't
leave her. We took them on a motor boat ride
yesterday. The fleet is an eleven-year old boy.
Don't be little. Merthart. Take good care of yourself
& love the first of mine. Give my love to Marguerite & Miss Fisher.
Love & keep a sweet April for your dear little self. Your devoted mother.

it to you and I will send her
a cheque for the amount.
I wish I could let you stay another
four weeks for I know in the midst
of such a good time it will be very
hard for you to leave. Keep your
though. you shall go for the whole
time. And this year you will have
a lovely time here with us when
you arrive. I am sure you are going
to love it only of course you will
miss the girls. Boopie just loves
this life and it is doing her so
much good. I am anxiously waiting

THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
AND SHAW SCHOOL OF BOTANY OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

EXPRESS AND POST OFFICE ADDRESS
MO. BOTANICAL GARDEN, ST. LOUIS

GRADUATE AND RESEARCH
LABORATORIES

5470 Clemence Ave., July 31, 17.

My own dearest Madrig,

This is positively the worst
and the best pen in the establishment, but perhaps
you can make out what I shall try to write
among the splutters and scratches. I am just
from the Woods where I was greeted by closed
doors and shades drawn. I suppose this
means that they are out of town, so I
cannot give you a report of their health or
of the result of the draft - as affecting Mr.
Clark and Mr. Moss.

NY? As Louise would say, "He" but I would
like to join you at Central Lake right now
whether it be hot or cold there or hyper-
ishly salubrious or non-salubrious. I don't
dare let myself think about it too much
or I could not stay here away from you.
Then too I had no letter Sunday, Monday, or
Tuesday (today), and I just pin my faith to
the morrow.

The result of the conferences with Mr.
Burr (Secy. of Chamber of Commerce) and Mr.
Lionberger Davis (President) were very satisfactory
indeed. They are willing and glad to send out
Digitized by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

127
accompanied by an editorial from the President.
This relieves me of any special list and the
unwieldy postage, etc. In fact they were en-
thusiastic about cooperation of that type.
All they insisted upon was non-technical
statements with punch. Shipley is going to
help me cast the first page in advertising
form - or whatever else punch signifies to
them. Two departments still remain to be
heard from.

I also started my article for the Annals
today, and I hope to have that in some kind
of shape by the end of the week.

Last night after dinner on Olive near
Grand I strolled over to the Tellhorns. They
were seated in the dining room, had just fin-
ished dinner, and were discussing what to
do. It was decided to let "George" drop two
lots of instruments at two hospitals and
then go on to Cafferatas. So we did, and a
stein of beer on the hot night was very good
indeed. Then Dr. G. thought the Lyric air-
dome was about our next best try. Well,
Deane, I have never felt so sorry for any-
one in my life. The bill called for many Pick-
ford, but it was in a war story in which
Prussianism was downed and flayed for all
Digitized by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
AND SHAW SCHOOL OF BOTANY OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

31 VII 1917

EXPRESS AND POST OFFICE ADDRESS
MO. BOTANICAL GARDEN, ST. LOUIS

GRADUATE AND RESEARCH
LABORATORIES

the sinking of the "Ventania" in all its aw-
fulness. Then the heroine ^(an American girl) went to France and
she meets her fiancé while giving up her cha-
teau and attempting to nurse French wounded
He, a Prussian officer is the center of an orgy in
her wine cellar, gives the order to shoot her
servants, &c, &c. Under the circumstances it was
too much and we decided not to see it out.
I am to go the Gellhorn's for dinner Thursday.
Miss Bess Green, I understand is the fourth
fork. Is it safe? (!)

Now I cannot readie the excitements of
the day are told, may I come back to the
real thing of life and tell that I do love you
lots. You know if you were here now I
think we would just burnel a bit evenings.
The days are hot, but the evening breezes are
fine, and the nights really wonderful.

I do hope you are all getting along
quiegly. Tell Boysie to write to me. I will
send him a note in a day or two. Kiss
Naney and Georgie, and here's more love than
ever from your devoted, Ben

In the side pocket of my old blue coat (and don't
bother if you don't find it there) is the address
of the N.J. firm making these paraffine lined
preserving cups. Please send it on your next, also
tell me how I can reach Margaret if I
need her for a day. B.

Ad St L July 1917?

70 Central Isl. Mex?

My dearest Perica,

I was greatly disappointed to have no word this morning, to let me know how you were surviving the heat, or perhaps to hear that there was no longer any heat of a disagreeable nature.

Sunday was a comfortable day here. It opened bright and hot, but by noon there was let the humidity and a stiff south breeze. The afternoon was pleasant and the evening fine. After breakfast read the paper and then determined to do a few things around the

house. I took dinner in my
own serene company off Cal
mar. Then after an hour of work
I took a shower and dressed. I went
out to Florissant and had an
hour with the von Schuercks
before time to go to the Bellvue
Club. Only Oliver Carpenter, that
youthful Chouteau^{and} Dr. Lehmann
were there as callers, but others
were expected for supper. Mrs.
v. S. says she is thinking "just
a little" of relieving Mrs.
with the Fausses children, so
you may expect her. I think, how-
ever, that there will be a frozen
lake in July when she leaves
her lawn seat to undertake
such responsibilities. All our
friends seem to have assist-

ed with the registration, including Mrs. Douglas
and Mrs. V. S.

Enjoyed being with the Prescotts at the
Bellvue. After a fine supper we sat in the
cool breeze on the large south porch and
smoked and chatted old times. Fred Prescott has
improved in interest. He sent you his particular
regards and said he has always admired Louise.
He thinks that Mrs. Thilly has grown to accept
the loss of Frank and ^{his} her natural self, while
Dr. Thilly has been made much older by it,
and can really never get away from it.

