

January 1 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Tuesday

My Dear Friend Eva

As this is the first day of the year I will just write a few lines to tell let you know that I am well and am thinking of you and wondering what day I will get a letter. I will be looking for one perty soon. I have been busy all day and have not dun very much eather.

Eva Joe Burns received a letter from his mother this morning. He showed me the letter. She told him that she thought that I and Mary Polster was writing to each outhur. I expect she has herd somthing over thare.

Dear Eva the wether is right cool since yesterday. I gess you will have to go to work agan soon. I gess I will stop writing for the night. Will write more later. As ever your friend,

Joe

January 2 1901

Wednesday

My Dear Eva

It is a little bit late but I cant help but write you a few lines to night to tell you that I was pleased this afternoon to receive your grand good letter for witch I thank you. I was so glad to hear you say that you had such a good time during holidays. My dear I know just how you feal wen you

say that you ar homesick to see me for I am just that way my
self menney times but I have this consolasion that it will not
be long enney more till I will see you. You asked me to excuse
your paper why of cours I will It would be all right if you
would write on brown paper. I will close for tonight my dear.
From your friend,

Joe

January 3 1901

Thursday 5 P.M.

My Dearest Friend Eva

I expect I will be in such a hurry that I wont half
write this letter I intended to write this afternoon and will
try and tell you why I did not. The Ade Sosiety meet at my
house to day and brought ther dinner with them and that kept me
from the house. So they have all gone now and I will try and
write you just a short letter and take it to the office to
night for I want you to have this on Monday. I know that you
will be looking for it and I dont want you to be disappointed
in geting a letter if it is not such a good one this time. I
will make up for it next time.

My dear you say that you wrote your dearest friend in
Ohio the last Sunday night in the old year. Dont you know my
dear that I am only too glad that you did and am glad that you
have got all the letters I sent for you and am also glad that
you seam pleased with them all tho I feal some times that tha
ar poorly gotten up. I thank you verry much for your wishing

me one of the happyest years that I ever did have. Now my dear dont you know that I dont wish you enney thing less than that with all my heart. And am sure that you will prove a grate blessing to me & I hope to do the same to you dear.

My dear I have been looking at your grand letter and I must say that I am sorrie that I cant write you much of a letter this time. I havend the time for one thing then I dont think that I could if I did have. Yes my dear time is bringing us nearer all the time. It will not be long now till you will see some fellow coming. That will be all right with me my dear about what you said about geting married. And about your school you can let me know when it will soot you for me to come and whare I would fiend you. You will fiend out that I am not so hard to pleas and hope that we will have no trubel in enney way. I dont think that I will get offended at Pap at what ever he mite say to me.

My dear of cours I have all redy said that I would leave it all to you about arangements of ours wen I am to come and allso after I am thare. I am going to say this that if you speak to your father about this and he should think it all right why I would rather meet you at your on home then enney outhur plase. And if he should not treet you nice why then I will meet you enney place.

My dear it is geting time that I was going to the office with this and I hope this short letter will fiend you well as it leaves me and hope you will get this Monday and be pleas with what little thare is of it and will try to do better

the next time. Your loving friend,

Joe

January 4 1901

Westminster Maryland

Friday night 8 P.M.

My Dear Joe:-

I will tell you that I received your dear letter you mailed Dec. 31, this evening when I came home from school. I was so very glad to get it, and thanks for the sweet little red cactus, it was real nice yet. I was glad to hear you were well. I am well. I walked home from school, we had a nice clear day, though cold, the road was nice. I seen your brother, he was unloading wood at the wood pile, he said, Mrs. Ditman was right much complaining and had been in bed all day, but was something better than she was in the morning. I could not stop to see her because it was getting late, you know the days are short.

My dear I had wrote to you twice this week to send when I send your next letter, but went away from the school this evening leaving the letter intended for you in my desk at school and as I got your dear letter this evening do you know I can't help but answer it tonight, and will mail this tomorrow, so you will get it a little sooner, and if it suits you might answer this and sent it so I will get your letter next Friday up at stone market. If you could mail your letter on Wednesday, I would get it on Friday. Joe you must excuse this paper, it blots, but it is the best I have tonight and I

suppose you can read it any way. You can guess at it when you get to the blots.

