

October 22 1900
Westminister Maryland
Monday night

Mr. Jos. Ditman, My Dear:-

I thought I would would write you a few lines tonight, just to let you know I am thinking of you. I have nothing new to tell you: only that I got along nice at school today, when this week is gone, I will only have three week more in this term. I had a ride from the shop down to Holmes' lane, this evening with Mr. Willie Frizzell; he always will stop for me to ride with him. I suppose you know he is a Judge of the Orphan's court. That is why I see him on the road sometimes. He used to be one of my school trustees when I taught at Salem. And I have been to his house a great deal. We just had a lovely day, but tonight it somewhat cloudy.

Maybe you are husking corn now, if you are, you do not find it so cold. I will stop for tonoght, but will write you a little more tomorrow night. Now I will retire and think of you until I fall asleep. Good night from

Eva.

October 23 1900
Westminister Maryland
Tuesday night.

My Dear:-

I said I would write you a few more lines tonight. This morning was warm and pretty and people kept going to Westminster to see Bryan [William J. Bryan Presidential candidate lost to Wm. McKinley] and about 11 oclock, a long parade of trimmed wagons, and riders, and a band of music went up the road, it was just recess and the children enjoyed looking at it. Holmes all went. There were many people in town: but I did not care, I was like you with the fair, if you would have been here to have gone with me, I would have went. It rained later in the evening and some had a bad time getting home. Tonight it has just been pouring down rain.

Tomorrow I will look for a letter from you: and then tomorrow night I will answer it, and send it Thursday morning so you will get it Saturday. I will stop for tonight trusting you are well, With love and kindest thoughts, I am

Eva

October 24 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Wednesday neight

My Dearest Friend on Earth, Eva

I was away to town today with a load of potatos and it was a little late wen I got home and I cant express to you how glad and how plesently I was surprised agan in fiending such a

good and loving sweet letter awaiting me. I did think about this being the day for me to get my letters but I did hardly expect one to day since we made the change. But however I doo thank you verry much for it dos me so much good to read this one. I think your letters all the best kiend but this one is the sweetest of them all to me. I have red it 3 times and I wont promes you how menney more times I will read it. So my dear I will re read it and will study it and think over it. Ansor it a little later I mean on a nuther sheet and not to neight. I will not mail this till Monday morning.

I expect tou will be picking up thare chesnmuts perty soon. So you say that Harrie Ditman got that new tole gate to keep well. That will be just the thing. He will have to pass me throw (through) free wen I come over. I expect he will for about 10 cents. Well my dear friend it is getting late I will have to close.

My dear friend I do want to tell you yet to neight that I feal so glad to think that I will get that picture soon. I surly will send you one in return soon I will go to town some of theas days on perpers [purpose].

Your loving friend,

Joe

October 24 1900

Westminister Maryland

Wednesday 5 P.M.

My Dearest and Best Beloved Friend:-

I will write to you now, and if I do not get through, I will finish writing tonight. I received you very good and welcome letter this morning, and read it after I got to school. I went early, and then was hindered from reading it right away. Mr. William Gist called on me to see if I needed any kindling wood, and then talked for a while: but as soon as he went away I read your letter. And I was pleased greatly with it. You still seem to think, that your writing and spelling is hard for me to make out: but indeed I am telling you the very truth, when I say I can read your letters right along, and understand them well. And do not read them again and again, because I can't make them out, but because they are so dear to me, and such great pleasure to read them over and over.

You said if only you could see me, you could talk to me so much better than you can write. I don't doubt but this may be true. Yet I can understand you all right in writing, and you need not fear in expressing yourself, your life seem to blend so well with mine that I understand you, as I believe I could understand no one else in writing.

I am thankful that you can write as good as you do.

I am so glad you said you had confidence in my sincerity, I assure you I am sincere and you can have full confidence in me, knowing that I will do what is right.

I would never have answered your first letter, if I had not liked you, and hoped to gain your admiration.

I have received letters from other men, before, which I

never answered at all, simply because I knew I never wished to care for them, and I would never try to teach anyone to like me, if I did not wish to like them. So I am yours truly and sincerely in every way that will add to your happiness. And if ever anything should happen that would cause me to lose confidence in you, it will be no act of mine done willfully or any fault of mine. And as I have fully made up my mind to trust you, and feel perfectly safe in so doing, for I know you are worthy, I can't see where anything could happen to mar our truest deepest friendship. Can you? With "Gods' blessing" resting upon us, I know we will be happy.

