

December 23 1900

Westminster Maryland

Sunday night

My Dearest Friend Joe:-

I will write you a short letter this time, I mean one not so long as some others I have written you. I was very much pleased yesterday to receive your dear letter. I don't know why, but I just felt like I was going to get a letter from you, when I looked in our mail box, and sure enough I did. I am glad to tell you I am right well tonight, I am over the cold I had. I hope you are well, I was you were well when you wrote. I want you to keep well, and be right happy too, and when I come to be with you. I trust you will be happier. I expect to be. I know I should be so pleased if you could be here a while tonight but as it is, time is coming nearer all the time when I hope we will both be happy together.

My dear, I was over to Schneiders' all night Friday night. I made out his road bills and it was late when we got through and I had told pap I expected not to come home. I was busy last night and Friday night too, Therefore I did not write, and had nothing so very interesting no way to tell you. You said your letters were meant for good, even if you did not always get them that way. Now my dear, your letters are just all right in every way, and are accepted in the spirit in which you write them. I know I can't tell you how precious they are to me. And I trust you accept mine that I write to you in the same way. I believe

you do. I am glad when you say my letters are the greatest pleasure you have now, but I think you will be pleased ever so much more with me. I hope so any way. Tomorrow you will get the little Xmas present I sent you, and do you know, I just think you will be pleased a whole lot, not just with the present, but because it came from me.

You said maybe Burns would leave before March, I suppose you can get some one to take care of your things when you come for me, if Burns does go away. I suppose your mail carrier does think you get a good many letters from Maryland. Well it don't matter what he thinks. You need not tell Burns, for if he should want to go, It wont matter if he don't know all.

We had a little Christmas Entertainment at the school Friday evening, there were some friends and patrons to see us. The pupils gave me a present or presents. a beautiful small picture, framed and a white spread. I was glad to be so kindly remembered.

My dear it is raining tonight, it has been a cloudy damp day. I was down to Lethas' and over to Zepps' this morning. I expect to take Christmas dinner at Andrew's. Joe, you said if I wanted to raise turkeys next summer I should tell you. Now my dear, of course I would like to do so, or anything that will bring in some money. And if you see fit you may get some for us. But I am going to tell you, that there are several things I have never done much, raise poultry and tend cows, but I believe I can learn to raise turkeys all right, there will be

some good experienced women neighbors who will tell me what I might not know, that is if you don't know, yourself. And there never has been just anything I could not learn, and I guess I can learn to be a good wife for a farmer, at least I shall try hard.

You said something about a man that wanted to move in with you, and that you would rather have some one, who could board him self, of course that will be all right if it suits, but my dear if not, why of course, I wouldn't mind doing for a hand. You can just arrange that as it best suits you, resting satisfied it will be all right with me. My dearest, I think I will stop for tonight, may write you a little more before I mail this. I will send this so you will get it about Thursday. As you will get a letter from me tomorrow, if it went all right. So good night my dear. Love to you and best wishes for a Merry Xmas. Your true and best friend.

Eva

Monday 1 P.M.

My dearest Joe:-

I will write you just a few lines more, and mail this, this evening yet, as it takes 1 day longer to go from here. I have been busy this morning baking cakes etc. for Xmas. I don't know any thing particular to write any more this time. When you write again address your letter as you did the last

one.

We are having a lovely warm day today, last night it rained, but this morning it cleared off nice. Well I will close for this time, hoping my letter will find you well. Write when you can. Wishing you again a Merry Christmas, I am lovingly your best and true friend.

Eva

December 22 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Saterday night

My dear friend Eva

I will not retier to night with out writing you just a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope this will fiend you the same. I subpose that you ar at home for Christmas by this time. Joe Burns and I wer at Hamilton to day and thare wer so menny pepel in town to day geting Xmas.

I wonder whare you will spend Christmas. I think I will be at home watching for the mail if not the day before. It may bee that our mail will not bee deliverd on Christmas day. If not I will be sure to go to the office in the eving. My dear I hope that you will have a happy and merry Christmas and wen you get so menny good things and those nice presents I know that you wont forget to think of your good friend over in Ohio for he is thinking about you all the time. I dont know if I will get enney thing. If I shuld I will tell you of it.

I think I will tell Joe Burns before long of what is to happen but will make him promis to keep it to himself. I have

my reasons for telling him of it. My dear I see that you get to stay out of school a long time. Some of or the most of our schools will not miss more than one day each week. I almost forgot to tell you that I saw Harrie Hook in town to day. He went up to Dayton. He wanted to know why I was not going east.

My Dearest Eva it is getting late and I am some what sleepy. I will close for to night from your true friend. Good night dear.

