

September 21 1900

Westminister Maryland

Mr. Joe Ditman, My Dear Friend:-

I just thought I would write you a few lines this morning, and then when I receive your letter, for which I shall be looking Monday, I will add some more and send it then right away as it takes sometime to go. Mr. Sam Gist is about dying if not dead by this time. This is Friday morning and this evening I am going home. Sunday, the revival meetings are to begin at 'Zion', I don't expect to get to go much. The weather has been nice and cool, and farmers are sowing grain. I hope you have had rain by this time. Prof. Simpson, the school examiner paid our school a visit this week. I was pleased to know he remembered us so well.

As I go home this evening I want to stop at Mrs. Ditman's. I wish I could see you there too. I hope the time will come, when I shall see you again. If you should make up your mind to come East, I would hope to see you, if not I suppose I will have to take an early start some morning and walk out to see you where you are! I will close for this time and write more when I get your letter. And you need never think of getting disappointed in not getting an answer from me. Of course sometimes it has happened that a letter might get mislaid in the mails. If I would ever want to stop writing I would tell you first and I would want you to do the same. But

I trust I will never have to stop writing to you: while you are away from where I am. For I intended to be your good friend as long as you will let me. You can just address M. E. Polster, "Wagon B", Westminister, Carroll County, Md. The carrier knows my mail goes in Holmes' box now, I told him. Goodbye

Mary

September 24 1900

Westminister Maryland

My Dear Friend:

I received your welcome letter a little while ago. I was looking for it, and was greatly pleased.

I went home last Friday and last night I went to 'Zion', and this morning my brother Andrew brought me up to Holmes', as I got to the mail box I seen the wagon had stopped and when I got to the house Mrs. Holmes gave me my letter. Last evening as I went to church Miss Grace Hooks' beau overtook me on the way, and took me along doen to Hooks. Grace said she had a sweet message for me. Harry wrote home and said that you had sent your love to all inquiring friends to one in particular, and she knew that was me. Now I told her maybe she was mistaken. And she said Harry wanted to know who this was, and she was going to tell him it meant me anyway. Mr. Samuel Gist died and was buried yesterday at Deer Park.

You said maybe your letters came to often for me. Now

you may know this is not correct, for there is nothing pleases me so well as to get a letter from you, only I wish I could be pleased oftener.

I won't tell you how often I read your letters over, not because I can't read them will the first time, but because it is a very great pleasure and it is all I can do. I stopped to see Mrs. Ditman last Friday, she was paring peaches. I told her of your nephew's death and gave her the slip of paper, she kept it to show to Mr. Ditman. She said "Mary you haven't kept me in the dark as much as you think you have, I knew you heard from Joe." They are all well and she said she was going to write to you soon. I seen Mr. Frank Schneider this morning and you know he had to say something about you. I don't want you to to any trouble when you write a letter for fear I can not make it out, I can read them just as well as need be, and need not improve, they are all right, and I treasure them.

You say you have no chestnuts out there, well I will gather some when they get ripe, they are not ripe yet, and I will save some for you, dont you forget it.

You said you had already put a fence around your affections, to keep them for me, I am very happy to think it is so, for I believe you would not tell me anything that you do not mean, and I assure you I am sincere in all I wrote.

You said you hoped I would never ask you to come to live in here. But you might ask me to live out there sometime. I would not want you to do anything that would be against you, for comfort and happiness go together to certian extent, and I

am sure I would not want you to be deprived of anything that adds to your happiness. But I do hope to be somewhere nearer to you sometime.

You said I might be mistaken in liking you. I dont think I am. I just liked your appearance and then I do feel that you are a truly good man, and believe I would admire you more the better I knew you and I think you would also learn to admire me more the better you would learn to know me. I will close for this time, there is more I could write but it is near nine oclock. I will mail this at dinner so you can get it sooner. I am well, hope you are well. Write so I can get your answer on Monday. Love to you.

A little more.

It is dinner time, a few lines more and I must go and mail this. You said you might be in long before next Aug. when our next picnic is to be. I won't have to say this pleases me, for you take this for granted.