My dear I understood you when you spoke about that man wanting to rent your house, I knew you did not mean that there would be any one to move in with us, you know we would not like that well, but I just thought if you could get no one to suit you to move in your little house, and could suit your self better in hiring a man, who would want to board with you (you know a man that had no family I mean) why of course I would not have minded that, I could do for a hired man, if it would be better for you. Of course that is just as you make it.

My dearest you said if I could bake good bread etc. you would run the risk of the rest. Now my dear I believe you will find me just all right in baking and cooking too, and I think I can learn what I should not know, for our neighbor women always say, I can do an learn to do anything, but get marries. And in regard to what you said about raising poultry, I guess I will come on all right, and you may just get some old turkeys, it will be all right.

You said Burns has not said anything about leaving lately, well my dear about your coming in after me. Now I want to tell you something and I don't know whether I can just tell you as I want to express my self, if you were here I could tell you better because you could what you would think of my proposition. Now as I told you before I don't want to go home and stay any time before we are married, so if we could arrange it so that you could be here prepared, by the time the term

closed, then we would go home afterward, and this way there would be no chance for much talk or any thing very unpleasant. And it would take several days for me to get my affairs collected ready to go with you, and this could all be done best after we are married. Then we might be ready to start for home on the 14 or 16 Feb.

Joe excuse me for being so frank in my expression, but circumstances force me to express myself, so that you can understand what would best suit me. You know this is the first part and then I am going with you, and that will best please you, and this comes in as your part.

I will have to send in my resignation this week to the schoolboard, this may make some wonder, but they wont have to wonder long, if nothing happens and "God is willing" only about 4 weeks then they will know the rest. You wished me a happy New Year, thank you my dear, and I wish you the same, and will do what I can and what is right to make it a happy year for you, I trust I shall add greatly to your happiness as I believe you will to my happiness.

I have some sewing to do yet for Pap and for myself, Pap has a bad cold and an ugly cough, he most always has every winter. My dear I will expect a letter from you again about Monday, and will inclose the letters I left at the schoolhouse if the news will be rather old, you can read it on rainy days or snowy ones. I will close for this time, I have write more maybe than you will understand right.

We have been having pretty weather, of course it has

been cold. I only hope we shall have right good weather the first part of Feb. I was looking at the almanac for the weather and also for the moon. We shall have moonlight nights then. You said you would not start for here on Friday, Feb 1. No my dear I don't want you to start on the 1st but I am not superstitious a but. But just because it is an old saying. Write soon as you can. Good night my beloved sleep well. Your true friend,

Eva

January 5 1901

Saterday 9 P.M.

My Dear Friend Eva

I will just write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope you ar the same. Dont you my dear that I have been wishing all day to day that we could have just such wether in Febuary as we ar having now. It has just been lovely for several days now. I expect you ar at home agan to night and I expect you ar thinking of me and meby you ar writing me some lines. I was wondering wether you would receive that last letter that had the flower in before you went to school or not. I was thinking that your school began on thursday but I see it began on wendsday. I expect you did not get it till you went home.

My dear you thought we mite butcher after we came home. I have thought over the matter think I will attend to that before I come. I think it will make less feeding for some one while I am gone.

My dear did I tell you that I was to an oyster supper on new years eve. I will tell you some time how I came to be thare. I did not see enney one thare that I cared for that is much. I know verry well that you was not thare. I was wishing that you was all the same. I think the next one I can take you along. I dont think I will go to enney more ontill you ar hear. Now my dear it is geting late. I will close with all my love and best wishes dear Eva as ever your true friend,

Joe

January 6 1901

Sunday afternoon

Dear Friend Eva

Some how I have felt so lonely to day more so then camen [common] so I thought that I would give you a part of my time in writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well and wishing that you was hear. My dear if that would of brought you why you would of been hear long ago. I have just red your dear letter over and am looking at your picture now.