Joe

December 12 1900

Sunday morning

Dear friend as I did not go to church to day I will write you a few lines to tell you that I am well and am thinking of my dear friend over in Maryland for I am sure you think of me often and I realize that the time between you and I is growing short and I feel also that we shall both be happy to see each other. I got a calendar yesterday and I see that February comes in on Friday and that will be on Wednesday I was going to say I might leave home on the 4 or on the 11. If I start on the first of the week but that doesn't matter to me just whenever you are ready. I won't start on Friday that tell me that is a unlucky day.

My dear I will ask you if you don't think that I had better write to brother Lew and Martha and tell them what I might want of them and let them know that I am coming. I won't do it just yet but in time so I can hear from them. You just

tell me what you think of it.

My dear the wether is not very nice to day. It rained some last night and is cloudy and windy and not so verry cold but I think it is geting cooler now. I will be looking for a nice letter for Christmas. I think I mite get it to morrow. Joe Burns went to church. He stayed all night with me last night. He went to see his girl last night. It is about noon and I will have to hury. I never said enney thing to you about butchering. I will butcher 4 hogs and I was wondering wether it would make it too late to wate till we get back home. Well I must close. Good by my dear for just now as ever your true friend,

Joe

Sunday night

Dear friend Eva

I will tell you what I have been dooing to night. I have red 3 chapters in the Bibel and have red over your last letter and looked at your picture and now I will just write you a few lines to tell you all this and that I am well and thinking of you and the time for me to come to see you and I will be glad when that time comes and we get back home and settled to our selves.

Dear I have been going to ask you can you speak jurmen [German]. I expect you can and write it too. I bet you ar writing some for me to night at home and meby talking to Pap about Joe. Now my dear I will stop for to night and will write

more to morrow night. Good night my dear friend Eva,

Joe

December 24 1900

Christmas Eve

My Beloved Friend Eva

I have just come home from Darrrtown from the Sunday school intertainment and will just write you a few lines before I retier to inform you that I received your good and kiend letter and also the nice gift you sent me. Now my dearest friend I want to thank you fir it fir I do think it a nice one and what pleases me to know that you did not send it because I sent you one. It seams that you and I were of the same miend. I surly will accept it as a token of love from you and in return think of you all day to morrow. My dear I am eating candy out of a sack and how nice it would be if you could help me dont you think my dear. Dear Eva I think I will quit for to night and will write more Christmas so good night my dear.

Joe

December 25 1900

Christmas night

Dear Eva

I have been thinking of you all day to day. I spent my Xmas at home. We had turkey and oysters and we had some of our neighbors invited and had a verry nice time but you was absend. I gess the folks did not know that my mind was over in Maryland. But it was all the same and wondering what Eva was

dooing. My dear I am glad your cold has got better. I am looking over your last letter. I am glad that you dont think that eather of us will be disappointed but will rather be better pleased with each outhor than we now think. That will be nice and I onley hope that that will be the case.

I think that I do understand you all right now about what was said about going home. I think that you ment that we would not get married at home and would not tell Pap till afterward. I will surly leave that all with you. We will doo just what you think best. You know Pap better then I do. I will be willing to doo the best way and as for me beeing ready to come my dear I will be onley to glad to make my self ready wen ever you say for me to come. You know that I spoak of geting a round trip ticket. I have found out that it would do me no good as for geting it enney cheaper. So I will get it one way only then we can stay as long as our friends will let us. I dont know how long that will bee.

I am glad you did not forget Martha with your treat. I want you to be right good to them. You know Martha brought me down to your house and I expect that I will have to ask favors of them again wen I come over. But Martha will onley let me have the horse and wagon I will fiend the road all right if it should be a little dark. You know that I will not be in the neighborhood verry long before I will see you my dear friend.

My dear the clock has struck 10. I gess I will retier. I will write more to morrow and mail so that you will get this on saterday and hope that you have had a merry Christmas and a

good time in general. I know that you think of me menny times as I do of you. Good night my dear Eva as ever your loving friend,

Joe

December 26 1900

Wednesday afternoon

Dear Eva

I will just write you a few more lines and will take it to the office to night so I think you will get it on Saturday. I am quite well and hope this will fiend you the same. My dear I was going to tell you that we have quite a little snow but no sleighing. My dear Eva I expect you ar busy sewing. I will have to help one of my neighbors butchering to morrow. I dont care so much for it. I had something that I wanted to say to you and I cant think of it now. Meby I will think of it some outhier time. I know it wont be long enney more if kiend providence will permit till I will come to see you so I will quit for this time hoping to hear from you soon. My dear good by for this time lovingly yours,

Joe

December 27 1900

Darrtown Ohio

Friday night

My Dearest Friend Eva

I am Happy to tell you that I received your kiend and welcome letter and was truly happy to hear that you wer well. You told me that you would just write me a short letter. Now

my dear I thought that you wrote me a right good letter. I dont expect I can get up one as good this time. It will be short and sweet I expect. You said you would of bin pleased if I could of bin with you last Sunday night. Now my dear I know that I would of bin pleased if I could of bin thare. Dear Eva that time will soon come. Yes Eva I was pleased a big lot with the present you sent me. I was pleased with the present and pleased more to know that it came from a true friend.

