

December 14 1900  
Darrtown Ohio  
Friday

night

My Dearest Friend Eva

It seams early to commence a letter for you wen I just mailed one for you this morning but that wont have enney thing to do with this one. This one will be a nuther one and I can see that you will get this one about monday before christmas and I surly will put you in a little christmas present. If you will exsept of such a little gift and I dont want you to think your self under enney obligasions to me for I just feal like I wanted to give you a little something what ever you like.

My dear I have just red your letter agan. You say that you look at my picture everry day. Now my dear I dont think that you look at mine more than I doo at your. I dont think that thare is an eveing parses that I dont look at your sweet face. You say you hope that your letters pleas me. Now my dear I dont think that you could posibely write them ti pleas me better than tha doo for tha do afoard me a grate deal of plesher to read them often and you ar ever present in my mind.

I am glad Franks horse is got better. So he is thinking of writing to me. If he is I gess he will get it don some time. My dear my room is some what cold to night. I expect I had better quit writing and retire for to night and write more some outhar time to mail this. From your loving friend.

Joe

December 15 1900  
Darrtown Ohio  
Saterdag

night

Dear Eva

It just came into my mind to day to surprise you just a little bit by sending you a little short letter and that little christmas gift I told you of last night. I will send so you will get it next week before you go home for christmas for meby you wont have school the next week. My dear I dont hardly know enney thing new to write you. I am afrade you will think it is the same thing over agan. My dear I do wish you a merry christmas and a good time in generl. For my part I am not expecting enney gifts from enney one and expect to spend the day at home thinking of my loved ones how ar fare away. I bet you ar at home with Pap to night and I know that you ar casting your thoughts over this way ones in a wile. Meby you ar fixing that little treet for your school. I wish I was thare. I would like to be santa clouse for you.

My dear I will haft to stop writing for to night.  
It is too cool for me. I will write a little more to morrow so good  
night my dear friend Eva.

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Good morning my dear friend Eva. It is a beutiful  
winter Sunday morning. It is clear and cold and drye. There has  
been a cold wind blowing from the East for severl days and it is real  
cold this morning. I expect you will go to Zion church this morning.  
I will go this after noon to day. My dear I promest a short letter  
this time so I will close for now but will not seal yet for I may  
think of somthing. If not why this will do for this time. Hoping  
that you will be satesfird with it your loving friend.

Joe

December 16 1900  
Darrtown Ohio  
Sunday night

My Dearest Friend Eva

I cant keep from writing just a few lines more for  
you. I am so glad that I did not seal your letter this morning.  
You know I told you I would go to church this afternoon and so I did  
and I was glad that I did go. Our mail carrier made a mistake yesterday  
and put one of my letters onto one of my neighbors boxs and came to  
me at church and handed me my letter and behold you. It was from  
Brother Lease and I am so glad that I can tell you of it. He sounded  
so pleased to know that I had found such a good friend and he said  
that he was so glad to have the oppertunity of writing you a letter  
and said that he hoped to see both of us next summer.  
My dear I saw Harrie Hook at church. He did not yet get of to Dayton  
last week but sys that he is going this week and Joe Burns came home  
from Indiana to day. Sys he got 42 rabits and qual [quail]. I dont  
remember what he said but he reports a good time and has come to see  
his girl to night.

My dear I would be so glad if I could see you to night  
and have a little talk. I expect you ar thinking of me and meby writing  
some good lines if you did not go to church. Dear Eva I promest you  
a short letter this time and if I keep my promes I will have to quit  
perty soon. My dear I wanted to tell you whare you would fiend our  
preachers tex matthew 18 ch begining at the 15 vers. Now my dear  
I will close for this time hoping that you will be pleased with this  
little letter.

Your true friend.

Joe

December 17 1900  
Darrtown Ohio  
Monday night

My dear Eva

I will just write you a few lines to night to let you know whare I am and what I am dooing. This is what I am dooing to night writing to you. And to day I sold mt hogs and hauld them away. Tha brought me \$330 and I sold 4 hed of cattle that will go away on next Friday. I think that tha will bring about \$200 as I sold them by the pound.