I want you just to be frank in what you write and wish to know, for we are rather far apart to learn to know each other better personally, it will have to be in writing. Why I like to think of you is simply this. I like a settled good sensible man and think you are this, of course if I had any reason to believe differently I would try to forget you. For no one could be happy in the end if they were deceived by the other. But I can not have any fear of your not being just my ideal. And I dont think, if your taste is a good sensible

woman, you will be disappointed in me. I can not word this just as I want to but I trust you will understand. I wouldn't make anyone unhappy if I could help it and would not write to you if I thought I was laying up unhappiness for you.

But as you have my best wishes and favor, I will tell you to keep that fence around your affections. Write so I will get your answer next Monday. With love I am Your true friend,

Mary

September 25 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

You told me that you was just my best friend. If that is the case I dont think that thare would be enney harm in me caulng you my Dear Friend. I think that I have lots of friends hear but I know that thare is nun that seam so dear to me as you. I cant just tell you for why I think some times that I was sent over thare to come in contact with you. My best friends and even ower minister who shurly is a friend to me is urging me to go hear and thare and picking out girls that would be sooted for me. Now not that I want to bost or to flater you but I do say yhat of all the 100 or more ladys that I that I have saw in the last 2 years that made ther impreshion on my mind that you did and nun of my friends know that I have met a good Friend. Only ower minister. He cep [kept] talking to me what I out [ought] to do and whare I out to go. So I told him never mind that I thought that I had found a good

friend and he hasend botherd me since. Well he sys I am glad of it for you desurve a good woman and that is not all he sed. I will tell you later. Perhaps you will think that I have told you anough on that line. But however I will say this much more that you can just have me for your best friend onless we should both fiend owerselfs mistaken and for my self I dont think I am.

I have not writen to Mr. Schneider yet but will some of theas nice days. I will tell him that I am afrade to write to you for fear you would give me the mitten. He dusednt want enney one to mis use Mary. He sticks right up for you. He wants me to come over and by [buy] the Jack Eastern Store and quit farming. That would be a move wouldend it. My Dear Friend it is striking 10 oclock and I want to get up urly in the morning to commence sowing wheat. I will sow a bout 40 acers. I will write a little more tomorrow neight. Good Night.

September 26 1900

Darrtown Ohio

Wendsday

My Dear Friend

I will just scrach you down a few more lines. The wether is still drye and hot. I fear that we will have anuther failear in a wheat crop next year if we dont have rain soon. It is too dry to seed. We did not have enney wheat last year

but then I gess I will take it as it comes.

I was going to ask you do you have to walk to school from home. I mean I would think that a long walk. Now if I was over thare I woulend [wouldn't] let you walk. Now I will have to close this sheat and wen I get your next l [letter] I will write a little more.

Good Bye

You told me that you was just my best friend. If that be the case I dont think that thare would br enney harm in me caulng you my Dear Friend. I think that I have lots of friends thare but I know that thare is nun that seam so dear to me as you. I cant just tell you for why I think some times that I was sent over thare to come in contact with you. My best friends and even ower minister who shurly is a friend to me is urging me to go hear and thare and picking out girls that would be sooted for me. Now not that I want to bost or to flater you but I do say yhat of all the 100 or more ladys that I that I have saw in the last 2 years that made ther impreshion on my mind that you did and nun of my friends know that I have met a good Friend. Only ower minister. He cep talking to me what I out [ought] to do and whare I out to go. So I told him never mind that I thought that I had found a good friend and he hasend botherd me since. Well he sys I am glad of it for you desurve a good woman and that is not all he sed. I will tell you later. Perhaps you will think that I have told you anough on that line. But however I will tell you this much more that

you can just have me for your best friend unless we should both
friend ourselves mistaken and for my self I dont think I am.

I have not written to Mr. Schneider yet but will some of
these nice days I will tell him that I am afraid to write to
you for fear you would give me the mitten. He doesnt want
any one to mis use Mary. He sticks right up for you. He
wants me to come over and by [buy] the Jack Eastern Store and
quit farming. That would be a move wouldnt it. My Dear
Friend it is striking 10 oclock and I want to get up early in
the morning to commence sowing wheat. I will sow a bout 40
acres. I will write a little more tomorrow night.

Good Night

September 26 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend

My Dear Friend I will inform you that I just received
one of the best letters that I ever did receive. It was from a
dear friend that teaches school at Stone Market Maryland. I
must say that I am more than pleased with it and hope to get a
number more of the same kind.

