

November 20 1900
Westminster Maryland
Tuesday night

My Dearest Friend:-

I will now try to answer your kind and dear letter, that I already told you I received this morning. I told you I thought the weather would soon change, it is raining now. We had some thunder this afternoon. You said in the part of the letter you wrote last Sunday night a week. That you really believed that I cared for you, and not for what you might have. Now my dear I have no other thought but to care for you above all, for as far as a living would be concerned, I could get along all right without getting married. But I could not well live without your presence, for I have learned to admire you so much through your nice letters, and your appearance when I did see you, that you need have no fear that I will not do my part toward your and my happiness. So God helping and blessing us, I know we shall be so happy together. And I am glad to say, that you believe it too.

You said you thought I would do many little things for you, you just bet I will, next year I shall make you stalls for those dear fingers, so you will not wear out your dear fingers husking corn.

I shall never leave anything undone willingly that would add to your comfort and happiness that I can do. And I

believe and trust you will be kind to me in return. If I had not had this confidence in you I would never have desired your love. Joe you said the time was slipping around fast, for it would not be so long when you will come in. Well my dear I shall be glad when the time comes, for I shall be so pleased to see you, and that pleases me the most, is if nothing happens, I hope we will not have to part, but that our meeting will be for good.

You said you did not show my picture, that was right. And about Harry, I did not tell Grace just what to tell him. After while Schneider will tell Hook's anyway that we had been corresponding all the time. So it wont matter what they believe now. You said maybe your folks would leave before spring, well if they leave I guess you would have to batch it until February. Then you will get a pretty good house keeper even if it was a school teacher.

You said you was glad that I received your letter last Wednesday, if it was not in the mail box, and that you would not disappoint me a purpose. Joe I have no fear that you would do so, any more than I would you, and I know I never would. About the things in the house, you just do what you think, and it will be just right: of course it will be nice because they are already in the house.

You asked me if I ever saw Fred Ricther, yes, his wife came out Sunday and asked me and Dora to come down some night soon. I expect we will go down some evening. Protracted meeting did not begin at Deer Park last Sunday night, it was

put off on account of Harmony Grove meeting, that is one of Mr. Burdette's charges. Yes, Joe, Grace Hook is married, she got married at Finksburg, and our preacher did not get to perform the ceremony. I don't know where they are going, she is home yet. They all expect to come up to see me Thanks giving's night. My dear I have not let Frank and Kate see your pictures yet, because I can't tell them I expect to go out there, and I do not want to let them know it yet. They will be able to stand a surprise.

You spoke of my kindness to you, and that you will be at a loss of knowing how to return your appreciation. I don't see where you are indebted to me, for it is no more than you merit by your kindness to me. I was glad to hear that you expected to get through with your corn husking soon. I have been thinking of you, when the weather was rough and cold. My dear I suppose I will close for this time, as I have written about all I can think off tonight. Hoping you will get my letter, maybe Friday, and that it will find you well and coming on all right. Write for me to get Tuesday or Wednesday. For your letters are about all the real pleasure that I enjoy. The thoughts I have of you make me happy. And I hope you are happy too by thinking of me. Yours ever loving

Eva

November 21 1900

Westminster Maryland

Wednesday morning

School-house

My Dearest Friend:-

I will add just a few more lines and inclose with the letter I wrote you yesterday, and at dinner time I will take it down to the mail box, so it will go this evening. This morning is a disagreeable morning. Windy and rainy.

I hope you will get the little package and the note I sent you Monday, today. And I don't want you to think I was too stingy to send you the other pack of chestnuts I spoke off. But it seemed unreasonable to give much for not much. I wouldn't want you to do so, and I kinder knew you would not want me to do so. I don't suppose I shall have many scholars today as the weather is so bad. I hope you will be pleased with the note I sent you and also enjoy those few chestnuts, knowing I have a whole lot more for you when you come in. Goodby for this time. Don't forget to write. Yours truly,

Eva

November 21 1900

Westminster Maryland

Dear Brother Joe

I shurely feel sorry to think you had to write the second letter before an answer.