I see whare you say you are going to tell Pap. I would like to be a mouse. My dear I have never thought yet that he would kick so verry much but what he would get over it. I dont think that he ought to expect you to stay with him allways. Let him say what ever he has to say then we will doo what is right enney way.

My dear the wether looks like it would change meby rain or snow. The wether has been so nice for so long. I expect

bad wether perty soon. I expect you ar thinking about going up the washington road by this time. It is about 2 oclock. Well you will be dun going up thare perty soon. You wont have so verry menney more trips. I gess you dont care.

Haw is Lew and Martha geting a long? You want to stop and see them as often as you can for you may not have that privilage after a while. My dear I am not writing enney thing that will interest you meby I had better stop for to day and will write more later on. Dear Eva good by for this time.
From your loving friend,

Joe

January 6 1901

Sunday night

How I wonder what my dear friend is dooing just now. I will tell you what I have been dooing. I have been reading the Bibel and the eving is so long I will just write a little while if I could think of enney thing to write that I thought you would like to know or that would interest you. I havend herd a word from Harrie Hook since he went away. Joe Burns has been with me all day. His horse has been sick all last week but is geting better now so I had to let him have my rig to night to go to see his girl. He has put of [off] going home till next winter. Did I ever tell you that Harrie is coming back to work for the man he did work for so he will be hear quite often to see us next summer.

My dearest friend I am glad to hear you say that your thoughts ar all for me. I am sure that I am thinking of you a

grate deal and I am thinking of the trip over to your house and where I will first see you when I come. I know that I shall be ever glad to see my dear friend and I hope you will be too. I will have to go and see Frank and Kate while I am there but I dont expect to have time to see verry many folks. We will see how we get along and see how good every body treats us then we can tell more about it cant we. Of course we dont have to run right off [off] but there is one thing sure we have got a place to do if they should run us off [off].

My dear I will quit for to night. I wish you a good nights rest. Good night my dearest friend Eva. As ever your friend,

Joe

January 7 1901

Monday night

My dearest friend I will tell you that I received your kind and good letter this afternoon and was truly glad to get it as I all ways am and will hasten to answer and mail to night yet so you will be sure to get it before you go home.

Now my dearest friend in regard to all you said is all right with me. Of course I will do what ever is the best and can do to suit you just as well as any other way. So I dont know what more to say to it only for you to set the time for me to come. You know it will take me 2 days and a night to see you. I mean to get over there. I understand your letter all right and dont see any thing wrong [wrong] with it.

I am so sorrie to hear of Martha feeling so bad. I hope she will get better. My dear I got 3 turkeys for you to day and tha ar white ones so you can tell your on [own] wen tha run of [off] tha will be the onley white turkeys right in this neighborhood. Now my dear I will look over your letter agan and if I fiend that I have mist enney thing I will write in the next letter for I want to mail to night or take to the office. You was talking about blots I dont think you can beat this one. Burnsses have 2 little girls and tha ar both crying. Tha ar sick with colds I fear tha will have croop. I think tha have sent word for the dr to come. Now my dear I will look for that outhter letter about wendsday and hope theas few lines will fiend you as it leaves me. Good night dear. From your loving friend,

Joe

January 10 1901

Westminster Maryland

Thursday 8.30

My Dearest Friend Joe:-

I did tell you that I would write to you no more this week; but I just received your dear letter, and it pleases me so much, that I thought it will be a long while for you to wait until next Wednesday before you hear from me. And that maybe this letter might afford you a little pleasure if I send it this week yet, so you may get it on Monday if no sooner. I was glad to hear you were well, I am very well and thinking of you most of the time. Joe, I am really glad that I do and can think so much of you, It is true when I say that my thoughts

have been and are all yours. And I do hope that you will live to admire me more and more the longer I shall be with you. I believe you will too, for most of all well thinking people like me more the better and longer they know me. I trust I shall prove to be a blessing to you, as I believe you will be to me. Joe, my dear, I was glad to hear you say you were reading your bible. You are just the man I was looking for. I like a good sensible man, one that knows how to appreciate goodness in others. And I know you are just all right and I am thankful to God that I ever met you.