I don't want you to think, that when I wrote to you the other time in regard to your home, that I wanted to know what you were worth, I would rather not know this, if you are worth anything. I believe you are a good man, and that is all the worth I am looking for. Of course if you would have no permanent home of your own and would have to depend on the world for a living as you went along, I would have asked you to come East. You would not blame me for this, would you? We could make some kind of a living here, if it would be a poor one: we would season it with love: and this way we could bear life anyway.

But as you have a home, I would not think of asking you to leave it. I suppose you had to work hard for your home and I want you to keep it.

And as I have already told you in my other letter; I have nothing in particular to give up but friends and my

brother and Pap: but I am going with you and the other matters must be made to suit.

I just ate my supper, and now I will try to write some more. Today was a pretty day and warm, it cleared off in the night, last night. I got along nice at school today, two more days and this week will be gone. You wondered how that Pleasant Valley man found out I wrote to you, I don't know, that is what puzzled me, unless he heard it from those who watch the mails. You know he sells cigars around through the county and stores.

You said I could tell Schneider's that I was going to leave, no I won't, because I do believe they would get all out of sorts. Schneider and Kate said Sunday, that if he thought you wouldn't come in here, after asking me, how his friend Joe was coming on and when you were coming in.

He would break the match, I said how? He said he would fix up something: for you had him to watch me anyway. Well I said "I will cut my cards so straight that you can't tell him anything." He laughed then, He just thinks lots of you: you said he would write to you soon. Frank and Kate are good people, but I would never have told him I wrote to you, if he had not cornered me up, and I could not tell a lie, but he would find it out anyway. So I guess it was best; but don't you tell him all, I don't.

Thank you My Dear for the very sweet words you said in your last letter, that you liked me better than anyone else you have seen. I will try to live so as to merit your love, and I

do believe you will like me better the longer you know me, for I believe most of the poeple who are my friends like me better the more they are about me and the better they know me.

It is needless how you stand in my estimation, you know if I did not care for you I would not consent to come out there. You said of course there is work on a farm, well I guess you and I will get along all right with that. And about neighbors, I am not afraid of not being able to make friends of them. And about the place where you live, I would not care if it were not so nice. You know they say "Love makes sunshine everywhere." So we will just try to be happy, and don't you think it will be so? I hope so.

You said you were husking corn, well I hope you get along nice with it: and maybe you will get done before you are ready to come in to see me. But I will save those chestnuts 'till you come.

You said you were aware that there would have to be a sacrifice made somewhere, if it was only our dear friendship. Well now our friendship will not have to be sacrificed if I can help it! For I would make any sacrifice for our friendship, for I want our own dear friendship to grow more lasting and enduring.

You said you wished I had been out there last Sunday evening, you would have been glad to have taken me to church with you, I hope to give you that pleasure many times in time to come. I shall surely be pleased when the time comes for you to come in to see me: I will be so happy to see you, that I

won't know how to talk to you at first. And I want you to be happy too. You will get my letter on Saturday then you can write so I get yours Wednesday, I will be looking for it. I always look for you letters with all my heart, and am so pleased when I get them. Your letters are the dearest to me of anything I possess. I will close for this time. Hoping my letter may find you well and make you a little happy at least and thanking you for your good and kind letters. Write for Wednesday.

I am your lovingly,

Good night

Eva

With much love and best kindness wishes.

October 26 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

My Dearest Friend Eva

I have just look over that dear letter that you last sent me and I had leade of [off] to rite to you to neight in regard to me coming after you. You may feal ashured that I will do that with the grateest of plesher. Now I will try to tell you what I had in mind before I received your last letter that you probley wanted to teach the school out but it is just as you say that it will be late on account of spring woork. Then a nuther thing I wanted to do was to wate till tha moved out so I could get some things in the house you know wen tha go tha will take all out. I have onley one room partley furnished

so I had thought that tha would move march the first or about thar and I would get the house shaped up and would be over thar by the middle of march and be back hear by the first of April and if you think that you would rather be hear befor I get enney thing for the house I will do enney way that you think best. One thing I did not want to tell them that I was going to get married. Thare is no one knows yet that I am writing to a lady. Everry body is gessing what Joe is going to doo wen Burnes goes away. Tha ar still teasing me about that widdow at Collinsville. But tha dont under stand why tha dont hear of me going over thare so if no one fiends out enney thing untill then. I surly dont want to tell enney one ontill I am redy to go and then I have some friends that I will inform of the fact.