In the first place you speak of Mr. Gist. Yes I youst
to know him and some of his girls too. He must of bin a perty
old man.

And I am glad to know that you ar geting along well in

chool for I allways hate to see enney one fail in whatever tha
undertake to do and I schurly wish you success in your work.

So you stoped at Marthis and she thinks that she is
being kept in the dark. Too bad ant it. She will be shure to
fiend it out some time. That was all right to let them have
that little slip of paper. You can let them keep it if you
want to. Now my Dear Friend I will lay this a side ontill I do
up my evings work and then I will finish to neight for I am
going to town in the morning and will want to mail this for you
so you will not be disappointed Monday morning.

Well I am throw [through] and will trye and write a
little more. As much as I would like to see you I would not
have you to start and walk out to see me. I am suar that you
would get lost in the montens [mountains] and then you see I
would not feind you wen I came East. You suarly will see me
and I promis you that you shal be one amung the first that will
see me.

You say that wen I want to quit writing to you I shal
tell you. All right I will attend to that part of it.

Miss Grace Hook is not a bad gesser is she. Harrie
shuraly dont know that I write to you. Thare isent enney one
got on to it yet but I am expecting my mail carrier to cach on
wen he feinds out that I get a letter every weak but that is
all right. I dont haft to tell them.

All right I will not forget about the chesnuts. Yes I
understand what you mean by saying a good sensible woman. That
is all right I havend got the last fear that you ar not just

wat you clame to be and what you have bin recemended to me by your friends. All so by my friends. Then I think I can read a person to some extend wen I see them ones ar twist. So I will keep that fence around my affections for you and will bild it a little hyer and stronger and will ask you to do the same for me and hope thare is a better day coming for both of us. I will haft to look for more paper.

I will just write a little more and ask you agan to excuse poor writeing and mistakes and mis spelling and so on. But I am glad that you say that you dont have enney trubel in understanding my letters. I dont want you to think for a minnet that your letters tier me. I can onley read them too quick and I want to thank you agan for this good one that I received to day for it did me so much good to read it and lern from it that I ever did me at such a Friend. I am only too sorrie that it is not my privelege to see you ones in a while.

Ower county fair is the first week in October. That is next weak but if it dont rain I dont think that ai will go for it is so dusty. And then I know before I go that I will not see you thare so I dont care to go. Now my Dear Friend I will haft to close my scribling for this time. It is neadless for me to ask you to write soon for you know that I will look for a good letter next wendsday afternoon and I hope that theas few lines may fiend you well as it leaves me. And I will ask you to remember that this poorly writen letter is from your loving & true Friend. Good neight.

Joe

September 28 1900

Westminister Maryland

Schoolhouse Friday morning

My Dear Friend:

It has been raining this morning, the first morning I had to come to school in the rain this year. We need rain badly, and we want it to rain some more.

I just thought I would write you a few lines and inclose them in my next letter. I am well and coming along nice. I hope you are the same. I expect to go home this evening, and tomorrow you may guess again what I am doing, as you are good at guessing, but I wish I could bake an extra cake or pie for you to eat.

I hope you have had rain and you are getting along nice with your seeding. Then the next will be corn husking. Dont you wish I could be there occasionally, just to boss the job?

We had a few hot days again, I suppose it was the same out there. There will be a sale at Easton's tomorrow a week, sale of personal property & stove goods. The place will be sold later. I want to go to the sale next Saturday, just to see the people I know. I will look for a letter Monday morning from you. Goodbye for today,

Mary

September 29 1900

Darrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend Mary

I thought that I would spend a little time to neight in writing you a few lines to inform you that I am well and hope this will fiend you the same alltho it will be 10 days before you get this. I am still sowing wheat. We did have a little rain to day but not verry much and the wether is a little cooler.

I will ask you what that E. is for in your name. I shal change your name a little. I never liked the name Mary. I will tell toy some time why.

Now if I was over thare to neight I expect I could fiend you at home as this is Saterdag. I think you have taught about three weaks now. (I will help you keep time). Mrs Burns is at home now. I expect that she will soon notis that I get letters perty often and will want to know whats up. I dont think I will write verry much to neight as I dont think that I am writing enney thing that will interest you verry much. I will wate till tomorrow after I come home from Church. Meby I can hear of something new. Good neight.