Moore reports a season "hazier than ever"
at Woods Hole, "fine students and all that."
I have not seen Mr. Greenman, but learn
that he and his family are to be away during
the month of August.

I am expecting a call any minute to go
down to the chamber of commerce. Please take
care of yourself Madrie, dear, and of our little
family. I can't tell you that when I think of
Nancy and even little George perhaps slipping
down to the pier, and of the boys having their
fun in the row boats, mingled with the
pleasure of knowing the benefits which should come
from such an outing summer, I can't keep
away the knowledge of the risks. Love you all.

THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
AND SHAW SCHOOL OF BOTANY OF WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

VII 1917

MO. BOTANICAL GARDEN, ST. LOUIS

GRADUATE AND RESEARCH
LABORATORIES

Dearest Madrie, I am in the midst of banking my salary, or the remnants of it. Your dear letter has just come, and I am so sorry to hear about the small pox developments. Do whatever you think best, Madrie, but I would have the older children vaccinated if you can feel that the Dr. is trustworthy and competent. I am so sorry this cause for uneasiness has been added to your summer. Please wire me if I should cut short my work here, for letters seem to require a most uncertain time to go and come. Did you finally receive the candy? It was sent by express the day after I arrived. I am sending check for \$15.00. I could just as well have left you one dated Aug. 2 if I had thought of it. I don't see that Louise can be possibly exposed by a return which would of course bring her through Central Lake, and I do hope you have a good day in

making up: would that I were with you. I will write again tomorrow. Please take care of yourself while having so many strenuous and anxious moments. With all my love. Your own Ben.

(?) VII 1917 From Louis to Marie in
at Camp Mackinaw Mich

Dear Mother,

How are you? Don't be anxious about me. I am well. I have gained 2 lbs a week. Isn't that great? I will start from here at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, (unless the boat is late, which it usually is) and I should get to Mackinaw sometime the next morning. I don't know anything more than that because neither Mrs. Clark nor Mrs. Mobley know anything more. Mrs. Clark says that you should ask some Goodrich Line agent for further particulars. Now about money. The Camp will get my ticket and will charge it anything else that I need so that you can either pay in Mackinaw or at the end of the summer. If you sent a letter it would

not reach me in time so the
mail only comes in once a day
at about four o'clock. I received
both yours and Father's letters. I
Thank you ever so much for the
money. I did not buy the Isoblin
costume as it was made out of
Camp material and, although
it served very well for the play,
was hardly one that I could
keep. The money I will use on
the trip. It will cost about four
dollars for the trip. I am greatly
tempted to buy a pair of grey wool
stockings for hikes. We had another
canoe trip but I could not go on
it as I can not yet take the test.
Here it is. 1. Swim out to the raft, a-
round and back. (The raft is 60 ft
out). 2. Tread water. 3. Dive. There are
quite a few girls who have not taken

the test. I am learning to paddle
in the bow of a canoe.

P.M. Fish Creek Wis.
Aug. 1, 1917

Dear Mother,

I am so mixed
up that I hardly know
what to do. The Mackinac
Trip was given up so suddenly.
I didn't write before because
Mrs Clark was waiting for a
reply to a Telegram. I finally
thought that I'd better go to Chicago and
from there to Central Lake. Is
that perfectly satisfactory? Elsie
Veller, a girl at camp who is
twentyone, and several ladies

whom Mrs Clark knows are going to Chicago Thursday.

We would leave ^{Sturgeon Bay} at twelve-thirty A.M. and arrive in Chicago at about nine P.M.

Mr. Doe says that the train is usually late. No one that Mrs. Clark knows is going to Mackinac. I thought that perhaps you would not want me to go alone on the boat. Mother darling I wish I could be with you now. You always smooth out all my troubles. Father sent me two dollars. I never told you about the washing before.

We either send our wash to the laundry and have it cost like fury or wash it ourselves and wear rough-dried things. Tomorrow morning I am going to wash. This morning we went over to a cherry orchard and picked cherries. The money that we earned we gave to The Red Cross. Oh how glad I will be to see you all! How are Aunt Agnes and Cousin Jack?

With love to all
Your own daughter,
Lorise.

Monday, Aug. 6, 1917
5470 Clemence Ave., St. Louis

Dear Boysie,

I am just home from the laboratory in time to miss a thunderstorm, for the lightning is playing about now, and in a few minutes we shall probably have a heavy rain.

In the yard the pansies, the golden glow, and the pinks are all blooming finely, and the grass is taking advantage of ^{the absence of} trench-diggers and arc-lighters to spread where it can.

I wish you could have been with me yesterday on an automobile trip with Prof. and Mrs. Shipley and their two boys. He went out to Crescent to see the Terrys, took supper with them, and returned by moonlight. The river region is very pretty. On the way we stopped for Prof. Shipley and the boys to go in swimming. While they were in, a shower came up and I had to run with an oilcloth to protect their clothes.

Robert and Charles have a cow now, and they are milking her twice a day. Celeste was in St. Louis, so I did not see her.

Aren't you glad to hear

Louise back again? I am so glad to hear that you can swim. I don't expect to have hay fever when I return, so I am hoping to have some swimming too, and some good Tramps, and not spend all my time fishing when everybody is perhaps tired of fish.

Robert came over a few days ago, and he says he is going to Kentucky in a day or two, as school will be over.

While having a good time yourself, I hope you are doing a lot to help Mother and make her have a good time too.