Yes my dear I hope to go with you to the next oyster supper you go to, if you don't get t any more within the next 4 weeks. My dear it won't be long any more now until I expect to see you and as I once before told you, you need not be surprised if I shall be so happy to see you that I will hardly be able to talk, but you will find I shall prove to be a right bright and cheerful partner after all. I was glad you got me three turkeys and white ones too, I am sure I shall know them. You said you thought you would butcher before you came in after me, why of course you know what is best. I must stop here good bye Joe.

12:30

My dear:-

I will write you a few more lines now. It is raining today: the first rain we have had for sometime. You said you would have to go see Frank and Kate, why of course you will, and there are others that I want you to go see with me, before

we go back home. I don't think we will get run off, but I was pleased to hear you say, we would have a place to go to, in case they do.

My dear you said you were more lonely last Sunday than usual, now you won't have many more lonely Sundays if nothing happens, for when I am with you I won't allow you to get lonely. I just know we will both be so pleased when we get back home, that we couldn't be pleased better.

I sent in my resignation as teacher last Tuesday Jan 8. You said you supposed I would be glad when I was done tripping up the road to school. Yes I shall be glad because I expect to be with you after that. I know the children will be sorry to give me up. I have been coming on nicely with them so far. They don't know it yet, and I shall say nothing about it until they find it out themselves.

Joe you know it will be a wonderful change to me, but I am sure that I will make the best of it, and do believe it will be for the best, for I expect to be happy and above all hope you will be happier too. I do like housekeeping better than school teaching. Yes, my dear I believe I can say I will be glad when I am done going to school.

The Board will have no trouble in securing another teacher as that lady I told you off will take the school, maybe she has been notified by this time, they will be apt to attend to securing her before long.

Joe I don't know much more to write and I write so much anyway by writing so often, that I don't want to tire you by

writing a lot of stuff not interesting to you. Your letter was all right, everything you write is interesting, and I do prize your letters so very high, I could not like them more and there is no greater pleasure could be offered me than your letters, that is outside your presence.

I will mail this in the morning as I come to school. And you will get it no later than Monday, if it goes straight. Monday I will write again because I can tell you what the School Board said in regard to the end of the term: it will be in the paper Saturday. If I write too often you will have to tell me, but if you were here, I know you would come to see me twice a week if you could: and as you can't do that I will write you twice a week when it suits. Write me a letter again for next Friday if you can. I expect one the first of the week in answer to my last tetter. Good bye my dear your friend,

Eva

January 8 1901

Darrrtown Ohio

Tuesday night

Dear Eva

As I will expect a letter to morrow or next day I will write just a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope this will fiend you the same. You told me that I could read your long letter on rainy days. I tell you my dear it dont take me but a little bit to read your letters and thare never has bin one word in all the letters that I have received from you that I could not make out with enney trubel. But I am sure

that it has not been that way with you in my letters.

My dear you asked me to excuse you for being so frank in your expressions that is just what I want you to do speak out what ever you want to say. You know that man I spoke of moving in our little house I went to see him and I concluded that I did not want that man. He has such a large family and ar so verry poor. I never knowed him but I think thare will be outhers come along and if we get a married man that will suit. I think we will keep Joe Burns.

I am glad to hear you say that it is such a plesent trouble for you to ansor my letters. I know it is verry plesent for me to receive them. I did not expect enney letter on monday but I surly was pleased to get it. My dear I am invited to a big dinner on Thursday the 10. I think I will go. Now my dear I will close for this time or to night and will add some later. Good night my dear from your true and loving friend,

Josephus

January 9 1901

Wednesday night

Dear Eva

I did not get enney letter this afternoon so I will expect one to morrow. I will just write you a few lines to let you know I am thinking of you. It has been a verry ugly day to day. It rained this forenoon. The frost is coming out of the ground and it is muddy and nasty.