My dear I thank you verry much for the nice letter you wrote me talking to me nicely and giving me to know just whare you stand in this matter and would think my self a verry mean man if I did not try to doo my part in trying to make you and both of us happy and better in everry way posibel [possible]. So lets trust in the Lord that all will be well. I dont have the least thout [thought] in my mind but what we will get along all right if we but try and doo ower part too each outhar.

I will close for to neight and will expect a good letter to morrow neight and then I will ansor it and mail it Monday morning so you will get it Wendsday and will be happy. From your true and loving friend. Good neight my dear friend Eva.

Joe

October 26 1900

Bethany Ohio

Miss M. Eva Polster, Dear Friend

Yes, I will call you friend: for you are a friend to Bro. Joe Ditman, you are a friend to me.

I have known him intimately for 4 yrs as his Pastor, his house ever truly a home to me. I have also had business dealings with [him]. He is a nice man to do business with. He is a Christian, very kind hearted. His wife died last June a year ago. She had been greatly afflicted with rheumatism and a cripple for many years - helpless as a child. He was so kind and affectionate to her, I never was anyone so devoted to his wife. I was with them often and attended her funeral.

He will make any woman a good husband - kind, true and affectionate. He lives in a nice valley on a nice farm which he bought last spring. The house is near the Pike 1 1/2 mile above Darrtown, where we have a nice church and a nice congregation. He is worthy of a good woman's friendship and love.

I am glad to have the privilege of saying these good things of him and to recommend him to you.

Yours Sincerely,

John H. Lease

October 28 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Sunday morning

My Dear Friend Eva

Oh what a loveley and butiful sabeth morning. It is just as fine as it can be. How I wish that you wer hear to go to church with me. I have bin consoleing myself by reading your last letter witch is so good enough to make up for the one I mist las neight. But I still think that I will get that one tomorrow. I cant help thanking you over agan for that good and kiend letter wich I received on wendsday. You told me that my letters to you received menney readings. My dear if you read them more then I read yours I know that tha ar red a plenty. I onley hope that you can read and understand them as well as I can yours. I think some times that you cant make them out good. My dear you will see on a nuther sheet whare I tryed to tell you what I thought of matters and hope that we understand each outhar and can make arangements in regard to the time of my coming after you later on. We will surley do what we would think best. Now my dear friend I will close for this time and go to church and I will put this in the office so it will go out erly in the moening. And hope that you ar thinking of your Ohio friend this butiful Sun morning and if you didnt mail a letter for me for yesterday you surly will for next Saterdag. So good bye for this time from your true and loving friend,

Joe

October 28 1900

Westminister Maryland

Sunday night

My very dearest friend:-

I will write you some lines now. I just finished writing a letter for old Mrs. Freymann, she came up to see me this evening, forgetting to bring letter paper and I had none down home so she gave me some notes and wrote for her tonight and will send it to her tomorrow. Her nephew died out in Indiana and she has a niece living there that she wanted me to write to, for her. A nice consoling letter. So I wrote hers first and now I am kind of tired and making blots for you: but you will excuse me I know. I am up at Holmes'. I stopped in and had a nice long talk with Mrs. Ditman this evening, she was alone and pleased to see me. She gave me some good grapes and a pretty bouquet. I took her and Mr. Ditman a nice large pear apiece, such as as they did not have, and only wished I could have given you one. I had a nice time since Friday evening, when I got home I got company, an old lady from Pleasant Valley, Mrs. Meyers. I was to see her last spring. She seem to be such a nice old lady, and was so pleased to see me again. Frank and Kate came Friday night too, and Saturday I worked all day then at night they and I went down to Hooks. We had a good time. They teased me about you, and said it was time for me to write to you. Grase said she wrote to Harry and said she was

waiting for an answer, then she would tell me what he said. Old aunt Polly said "I don't care the 'fat man' is good looking," meaning you. I just thought so too, but did not say all I thought. They made out I looked so well since I have been teaching that old aunt Polly said: "I know if Joe could see you how good and nice you look, he would like you, and write to you."