Tom had a bad attack of "poison oak" while out in California, and they had to give up a part of their trip, but I don't know when they are coming home.

I am longing to get back to Central Lake, and it is only a little while now, I hope. With much love to all the family and a kiss for each,

Your affectionate
Father.

August 8th 1917

My dear Son

This is a dreadful pen but I can't do any better. It is about 5 o'clock thundering & lightening come, the rain is over for the present but I think we will have more. I am on the front porch because it is so dark in the house. I have been the only person in the house since this time yesterday, one man with me last night, too muddy to go over to Mrs Powell's, nothing disturbed me & I hope will not tonight Jim is a trusty old man & I feel I can call on him if anything should happen. But I have not told you why I am alone. Your Father went to Selma last night, left home at 5 o'clock, to wait at Gallin until 8.30, that was to let the boy ^{who went with him} come back early. His language in the Hopkins case writes for him. Mrs Hopkins has had another set of

man to value the fund & satisfy your
 Father his part is \$128.00 & if not paid will
 be put into the hands of the sheriff to collect.
 He has no idea of paying it, & will I suppose
 bring suit against Ben Hopkins for the land
 he took in, damages &c, all might have been
 avoided if he had taken the matter in
 time. He left the hall & right with his
 attached papers & I doubt if he will get them
 up to make things look a little better for
 I do & Henry, I had a letter from him this
 evening saying his family including a nurse
 will be here Saturday evening to spend a few
 days, come in his car, but if he hears of our
 every day since I think he will give it up.
 He is to stop a day & night at his place, I do
 never & boy at Jackson.

We have not heard from you since your
 return to St. Louis, I would like to know how
 you are getting on & the family too.
 Lucy mentioned having heard from you. They
 are as busy as ever, every spare moment is used

Aug 8, 1917

knitting wristlets & sweaters for the sailors who are going to the North Sea. I am anxious to get to knitting too but our ladies are very slow starting, many a spare moment might be used that way.

Mrs Powell still sends over her vegetables, this morning a large basket, 4 squashes, chow, some large tomatoes, & a lot of yellow pear tomatoes, the boy said she had so many she did not know what to do with them. Pauline brought Sunday a lot of Kid Wonder Beans, the old fashioned scraps, & some butter beans, the first named were very large but very tender & nice, so you see I am supplied with vegetables. I will soon have quantities of scraps & butter beans, squashes are about to bloom & egg plants coming on. I wish you could have had some of our nice peaches which are about over, now that Sherry is coming; the rain has almost ruined the figs.

I had a note from Wessie, she has been

4
much interested in fixing up the place, has
had the house stained & done other things,
all very well.

Grandie & I have bought our automobile
so Mary will have a chance to get about.
Bessie says Mary is very comfortable in her
country house & is happy to be in as home of
her own.

The Red Cross ladies of Linnville meet at
sister Sally's next Tuesday & we are invited to
meet them & there spend the day but I
achieve Henry will be with me & we will not
go.

I must stop now & write Henry as note to let
him know Henry is coming.

The stand is over & it is delightfully cool, I wish
I knew you were enjoying such a breeze. Wish
love to you, & the family whom you visit.

Yours devotedly

Mother.

Please excuse
any delay.

P.M. St. Louis, Mo.
AUG. 21, 1917

7:20 A.M. Wednesday.

Dearest Madrie,

I have just finished breakfast and will soon be on my way to the farm where I have an appointment to meet Mr. Rice. He has had bad attacks of asthma and expects to leave for Chadewick again tomorrow, so we are going to have a last look over things before he gets away.

Sweetheart, I greatly enjoyed reading your letter describing your week-end

and Charleville trip, but I am
too sorry that you were in fi-
nancial straits and so worried to
know how you would get through.

I am sending you the balance of
the \$30⁰⁰ herewith. Don't forget to
let me know right away the amounts
of the Central Lake checks to gro-
cers, etc.

However, I am trying my level
best, Deenie, to finish up things here
by Saturday. That would mean only
three days more, and just now I don't
see how it can possibly be done,
but I shall do my best. This work
on the list of chemists, physicists,
and engineers is, in the absence

of the men in those subjects, an exceedingly arduous and unsatisfactory undertaking.

Was at the Shaffers to dinner last night, Dr. Robinson again being also present. We got on to the subject of scientific men and the war, and there was very little opportunity for Mrs. S. to get at her favorite theme, — which certainly is a good thing for her as well as for others.

Mr. Schmitz arrived at the laboratory yesterday. I say laboratory, but of course no one expects him to spend much time there when he is soon to be off in the navy. He is "machinists mate" in the naval reserve, and will be assigned to duty at first on the Pacific.

It is cool here, but still the country is suffering for rain. Good town rains have occurred, but then the cities are always wetter than the country.

I am terribly anxious to see my family and my sweetheart whom I love always more Benj.

1917?

Mo. Bot. Gard. Friday Aug. 10.

Dearest Love, (at Central Lake, Mich)
I am sorry I was
so blue yesterday. Your delight-
ful letter which came this morn-
ing cheered me up completely.
I am ready for everything except
remaining here over Sunday, ^{but}
would that I could fly away
to Central Lake and you to-
morrow. I need the two days
in order to arrange my work
in a manner approximately
satisfactory. At any rate I am
going to leave here Monday
morning, so you can just save
me a bite of breakfast on Tues-
day. Don't bother to get any-
one to go for me. I will get

Mr. Austin to take my grip
and walk out - it is so ter-
ribly early for people who may
sometimes be up until ten
o'clock! What a fine party you
had, or I should say parties.

I shall not forget your er-
rands, and think I can have
everything delivered at the
house tomorrow. I will also have
some candy sent the Gellhorn
children.

