

August 22 1900

Westminister Maryland

My keind friend, Miss Mary Polster

I expect you will think strange of geting a letter from me so soon. At last I expect to start home tomorrow the 23 and am onley too sorrie that I cant spend my last eving in old Maryland with you and Father for I enjoyed my visit with you verry much indeede.

Now I will not try to write verry much but will simpley ask you if you care to corespond with me for a while. I would be pleased to do so. I hope you will excuse this red ink and this is a fearful old pen. If I get to write enney more I will try to doo better. I will give you my address.

Darrrtown

Butler Co Ohio

I will be pleased to hear from you soon.

A Keind Friend

Josephus Ditman

August 24 1900

Westminister Maryland

Mr. Josephus Ditman,

My friend:

I received your welcome letter, and did not think it strange. I was just so glad to hear from you, and to know that you thought enough of a new found friend to write to me, that there was no strangeness about it.

I am glad you enjoyed your evening with us, but I think you enjoyed it no more than I did. You said you were very sorry you could not spend your last evening in Maryland with us. I know I would have been pleased if it could have been so, and wish there had been many last evenings.

I shall be pleased to correspond with you, providing you don't grow tired of my letters, if you should, you may have trouble to stop my writing to you, but I trust you will not grow weary soon. I hope you got home safe and well. I accompanied you on your way home, with my thoughts. Perhaps you were not aware of their presence, but all the same my best thoughts were for you.

I will close for this time. You asked me to write soon and I obeyed. I hope you will be pleased, and I shall be pleased for you to write as soon as convenient for you to do so.

M. E. Polster
Westminister,
Maryland
Letter Carrier #7

With best wishes I am

Your sincere friend,

Mary E. Polster

Aug 27 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My dear friend Mary

I received your keind letter this afternoon and must say that I was trully glad to hear from you. I did not know wether I would ever hear from you or not. You will remember wen you first met me that I was so faverberley impressed with you that I told my sister Martha that I would love to meet you agan before I left thare. So Martha sys all right you shal see Mary and we will just drive right down thear and it will be nobodys busness and I was glad that we did go. And am so sorrie that I did not get aquanted 2 weeks before we did. I have bin verry sorrie since that I did not stay till this week.

You say that you will correspond with me. That is all right and you dont need to fear of tiering me with the keind of letters you can write. Now I don't have to tell you that I am a poor one to correspond with for you see that I dont spell good but I hope as you are a teacher that you will be able to make it all out and excuse bad spelling and bad writing and mistakes. And when my letters get so poor and bad you must tell me to quit writing.

I will tell you that I have bin thinking a grate deal about you since I met you. And wonder wether you dont get lonely just you and father down thare. I know it is the case

with me. I gess it is not nessessary to tell you that I have bin married. But I will tell you for I would not deserve you in enny way for the prise of my farm nor do I wish to tell you enny thing that is not true. So if thare is enny thing that you would like to know you can just ask me and I will tell you no lie. You know perhaps that there are persons that would trye to deseve (deceive) you. I tell you if there is enny one on earth that I hate it is a person of that kiend.

Well I suppose you will soon be of [off] to your chool work. Wen dos your chool commence? Owers opens the first monday in September. Thare has all ways bin 9 month chool but I see that it has bin cut down to 8. I don't know for why.

I expect when you get to work you will not have time to write to your Friend in Ohio. Now I am not so shure that you have not got a perty good friend over thare. If that should be the case don't let me interfear.

Now as I don't want to tier you with my poor writing I will close for thid time. Hopeing to hear from you soon. Agan if you fale [fail] to make out this scribling send it back.

Yours lovingly

Jos. Ditman

Good night

P.S.

Miss Mary I forgt to tell you that I will just use your firs too letters in addressing your letters so that my mail carrier will not catch on that I am writing to a Lady. You

know peapel hear are like all outhar plasses. They will talk and I know that tha ar washing [watching] me. Enny way tha dont need to know so much. Some time when you when you ar up town just dropin and have that sweet face taken & send it to me.

August 31 1900

Westminister Maryland

Mr. Jos Ditman,

My Dear Friend:-

I would not answer your welcome letter, which I received today, so soon, but if I do not send it tomorrow, you will get it late, and if you would be kind enough to write next week, I want to get your answer until Saturday; for on Monday following school begins (Sept 10) and I will get you then to change my address so I can get my mail up at school.