Dear I expect that you received my letter this morning and that you ar writing to me to night. I will be expecting your dear letter on Thursday. Oh yes I got a letter from Frank Schneider to day. He told me that he had seen you and that you was all right but for me to hurry and come over or I would not get enney of Mr. Polsters wine that he had some that was right good and he still wants me to sell out hear and come in thare and bye a farm. We will see about that.

My dear the wether has got some what warmer. One weak from to night will be christmas eve. Our Sunday school is preparing for an intertainment of some kiend. I subpose you ar busy in that line to. I must write to my dear Brother and Sister Lewis & Martha before so verry long. Some of Joe Burns folks sent him some chestnuts and some fine apples. I was tasteing some of them to day and tha wer just all right.

Now my dear Eva I will not write enney mor to night but will think of something by to morrow night so good night my dear from your loving friend.

Joe

December 18 1900  
Darrtown Ohio  
Tusday night

Well dear Eva I was down to Darrtown a little bit to night and have just come home and will write you a few lines before I retire tho I havend enney thing new or interesting to write to you to night onley that I am well and I hope this will fiend you the same.

My dear it will soon be time for me to get a letter. I am all ways counting the time.

I was going to tell you that Will Burns told me yesterday that he thought that he mite go away before march. I think I will just let them go wen tha want to. I wont tell them nothing yet. My dear we ar having just lovely wether now. I wish we could have just such in Febuary. I know it would pleas us both.

Well I have been looking at your picture and all so over your last letter. I look at them a little wile every evening. It is about all the real plesher I have. I beleave I told you that I would not write much to night as it is a little cool.

Joe Burns talks a little like he would go home soon

but I cant tell wether he will or not. Mrs Burns sold her turkeys to day. I was going to ask you if you wanted to rais turkeys next year. If you doo I had better speak for some turkeys some plase. I would get some from her but I did not like them verry well. Have to close for to night and hope to hear from you in due time.

As ever your loving  
friend.

Dear Eva good night.

Joe

December 19 1900  
Darrtown Ohio  
Wedendsday night

My Dear Loving Friend

I am happy to tell you that I received Your good and nice letter this afternoon and was glad to hear from you. But my dear I was sorrie that you was feeling bad of a bad cold. I hope you will get rid of that soon. I am glad to tell you that I am feeling real well and I hope this letter will fiend you much better.

My dear one thing I want to speak of is you said that you wanted to look right nice for me wen you come home with me. Dont you know my dear I thought you looked nice the first time I saw you and I dont think that you expected to see me before you went to that picknick and I will tell you that it will pleas me for you to look nice wen we go to church at Darrtown for I know that I have lots of friends hear that will want you to look nice and be nice. You know how the peapel will look at you the first time that we go to church and I know you will look all right.

If thare is enney one that knows enney thing about me writing to enney one tha dont say enney thing to me about it. My mail carrier I think is thinking something but I dont think he sys enney thing to enney one. You spoke of the end of your school term. That will be all right. If it suld be a few days later we will never fall out about that. If everyy thing els works out all right I will be satersfide. I am glad that Holmes ar good to you and have a good place to board.

My dear you told me of those nice and good cakes of sister Marthas. I bet that tha wer just all right and I onley wish that I sould of enjoyed some of them with you. Meby we will sometimes.

My dear I am so glad that you tell me that my letters ar so good to you. I think sometimes that tha mite be much better if only I knew how to make them that way but I think that you know that tha ar ment all right if I dont just get them that way. You asked me to excuse the looks of your letters. Now my dear your letters wer just all right and as sweet as it could be to me.

You said that you would trye and inform your Pap. My dear I surley want you to or have some one to. We will have him to come to see us in summer that is if he dont get too sponkey at

us witch I hope he wont. Yes I expect you will be quite busy during hallow days. I hope you will not over work your self and take some rest so that you will feal good and all right. So you did not see Frank and Katie this time.

My dear Eva I expect you will get that little letter I sent you about tomorrow Friday and I hope you will be pleased with it. It is only a little bit of a gift. My dearest I will close for this time as it is geting late and cool in hear. I will mail this in the morning and think you will get it Saterdag so this will be the last one before Christmas. I surly wish you a merry Xmas so good bye my dear Eva till I see you. As ever your loving friend,  
Josephus

December 19,1900  
Westminster,

Maryland

Wednesday night

My Dear Friend Joe:-

I will tell you that I was most pleasantly surprised to get your letter and also your kind remembrance for Xmas. The letter carrier had left your letter and a package for me at Mrs. Gists' again. The package contained the school pictures I had spoken off to you, they are good pictures. My dear I put up the children's treats tonight in little sacks I made the other night. Mrs. Holmes helped me some. I told you I had a cold, well, I am getting better, though I did not feel so well last night, or I would written some for you. There were some things you said in your letter I got Monday, I want to say something more about.