I will have some chestnuts for you to eat, they have been falling fast the past week. I thought this morning if only Joe was here, he and I would go and pick up chestnuts. I am just scratching a whole lot of stuff that maybe you will think "Eva might have written less, and wrote it better. But you know I can do better.

I seen Me. Wash Reese and his wife, I guess you used to know them. We had a good talk, her children used to come to school to me, and they have always made a whole lot over me. Alice Magin's brother Dave Seipp was over to see Alice yesterday and today. Poor old fellow has lots of trouble, He does not live with his wife, for he says she is so mean, for all he loves her he can not live with her. I am real sorry for him, for he is surely a nice man.

I told you in a letter that Frank and Kate would never want me to leave. I guess they will miss me, for they come so often to see me, for they come so often to see me, and are both so good to me. And frank just praises you up to all that is good. He said he would write to you right soon now. I want you to tell what he will say about me. They said next Sunday

evening, if the weather is fair, they were coming up to Holmes' with me. I guess when you take me out there they will go too, almost. Well I suppose I had better bring this rambling letter to a close for tonight. I will look for a dear good letter from you Wednesday. Hoping you are well and coming on nicely, and with much love, I am sincerely yours,

Eva

Good night

October 29 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Miss Eva Polster

My dearest friend I am sorrie to tell you that I feal some what disipointed to neight that I did not get a letter from you. But meby you did not in tend for me to have one to neight as you sent me one on wendsday I received one. However I did not get it and I thought I would mail this one on monday enney way and meby I will get one on monday. If I will have to wate till next Saterdag that will be a long time to wate for a letter from you my dear.

I am looking for Harrie Hook and Joe Burns to morrow afternoon and bring that young man that I told you was going to take ower picturs. I told them that I didnt know wether it would be quite right to have it done on Sunday but that is the onley time that thay could be in it and I dont think it will be

enney harm so I told them all right. If I get enney that ar
good enough I will send you some of them and I will all so have
one taken wen I get a little time for you of my self and I will
be looking for one perty soon. I think that that fellow has
had time enough to have them dun. My Dear I will close for to
neight and will ad a little more tomorrow. Good neight.

October 29 1900

Westminister Maryland

Monday night 8:30

My Dearest Friend:-

I will write a few lines tonight. We had some company
- Mrs. Close and her daughter, and they have gone now: and I am
up in my room, and pleased to have the priviledge of writing
you. I have something good to tell you. You remember you
asked me to write to your former pastor. So last week, I
thought it being your wish and no harm, I would write to him
and see what he would say about you, and also thought I won't
tell you until I get an answer. Now my dearest I did not write
because I thought it was necessary. I was perfectly satisfied
that you are all right. I just wrote because you asked me to
do so, and because you said you would like to know what he
would say. And I am surely pleased to tell you, that he wrote
me a grand letter about you. I received it this morning, and
have been so happy all day, to think some one else knows, you
are as good, as I believed you to be.

He recommended you to be just a perfect good man in every way. And said if I were your friend I was his friend too. As he surely likes you, and spoke so well of you, I feel so indebted to him for his kind letter. I know you would be pleased if you would see the letter he sent me. I will save it for you to see.

Another day has gone, and now one more, then Wednesday, when I will look for your dear letter to come. Don't you know I can hardly wait till Wednesday comes. I don't know how expectant and pleased I will be, when the time comes for you to come in: I shall surely be so happy, and only trust you will be happy too. I will close now, and wait until I get your letter Wednesday before I write more. Yours lovingly,

Eva

Good night.

October 31 1900

Westminister Maryland

Wednesday night

My Dearest Beloved:-

I received you good letter this morning. I was highly pleased with your dear letter. But I was sorry that you did not receive the letter I wrote you last Wednesday night. I hoped when I mailed it that you would get it Saturday, and have something to read from me Sunday; and I hoped it would please

you a little at least, so you would have been a little happier Sunday. I hope you got it anyway, if it was later. It must have gone wrong in the mails. Now if you should ever miss getting my letters, when you know it time, it won't be because I don't send them.