But as for Pappé he never writes as he leaves it for me to do raken we got the first letter I thought well Joe wrote

just as soon as he got home and I shall answer it at once. But did not get at it but you may believe me Joe that I do not believe that there has not passed a day that I did not think I would soon write. Your letters found us all well hope this will reach you all the same.

We heard from the boys and girls this week they are all well. Lew moved to his new home this week. We felt sorry for Wills family to think the young boy went and never got home any more. Yes the corn is all in and expect to haul the fodder this week a coming. And chestnuts are all gone are gathered. We did not get many as George was away busy all the time. Yes the calf came a day or so after you left hear.

So you would go down the Washington road to go chestnut hunting if you were where hear. That would be a very good direction to go I think. You can go down that way when you come in again. But do not stay so long as you may forget the road and I would have to go with you again.

Miss Mary stops in quite often since she teaches. I look for her this evening as she goes up on Sunday evening. But Joe lay jokes aside as for that might of a secret in your letter. That question is a mighty small matter to answer for us hear and would be to many more that knows her as well as we do hear. As we think her as good as her weight in gold and will be to any man that will be the lucky one to get her.

Just you write on and when ever you feel like it write all the love letters you please. Write soon let us hear have the brought Wills son home yet. Your brother and sister,

Lew and Martha

November 21 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Wendsday night

My Dearest Beloved Friend Eva

Doo you want to know what I am dooing to night? Why I am eating chestnuts and writing to my dearest friend. I all so red the good note that I found hid in the box the best of all. My dear I trully thank you for this kindness. I was judt thinking how will send us chestnuts next year. I am tasting them I tell you tha ar as fine as silk and what makes them better still is to know whare tha came from. Much ablidge.

Now my dear I have to put the lid on the box so that I cant get enney more till I am dun writing. Eva you know that in the first I promaset [promised] you that I would not deserve you in enney thing. So I could not feel right in not telling you what I did on the first page for I doo hope to live supremely happy to gether and I expect for you to know what I now [know] and me to know what you know and what is mine will be yours and what is yours is mine. That is the way I look at it. I surly do expect for us both to enjoy what we do have. Now I will leave this matter this way then wen it is the right time I will tell you all. Good night my dear Eva form your true friend,

Jos

November 22 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Thursday night

Dear Eva

I have been enjoying some of those chestnuts so I could not retire with out writing just a few lines to my good friend who sent them to let you know that I am thinking of you while you ar asleep I expect. You spoke of the sewing machine that will be all right. You have one thing that I would like you to bring that is your organ. We could pas the time often singing and playing but I will not dictate to you what you shal bring. You know now that I am thinking of you so good night from your loving friend

Joe

November 23 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Friday night

My dearest friend

I am more than happy to tell you that I received you lovely letter this afternoon and was truly glad to hear from you. Say I want to ask you what you did to my sister Marthia that she dos not like you. I had quite a nice letter from her

this afternoon with yours. Now my dear I am just joking with you when I say that she does not like you. You can guess what she told me of you. It just did me so much good that I can't help telling you. You won't care if I tell you will you? Now I don't expect to get it all told that she said but I will tell you the best part. She said that Mary was just worth her weight in gold and would be to any man that would be the lucky one. Now my dear that is just what I think. I can tell you that Martha is a very warm friend of yours. I surely feel thankful to her for the compliment on you. My dear friend I will tell you a nuther little thing. She told me to write all the love letters to you that I wanted to that I would miss nothing that you was just all right and that there were plenty of others that would tell me the same thing. She told me not to make it so long before I came in again or I would forget the road and she would have to go along again and show me the road where you lived.

Now my dearest I have been satisfied in my mind that you was just my ideal. But you know when my friends write me such nice letters about the one I have taken for my good friend it does make me feel more happier than ever before.

Now a word about me thinking that you was too stingy not for one minute did I. My dear will you believe me when I tell you what my first thought was about it. I thought that is just all right and I could trust you with my pocketbook and you would take good care of it or maybe better than my self. I am glad that you let me know that much of your saving qualities.