September 30 1900

Darrtown Ohio

This is Sunday afternoon my Dear friend. I was to church this forenon and thought that I would write you a few

lines to simply inform you that I am still think more about you then enney outhar persan living and how I wander what you ar dooing this Sunday afternoon. You dont know how glad I would be if it wer my privellige to be with you. I know that we could have a good time. I suppose you will be down to Zion to neight. Meby you can get a Kiend friend that will see you home but dont let him tare down that fence. Now I will lay this aside till eving wen I will rite some more. I will go over home as I caul it whare I youst to live.

Well My Dear Friend I have just come home and put up my horse and bugie and thought how nice it would be if I could drive over and take Mary to church to neight. I know that you would go with me. Instid I will have to go alone and meby thare will someone come along and let you ride with them.

I will be looking for a good letter on wendsday afternoon from you. I got my letter last weak on wendsday. My papper is geting full and I will have to quit and wate till I get my letter.

My Dear Friend I saw Harrie Hook since I wrote the last and he is trying to fiend out somthing. I think that Grase wrote a hole lot to him and sent your regards to me and he wanted to know what I wanted him to tell for you. I told him to thank you for what you had sent me. He sed that never mind Il fix up somthing that I would be geting some mail some of theas days. I told him that I didnt care what word he sent so it would be good. So it is likly that tha will have somthing to tell you after he writes home agan. He told me that you was

teaching school at Stone Market. He dusement know that I get letters from you. I am sure I all so wrote to Frank Schneider and gave him a lot of taffee and told him that he mite show the letter to you if he wanted to. If he dos let you see it I dont want you to pay enney attension to what I sed to him and you can get him to write to me agan. I like to have a little fun with him and keep him in the dark.

Harrie is speaking a good word for you I will tell you that much and I will have to get him to do the same for me to you if he knows enney thing good of me to tell you. I know one thing that he wont tell you enney thing that I would not tell you my self.

I hope you will be able to make all this out. I will quit for this time. Hope to hear from you soon. If I keep on I will have them fild up & you will not be able to read it. Good By.

I would like so well to have your picture it would do me so much good. My picture I will send you one wen I get a little time. Good by from a friend afar of [off]. Good Neight.

Good by from Joe

Your true friend

October 1 1900

Westminister Maryland

Mr. Joseph Ditman,

My Dear Friend:-

I received your welcome letter, last night. It came by the Saturday morning's mail, and as I was home, I did not get it until last night, Miss Dora went to church, and when I went up to my room your letter was on the bureau for me. I had a nice time at home as I had company near all the time I was home. I went to see Mrs. Zepp and down to old Mr. Freyman's Sunday morning to make out a bill for him against Mr. Easton's estate. I would have staid to church last night, but I was afraid by the looks of the weather it would rain this morning, and be ugly to come up to school, and sure enough it is raining, and I was glad I came up last evening. I stopped at Mrs. Ditman's an hour or so, she has such good grapes, and said I should stop and get some, so I did and took Dora a few bunches. She was reading papers that Lewis her son brought up Sunday before, he was home, and showed him the death of the soldier you sent. Mr. Ditman was out collecting money for the preacher. She knows I hear from you, but she did not tease me. I was right glad of this.

Now My Dear Friend I must tell you, that Schneider and Mrs. Kate know I hear from you. I was over there sometime ago, and they went a piece home with me, and he asked so plain and flat whether I ever got a letter from you, saying he would not mention it to anyone, and did not want me to tell him and Kate a lie. Well I could not, I said yes. And Mrs. Schneider just gave you the best name, and truly believed you were just a perfect gentleman. Of course this was very nice to hear. Now

I just tell you this, so when toy write to him, you will know he knows I hear from you. But I don't think anyone beside Mrs. Ditman and they (Schneider & his wife) know it. You know I wouldn't care who knows it, but I don't want people to have the pleasure of talking about it. I am sorry the weather still continues dry with you. I hope it will have rained before you get my letter. You spoke of a fair in your county. I only wish I could be there to go with you, but as it is you can go and try to enjoy yourself anyway; so you din't see any girl you think is Fairer than I am. I expect to hold you to your promise to eat chestnuts that I shall gather. I will keep them for you, if I have to keep them for a long long time.