You were a marvel
to get along so well as to go
cross-bills last month in Cen-
tral Lake. I hope you are
able to get some fresh vege-
tables by this time.

Mr. Rice went back to Char-
levoix on Thursday. He says
he would greatly enjoy hav-
ing a day of fishing with

at some time.

This evening Oliver Carpenter and I are to take supper with Moon. I bought my suit case over to the Lab., and late in the evening I will go over to back with "Ja". So you see all my wining and dining has come down to summer widowers. You know I am feeling better, for I will even promise to call up Dr. Loeb tomorrow.

It has been perfect fall weather here these last few days, and it has brought comfort to the millions. I know it is fine in Michigan, and if you have just gotten rid of all the pollen, I shall have one grand time.

You know Moon had not heard - until yesterday - of the death of Nancy Shaffer! By the way Mrs. Shaffer said she was going to send by ^{several} several photos of Nancy to you. She has had some ^{several} little snap shots enlarged. It does give her a lot of comfort. I think Dr. Shaffer just has to let her say and do to her heart's content because of the effect on her.

I don't see how I can wait for Monday before starting, but the roads are dirty and walking not particularly good. Thousands of kisses to all, and to you, Sweetheart always love,
Ben.

PM St Louis Mo.
Aug 19 1917

My dearest Madrie,

The forenoon was spent on the list of names of men fitted for governmental work in physics, chemistry, engineering, etc., and the afternoon on the pamphlet for the Chamber of Commerce. This may sound well, but it does not help me forward with the work in other directions. (Pardon this change of ink, Madrie, but I was interrupted, and determined to finish my letter on arrival at home.)

I am in the depths today and can't write you a very cheerful letter. The financial situation has completely upset me. With Dr. Lischer's and Vandervoort's bill - together with

many others which go over to
Sept. 1 from July I will have \$196⁰⁰
plus Mrs. Lippincott, plus Mr. Aus-
tin (\$50⁰⁰) plus Make's wages, and
whatever comes in for August.
Seems to me staggering, with
insurance also due. However,
by strict economy I could manage
through this month without
drawing on our little savings ac-
count. It has cost me next
to nothing here, yet I almost
felt as if I ought to save
that \$26⁰⁰ which it would
cost us for me to go back to
Michigan. I shall go, though,
whatever the situation, but I can
tell you that next summer
it is St. Louis for me unless
I can earn some money. I am
so sick of money and the lack
of it — but I did not
indeed intend to say a word,

so please forget it. What really troubles me is that I see clearly I cannot make it to leave here Saturday, and of course that means another Sunday in St. Louis. Anyway, I am working, even though it is a snail's path.

I saw Mr. Lewis on the street this afternoon and he insisted on my coming to stay with him. Perhaps I shall go tomorrow night, but I shall not go tonight. I have heard nothing of Dr. Loeb, but feel sure that he is in the mountains. Did I tell you that Mrs. Barnes lost her brother-in-law (or rather a b-in-l) in Milwaukee, and has been away for a week. They returned today, I think.

I am so relieved to hear that nothing further has developed from the small pox cases. I sincerely hope that it will be safe now.

Sweetheart, I miss you so much and need you too, though I am sure you would find me "fussy" tonight. Anyway the weather is fine and cool. Last night I had to use a light comfort. I love all my little family and would give lots to be with you now. Don't forget how to love. Your old adoring

Bessy.

PM St. Louis, Mo.

AUG. 13, 1917

Central Lake, Mich.

Aug 7th -

My own darling Ben:-
I am writing
you just a line to tell you I
love you & that all goes well
here. Do you remember that to-
morrow is little George's birthday?
I haven't a thing for the dear
little fellow, but I shall give him
a little party with Nancy & Joe.
Peggy received your dear letter

and of the chaperone by telling me
that Mr. Belden & Mrs. Allen wanted
me to come over & play Three handed
bridge, but as I didn't feel like
going he stuck here until 9.30.
About ten o'clock when we were testing
the bottle an automobile party drove
up to our back door & surrounded
^{agreed + me} us. Some young men & young ladies,
Wasn't that nice? We haven't any
idea who it was, the Beldens & Allen
are jealous. They say no one ever
surrounded them.

I have been modelling a little bit
for the first time this morning. Emily
wrote me so many nice things that I felt
I had to justify them. You know I don't
work without encouragement or a great
deal of some kind. All of you from me & so to
you my own dearest I wish you could be with us
to-morrow. I wish you could be with us

yesterday and I was so glad to
get my share of it. What good
times you are having! After
noon and after dealing with
the big problems of conservation, &
National Research, and all, it
will be my task for you, I fear,
to content yourself with this empty
life & little, narrow people. Thank
God we do live in a big city.
We went to the Metropolitan yesterday
(there seems to be nothing more doing
in the small poor line) and the
boat of the Beldens broke down so
that Fannie child brought us home.
In the evening Mr. Bob Allen
called as usual. He tried to get

Aug 23, 1917

"Spot"
Dorcas
Inc.

Dear Lady; We must have seen
each other in mind at the
same time because I had been
full of want to you when your
postal came. I had just re-
turned from a lovely motor
trip when the possibility came
up of my going to Central Lake
for Horriet Lanning. It was
a bit of excitement for a day
the privilege of doing anything
for Horriet quite over-weighed

the responsibility of the children
would have been, and then there
was the prospect of seeing you.
But she wisely went up her self.