You say that thare are several things that you never did much of on a farm. Now I am going to tell you if you can bake good bred and make good butter you are all right. I will risk the balance. Eva I think from the way you spoak about the man I told you of moving in the house. I think you misundersdood me. I did not mean in the house with us not a bit of it. I have a tennent house on the plase. We dont dont want enney one living with us that is no familey. We will fix that all right. My dear I am geting sleepy. I will have to stop for to night. Hope this will fiend you well my dear. Good night from your true friend,

Joe

December 30 1900

Sunday night

My dearest Friend

I will write you my last letter for this year and dont expect to write verry menney next for I expect to take it all out in talking to you witch I think will be so much more plesenter for us both dont you think so. My dear thare was a

lady one of our neighbors gave me a flower. Some kind of cacktes [cactus] and told me to send it to my girl. I told her I would but didnt know how she knew that I had a girl so I will send it to you. I dont know what shape it will be in when you get it. It is real nice now and I hope it will keep that way

Dear Eva I believe I will tell you that this will be all the letters that I will send this week so if you shuld happen to send me one before you get this one why you dont need to ansor ontill I ansor the one you have sent. That will make it all right agan so the next one I send will sent to Stonemarket. I dearly love to get letters from you dear but I know you ar busy and I dont want to put you to enney trubel then need be. I think that you fully understand me. Some how I feal that you ar writing me a letter to night. I wish I was over thare so you would not need to be writing. Dear Eva I did not get to church to day for I went acrows the cuntry to see an old friend of cours I mean a gentleman friend.

Eva I still have some Christmas candy. I havend got those turkeys yet but I think I must and let you try your hand at raising turkeys for our neighbors all have them and we can have them too. We mite want one for next Christmas. I know that you will have plenty neighbors and friends that will tell what you dont know about raising them but I think that we had better not let on but what we know all about raising poultry and not ask no questions. You tell me that you will try hard to be a good wife for a farmer. Thats all right my dear I know you will try.

I will go see that man that was hear to rent the outhouse to morrow. It is about 18 miles from hear. I want to know what kiend of folks tha ar before I will let them move in. Burns havend said enney thing lately about what time tha will want to go away. I will arange things so as not to be kept from coming to see you enney way if I keep my health. Do you know that I am so sleepy that I can hardly write now. My dearest Eva I know that I am not sending you much of a letter this time but will try and do better the next time. But remember it is from your best friend just the same and I hope it will fiend you well as it leaves me and I surly doo wish you a happy new year. As ever your loving friend,

Joe

December 25 1900

Westminster Maryland

Christmas greeting to you my dearest friend Joe from your best friend Eva.

I will write you a few lines it is Christmas night, and I am thinking of you so much. I was to see Mr. G. Y. Shipley & wife this morning and took dinner at Leatha's, after dinner I came home and then went to Horton's his little boy broke his arm the day before and also went to see Mrs. John Wagner at the "corner", she had been sick. Dan Seip was to see me this evening but I was not at home, poor old fellow he is satisfied no where. It was a very quiet day for Xmas in our neighborhood, I hope you had a nice day. My dear I am a little lonely tonight, kinder home sick to see you. You need not fear

that I will ever get very much home sick when I am with you,
for I will like it where ever you are. You must excuse my
letter paper. I will close for tonight. With best wishes I am
ever your best friend,

Eva

December 28 1900

Friday 3 P.M.

My Dearest Friend:-

As I am just alone, I will write you some lines.
Minnie Freyman came to see me this morning, took dinner with me
and has just gone home. We are having a cloudy damp day,
today, it rained some last night. If it is fit I want to go
along with Andrew to Westminster in the morning; there are some
things I need yet to finish my sewing, and I wish it to be
pretty in the morning. My dear, you must excuse this letter
paper, it is the best I have now, and you know a sheet [8x12]
of this makes a long letter. Minnie was teasing me about a
fellow who comes here sometimes or did come, you know the
fellow I told you about. Pap said: he would like for my beau
to come, for he would like to see him, I told him just to wait
a little while and he would have that pleasure; and that I was
doing up a lot of sewing for him (for Pap), so when he did come
I could go with him. I know Minnie thought I meant Davis, and
Pap he of course took it for fun, but I will tell him better
before long. I don't know how he will take it then, I know it
won't be funny.