I was glad to hear that you beleived your minister a good friend to you. I like a man that finds a friend in his minister, it shows that you appreciate good friends. I believe if he knew me like our ministers do, he would be better pleased with your selection. For Mr. Hill, who is in roxbury, Pa, now, and who was our pastor for 3 years, once told my sisterinlaw, that he had never before known a woman that was liked any better than I, or that had a larger circle of friends than I had: yet I never hear a good complement, but what I feel thankful to God, for giving me wisdom to live a life that merits praise sometimes.

And I trust our friendship wull result so, that in the end we will both have cause to be thankful to Him, for ever meeting each other.

I was surely pleased with your letter, there is nothing

would have pleased me better beside you presence.

I am so glad you were pleased with my letter, it made me very happy to hear you speak so well of it. You said Mr. Schneider said you should by the Jack Easton property. I wish it were yours, I believe you and I could learn to be pretty good store keepers, that is if you let me clerk for you. It is a good situation for a country store, nice house and about 3 acres of land. But I wouldn't ask you to come East if you can be happier or better fixed out there.

You said you were building that fence higher and stronger about your affections. And asked me to do the same. I have done that. For you built such a high fence, Monday Aug. 20, I haven't been able to see or think of anyone else since. And the good letters I get from you makes that fence stronger every time. I will have to close soon, as I will have to mail this, so you will get it Wednesday night. Write as you did the last time and I will get your letter Sunday evening or Monday morning. I may write you more next time as you don't seem to tire of my letters. And I don't want you to make any more excuses about your writing. It is the dearest writing in the world to me. Hoping you are well as I am now, I remain your true friend

Mary

Love to you and best wishes.

October 3 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Well My Dear Friend Mary I was at my mail box this afternoon looking for the mail carrir and wen it came it was a lady carrier and thare was one of my neighbors with me. He ask her if she had a letter for him. She sed no but she had one for Joe from his best girl and shure anuf thare was a good nice letter from you. Just what I was looking for and I thank you verry much for your kiendness that you ar showing to ward me. You say that your letter came on Saterdag. I can tell you how that is if I get to take your letter to town it will go one day sooner. If I put it in my box it will not leave Darrtown till next day.

However I will promes to do the best I can and know how in everyy respect. You speak of those nice grapes yes I well remember seeing those nice bunches and how I wish that I could of enjoyed some of them with you. So Marthia knows of ower friendship. You may kindly remember me to them and tell Marthia that I am still looking for that letter from her. And you tell me that Frank & Kate knows of ower corrispodence. I dont care. That is all right. I think that I have all redy written on anuther sheet you will see and I expect Frank has his letter by this time and will have somthing to tell you wen you see him agan and as I told you before if he shows you his letter I hope you wont pay enney attension to what I sed to him. If he writes to me agan I will make it all right with him. He will know that I am trying to fool him.

You say for me to go to the fair and enjoy my self. No I will not go I gess. I was to town to day with a load of

corn and will go on Friday and if I was to go to the fair I would not look for a girl dont you forget.

And I will ask you somthing about eating those chestnuts and wen the best time to eat them a little later on. I forgot to tell you that ower minister has bin taken away from us and we have a new one. Now I dont know wether I will like this one as well or not. My old friend was here 4 years. I have received a letter from him not long ago and I ow him a letter. I can give you his address and let you write to him for me. I wish you would and have him write to you. I would just like to know what he would tell you of me. His address is Bethany, Butler County O, Rev John H Lease. If you do write to him tell him that I told you to and you wish to know somthing about Joe Ditman. Now my Dear Friend if I am asking to much of you tell me so. Well I am at the end [of the sheet] and not thrau yet.

My Dear Friend I had to hunt a little more paper. Now I want to say that if I scip some good things you tell me of in your letter and dont happen to mension all of them. I want you to take it for granted that I hyley appreciate all you say and dont fear of geting your letters too long, the longer tha ar the better I like them. I am suarly glad to hear you say that you get along all right understanding my writing and can read them with out enney trubel. I cant help wishing some times that I could write a good letter to you that would pleas you. I just feal like if I was over thare with you to neight I would talk you to sleep. I will not get half thraw telling you wat I

wanted to tell you.