You said you were favorably impressed when first meeting me, I thank you much for your kind disposition toward me. I know after you came to our house, you could have had no kinder disposition toward me than I had toward you, and I should have been disappointed if I would never have heard from you again.

You said, you wished we had met 2 weeks sooner, I know I would have been pleased, but so I am pleased we did meet at all, if not so soon.

You said if I had a good friend out here, you did not want to interfere, well you need to have no concern, for I have

no friend that I care more for, than one should care for all friends in general. So I still have room left to care a little more for a particular friend. And so you can just be my pretty good friend.

You said I could ask you any questions in regard to yourself, and and you would tell me the truth. I have no particular questions to ask. I know you are a good man, and that is all I desire to know. You may be even better than I am, yet I will try to prove worthy of your friendship.

I will never write anything, but what I mean, and I try to live the same. You said I must excuse your mistakes in writing; now I can just read your writing right along, the only trouble is I have'nt got enough of it to read; you need never look for any of it to come back, for I shall treasure up your letters.

You wondered whether I got lonely sometimes, well yes - life has not been all sunshine to me; but I know if I was near, I would try to throw sunshine in your lonely hours. I am glad you have been thinking of me since we met; rest assured I think of you. And I shall not be too busy to write to you when school commences.

Using the first initials of my name in addressing you letters to me is all right; for no one else needs to know all.

I will send you my picture sometime, and will be glad to get your, when you see fit.

I will close for this time, for this letter is long enough, I trust it will find you well as it leaves me. Write

soon, so that I will get your answer by next Saturday. With kindest wishes I am your sincere friend

Mary E. Polster

(Good night)

September 2 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend

This is Sunday evening and I am some what lonely so I thought that I would spend a little time in writing to you. And how I wonder who you are thinking most about this evening. Perhaps you have a good friend over there that is calling on you to neight and dont give you time to think of your new found friend in Ohio.

However that may be I will write you a few lines. Enney way I must tell you that Will Burns and I are keeping batchlers hall now. Mrs. Burns went away the next day after I came home. She will be gone for 2 weeks yet we will trye to get along. But I tell you that it is a poor doo.

Harrie Hook was here to see us to day. Of corse he came to hear somthing from Maryland so I had to tell him all about my visit and what a good time I had. But I didnt tell him that I had fallen in love with Miss Mary Polster. I questent him what he knew of diferent folks. Perhaps I better not tell you what he sed of you, but what he did say was all

right. I also asked Joe Burns who he thought was the best girl over there. Why he says Mary Polster is one of the finest ladies I know of. I said that is just what I thought.

The boys don't know that I am writing to you. How I wish I could slip across the fields to night and spend the evening with you instead of trying to scribble this letter.

Now I will watch every mail for a good letter from you and if I fail to get one I shall surely be disappointed. You told me that you accompanied me home. I was not aware of that fact but I am glad to know that I had at least one friend that did think of me when I did not know it. I am sure that you have my company many times in that way.

I have been sorry many times that I did not happen to meet you at the German picnic. I will have to put the blame on Mrs Snyder. I don't know who else to blame. You may tell her when you see her that I am mad at her and see what she will say. Have you seen them lately?

My Dear Friend I expect you think that I had better bring my scribbling to a close for I expect that I wrote more now than you will be able to make out. The only way I know for you to do is to read what you can and guess at the rest and send back what you can't understand.

Good night

September 5 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Miss Mary Polster My Dear Friend

I will inform you that I received your kind & welcome letter this afternoon and was truly glad to hear from you and will hasten to answer so you will go to work next week.

Have you seen my Dear old Brother Lewis & Sister Marthia lately. I think some times it wrong to say that I think more of them than I do the rest of my folks but I cant help it for tha all ways have bin so good and kind to me. If tha ever find out that you hear from me why you can remember me to them. Doo you think enny one has got on to it yet for my self I dont care how [who] knows it over there but I doo want to keep some peaple in the dark here fore a while at least.

