

October 6 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Well this is Saterdag neight Oct 6. I have good news to tell you that is that we have had such a fine rain today. It has bin raining since noon and is raining niceley just now and looks as if it will continue all neight. I will ask you to join with me in being thankful fore it. I am so glad of it. We did nead it so bad. The wheat will come up niceley now for witch I have bin so oneasse [uneasy] that it would mault in the ground and never would come up. I think it will be all right now.

I forgot to tell you last neight that I saw Harrie Hook going to the fair yesterday. I must all so tell you that you have bin on my mind all day to day thinking that you was at the sale and seing lots of your old friends and wondering how it would be with you if some one dear to you was to ask you to leave that cuntry and all those friends. Think if it.

I suppose you and your father ar siting together now talking about one thing and anuther and meby you ar dooing up some of your work that you did not get dun this morning. Now I see my paper is geting full and I wont have no space for tomorrow neight. Meby I can fiend some moer paper. I will see. I will close for this time.

Good neight from Joe.

October 7 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend

I will write you a few lines and tell you what I have bin dooing. This morning I have bin looking over the letters that I have received from you. Thare are 6 in number and I dont feind one that is not a good letter and would not part with enney of them for enney thing.

I am glad to tell you that it is still raining. I think we will have plenty now and I hope you have the same. I want to go to church this afternoon if it dont rain too hard. I will lay this aside ontill eveing and I will try to scribble some more but I fear something that I scribel so much that dont amount to verry much. If I doo I want you to tell me and I will try to make my notes sharter. Good By for to day.

Well Mary this is Sunday eve. I will try to write a little more. I hope you ar reading my last letters to neight as you did last Sunday neight. I will have to tell you that this has bin one of those lonelyst days that I have had for a long time. It has bin raining nearly all day and the folks all went away early this morning and left me all alone. And I did not go to church but I know I shuld of gone if the wether was a little bad. I will go to town early in the morning. One of my neighbors wants me to haul a load of wheat for him. It is the man that Joe Burns works for. Joe was hear late this eving. I did not see Harrie Hook to day. Now I expect that I will not get to rite enney more ontill wendsday neight. I am sure that

I will get a good letter wendsday afternoon. Good night your
good friend,

Joe

October 10 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My Dearest Friend

Witch I am begining to beleave you are to me and the
more I read thare dear & good and sweet letters that I get from
you the more I think so. Yes I received your letter at 3
oclock this after noon and it found me well and busy. But
never so busy but what I have time to read those dear letters
for it is one of the gratest pleshers that I have to read them.

I know Jennie Gist and I know whare the mail box is.
So she is watching you. Thats all right. Let them say what
tha want to about it. I am sure that I dont care if you dont.
I dont want enney one to know it hear as long as I can help it.
I want to keep them gessing.

Now Eva I want to tell you somthing that I had not
spoke of before. I think you know that Billie Burns and his
wife have bin keeping house for me and I have bin renting a
part of my land to Billie giving him one 1/3 of what he raised
and I furnished him every thing. So wen I came home I
concluded that I would not rent enney more and doo the seeding
all my self as I had a hand beside Billie and could doo verry
well. So Billie sys that if I did not let him have enney

ground that he would not stay. So I told him all right. His wife was in Ill at the time so he wrote to hur about it and I think as near as I can tha are fixing to move to Illinois in the spring. So you can see that wen tha are gone I will be alone. That is ontill you ar redy to come. I dont want to get a strange family in hear and try to stay with them. I would rather be alone ontill I get one who will take an interest in what I have. Will you tell me what you think of it.

My Dear Friend you asked me to tell you how Eve was liked. Dont you know that is the dearest name on earth to me. I all ways liked the name Eva. You know brrother Lewis have a Eva and I always thought that she was one of the sweetest neaces that I had. So if you dont care what I call you so I like you a little bit I will call you Eva and like you a hole lot.

I am glad that you had rain. I have all redy told you of ower rain. I will say right hear that your letters are all right. Dont you fear what you say.

My Dear Friend I will make an arant [errand] to town in the morning with this letter as it ant [aint] but 4 miles so you can have this to study out Sunday neight wen you have plenty of time. You said that you hope that I could make your letters all out everry scrach of it. I will close for this time with my best & keindly wishes and with much love. Your true Friend. Good night.