You said you hoped neither of us was expecting too much of the other and maybe be a little dissapointed. Now My Dearest, you may not be all perfection and I may not be all perfection, but I expect to adapt myself to live so as to make you happy, and I am not setting myself up on anything, but that I expect to love you and will try to live to make you happy. And I know you will try to do your part toward me. And I can't see where we will be disappointed, I rather expect we will admire each other more than we even now think we will. I believe we will be perfectly happy together, and I think you believe it too. I just know your disposition and ways will suit me, and I am going to do all that is right, and I know you appreciate what is right, and desire this only, so I have no fear whatever but what I will be perfectly contented with you, and am not going to be a bit disappointed in you, and hope you will not be disappointed in me, for I have tried to be very plain in my letters to you so you might understand me, and I know I am sincere in all I say and have said.

My Dearest, you spoke of pap, well I shall tell him a little while before if I can, for the best. And I said I did not wish to go home before, I meant I would like to teach untill you were ready to come in after me, I don't want to stop teaching until near time anyway, we will decide this when I learn about the closing of

this term and the Teacher's meeting. As I told you this new examiner we have speaks of changing the time that had been set. My Dear, I surely thank you for your kind letter today and for the present too, I have not decided yet what I will get, but I do appreciate your kindness very highly, and just want you to know that your gift was very acceptable. Now my dear, I had gotten you a little Xmas present when I was in Westminster last Saturday, and it is not that I feel under any obligation to for what you sent me, because I do know you simply sent what you did out of kindness. And I want you to accept this little gift as a token of love from me, and my best wishes with it for a Merry Christmas, I would like to be home with you on Christmas day, rather than any where else on earth, but as this will not be, I shall be happy anyway to know if God is willing I will be with you next Christmas day, and hope many many Christmas days to come. I will close for tonight, good night my dearest friend, ever lovingly yours. Sleep well.

Eva

December 20, 1900  
Westminster,

Maryland

Thursday night

My Dearest Joe:-

I will write you just a few more lines tonight, and tomorrow morning if I can catch the mail wagon as it goes down, I will mail this, and the little Xmas present I had gotten for you, and I hope it will please you a little for Xmas.

Frank Schneider came to school today and asked me to come over tomorrow night to make out his road reports. You know he is road supervisor and also a road commissioner. I also have Ed. Streeter's Bill to make out tomorrow night, and I don't expect to get time to write any for you, but beings I am writing often any way, you will know I think of you all the same.

My dear I have been right busy fixing for Xmas at the school, we have prepared a little programme for tomorrow evening. Then after it is over. Dora said she would take me home. I have a treat for Mrs. Ditman, I wish I could also hand you a treat. Dora went to church tonight, and asked me to go with her, but I had several letters to write. One I wrote to Mrs. Overholtzer, one to Mr. Meyers, or rather a note to him sending him the money for the school pictures, and I wrote to Baltimore to Perkins' Pharmacy, for a bitters for Dyspepsia, for Mrs Holmes, and then we always keep it too.

Joe my dear I will have a long holiday, but I have a lot laid out to do, and I guess the time will be short enough. School begins again Wednesday after New Year, and don't forget to direct your letters in care of letter carrier No. 7 during the holidays, and change again after New Year to Wagon B.

I said I would not write much, but I guess I will have to try to fill up this paper. Mrs. Ditman still has those pictures, she was busy the last time baking cakes, and said she had them upstairs

so she would give them to me the next time. I want to stop for a few minutes tomorrow to give her a sack of candy etc. Excuse mistakes, I am just scratching this, but you will be able to read it. I hope you were pleased with my letter, which I suppose you got yesterday. I hope you are well, I am feeling right good, my cold is much better. I wish you a Merry Christmas, my dearest, and you may be sure I shall think of you all the time any way. Write when you can, for me Monday or anytime next week for maybe you will have answered my letter when you get this. Love to you my dear good night.

Eva