You said you would send me your picture. I hope you will not forget it. I spoke to a young man to come and take some pictures of my house & buildings. He has bin ill all summer and wen he gets able to doo it and I get them and tha are fit to send to enny one I will send some of them to you so as to give you some idea of where I live.

Now you will find that I had written a few lines to you Sep 2 and I spoke of you having a extra good friend over there. Now I see that you have answered that question in your last letter so pleas dont pay enny attention to that for I truly beleave all you say about that matter.

I am so glad that you can get along so well with my poor writing. I think some times it is not fit to send to enny one that can write a good letter. You need not fear that

you get your letters too long for I will be glad to all ways take plenty of time to read them. And then I am working for myself. I sit down when I feal like it.

Now my Dear Friend perhaps I had better close for this time. I dont care to weary you with things that dont interest you. If you will forgive me this time I will trye and be more breaf.

I hope to hear from you soon as convenient for you to write.

From your Loving Friend.

Jos. Ditman

September 9 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend Mary

This is Sunday Eve and I just thought that I would spend a little time in writing you a few lines to tell you how I spent my Sunday. I was invited out to dinner and I didnt do a thing but go and had quite a nice time. And I must all so tell you that it was a young widow that my friends have been pleging [plaguing] me about and must say that she is a verry nice lady but I dont think that I care fore her. If I had never seen Mary I mite think diferntly. Well I suppose you are thinking of your woork for tomorrow. I suppose you will board up thare some plase.

Dont you know that it is so fearful hot wether hear and verry drye. I am having corn cut now and woork at it my self.

Part of the time I think that cutting corn is the hardest work that we have to do on the farm.

We had a new preacher to day but but I did not get to hear him. I was bad boy to day going visiting on Sunday. How I wish that I was over with you to night. I know that I could talk to you better than I can write. How I wonder when that will be. I reckon peaches ar getting ripe now. I wish I could of stade over ontill Christmas. I expect you think that would of bin too long and I would had the peappel tired of me long before that. I will expect a long letter from you on Wendsday the 12. I will see how much I mis it. I beleave that I will have to stop for to night for I am so sleepy I can hardly see.

Good night

September 10 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Well I suppose you have put in one day in the chool house. May I ask you when your chool will be out. It will be a good long time before it is out wont it. Well I can tell you that I put in a hard days work cutting corn. I do think that we have the hottest wether that I ever experenced. I do wish it would get a little cooler. Have the farmers commenced cutting corn yet. And are the picnicks all over now.

I expect you will think that I could write better if I would. Meby I will get better after I have more pracktes. I will have to get you to learn me to spell. I will never forget

my chool days at Salem. Ruben Frizzel and I wer in the same class. Ruben knowed nothing & I dident know verry much more. Mr William Frizzell and Hansen McGuire went at the same time but tha wer big boys. Thare was a lady taught by the name of Tayler.

Well good night

September 10 1900

Westminister Maryland

Mr. Jos. Ditman, My Dear Friend:

I received your very welcome letter last Saturday afternoon, I met the mail carrier as I was on my way to our picnic at "Zion", and he gave me your letter, saying he guessed it was from my good friend. Your letters were not too long. I would rather you extend them, for I shall never tire reading them: for I would rather read letters from you than eat. And your writing is just all right. I wish I had some of it to read every day. You said you would liked to have just slipped across the fields to spend last Sunday evening with me, if it could have been, well I only wish it could have been so.

We had our picnic at "Zion" Saturday and had a good time. Old Mr. Jack Easton died and was buried last Thursday. I suppose you knew him. Your good brother Lewis & wife were there at the burial. And Mrs. Ditman came and asked me how I liked the friend she brought me that night. I said all right, "I wish you could bring him again." She said you said

you would not take her along the next time, but she was coming anyway.

I did not tell her I heard from you, for it is too good for me to tell, I'll shall keep it a while yet. And you can do so too. I commenced school this morning, got along nice today, just eat supper and thought I would write to you now, and send it in the morning. I am boarding at Mrs. John Holmse's, I suppose you know them well. I wish you could be boarding here too, instead of keeping bachelor's hall. You said you were sorry we did not meet at the German picnic. What is past can't be recalled but I do hope and trust we will meet sometime again.