Today has been an ugly rainy windy day. I only had 12 scholars present, but we got along nice and very busy all day, anyway.

You spoke in your letter in regard of the time you were coming for me. Now my dear it can be done sometime in February or March, we can arrange this later. Yet God willing, I am setting my heart that you will come, when it will be most convenient. I would like to be with you before planting time, because we want to plants things to eat you know. And about things in the house, why that won't matter, we can get them when I am with you. You must not tell we are going to be married yet, there will be time enough for that, and we like to surprise some a little anyway.

So we will set the time for your coming in a little later on. I want it to be so it will suit you and also so it will be proper and convenient for me to quite my school. You need not be afraid of the dog. I have done my part toward Pap, so far, and you need not think anything could keep me from going with you, only if the good Lord should lay something in our way, which I trust he will not, but am asking his favor always. I know by his favor resting upon us, we will be so happy together. I have every hope and also faith that you and

I can and will live happily and most peacefully, for I just seem to know that your desire seem to run so, and your disposition and good sense is such that you will appreciate all that I can do and will try to do for your happiness; and feel that you will do what you can for me. And hope and believe that we will admire each other more and more the longer we are together. My dear, I got my pictures this morning and here is one, you may think it a small one, for so much talk, but it will do to look at, and after while you will have a larger one when you get me. I had a good many that I promised, and I did not care to get very expensive ones. Yet you will like it anyway I know. I trust you will get my letter this Saturday, if you did not get the one for last Saturday, and would not get this one, I would register the next one. Well I will try to close for this time, hoping my letter may find you well. My dearest take care of yourself, and ever know, I am yours lovingly and truly. Write for Wednesday next, for I will be looking for your dear letter. I am well. Mrs Holmes was just called away, one of her grandchildren has the scarlet fever. So Miss Dora will be the housekeeper, I like her, she is good to me. Well good night; Write for Wednesday, and send your picture as soon as it suits. This is Hallow eve my dear, I hope to be with you long before next Hallow Eve.

Your Eva

November 1 1900

Thursday neight

My Dear Friend Eva

As I have been rambling around over in Maryland in my mind all day today mostly around Stone Market. I will just write a few lines to let you know that you surely have one friend in Ohio at least and I want to tell you that I feel that I have one in Maryland. I take it from those dear sweet preshes letters that I get from over there the more I read them the more I think so. It is such a grate plesher and cumferd to me to read them over & over agan. I am glad to hear you say that you will think of me till you fall asleep. Will you beleave me if I tell you that I do that every neight. My dear I did not expect to write verry much to neight. I will tell you that we had a fine rain last neight and this forenoon and its makeing over wheat look fine and over corn husking is progresing slowley. I think we will be throw [through] by Thanksgiving.

I havend rece that letter from Frank yet nor from Marthia eather. Now I will retire and will write a little each neight and on Sunday morning I will finish and mail and hope to get my letter on Saterdag this time. I will mail this enney way so you will get it on wendsday and will wate for mine till Monday if I cant doo better. So good neight from your friend

Joe

November 2 1900

Darrtown Ohio

Friday neight

Dear Eva

According to promes I will write just a little to neight to pas the time. I presume you ar at home with father to neight. I was going to ask some time wether you ever see Lizzie Owns. I still thought that I would tell you some time that she said to me that she thought that she would get to go to Ohio. I thought to my self if you do you will go with some one els beside me or by your self.

I expect you was picking up some chestnuts for me to day. I think some of them will keep ontill I come. Now if I dont get my letter to morrow I will think that Thursday morning is just one mail to late. I know that is the best that you can do wen you dont get yours till Wensday. If it was mailed in town It will leave Westminister ontill Friday. That makes it too late for it to get hear Saterdag but will be all right enney way for we will quit this writing after a little wile. I hope that we will be so near to each outhar that we can hear owerselfs talking enney way.

My dear I expect I had better bring this to a close for this time. I surley will watch the mail to morrow afternoon. I will write more Saterdag neight and tell you wether I get your letters or not. Good nieght from your loving friend.