So your neighbor women think that you can doo any thing but get married. I gess that you think that you will show them that you can eaven doo that. I hope so anyway. I most ought to write to Frank but I hardly get time to think. I had better write to Martha about next week. I hope you will keep me informed wether Martha got better.

Now my dear to morrow I will go to that turkey dinner and I was just thinking how nice it would be if you was hear to go with me. I was thinking that if you succeeded in raising any white turkeys this summer that we mite have a little dinner next winter.

My dear our snowy days ar few and fare betwean so fare. I look for it next month. It would be a joke if I could get over thare and would have to stay till spring wouldend it. I tell you I would go up and board with Fred a bout 2 weeks. He sys Joe by ganneys I wish I would went west wen you went.

Dear Eva I will expect a letter to morrow wen I come home and will be thinking of you all the time. I will quit for to night with all my love and best wishes for you. Good night dear Eva,

Joe

January 10 1901

Thursday night

My Dearest and Beloved Friend

I am glad to tell you that wen I came home from that turkey dinner this eveing and found your good and kind letter

awaiting me. I was so glad to receive it and learn from it that you were well. I am glad to tell you that I am well outside of a slight cold.

Now my dear all you said to me about us getting married is just all right. Whatever arrangements you see fit to make will be all right with me. I don't want you to go to unnecessary trouble so far as a wedding is concerned and as you say you will try for the best. I know you will do that and that is all I ask and hope you will not be disappointed in Joe when he comes.

I am glad to hear you say that you enjoy my poor little letters that I am able to send you. Yes my dear I think we will both be happy and glad when we get back home and settle down to live together. My dear I expect it does seem a little strange for you to resign school. It wants to seem a little strange for me to think of going back east. It is never the less time I am going all the same God willing.

Dear Eva I want to thank you for the good letter that I got today and the many good things you told me. It makes me feel sure that we will be happy and I will be only too glad to put up with all the letters you can send one like that one. I can soon straten them out.

Now my dear I wrote too sheets before I received your letter today, you will see and don't know whether I can think of enough to fill this one of any thing that will be interesting to you very much. I know this much that I would only be too glad to have watched the old year out and the new one in. I believe

I told you that I was at a oyster supper that eving. I know Henry Schneider. He youst to live in this state. I never cared so much for him as I did for Frenly.

You say for me to just leave things about the house as tha ar now. All right I will. Of cours I have not said any thing to the folks about this only that I expected to take most of ther things and dont want to say enney thing till near time for thar is no one knows enney thing of it only some think that I am writing to some one and dont think that thare ar verry menney knows of that. But if tha ar still hear when the time comes for me to go I will explane to them and I think it will be all right with them to stay till we come home.

Now my dear I have all redy wrote a hole lot that meby you cant make out so I think I had better quit for this time and what you fail to understand I will tell you wen I see you and that will be before so verry long. You know I will mail this so you will get it monday. So good by for this time my dear Eva from your loving friend,

Joe

January 11,1901

Friday afternoon

Dear Eva

I will mail this letter at home to day as the wether is so bad and I am not fealing so verry good to day any way. I have such a bad cold I hope to feal better by to morrow. I hope this will fiend you well. I am so sorrie that I could not

get this letter in the mail this morning so you would get it
monday morning fir I hate to have you disappointed in not
geting it wen you ar looking for it but I am most shore that
you will get it on tuesday any way if not monday morn.

My dear this kiend of wether all ways makes me feal
more lonely then any outhur time and we have had cloudy and
dark wether all this week and I do hope for nice days for me to
come to see you. I think meby now we will have all our rain
now and have it nice in Febuary. My dear dont you think thare
was a kiend lady friend she is a married lady lives in indiana
sent me such a nice silk muffler yesterday throw the mail. I
got it with your letter. My dear I will tell you about that
lady wen you come home. Now my dear friend it is most time for
the mail and I will have to hurry and get throw and I would say
for you to be free and say whatever you want to to me and it
will be all right. My dear I wish that you wer allredy hear.
I know that you would make me some tea for my cold. I hope I
will feal better by to morrow. Now good by my dear for this
time from your loving friend,

Joe