Dear Eva dont think that I will mail this before Sunday
si I think I will eate a few chestnuts and then retire and
write some more to morrow night. Remember this is from your
loving friend. Good night dear,

Joe

November 24 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Forenoon

A verry bad day. It is raining hard and has been I
think all night. You will notice on the first page whare I
told you that I had just 15 of your good letters. I will just
change that a little to 17. I am happy to tell you that I [am]
just throwed [through] of the last load of corn all dun and wen
I have corn to husk agan I hope you will be hear to doo the
bosing all right. You know that I told you somthing of the
family moving before spring. I asked Emma that is Wills wife.
She thought about the first of March or about thare. So that
will be all right tha can take care of things till we get back
home.

My dear Eva I dont know enney thing more to say just
now. About ower matters I hope everyy thing will work to ower
fucher happyness. Dear Eva I see by your letters that you have
bad wether too about the same as we have hear.

Say I have been thinking about those too young men
speaking about Ohio being well represented. Now I think if I
could of been thare it would of helped it out just a little

bit. I hope you think so too. I was going to ask you how [who] Doras friend was. It dosent matter I was just wondering. You spoke of you violating the mail laws. I am glad you did for it did me lots of good and no one enney harm that was just all right. I am into the chestnuts agan this morning.

Now my dear as it is nearing dinner time Ill stop writing and go and see after things a little and will write more later on before time to mail this. I would mail this today it the wether was not so bad for me to get to town. It would be of no use to mail it in my box to day for it would onley get to Darrrtown so I will keep it till to morrow then mail for monday morning. Good by my dear for just now.

Joe

November 24 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Saterday night

My dear Evaline

I will tell you that thare was an old man about 70 years old came to my door too night about dark. He just beged me to keep him all night. He has been out in the rain all day. I felt so sorrie for him I told him to go on to Darrrtown to the hotel and would pay his bill. But he did not want to do that so I told him that he mite stay. I fixed him a bed and he seamed so pleased.

My dear it has been raining strate down now for 24

hours. I dont remember when we had such a rainney time as we ar having now. I am thinking about you geting up to school to morrow evening that is if you ar having the rain that we ar. You surly cant walk up that washington road. You will have to get some one to take you.

Dear Eva I will tell you what has bin on my mind all day and I woke up in the night last night and it was the first thing I thought of that nice letter Marthia wrote me about that lump of gold then of course I was thinking of you. Now Eva I will close for to night for fear I have scribled more now than you will be able to make out and will add a little more in the morning. Good night.

Joe

November 25 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Sunday morning

Dear Eva

It is still raining and bad wether. My old man I told you of last night went walking of this morning throw the rain. Eva I dont think I will go to church to day as I have a slite cold and just dont feel nun the best tho not sick. I hope this will fiend you well and coming on nicely. I was going to say that I would see that this letter would get in the mail for morning. I would not have you disappointed on wendsday for enney thing I know you will be looking for it and I am sure I

want you to have it and hope that you will be able to kindly make it all out and understand what I mean. It isn't just spelt right.

Now my dear I will have to close for this time feeling sure that you will not be disappointed me next week in a nice letter. I close with my very best love & wishes for you my best friend. Good by my dearest. I hope we will not have to say good by after a little while. From your loving friend,

Joe

November 23 1900

Westminster Maryland

Friday night

Dear Joe:-

It is 10 1/2 o'clock, but do you know I can't go to bed without writing you a few lines; so you will know I am thinking of you. I came home this evening, got a chance to ride most of the way. We had a warm pretty day, but it is raining now, though the first part of the night the stars were shining brightly.

I had company tonight, Andrew and Letha and the children. Kate and Frank were here. They all just left a little while ago. I was glad to see them all, and we hulled some corn beans I have for seed. I just thought of you near all the time, wondering how you were spending your evening? Maybe you were tired and went to bed early.

Frank told me, he got a letter from you today. And he was so much pleased over it: for it said you were coming in before long. I don't think he suspects, you are coming in to take me home with you. Dear Joe, next week I expect to have a good week, I will only have to teach three days. Thanksgiving is a holiday, and on Friday we have a teacher's meeting in Westminster. I am right glad the holiday is coming, I taught 50 says last quarter, I had no holiday, if I had been a man I might have had a holiday on Election Day.