It sounds gay to me now
and your sister is running about
little trips to help - because the
shortness of them precludes lon-
gerness which often spoils
longer ones - We have missed
our two lads so this Sun morn-
ing but have just received the
good news that Fannie had
made good at Fort Riley
as so many of the boys I have
seen sent home "on account

of their age, which is him.
We feel very lucky - We look
for him for a short vacation
on his way to a further training
camp, next week and all
plan ring parties for him, one
of which will be three days
at St. Stephens in the hills with
Uniquess - He ^{highly} has spent a
number of Sunday ends with us
as he has to be in town for service.
We get interesting letters from
Francis, with which we bore
our friends to death.

Have seen much of Leo, have
you discovered the Greek God
stalking the woods? or shall
I tell him you have - This has
been a dry summer for me -
Nothing more exciting than
Red Cross work and bridge -

I would have given a fillet
to existence to have seen you.
I stirred up one grand cow in
just one small village, from
pure ennui - not getting be-
yond ditches - O yes I forgot
I had one charming dit - had
a most interesting dream about
you soon after I came out here.
You were right then -

Don't change your mind. I spent
the whole of it, and I find
myself turning to it, much more

My dear Son
 I was delighted to have
 your letter this morning & felt like answering
 right away but before I could be seated
 some girls came to my fears I had to wait
 until they were gathered & overcame & now
 it will soon be dinner time. I wondered
 why you did not write, thought you were
 busy but sometimes the thought would come
 that some one was sick & you were waiting
 for them to get better before writing. You
 certainly have your hands full, the war
 gives us all more work & the days are much
 shorter. I can't do much at night my eyes
 are so weak (did you ever see such a pair?)
 this is the best of it I have tried)
 I was so interested in hearing what you & Maria
 had been doing & about the children, am very
 sorry George was sick, too bad to be sick after

I am very busy with a
 lot of work. I feel the best
 have enjoyed the hour
 most of the time, in fact,
 was much interested
 though the time was from
 a very long while & a
 evening at the best of a
 lot. I should like
 you to drive with to
 study for the evening
 I hope I see, I believe
 much the same time
 by attending & soon to
 come in a few days
 but I am not sure
 yet. We may go to the
 fair. Paul is worried
 about some one to take
 care of it. His hands
 are full too. I think I tell

a summer's outing. It is fortunate you will get Hazel back, so much better than a stranger. I did not know Violet was at Central Lake with you.

With all the canned goods you should be able to live well this winter with the addition of some fresh vegetables. I had some of Lucy's squash yesterday, it was so nice. She has shipped her goods to Kansas City, Chicago, & Montgomerie, the demand for goods is great.

I think it a good idea to cut social matters to a minimum, entering into yours must cost a great deal, it does even in this country. I don't think there will be many turkey dinners as few raised this year & chickens as scarce as hen's teeth.

About the syphilis I have not heard of any being made from silkworms but they are making a very nice syphilis from it as cancer. I will ask Ben how about the silkworms. I will see him Sunday.

Today is out for your Father's case in London.

The train from Schenectady to London gets in so late that he left home Tuesday morning to be in London that night & leave yesterday (Wednesday) to talk with his lawyer. He could not get any one to take him in an auto from Des Moines, we had had 3 days & nights of steady rain & I suppose few cars could not count on the roads. In Montgomerie there was 10 inches of rain, we must have had as much or more, for the pool that now lay, is full, the well, up to the surface. I do not look for you Father until Friday night, may not get in then. I would like to have spent the time of his absence with sister Sally but he likes me to stay at home to have things attended to, & to be a protection to the farm, once tree is full, none have been taken from it, then there is a hen with little chickens to care for & above all the butter, Hannah can't be trusted with that, has a little sense. That reminds me, yesterday morning Mrs Lyons came in "to sit awhile" while I was taking up the butter, (before 9 o'clock) I had to leave it & go out in my cleaning up.

you said there was a new sister felt & every body of meeting a little and to make
them they are very
just a little
and I have some
New I have returned
to read this letter
the first as best &
I have had to
many interesting
very ideas each
there were excellent
I have given the
defects I hope
you can read
it. I have been
to you all
Beverly
Mother.

dress, could not stop to dress, only put on a
large, clean, open that hid defects.
I forgot to say that Wendell's clothes
here at night, come after supper & leave early
in the morning. I had rather have him that
way than not at all. Benson & another of
the witnesses were to hire a buggy, but R's
best wife to it & go to London yesterday. Judge
Cunningham seemed very confident of winning
the case, Watkins Vaughan said he would go
& help with it without charging a cent, just
for the fun of it.
Provisions are high but coal is taking the
lead of every thing \$8.50 a ton the other day in
Dorchester & then the heating, we have not
bought one yet, we will help it out with
wood. We can get a good 2 horse wagon load
of pine from the Town factory I think it is
for 1.00 the prices are small enough to see
without cutting, there are some trees on

December 1st 1917

My dear Son

Our Father speaks of writing to you tonight. I don't think he will, as I will begin a letter, my eyes are so weak I don't know that I will be able to finish tonight. He is now fast asleep in the rocking chair. I regretted so much that we could not have you, Marie & the children Thanksgiving, some how I thought you would come, not hearing from you I was afraid you might come unexpect-
=edly & I would not have beds first as it was
over, so I sent the telegram, hope you were
not alarmed when you saw it. We had a lovely,
but very quiet day, no place to attend services. We
expected Sister Sally & Lucy but they decided at
the last minute to stay a few days longer in
Truckee. I think they will be home early next
week. Benben came up & seemed to enjoy our
turkey leg dinner, we would have had one for
you — He left early as the servants had a

holiday as well as himself. I don't remember
 if I told you that he had secured an elderly
 woman to help milk & do the house work, he
 thought he was fixed, but she proves to be very
 quarrelsome, is fond of cream on her chodder,
 & wants things he does not buy for himself &
 he is on the look out for some one else. Last
 Sunday night he spent with us leaving "Old Bot"
 & the cook in charge, some one broke in the crib
 & took out corn, he could hardly say how much,
 he thinks Bot, & another old man he has been
 hiring did it. That neighborhood has the grandest
 set of coques in the country. Ambler was saving
 his fresh eggs for you all to eat, (has 6 or 7 hens &
 had about 3 doz fresh eggs.) I would look over into
 my garden & think what nice dishes of mustard
 I could give you, some lettuce too. I put the best
 sweet potatoes (Honey Balls) by for you too.