I wanted to tell you about some little pigs I have. There is 33 of them and I bet you never saw enney thing so perty in your kife. Tha ar about 2 weaks old and just so fat that tha cant see. I was wishing this afternoon that Mary could see them pigs. Well I will have to close for this time. I hope you can read my scribling. Good neight. Your Loving Friend Joe. Of corse you will know that I will be watching the mail next wendsday for a letter from you. Write soon, good by. From Your True Friend,

Joe

October 5 1900

Darrtown Ohio

Miss Mary Polster

My Dear Dear Friend

This is Friday neight and I an some what lonely so I just thought that you wouldnt car if I would write you a few lines. I know it will be a long time before you get this but meby it will seam kiender new to you enney way. I know it would seam that way with me if you would write 2 weaks before I would get it. It would seam just as fresh as if you had writen it the same day.

So I will tell you that I mist the fair and was hauling corn to town to day and met with lots of folks that I now [know] well and wanted to know why I was mising the fair. I told some of them busness before plesher [pleasure]. Well I am

sorrie to tell you that the wether is still drye and hot. I fear the wheat will do no good but will spoil if it fails to rain soon. I forgot to tell you in my last letter that I would not object to you bossing the corn husking if I thought that you could beet me at it.

Well my Dear Friend I will quit for to neight and will write more later. And I subpose you will be at the sale tomorrow. But I dont want you to by enney thing onless you could sell agan and dubel your monnie. And I know that you will see Frank & Kate and I want you to tell me what tha sed about that letter I sent them. Tha will give it to me I know.

Good neight Dear

October 5 1900

Westminister Maryland

Friday night (9 oclock)

My Dear Friend:-

I cannot help writing you a few lines, not that I have anything particular to tell you, but just to let you know I am thinking of you.

I am home tonight, just got done washing up dishes, etc. and pap has gone to bed, and I am alone. I wish you were here, if only for an hour, I suppose you often wish the same. But as it is, I am right glad I can write to you, and think of you. Maybe I am getting my letter most too sweet, but you did send me such a good kind letter the last time, that I am still so

pleased, I can't help from expressing the kind thoughts I entertain for you.

It cleared away this evening after being cloudy and rainy for one whole week. Yet it did not rain so much. I hope you had rain by this time. Some wheat is up in our neighborhood, and others are not done seeding it. I seen your brother Lewis at the blacksmith shop today, and as I came home Mrs. Ditman came out to the road and talked awhile. I am getting along nice with my school, I believe people like me pretty well. I have sixteen pupils now, there were not near so many last year so I am well pleased.

Tomorrow I want to go to the sale and tomorrow night I will write you a few lines more. You say you can only read my letters too quick, I will try and write enough to read this time. I am out of letter paper, I have not been to Westminster for so long, and out here a person can't buy what they want. I will close for tonight.

Good night from Mary
October 7 1900
Westminster Maryland
Sunday

My Dear Friend:

I did not get to write to you last night. Yesterday afternoon I attendec the sale at Eastons', and last night I had company, among them were Mr. & Mrs. Schneider. I had a good time at the sale, I seen a great many people I was glad to see.

This morning I went to 'Zion' to church. We have just got an elegant good man for a minister, and we had a good morning service. I wish you could have been with us. I am going up to school as soon as I get supper over, for fear it might be bad in the morning; it has been cloudy like all day. I hope or rather expect a letter will be awaiting me when I get up to Holmes. My Dear Friend, People are begining to fond out I am writing to you and I did not tell any ones but Mrs. Ditman, Mr. & Mrs. Schneider. But Mrs. Schneider told me last night, that Mr. Ditman told Frank, that the woman at the tollgate, Mrs, Gist watched me put letters in the box, and watched the mail carrier take them out, and seen they were to you. The letter box is right in the tollgate. She went to a good bit of trouble, but I don't care. She may watch again this week. Schneider said he got a letter from tou, and would let me see it if I came over. He was pleased with it. Well I will close for now. Will write more when I get your letter. (This paper blots but I recon you can read it)

October 7 1900

Westminister

Sunday night

My Dear Friend:

I am so glad to tell you, that I am very happy over your letter which I just received and read. You said you wish you could write me a nice letter to please me. Well your letters are just nice enough for me, they just please me more

than anything else in the world could, outside of your presence. I was glad to hear that you were well, and that you had a little rain, and that you are sowing wheat. I hope you will have more rain and that everything will work for your welfare.