The weather has been very dry, amd the roads are terribly dusty; but the way it looks now, we may have rain before long. I will send you my picture after a little while, and hope that man will soon be able to take those for you, for I shall be glad to get them. Frank Schneider and wife were at our picnic last Saturday, he often teases me about you, but I don't tell him all. I haven't told Mrs. Schneider what you said, I'll do that later.

They are both good people and very kind to me and think lots of you. Frank said he was giong to write to you before long, well we got ahead of him.

My school up here will be small, I don't like this much, but since they built "Ogg Summit" across on the other side they said this school has been small. You know my school is "Stone Market" up here near Fenby, so I expect to see Mr. &

Mrs. Lewis Ditman often when I pass and will have to stop sometimes just because he is you brother and that will remind me pleasantly of you. They are such good people, no wonder you love them, for I have always loved them: perhaps this helped me to be your friend more quickly,

I reckon I had better close for this time. Write to me soon, so I can get it next Monday or Tuesday, as I shall be likely to go home on Saturday and will want to have my mail sent up here where I board. So when you write address you letters to

M. E. Polster

In care of Mr G. W. Holmes

"Wagon B."

Westminister, Md.

The wagon brings the mail; no letter carrier.

A little more.

Don't you be afraid of writing too much, for you can't do that. Write just all you can, and try to send your letters so that I can always get them before Saturday. You said you would have been disappointed if I had not written to you, well I will not disappoint you no time, I told you in the first place if ever you wanted to stop my writing to you, you might not be able to do so. I am glad you think of me often. I duly appreciate it and think of you in return. You will have to excuse the appearance of this letter, it is not so neat, but I can do a little better.

I hope you are well, I am. Write soon and a whole lot

if convenient. With best wishes I remain Your sincere friend,

M. E. Polster

September 13 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend Mary

Your letter was gladly rec this afternoon and was veary glad to learn from it that you wer well and was geting along all right at chool. So you had your picnic last Saturday. Well I am sorrie that I could not be thare. I will try and be thare the next time if you will let me know of it in time.

So your letter carrier thinks that you have a good friend some whare. He is not a bad gesser is he. You say that my letters ar not too long. I am plesed to know that you think so well of them for I think some times that tha ar too poor to send to a chool teacher. But if tha soot [suit] you that is all that is required. But I doo know that I do some poor speling. You will have to doo as I told you before. You will have to make out what you can and gess at the rest.

Well now I can see better you know the oil was so low in my lamp that I had to go and fill it. Yes I knew Mr Easton. I knew him wen I was boy. You saw Brother Lewis & Sister Marthia so she sys that she would go along enney way. Why of corse that would be all right.

You say that you have not told enney one that you hear from me. Thats all right. Tell me wether your father knowa of

it. I expect he will give me fits when he finds out.

Yes I know John Holmes. I chopped some wood for him one time and fell a tree across the fence and John didnt like that verry well. Is he as full of fun as he youst to be. I met him at the picnic where I met you but did not get to talk to him much. I would like a good plase to board for a while. I promes you one thing that I would not batch it verry long. I would sell out and go East in short meater [meter].

So it is still dry with you. I can tell you that it has struck us that way. If it shuld continue dry it will be bad seeding. I want to sow 48 acers if there comes rain in time. We ar a bout threw cuting corn & am cuting my clover seed now.

You say your chool is small. Well you will have the less to do. I went to chool at Stone Market fore a short time ones [once]. Yes stop and see Lew & Marthia often. I would if I had the chance.

You asked me to excuse your leter. Dont you worey if mine was just half as good. I would be satersfied and dont fear of geting them too long for I will all ways have time to read them no matter how long tha may chance to be.

So I will close with my best love to you. Write soon as I will be glad to hear from you. Your Loving Friend.

Joe

September 14 1900

Darrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend

I have just received very sad news that my nefue is killed. I will just send you this little slip so you can read it for your self. I was going to ask you to show it to brother Lew but you can doo as you like about that you will be giving your self away. You dont have to tell them whare you got it if you dont want to. And I will ask you to return it to me some time. It is too bad to think of. He is Brother Wills boy. I have not learnd wether he will be sent home or not. Will fiend out later.

My Dear Friend I did think that I would write a little more but I dont feal like it now so I will close. Write soon as I will be expecting a letter next week. Good by. From your cincear friend.