You have made good provision for "a siege" both
 in fuel & food stuffs. I should think you ^{cellar} vegetables
 & canned goods would carry you through the winter.
 I think what we have put by will do us. It keeps

was right busy getting wood chopped for home & kitchen, as far as we have not used a cent of the 1 ton of coal we bought but will have to use more when it is very cold.

After dinner I was in the kitchen about to mend my button & "Mrs Bob Wood" came to sit the afternoon, by the way very short these days. Said she was as homelike at home as thought she would bring her quilt & sit with me, I took out mine & we had a very pleasant chat, of course she felt sad, her sister's death & 2 of her boys in the army, may be sent to France soon. The twins, Maury & Edmond.

Yesterday afternoon I prevailed on y^r Father to take me to see Mrs Hatch, she has been sick 4 weeks & looks as thin & badly, is dressed & walking about the house some. Mamma is busy having some improvements made to the house, a large dressing room to her room, a bath room, painting & paring from kitchen to the door to the cross hall. Will have water works, & have acetylene lights already.

Mrs Powell is fixt up in that line now too. I had a letter from Alice a few days ago, she had a hard time the past summer. She is living on the claim, says she has a very comfortable 4 room house & has tried to fix it up as well as she could. She expected to have lived with Wane in Carizzo's but he bought "a bunch" of cattle as she said & wanted her to be there to look after them. He says "my boy is in training & if he is sent to Heaven I don't know how I can stand it." I never heard of her having a boy before, is it singular she has never mentioned him?

Not-a-kind do we have from Olney. Fred writes every week. Frederic is on the farm but does not know how long he will be there. Fred spent a week in Washington on Extension work business. All are well. I must spare my eyes, good night. & if ever the dreadful writing, much love to you all

P. J. Peter is slow
 sending you the
 syrop. Will try to
 hurry him up.
 He is so much
 taken up with
 the demonstration
 work & building
 his house; says
 syrop won't
 run as well
 another but we
 have lost plenty
 of days it won't.
 Wane has sent
 an order for a
 barrel, will drink
 with friends.

"Bambachue"

Hale Co Ala -

Dec 1st 1914 -

Dear Ben -

The moon is shining brightly and I have just come in from a contest with a Skunk under the Porch - The dog "Hers" found him & was baying for quite a while til I felt compelled to go and help him out. Soon found what caused the rumpus - The dog had him tied behind a brick pillar - my flashlight disclosed his hiding place & so soon as I succeeded in getting Hers to come around I shot into the basement hip - broke both hind legs - as he turned to get out on the other side the dog caught him by the neck - & ran off with him. I went up to where he laid him & found him crawling towards

the house - but a good aim
at the back of his neck curled
him over. - No doubt he has
stolen many a dozen eggs -
wast 4 to 5 etc a piece now.
Early in the season October we
gathered together from our hens
5 dozen fresh eggs & put them
away for Dmestine. We had
only one hen to hide her
nest & come off with 10 chicks
now reduced to 3 - perhaps
this resident got the balance.
The fine Persimmon tree down
in the corner lab bare abundantly
this year, & passers by would
wonder after stop & take a bite.
I had a fellow climb the tree and
after a good shaking I picked
up nearly a peck of chance
ones, left a few on a bale
of Hay in the red store, and
today they had been captured
not Leomin's one - this fellow

(23 sheet) DEC. 1, 1917
no doubt had fasted upon
them - I sent six small paper
buses of real ripe ones with
my Compliments & Thanksgiving
Greetings to Tuckalooka Falls.
A poor substitute for fruit but
these were uncommonly sweet
& I can ^{truly} say delicious.
A few Klipper Pears are still in
the draw up stairs ripening -
later than usual - tho we have
been able once or twice to keep
over a few til Christmas day.

We often in past years
have heard it said that the
Cane brake lands would
be highly appreciated when
nigger people - or a differ-
-ent class of people got
hold of it. The old "Reese
Plantation beyond Van Dorn
Station has been sold for (71⁹)
seventy one doll^s per acre.

fine ~~burned~~ & a Creamery
in Danapolis secured the
price for it. — Benken at "Middle
toe Park Place" is doing better
in selling cream than in any
undertaking whatever. Even
with Benken's ineffectual
management this has paid
him. — A Kentuckian who
bought 350 acres of the old
Manning Plantation — just
north of Deer-Creek bridge —
sold it last week at 85-doll^{rs}
per acre. This looks like
appreciation of in "Ala"
Alfalfa lands — it had a
splendid growth of this
crop on it — And the seller
now regrets he parted
with it — Can't get what
suits him as well anywhere
he says —