My dear I had to quit here, but now I will write you a few more lines, it is 9 P.M. now, and the wind is blowing hard. Joe, do you know I was just a little disappointed this evening, I did think maybe you would write on Christmas day or near there and that I would get you letter today, but I got no letter, I suppose you thought that was too soon, yet my dearest you can never write too soon for me, for I just almost live for your letters now. You know I mean they are all the greatest happiness I can enjoy and when I do receive them they afford me the greatest pleasure I have. I trust you were pleased with your handkerchief and tie, and my last letter. Joe, if I should at any time not get everything in my letters you think I ought, why excuse me I mean all I write for good. I suppose I had better close for tonight or you will get such a long letter this time that will tire you to read. I trust you are well and coming on nicely. I am well so good night my dear, tomorrow I will again look for a letter from you. Sleep well and a pleasant day for you tomorrow and all other good wishes from me are yours. Your kind friend,

Eva

December 30 1900

Sunday night 9 oclock

My dear this is the last Sunday night in the old year and I will write to my dearest friend in Ohio. I am glad to tell you Joe, that I received your very good letter yesterday: and I suppose you think I might have written something for you

before this time, but my dear I will tell you why, I was busy last night and this morning. I went to Letha's and to church, but we had no service after I got there. And this afternoon I went to Nusbaum's with Pap, and then tonight Pap went along back to Mr. Frank Schneider's, and we just got home. Yet my dear my thoughts have been yours all day: I mean I think of you all the time near, without any effort, it seems my thoughts are your all the time, and I am glad you think of me in return. It went to raining tonight after we got to Schneider's, but we got home all right. They loaned me an umbrella and Pap an old overcoat. It is not cold tonight. I was in Westminster yesterday morning, we got back home until one oclock, it was a pretty day.

Well Joe, Christmas is over and New Year will be here before you get this letter but my sincere wishes are that you may have a very happy New Year, one of the happiest years you have ever enjoyed, health and strength and all blessings that add to your happiness, and I hope to prove a little blessing to you, at least you will think I am. I know I shall try to be good to you as I believe you will to me.

Joe, you said you were going to tell Joe Burns what you intend to do, certainly I shall not care, only I don't want some people here to know it: you tell him to keep it to himself. You said you felt like telling Mr. & Mrs. Ditman after a little while, of course I should think this right, for you say they have been good to you. I know they won't say anything about it, if you ask them not to. And as you said

they might be able to do you some favors when you come in, without a doubt they will. You said I should be right good to Martha, of course I always did like her, but I love her so much more now, because she brought you down to see me: and it was through her that Kate made me acquainted with you at Deer Park Picnic.

About butchering, my dear if we get back home until Feb. 20, (we might get home sooner than this) maybe this would not be too late, you know you could butcher soon after we get home: if you think this will be time yet, why of course you can butcher then. Joe you said you believed you understood me in regard to what I said about the time we would get married and about my going home. Yes my dear I thought if we could arrange it so, we would get married as soon as I quit school and then go home, of course I shall tell Pap a little before what I intend to do, then it won't matter if he should not want it so, it will be so, and after it is over he will have to make the best of it. I know him Joe, he might say things to us before that would cause ill feelings, which he would not do after we were married, because he would know it would do no good then.

And further I want to try to make matters suit, so people will have no chance to talk or say Pap kicked like everything

against my getting married. So my dearest don't give any troubled thought to this, for we will make matters suit the best, "God willing". I know every thing will have to be right. The School Board will soon meet and then I will hear about the closing of this quarter and the time for the teacher's meeting.

You asked me if I could talk German, yes, but I can not

write it. I never had any instruction. You said in your letter, "maybe" I "was talking to Pap about Joe", now my dear I would like to. I talk to Letha and Andrew about you, but I can't to Pap yet. He has a right bad cold, he most always has an ugly cough in winter. I was glad to you were so pleased with the little present I sent you, you said you thought we were of the same mind one toward the other at the time. Now my beloved I trust each of us will always try to make our minds suit so as to afford the most happiness to the other. I think I will close for this time. Write and address your letter care of Wagon B. Westminster, Md. And write so I will get your dear letter next Monday, if you can. I hope you are well, I am well. School begins Wednesday. Good night, sleep well, a pleasant week to you the coming week. Love to you my dear from,

Eva

December 30 1900

Sunday night

My dear time is kind in one way to us, for it is bringing you nearer to me all the time I trust. I am looking at your picture now. Good night dear Joe,

Eva