Joe

October 11 1900

Darrtown Ohio

My Dearest Friend I will just write a few more lines to
Impres on your mind of how often and how much I think of you.
You said that you didnt know wether aunt Pollie and Grant
would speak a good word for you. I know one thing that tha
wont speak enney harm of you. I dont blame Grant for liking
you. I never could blame enney one for dooing enney thing that
I was giltey of my self. And I want you to like him and treet
him good but not so good as to tare down that stone wall.

I will ask you did Harrie Hook ever say enney thing to
his folks to your nolage about me and whare I lived and so on?
I know if he did you will tell me you know that. I thought of
100 things that I was going to rite right quick this morning to
you but you see I am redy to go to town. I cant just think of
what I want so I will hasten on. So this little letter will be
on the road East werd by 10 oclock and how I wish I could
creap down in one corner of it and come too. But never mind I
will be thare if nothing happens in due time. Now My Dear
Friend I will have to go and mail this letter for you wich is
the best I can doo so pleas remember me as your true and verry
best friend on earth with much love from Joe.

Good by for this time

October 12 1900

Darrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend Eva

Wen I came to my room and have a little spar time I cant help but look over those good and nice letters that I get from you. And spend a good menney happy moments looking over them. And think to my self is it posibel that I have met such a grand good friend as I have. It makes me feal trully happy to think of you and know that you ar just the kiend of a person that I was looking for. And I hope that everry thing will turn out in the end just as I have it pictured out in my mind. And I am satesfied that if it dos not that it will not be my fault. And more then that I will be one of the worst disipointed men that ever did live. I surely am not mistaken in the person. This is Friday neight 12 and subpose that you ar home with your father and meby you ar just dooing what I am trying to do that is to write. You told me so menney times not to say enney more about my riteing. I am so glad that you say that you can get along with it all right. I only hope you can.

The wether is threting rain agan. It looks verry much like it would rain before morning. My Dear friend if it dos not rain to morrow I want to drive about 26 miles north. I will go to see John Beard. I expect your father youst to know him. He is a brother to Billie Beard that married Mary Rosenbarger, Marthas sister. You know Mary Beard that lives down on Deerpark. Then when I come back I will tell you of my trip. I expect I had better lay this aside and whate and think of somthing that will interest you.

October 12 1900

Westminister Maryland

Mr. Joe Ditman,

My dear Friend:-

I will take pleasure to write you some lines tonight, not because I have anything very interesting to write, but just because I am thinking about you: and that you will have more to read when I answer your next letter: and you said I need not fear of getting my letters too long.

Well another school week has gone for me, and I suppose my very dear friend in Ohio is still helping me to keep time, for which kindness I am thankful.

I suppose you are done sowing wheat by this time. Pap sowed his this week, he seem to get along all right with out me through the week, so far.

Tomorrow afternoon there will be an auction at Easton's, more store goods they did not sell last Saturday. Mr. James W. Frizzell sent me a lot of leaflets to distribute, among them one the life of John G. Woolley, and as he was born in Butler Co. I will enclose this one, it may be new to you. Mr. Frizzell is a very good friend of mine: he was prohibition nominee for Comptroller of Md. 4 years ago. Maybe you used to know him?

I want to go to Westminister tomorrow a week, and if it is fair, I will have my pictures taken, and send you one as soon as I get them. I shall be truly glad to get yours as soon

as it suits you to send it.

I will bring these lines to a close for tonight, and may write you a little more tomorrow night. We have had no frost to hurt anything yet so far. The weather had been right cool, but is warmer again, and looks like we might have rain. Well good night, Your true friend.

"Eva"

October 14 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Sunday neight 8:15

My Dearest and Best Friend

I have just arived home from my trip that I told you about in the fore part of this letter and promest you I would tell you of it wen I came home. I must tell you that it was rather a lonely trip so far and I found the folks all well and getting along all right.