Head & well seasoned - a good
large member of the small
wood near the Rail Road was
cleared by the fire, from the
light train - the ground being nearly
a foot deep with dried leaves in the
late autumn, when the wind passed
to a severe fire for me - much of it
has lately been blown down by hard
winds & this wood I stacked up, just to
the right size to make good fire -
These 12 loads of wood cost me no
money to haul or handle - I paid
for it in an equal quantity of
sawed. (Two wagons - 4 mules &
2 Negro men - hauled me 2 lots &
then hauled 2 lots for themselves.)
Otherwise they would have been lost
by decay or stolen by the Provosts -
very nearby - I have now leased
three contracts for 3 yrs each some
money & some portions of crop. One for
\$40.00 - one for \$25.00 & another for some
making \$32.50 - still another is to be made
in a day or so - part crop & c. (will have some later
way to sell now - It is 20-25- or 30 = "find bye"

DEC. 1, 1917

Postscript

My dear son as we have not had a single opportunity to send our letter off today I resume - by adding this as a postscript. - -

As you speak of your winter provision in the way of coal and wood I must tell of our mis- luck in not getting our usual quota of coal - being in London when the cost of coal came & no one advised my wife - or gave any notice whatsoever - so they grabbed it all - & I had to get one ton brought out from Demopolis for Emergency sake. I kept the look from this - & in its stead I had brought up from the 'Frederickton Place woods (McRae woods) 12 loads of small wood - you might call them saplings from 3 to 10 inches in diameter - -

DEC, 1917

busy with four large
wagons delivering 1800 tons
to an Agent in Vauderne.
And so it is in every section
near us. Money should be
more plentiful now it seems,
only needs the stuff required
by the Government. - I think
I shall have something to sell
- a surplus of Hay - on hand.

Whilst I think of it I would
like to have that workman's -
name - who repaired our "locks"
on the front Hall door - It was a
real good job. - We had no com-
pany on Thanksgiving day except
only our family - Mr. Aunt Melville &
Lucy were in Luckth. We are pleased
to know that you forwarded pamphlets
&c to Dr. Eugene Smith. - I know he
will appreciate these things. Suppose Mr
Mother will give you the odds of the day. &c
Love to Marie & the Children -
Affectionately, Mr. Father, W. Duggan

3rd sheet, DEC 1, 1917

The old McRae place on
Southside of Denio Falls Road
could have been sold the
other day for 65 per acre -
scarcely by any improvements.
A new set of Farmers and
Stock breeders have settled
around the old Arcola lands,
& are going ahead with 100's
of fine short horns & Angus
& Guernseys - Alfalfa &
Stock - 100's of hogs too are
sold & shipped away from
the Canebrake these days.
On some farms there are 3 to 4
400 sheep fattened & sold - we
see daily from four to a dozen
wagons passing daily heavily
loaded with "hay" sold to the
Government at 15 to 22 dollars per ton.
6000 car-loads are to be purchased
by U.S. agents - Rich Harris was

Dec 21st 1917

My dear Son

I have just finished fixing a
little box with a couple of more remembrances
for you all. I feel real mean not to have
~~any special presents for children & for my~~
children but the way there has been so narrow
we have not been to town, it is a little
milder today but your Father really does
not feel like hitching up the buggy to take
us to Gallien & back to return at night. The
truth is we have been frozen up since
Tuesday week. We can't use the chimney
it smothers us, ~~round the a brick has fallen~~
^(the chimney)
in it ~~at some extent~~, the dining room is
an ice house, we have no comfortable
place to sit & can't collect our ideas,
or do any thing with any satisfaction.
It keeps me busy keeping up the fire in
the dining room stove. I am sitting

now with my feet on the front of it & writing on my knee.

The butter I send is not as good as I wish but can't make real good this cold weather, the cream takes too long to run, if you can't eat it raw for cooking. I thought I had 2 pairs of figs to send but the other has moulded. I asked Beccie Simmons to send me some of those cards, will send them out hoping my love will not be increased by the cost of my remembrance. I wonder if your Father told you that for 2 days everything, trees & all were covered with thick ice & long icicles hanging every where. My "greens" that looked so pretty & were so nice were killed, I hardly think the turnips even will put out new leaves.

My cook went to town today - I stopped to warm up & eat some dinner all alone, your Father finds it so comfortable by the stove fire but he never thinks of ab. being dinner

time. Aunt Melville is having a hard time,
her cook left the day before the hard spell
began (she & Jerry spent it with me) & she has
had to cook herself, hog killing came in too,
much extra work. She sent us back bones,
ribs, & sausage & we have been living high.
Thank Heaven for her once better, will answer
when I can collect my thoughts & have out
quite as much to do, but if I change cooks
don't know when that will be. Don't send us
any more presents I would feel meaner than
ever if you do, tell the children how it is, that

D.C. 21, 1917

Grand Mother could not get to town, I may
not have a chance to write again so this
must be my year's letter wishing you all the
happiness the season can bring. Now I must
stop, for Father has come in, eaten dinner &
drinks must be washed. Much love & good
wishes to each one of the family & yourself too.
Letter from Jack today, all well, Frederick at
the farm, Ambrose at the farm, my Henry at
home. Yours devoted

Mother.

Dec 24, 1917

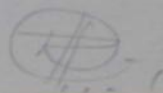
Friday Evening

Just a few lines in
for Mother & attempt to
make my excuses
for forwarding my
letter to you the other morning.
I wrote to Alice M. Leodell
& forgot completing her
address - Hope you
understood - had not
time even to put a stamp
on her letter - I used an old
envelope. for Mother's lines

Details of family
affairs-, it is quite
cool yet - but better
than the blizzard of
a few days ago -

I am doing better
than yr Mother for
she is such a busy
body - can't keep in
- her energy is over-
powering -

Love to me - from
Affly W Foster





Fort Pitt Hotel

ONE BLOCK FROM PENNSYLVANIA STATION

PENN AVENUE & 10TH STREET

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dec. 28, 1917.