Joe

November 2 1900

Friday night

My Dearest Joe:-

I can't help but write you some lines, if it is late. I came home this evening and after I got supper, Pap and I went down to Andrews', and we got home not long ago. I recieved your letter this morning and to say I was pleasantly surprised would not be any words for it. I was just so happy, I do believe it pleased me as much or more than any letter I got from you yet. I was worried when you said that you had not received the letter intended for you last Saturday evening. But I was pleased to hear you got it Monday. I don't know what made it late. I mail them on time. I hope you will recieve the one tomorrow evening that I sent you Thursday, and be happy Sunday. I was sorry to hear that you was worried last Saturday evening, or badly disappointed, I guess this would be the proper word for it. But you need never fear that it is my neglect of you, if you should not get my letters when time is for you to get them for I shall always mail them to you, and if they are late it will be the fault of the mail service. And you must write anyway. Though I hope none of them will go wrong in the mails. I suppose I have said enough on this subject.

Now my dear, I was so pleased with your letter today, that I can't hardly express what I want to say.

You said you feared no one breaking the match, but Pap. Well he can't; you need have no thought like this. I know he may not like for me to go, but he will have to put up with it.

Andrew and Letha [Aletha] will be good to him; and he will not be so bad off as some people that have no friends. I shall not tell him yet; but if you leave it to me, I think I can think of a way, that will be best for us both, and which he will have to be satisfied. He has his home, and can stay here, and Letha will bake for him, and often send him meals, and he can go down there at times, and Andrew will have to wait on him if he should get sick. Andrew will do what he can for him, as he knows I have done my part, so I don't think I am leaving him so bad off. So you can just rest assured "God Willing", I will go with you, and you need not fear that I might get dissatisfied out there. I won't, for I shall just set my heart to be happy with you and I know I will be perfectly contented. I was thinking last night, how nice we can pass the time together, for we will have so much to talk about, as our lives will be new to each other, more so, than as if we had always known each other.

You said, you were sure I would treat you nice. Now you just bet I will. I have never treated any body mean, not even an enemy. How much less would I ever think of being unkind to the dearest one on earth to me. Where love reigns supreme, all will be good will and peace. Mr. Leas, your former pastor, said, in his letter: "You were kind, true and affectionate, he did not know of a better man than you." I was so glad he said this, and I will just try to merit your goodness by being good to you, as I know how. And I know we will both be happy as far as love can make us happy. Excuse me

Joe, if I am writing rather sweet; but it is the only way I can express myself now, when I can't see you. I suppose I had better quite for tonight, as I have time to send this, and you might get tired of too long letters. Yet my letters are intended for good, if I don't always get them worded just as I want them, you take them by what I mean. I am glad you say, you can understand them all right. I am sure I understand yours all right. I scratched this in fast time, so the writing is not very good, but you can read it. Well Good night My Beloved. With kindest wishes and love, I am yours.

Eva

November 3 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Saterday neight

My Dearest Beloved Friend

I inform you that I received your more then dear letter and sweet picture this afternoon and a better pleased fellow you never saw. I am more than pleased wit your sweet face. I would not take a farm for it.

And am glad that you did write to that dear old brother Leas. I know he is a friend of mine. I would like to see the letter so I can see it some time. And I have a nuther one that is just as good that was hear before him by the name of Hamilton. He was to see me a few days ago. He wanted to know

wether I hadend found me a good lady friend yet. I finely told him that I surly thought that I had. He lives quite a ways from hear. I loaned him some monnie at one time and he came by to see about it. I like him verry much.

My dear I just came home from Darrtown. I went down to see wether that fellow had finished enney of those pictures so had onley one of each and not verry good at that. But I will send them enney way just to give you an idea. And while I was thare I saw Harrie Hook. He said that he was just wating for an ansor to his last letter for he said he sent a good one.

You asked me not to tell enney one that we wer to be married. Dont you fear I will not say a word to enney one but I tell you I cant hardly keep from showing that sweet picture to Joe Burns and Harrie. But I must keep it to my self for a wile yet at least.

Shure we will fix the time for my coming and that is just what I will do on less the cars runs of of the track and if tha doo and dont hurt me I will get on the next trane.

Now my dear it is geting late. I will have time in the morning to write more and will retire but will not sleep fore a while for thinking of you. Good neight from your loving friend,

Joe