Well my Dear Friend I hope that you are injoying my last letter that I sent you about this time that is if thare is enney injoyment in it for you wich I hope thare is a little bit at least and Hope that you ar giving me a little of your preshes time in writing me a few good lines for wemdsday. You know that I will be looking for a good werd from my Eastern friend on wendsday afternoon. I hope you will use Doras' bad pen agan if you havent enney better for I can read it all right. Enney way I dont see enney thing rong with it at all.

Now I will close this part and will promes to rite more to
morrow neight. Good neight for this time.

Joe

October 14 1900

Westminister Maryland

Sunday night.

Mr. Jos. Ditman, My Dear Friend:-

I will take great pleasure now to write to you. I received your very kind and dear letter, and just read it. It was very much pleased to get such a nice letter from you. I was glad to hear you were well, and hope you will remain so. I am well. I was also much pleased to hear you had such a nice rain, and heartily join with you in being thankful.

We had a good rain last night. I went to the auction yesterday afternoon, and we went from the sale up to the church and had our Ladies Aid Society meeting, then we went back to the sale. I came home with Mr. Magin's in the wagon, but the wind blew so hard and the rain blew in on us and I got right wet. So when I got home and got supper over, I put off writing to you last night, not that I did not think of you. I think of you so often, it seems near all the time.

You said you were lonely sometimes, well I do too, when I think of you and know I can't see you. I am glad you do think of me when you are lonely and write. Don't you ever fear of getting your letters too long, you can't do that, and write

everytime you do get lonely though I would not want you to feel this way too much. So write when you are lonely and when you are not lonely. Write anytime it suits you and as much as convenient. You can always be sure that I will be happy to read what you write.

You said you did not go to the fair, well maybe next time you will go and take me along?

Frank and Kate were at the sale yesterday. A lot of things sold cheap, and they bought a good many things. I did not buy much, you see I took your advice, before it came.

Mr. Schneider came over to our place this afternoon, and I went along home with him, and then up to school from there. He showed me the letter you sent him and had a good laugh, about you trying to lead him about in the dark. He said he was going to write you before long.

You asked me if Harry Hook ever said anything about you to me. No, he did not tell me anything about where you lived. But Grace said: you were [missing page]

And I will have to write you several letters to use them: but I am only too happy to write you. I will close now - good night.

With best wishes and love I am your true friend,

"Eva"

October 15 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend

I promest you that I would write more to neight but I gess I will not get to write verry much. It is all redy late. The clover huller came to my house to neight to hull my clover to morrow. Thats why I did not get to write sooner so I will just rite a few lines to let you know that I am still thinking of you. And that fence is still becoming stronger and dont fear that it will be torn down. So I will write more to morrow neight and tell you how much seed I had. I expect no grate site. So good neight.

October 16 1900

Darrtown Ohio

Well my Dear Friend Eva accorden to promes I will trye and write a little more to neight. The wether is real cool to neight, cold anuf for frost. I expect this keind if wether will ripen chesnuts. I wish I could help you pick some of them. Joe Burns & Harrie Hook wer hear on Sunday but I was not at home. I would of bin pleased to of seen Harrie to see what word he had got from Maryland. Can you tell me how his girl is over thare. I think her name is Mary. I wish you would tell me if you know. Well my loved one to morrow is the day for me to get my good letter if it dont get throwed of [off] of the track some plase which I hope not so I will close for this time and will rite more tomorrow neight. Good neight yours

loveingly,

Joe

October 16 1900

Westminister Maryland

Tuesday

Mr. Jos. Ditman,

My dear Friend:-

I am going to surprise you Saturday, by sending you a letter, and I trust you will think it all consistent.

I don't like the idea of your letters being here near 2 days and a night, before I can get them. So if it suits you all right we will change the program, as it will be best pleasing to me, and I think it will be right enough for you too. I will send you my letters, so you can get them on Saturday, then you can read them and answer Sunday, and so I will get yours on Wednesday. This way I will get your letters as soon as the mail brings them. I wrote the last letter I sent you Sunday night in such a hurry, that I did not get to say just all I wanted to on certain subjects. I wanted to mail it on my way to school Monday morning. Mrs. Gist was at her post: its all right for my part, she is kind to me, this makes her have an interest in me.