Josephus

September 14 1900

Darrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend Mary

Do you know how I do when I get tired of wating for a letter from you. Why I just read the old ones over again and tha learn new everyr time. I have maield a letter to you. I think you will get it on Monday not later than Tusday and you can manage to mail one for me Tusday. I will get it on Thursday

and will send you one Friday or Saturday so you will all ways get yours the first of the week. That is if that is not too often for you. It is not for me for I would not car [care] if I could have 2 or 3 each weak. I would gladly take the time to read them.

Good neight

September 15 1900

Darrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend

Thare is a nuther day gone and I just thought that I would write you a few lines and tell you what I have bin thinking a bout to day. I just thought that I knew about what you was dooing. I think that you baked some bred and pie and cake for your father to eate next week while you are away. See if I miss my gess.

Thare was a neabering town had a Sunday chool picnic today and oferd a premium [prize] for the largest dellagation and ower chool at Darrtown tryed for it. I dont know wether tha made it or not. I did not go as I was verry busy to day. I expect you think that I am improveing wonderfully in my writing by the looks of this sheat. I expect if I would lie down a while and take a nap I would doo better. However thare has nun [letters] came back yet and I hope you may be able to make this one out. I will close for the neight.

Good neight

September 16 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

This is Sunday afternoon. Well I was at church this forenoon and found out that ower chool got the banner by 2. There was 124 of them and the next largest 122.

Well my Dear Friend I am at home all a lone thinking of loved ones far away. I hope you ar dooing the same so I thought the next best thing I could do was to ad a few words to this sheat of paper wether it amounts to verry much or not. I know it will take some of your pressus time to read it.

I have been wishing that the wether would get cooler and I have got my wish. For it is so much cooler since last neight it seams like fall of the year wen you folks gather chesnuds & chickepins. You know that we doo not have them in this cuntry. So you know it would be nice to bee over and help you to pick up some of them. Dont you know Brother Lew had a lot of old chesnuds and I ate quite a lot of them and intended to bring some of them with me but came away with out them. So you see I have no chesnuds.

It happend that I had so menney outhir things to think of that was of more important. I see my paper is runing out. I will have to hury or I will not get it all in this sheat. I expect you think that thare is plenty more. I gess I will close and see wether you can make it all out or not. Good afternoon from your good friend.

Joe

September 18 1900

Westminister Maryland

Mr. Joe Ditman,

My Dear Friend:-

I received your very kind and welcome letter this morning. Since I am up here, I get my mail at 7 A.M. and am glad, for I get your letters so much sooner. Down home, we get our mail at 2 P.M. I was sorry to hear that your nephew was killed out at Manilla, I will tell Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ditman, will let them see the little slip of paper. I seen them both Sunday evening as I came up to school. Mrs. Ditman said, she had forgotten to tell me that you had remembered me in one of your letters or letter to her. And asked me what she should tell you when she wrote to you. I told her, to give you my kindest regards. I had a notion to tell her, that I had a few letters in ahead of her: but then I thought I would tell her later. You said, if you had a good place to board, you would sell off and come East, well if you were keeping batchelors' hall out here, it would not be so bad, for I would have you to be absent from home often, if you would, coming to spend some time with me: or I might be mean enough to come to see you: anyway, I would not let you get lonesome, if I could help it. I only wish you lived in here.

You said you met a nice widow, of course this is all right: but first I just want you to put a fence around your affections, and not let them get away from me.

You said, you would come to our next "picnic", if I would let you know in time; well this will be next August I suppose. And I hope will be here to attend it. You wondered how long it would be before you could talk to me, instead of writing, I trust, this won't be so very long.

You will just have to come and live in here, you have good friends here, and me in the bargain, and I am just your best friend; and I do think you could be right happy, in the land of your boyhood days.

You said, you wish, you could have stayed out here, until Christman, but supposed I would have thopught this too long. You are mistaken about my thinking: you couldn't stay too long, all the time wouldn't be hardly long enough.

People are not done cutting corn out here. I am glad you are done. We too had a very hot dry spell, until Saturday, then we had a fine rain, and now it is real cool. Peaches are ripe and a great many have been ripe and are gone.