I came up here to Holmes' just as it was getting dark, as I went home past Mrs. Hortons our neighbor, she said she would take me up to Holmes, so I got to ride. She is very good and kind to me. I did not go to church last Sunday night nor tonight because it was cloudy, and I thought it might rain in the morning, and be ugly to come then. You said I might get some kind friend to let me ride with them to church, so that fence would not be torn down. Well need not fear, for I do beleive that fence is turning to a stone wall, high and strong, and no one can tear it down. Last evening there was a fellow stoped at our house. He professes to think much of me, I have told him repeatedly that I care nothing for him. I just told him I had a friend I did care for, and it would be no use for him to care for me. I did not tell him who; but he said if he could he would do anything to keep me from liking him.

When Mr. & Mrs. Schneider went home, I went to bed and left him talking to pap. I reckon he will give me up. I don't wish to treat anybody mean, but I am not his girl. Mr. Schneider was so amused at him, he said he was going to tell Joe, I had another fellow. You said I was to pay no attention to what you said in the letter you wrote Schneider, thats all right, I just don't want you to think for one moment that I

would get offended at you, for I know, or think I know, you would do nothing willingly to offend me, and I know I would do nothing to offend you: for I appreciate you so highly that I have the kindest regard for you I can Have.

You said you had such nice little pigs, I would love to see them, but I reckon I won't get to do so.

My Dear Friend Joe, you said you did not like the name of Mary, well E stands for Eva you will have to call me this or a nick name. I don't care what you call me, so you like me a little bit.

You said you wish you were here last Sunday and I suppose you are wishing the same this Sunday. I know I would, if this would make it so. But I hope you will be here sometime when it suits for you to come. It is a good ways to come, and a little expensive, but I expect to be happy sometime (God willing) and hope to see you happy.

Sunday night is a sweet night, and if my letter is sweeter than you think I ought to write, you will have to excuse this. You know I only think of you my thoughts are not divided, so where only one subject is prized, that is generally prized highly.

You said I might write to your minister in regard to you, Now I don't want you to think I do not believe you a perfect good noble man. I feel you are this. But for your curiosity to know what he would say of you I might write, not for my own, for I feel safe to trust you. You said you would like my picture, well I have not been to town for so long, and

won't get to go just yet, but I will send you one as soon as I can get them taken. I shall be pleased to get your picture, and am afraid I will look at it much. Grace and Grant Hook said we would all three go to town sometime. Next Saturday our "Aid Society" meets at the church, I want to go, as I am President.

You say Harry Hook is speaking a good word for me all right. I don't know whether old aunt Polly and Grant would or not, I think Grant likes me pretty much himself. My paper is getting all [full]. My letter is rambling, but you will have to look over this. No more excuses about your letters, they are all right I can read them right along. And they are the dearest letters in the world to me. Write and if you can not get to town to mail it, I will get your letter Monday morning any way: yet they are dear to read Sunday night. I am well, hope you keep well.

With my sincerest best wishes I am your true friend

"Eva"

Good night.

Post scripts

I have Miss Dora's pen and its a bad one. I can't write nice with it. Hope you can read it all.

I thank you for your kind letter I received tonight it makes me feel real happy. Sometime I hope we will be happier by your presence.

October 8 1900

Westminister Maryland

Monday morning

My dear friend Joe

I will write you a few more lines. We just had a fine rain after midnight. it thundered right heavy several times. This morning is very cloudy yet, not raining just now. I will mail this letter as I go to school: then I won't have to go to the mail box at dinner. I will close, write right away. And remember that I am your best and dear friend and build that fence high and strong for me.

I suppose my letter will be long enough and you write yours just as long as you can

Your true friend

"Eva"

Tell me how this part of my name is liked by you. This is no nice looking letter for me to write, but the intention is sincere.

Good bye

Eva your friend

lovingly.