You asked me if Harry Hook ever said anything to me in regard to how you live. No: and no one else has said much but I took it for granted that you had a home of your own, when you

said in one of your letters, that you hoped I would never ask you to come East; yet if you could bring your farm along, you might talk differently. If you would hve no home of your own, I do think I would try to persuade you to come East. But as it is I will ask you nothing that will be against your comfort and welfare, and would be willing to submit to that which would be best for us both.

Mr. & Mrs. Schneider were talking some time back, and among it Frank said Joe will have to sell off and come East, we are never going to let him take Mary away from here. Mrs. Kate too, said I reckon not, if she would have to see me go away, she would not have made your acquainted with me. I did not say anything to cause them to say this, they just said it in with the talk when they were teasing me, because he said he wanted to write to you, and wanted to find out what to tell you. This was before you first wrote him. So from his conversation I took it for granted that you had a home. Now, my dear friend, I am not writing this to convey the idea that I want to know your circumstances in life. I would not care whether you have much or little. Only, if you had no settled home: and nothing to give up but friends, I would then ask you to come East. But as I presume it is, I would not ask you to give up your home, and come here, where you might not be able to be fixed in life, as you are now. You would have more than friends to give up, where I would only have friends.

So if there should be a sacrifice made, I guess it would fall to my lot, for the good interest of us both.

You are well aware that I can make a fair living for my self, when there is no preventing Providence, and that there would be no other motive for my careing for you, than pure admiration and ---- well, I guess I will have to say love, which I trust would never grow less on either side, through better acquaintance and presence.

I am invited to an apple cutting for apple butter, at Jennie Gist's to night. I wish you were here to go along with me, I often wish you were here, I'd let you go along to different places real often. We have had no frost yet to hurt any thing, and chestnuts are not opening fast, but I will get them gathered until you come in. Yesterday and today have been lovely days and I am getting along nice at school, I have 18 pupils now, and I think they all like me. I suppose you will soon be husking corn, I know you will miss me, if I am not there to do the bossing: if you had not expressed fears of me getting lost in the mountians I might have walked out some day, and seen how you were coming on? I will stop writing for to day, maybe I can think of some more to write tomorrow. You have Sunday to read my letter in and so I won't care how much I write, even if all of it is not very interesting. Good bye.
Your true friend.

Eva.

October 17 1900

Darrtown Ohio

My Dearest Friend

Your letter was gratefully received this afternoon and was truly happy to read all you had to say. Now I would say in regard to what I said in my last letter to you I truly thought it my duty to let you know my intentions and have you consider the matter before going so far with it. I will tell you now that I would rather not come but one time and that will be when you can be ready to come home with me and I would not want to stay over there more than 4 or 5 days or such a matter.

Now my Dear Friend if you should conclude not to come to live with me you know I know that we had better quit writing. But I hope that you will consider this and decide favorably. You know that it would be mean in me to keep writing to you for a year or more and then tell you that I did not care for you. It would be the same with you so I think it best to have an understanding at this early day. I know it will be better for both of us to know each others wishes. I don't want to crowd you but I want you to take your own [own] time and have your own mind truly made up and then go ahead. As I told you before I have not seen a woman that I have thought of as I have of you and I know that I can love you to death. I have the kindest feeling for you. And if you should conclude not to marry me I shall never forget you or forgive you. Think over it and please don't be offended.

This Mr. Wooley prohibitioner you sent me I never know him. But what I want to tell you is that the widow lady that she is plaguing me so much about lives at Collinsville, O where

he was borne. It is only 4 miles East of my place. I am glad you sent it to me.

You told me to write to you when I was lonely and when I was not lonely. That would be writing all the time. I think that is the case. Enney way I dont care. For I dont think that that I could spend my time enney better than write to a Dear friend as you seam to be to me. And I shurley trye to be the same to you if you will let me. You was speaking of going to the fair with me the next time. I will onley be too glad to take you and hope it will be so.

So Frank showed you that letter. I hope he will rite to me agan. So the people want you at the burg to teach. You can tell them all that you have a chool for next year. I will have to close now My Dear Friend. I will mail this in the morning. If I doo have to walk a 1/2 mile to a nuther line that will take it to Collinsville so it will go out right away. I hope you will be abel to give to give me a defnet ansor soon. And I will remain your true and best and kiendest friend.