School closes in April. if everything will be favorable to my teaching. I always did get along nicely and I hope to get along nice this winter. I believe they will like me.

I seen Mr. & Mrs. Schneider last Sunday, he always mentions you, and said he had not wrote to you yet, but was going to write before long now. I know all your former school mates, you mentioned. I rode with Mr. Willie Frizzell Monday

morning, from Holmes' up to the corner. My Papa does not know I write to you, yet, but he will not give you fits, for I have always been good to him, and I would not allow him to say anything if I could help it. I like whom I can and choose, I would not like to be restricted.

I like it well at Mr. Holmes'. They have a daughter, Dora, a young woman, she is nice, and they are all jolly, the old man is kind of dry and funny. Mr. Alice Magin (nee Seip) said she wrote to Louisa Brown in Texas, and told her, that you had been to see her, and to fill up her letter, she said, her neighbor, (that's I) had fallen in love with you, she was sure I thought enough of you, but did not know whether you thought anything of me. I would not tell Alice that I ever hear from you. There are some people, that don't hve to know everything even if we do like them. It is recess now, I will write a little more, and, at dinner I will take this letter down to the U.S. Box and mail it, so it will go today yet, and you will get it about Thursday, then you can write and I can get your answer Monday morning; and that will be so pleasant just to get it before school begins for the week. I don't like to think that winter is coming after a while. Do you like winter? Though I suppose you do, for you don't have to work so hard in winter, yet winter will be more lonesome like, especially when you are way out there, and I in here. You said my letters would not be too long, so you must put up with this one.

I like it very well up here at school, and find plenty of time out of school hours to think of you, and do let

thoughts of you come into my school hours more frequently than you may think I do.

I will send you that little paper back, after Mr. & Mrs. Lew Ditman have seen it, I may not get to see them before Friday. I suppose I must bring this letter to a close, and go and mail it now, it is dinner time .

Write soon as you can, for I will be looking for your answer, and don't be afraid that I can't read it, for I can just read your writing right along and don't have to guess at any of it. Address as before:

M.E.Polster

Wagon B

In care of L.W.Holmes

Westminister, Md.

With love and best wishes, I am your true friend.

Mary

September 20 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend Mary

Your kind and ever welcom letter was gladly received this afternoon and was truly glad to hear that you was well and are geting along well. So you get your mail a little sooner, thats good. You dont know how glad I was this afternoon to receive such a nice letter as you sent me. I think it is just all right and you asked me to bild a fence around my affections

so as not let them get away from you. Now my Dear Friend that is just what I have dun all redy as I told you in the first plase that I would not tell you enney thing that I didnt think was true. Yes I told sister Marthia to remember me to Mary when she saw you. Poor Marthia is in the darke ant [isn't] she.

I received a letter from my Friend Frank Schneider and I couldend help but laugh to think the poor fellow didnt know as much about it as he thought he did. That is all right I think lots of them folks.

You say that you hope that I would be thare to attend your picnic next year. I will not promes that I would not be thare long before Aug.

You wish that I lived in thare. I dont wish that but I do wish that you lived out hear and I hope that you will never ask me to live thare. But I will not promes you what I wont ask you to doo if I could bring my farm with me I mite talke diferently. I know that I have lots of friends over thare and I think that I have one more now then I youst to have. I tell you I think it is aufel nice to visit my old home and dear ones but as to stay on those poor old hills I would not know how to make a living. I would haft to get a girl that could teach chool to make a living for us.

So Mrs Magin thinks that her neighbor has fallen in love. I wonder what makes her think so. You ar right we dont haft to tell all we know. But you watch out if thare isent [isn't] some one that will know of it before long. I expect it

will be bad for you to have to walk out to school when the weather gets cold and bad.

I surely will often think of you. You say that you often think of me. I know that you don't think of me any oftenner than I do of you.

I want to ask you one question and that is are you right sure that you are not mistaken that you like me. You know that you were not with me very much and we are all liable to make mistakes. For my part I don't think I am mistaken.

My Dear Friend it has struck 9 o'clock. I will have to hurry. I hope you will be able to get along with this scribbling of mine. I must try and do better. I will close for this time. From your loving friend. I hope to get an answer to this one week from today. Write soon as I will be expecting to hear from you.

Josephus