My dearest Madrie,

Here I am feeling as fit as could be wished, and although in the midst of many familiar faces, a long ways from anywhere - or, rather, somewhere.

I am just out of the (not jail) but conference on an "abstract journal"; - a conference which lasted from 2³⁰ until almost six o'clock. Among those in attendance were Harper, Livingston, Newcomb, Gager, Reddick and others whom you know. The work of this conference is just begun, and we meet again tomorrow and Sunday. Harper, Gager, Benedict and others have asked after you - I forgot our former Columbia neighbor Forbes.

The prospect is that it will be a rather small meeting. The President - the chemist Richards, of Harvard - having endeavored, it seems, at the last moment to call it off; but he was unsuccessful, and will not be here. The old bulldog Howard looks glummer than ever. However, the botanists are showing up well, and they will probably have a full house. Trelease was elected president to preside at Boston - Livingston v. p., and Schramm secretary.

I had a comfortable trip out, but no acquaintances showed up. My train arrived in Pittsburg two hours late; and since no dinner was taken on for the early meal, you can bet that I was lucky to have some fruit and lunch provided by my sweet Persia. Everything hit the spot, - supposed to reside, in a man,

Dec 28, 1917



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Pittsburgh, Pa.

near the heart! Went in to the breakfast room at eleven to get a cup of coffee, and added a few buckwheat cakes by way of courtesy. After chatting a while with the other botanists about Gager and I went out to the Carnegie Institute to register, and to the Schenley Hotel for luncheon. There I saw Professor Bailey and a few other agriculturists. Professor B. was looking as fine as ever and sent his love.

The Institute is a long way out and the Schenley is not the club-like place the Fort Pitt is, so I am glad we are where we are. It is cold here, but not yet zero, although it blows around the corners to make it seem below. And it is a reminder of what Ithaca is.

I do hope, that Robert, plus Frank,
plus Elizabeth, and yourself are
able to keep you fairly comfortable.
More than all, though, I do hope
you will not rush around so
much as to get sick, and that
all the chickens are better of
their colds, and those in the
repertory able to make the
Alton trip in safety, and en-
joyment of soul.

If I see Prof. Bailey again to-
night I will inquire about the
Philly. The philosophers are evi-
dently not meeting in Pitts-
burg, so there is no possibility of
my seeing F. T.

Dear few or no ladies who
seem "attached" to the A. A. A. S., so
I am thinking you might not have
had a hilarious time had you
come, — of course there is "Uncle Bob"
and such like. I love you very much,
with all my heart, and wish you were
here any way. With a thousand kisses,
and, oh or four for each of the little family,
too, I am, Yours truly, Benj. Reception tonight!
Care, back!



Fort Pitt Hotel

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PENN AVENUE & 10TH STREET

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dec. 30, 1917

Dearest Madrie, I am now inclined to believe that there is a new definition of life, namely, that it is one — conference after another. My telephone bell at eight o'clock this morning reminded me that I had to get up and hurry to a committee meeting. From that hour to this ^(4 P.M.) dinner included there has been one continuous and unbroken sound of motions and amendments. I am ready, you may know, for a little rest and diversion. The cause of all this 'setting' has been the proposal to 'hatch' a full-fledged botanical abstract journal, which ultimately shall extend to world literature. Well, I am not going to give you the arguments *pro et*

con, but I will say that the first steps have been hesitatingly taken. The final committee, elected to launch the journal and to act as a steering wheel for one year consists of Harper, Shreve, Eager Livingston, Reddick, Barnhart, Shear, Newcombe, Cowles, and myself. We go into session again at five o'clock, and hope to adjourn in time for the pathologists dinner at seven.

I must admit that this is a pretty occupation for Sunday, when I had planned to visit the art gallery and other attractive-looking features of the Carnegie Institute. But what would be the good of visiting the art gallery anyway, when you are not here to direct my vision and fix my interest on fundamentals? Still, when we come to Pittsburg I hope it may not be in cold weather. It was intensely cold yesterday. The cars are five times colder than in St. Louis, although

DEC 30, 1917



Fort Pitt Hotel

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PENN AVENUE & 10TH STREET

Pittsburgh, Pa.

here they are (ostensibly) electrically heated. There is a fight in too between the city and the railways.

Yesterday morning was devoted to a session of the Bot. Soc. - Sect. of Physiology, and both my papers were presented, and went off as well as I could have wished. In the afternoon we had the longer papers, including those of retiring botanical chairmen, and longer invitation papers. In the evening there was the *Sigina* Xi dinner - with much ill-prepared and unnecessary twaddle. But when it was over it was too late to go to the 'Naturalists' smoker at the Institute.

In the Pittsburg papers I have been able to find nothing about St. Louis weather. It is zero here, and I am much concerned as to

how you are faring. I do hope
that there have been no more
serious colds, and indeed that
all are improving. I am sure
you have had a rushing time
with the chaperonage of a some-
what, in some respects,^(P) younger
daughters.

I have a reservation for N. Y.
tomorrow night, but only an up-
per is available. Of course I am
planning to leave N.Y. Tuesday
night late ^(2 a.m.) - this because the
N.Y. men and the Brooklyn
men will not be back, even if I
should remain until Wednesday
noon. I should be home on the
Big Four Thursday a.m. at 7:30,
but I am told that this train
(and all others)
has been anywhere from 1-12 hours
late nearly all the week.

With all my love to all the
family and an extra unmark-
able, immediate-delivery cargo
for my Persica.
Your own Benj.