Joe

Be shore and write soon

October 17 1900

Westminister Maryland

Wednesday morning

My Dear Friend:-

I will write you a few lines more this morning. The weather suddenly changed to cooler last evening. Last night and this morning was real cold. I went to the apple peeling last night. We got through until 1 o'clock, and Mrs. Gist's son went home with me. I saw an old friend, yesterday as I went home from school, and had a long talk. John Utermahlen, the cigar maker in Pleasant Valley. I don't know whether you know him. He is a great friend of Schneider's. He said to me, "How is your friend coming on?" I told him I did not know who he meant. He said Ditman. He said he knew the rest of the brothers well, but this one not. He had heard your first name, but had forgotten it. I told him that was more than I could say, that I remembered your name very well. He laughed, and said; "I dare say you do." He said he would advise me not to go out there, but would want you to come in here. I told him he was talking quite a lot, when I did not even know whether you ever thought of me. But he wouldn't believe me. He married Mrs. Mamie Wolf, a very good friend of mine. And he wanted me to go home with him last evening, but going and coming back this morning, would have been too far for me. I will stop writing for this morning as it will soon be time to take in school. With best wishes and love I am your true and sincere friend, Eva

I will add a few more lines and close for this time. I will mail this letter in the morning, and you will then get it Saturday. And I trust it will be a surprise to you. I am glad

you expressed a desire to get in a corner of the envelope in your last letter, and come along in as it came. I an sure I would have been pleased, but I am afraid I could not have carried the letter. Well my dearest friend, write so that I will get your letter on Wednesday of course if you could not get to mail it in town,if you send it so I get it Thursday morning, I can answer right away and send at dinner time, but this would be a short time to write a long letter. Your true friend,

Eva

October 19 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My Dear Friend Eva

I just thought that I would commence to write you a nuther letter. I want to tell you that the last letter that I mailed to you has bin on my mind ever since I mailed it. I fear I said somthing meby that I had not ought to. I hope you will understand me and not be offended at me for I surely feal that I ought to tell you just what I think about this matter. You know that I will not deserve you in enney thing if I know it. There is one thing that I want to say is that I dont want you to think that I would want to bring you out hear and never be abel to go back to Maryland to pay ower loved ones a visit. I have all ways bin able to do that wen I felt like going and I hope you will not be enney poorer by having you with me nor I

will not say that we would never go back there to live over last days. But we would rather have to sell over farm or rent it out.

My Dearest Friend I dont know wat I would give if I could just have too 2 owers talk with you personley. I know that we could understand each outhere so much better than I can write tho I expect you think that I was no grate talker wen I was with you. But you kmow we ar better acquainted now. Then we did we did not have verry much chance to get much acquainted you know nor did we have much time to talk. That is one thing I am sorrie of yet that we did not get acquainted erlyer in my visit. But I hope that is all right. I feal that it is enney way. I am sure I like you more then enney one els that I saw Enney where. And have the gratest confidence in your cincarity toward me. I will say anuther thing that if I didnt think that I could treet you and keep you like a lady I would not ask you to come and live with me to make anijer as the saying is of you No never of corse there is no use for me to go to work and tell you that we would or could live on a farm and have nothing at all to doo for you know better than that. What I mean that we would be able to work as we felt able and about as we want to. To make a long matter short we would try to have a good and happy time the balance of ower lives.

My dear friend I still feal afrade that you wont be able to make out all of my bad writing and mis spelling. Still I feal glad wen you tell me that you can read it all good. Now I will have to close for to neight and will write more later.

I remain yours with much love.

Joe

Good neight

October 20 1900

Darrtown Ohio

My Dearest Friend Eva

I hope that you will exsept my menney thanks for the good and kiend and nice letter that surprised me so nicely this eving. Dont you know that I first thought it was from you. Then I looked agan and I could see that it was a little diferent writing. That is you didnt write the address just like the rest of them. I tell you I was not long in fiending out whare it was from. Now dont you see how much you and I ar of the same miend. I was just thinking of that verry same thing and thought verry much of mailing you a letter on Monday morning. Why of corse that change is just the thing. I am so glad you thought of it. That will give me my letter Saturday neight instid of you witch will make it so much better all around.

My Dear friend I cant help thanking you for this agan and hope all will be well. I didnt know that thare was such a nice letter awating me this afternoon for to neight and I expect it was well that I did not or the corn feild would not of held me till neight.

Yes I am busy husking corn. I will have from 2500 to

3000 bushels makeing a rought gess at it and will not be dun for some time yet. I will have to haul of a load or 2 of potatos that will hinder me from husking. Just so I get the corn in by the time that you ar redy for me to come over to your house. You will see in your next letter whare I told you that I didnt want to come ontill you was redy to come home with me. I subposed that you would want to teach your chool out. And if you should say no I gess I never would come back to Maryland. You won't say no will you?

Now then I want to thank you for your kiend consiterration in regard to me coming East. It would simply be imposibel for me to do so at present. At least I dont think it the thing to doo to tell what I have or what I havent got. On laits you should want to know one thing I will tell you that I am not so rich but what I could perty near tell what it is. One thing I will tell you that I think thare is no nicer place to live on this part of the world then my plase. And I know that you will say so wen you see it and I know we have some nice neighbors too. I expect you think if I keep on I will tell you all about it.

My Dear friend if thare is enney thing that you want to know ask me. I wont tell you no lie. Now I will close for to neight and will write some more to morrow, that is if I can think of enney thing that I think will interest you so good neight and remember this is from your true and loving Friend,

Joe

My dear friend I thought that I would not write enney more to neight but I was still looking over this dear letter of yours and some whare you sed that if thare ever would have to be a sacrifice made it would fall to your lot. Now my dear friend I feal sure that thare will be one some whare if it is onley of ower on [own] dear friendship and for my part I think that worse than enney thing els. Good neight, my dear friend I mist this line.

Your true friend

Joe

October 21 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Sunday morning

My Dear Friend

I will tell you that I was hendred this morning from writing to you for one of my neighbors came over and has just gone so I will try it agan. You speak of meeting one of your old friends on the road. I dont remember of ever knowing him. I dont think that he advises you quite right. I was up to Pleasant Valley one day that I was thare and had such a fine ice cream. You know my step mother lives up thare. I suppose it was the same place. I wonder how he knew that you had a friend in Ohio. So Frank & Kate ar not in for to part with you and if you want to you can tell them I said that. That is just

the thing that you will doo. Meby your Pappa wont submit to it. I dont know what we will doo in case he does not.

I tell you that some peapel get the rong idea about the west. The west is ahead of the East in some ways. We have good roads good land and fine churches and schools and lots of good peappel. I have lots of good friends hear not bosting. I would not have to go to Md for a girl but I am sure that the right one is not hear. My paper is full & I am not throw. I will go to church this after noon and will write more. This e [evening] I may see Harrie. Your loving friend,

Joe

October 22 1900

Darrtown Ohio

Monday night

My Dear Friend

It is most too soon to commence a nuther letter but I cant help but makeing a reply to those few words you speak in regard to what I mite be worth that you did not care wether I was worth much or little that you had no other motive for you careing for me than pure admiration and love. I want to tell you that those few lines did me more good then enney thing els that you said to me. Never marrie for monnie. I would not have the richest woman in Ohio if I did not care for her and she is for me.

My dear friend I expect you will think that I an dooing just what you told me to doo thats to write to you wen I was lonely and wen I was not lonely. I cant say that I am lonely to neight. I have plenty of work. I have throwed of a big load of corn since super and have just come to my room. It is about 8 o clock and I want to tell that we are having a fine rain this eaving. Ower wheat fields ar begining to look green. We have had 3 or 4 big frosts so the punkin vines ar all bit.

Harrie Hook said that he wished that he was over in Maryland a little wile to get some of that good sider that he knowed was over thare. He said that he would back me out in going over thare Christmas. I told him that it would be too soon. Now I thought that I would take my time and write this letter a little better then enney I wrote yet but I dont beleave that I am dooing much better so I will wate till to morrow neight. Your friend lovingly

Joe