There were a lot of good thoughts in my mind about you that I intended to write to you, tonight, if no one had come: but as it is it is late now, I will close and write and write more some other night. I wish you a good nights' sleep and a pleasant day tomorrow. Hoping you are well, and as you are about through husking corn I hope your hardest work is done for this fall. Maybe, my dear you got the letter I sent you Wednesday, this evening. If you did, I hope you are pleased tonight. Good night. With best wishes, I am lovingly yours,

Eva

November 25 1900

Westminster Maryland

Sunday night

I will take the very great pleasure of writing you some lines now. I have nothing so important to tell you. nor have I much that is new to tell you. I will tell you what I have been

thinking, and I believe I am right, I have been thinking that you are thinking about me, and how glad you would be, if you could be with me a while tonight. I know I would be very happy. Andrew brought me up to Holmes' this evening. We had a cloudy damp day and some rain making the roads muddy. Tonight we had thunder and lightning and a good rain but it did not last long. I was over to Schneiders' a little while this morning.

Dear Joe, the time is going fast, this month will soon be gone, and I suppose you are not sorry when the time comes for you to come in: but I reckon we will be best pleased when you get back home and you will find I like the new country you are going to take me to. You know I will like it wherever you are, and wherever the place is we will call home. You said in a letter you sent week before last, that your heart went out in love to me, I was surely pleased to hear you say this, and thank you for saying so, and I assure you I duly appreciate your kindness. And shall be real good to you in return, if I would have thought, I could not appreciate your kindness and love, I would not have asked you to put that fence about your affections for me. It has gone to raining again: Well we can put up with a right good rain the waters have gotten low around here, and I suppose it is near the same out there. Did you have any of the storm out there Wednesday? I see when storms did much damage and killed people in different parts of the country. We had a very high wind here, it blew fodder shocks to pieces. I think I will stop for tonight, I shall look for

your dear letter Tuesday or Wednesday then I will write more.
I hope you are well and wish you a good Thanksgiving's Day. I
shall give thanks that I met you. Good night. Yours lovingly

Eva

November 27 1900

Westminster Maryland

Tuesday night

My Dearest Friend:-

I will write you a few lines tonight, so you will know I am thinking of you, but I don't write to you every time I think of you, if I did I would have little time for any thing else. My dear two days more of school have passed since I wrote Sunday night. I have been sewing last night and Dora's friend came in and took her to church, and the rest have gone to bed, so I am alone writing to you, but I enjoy being alone when I can take the pleasure of writing to my dearest friend.

Dora and Walter both asked me to go with them tonight, but I thanked them, and told them I would go with them one night next week. The weather is cooler now, tonight is a lovely star light night.

My dear I only kind of looked for a letter from you this morning, but as I did not get one, I will expect to receive one tomorrow morning. I am glad the mail does come early, for do you know I almost count the hours, when it gets

near the time for your letter to come. Should your letter be mislaid and I not get it in the morning, I would mail this for you tomorrow any way so you would get it this week yet: for I am expecting to go home tomorrow evening, and down home, the carrier comes late in the evening, and a letter mailed on Thursday, would not get to Westminster until Friday evening.

If I get your dear letter in the morning I will try and write you a few lines more and mail tomorrow. And if I should not get your letter, which I would be sure to think is on the road somewhere, I will mail this anyway.

Saturday afternoon our Aid Society has an invitation to meet at the home of Mrs. Columbus Shipleys', I want to go if I can and nothing happens'. The protracted meeting is going on at Deer Park now. A man was around last Friday and took a picture of our school. You must tell me if you hear any more or know if Burns is going to leave you, sooner than spring. If he should it may be a little inconvenient for you, but then you won't be alone so very long.

I will close for tonight, hoping you are well and thinking of me as kindly as I am of you. I wish you a good night's sleep and a pleasant day tomorrow. I hope I shall be fortunate enough to get your dear letter in the morning. Good night dear.

Eva

November 28 1900

Westminster Maryland

Wednesday morning

My Dear Joe:

I will tell you that I received your very welcome and dear letter at 7 this morning. I watched the mail wagon, and seen it stop at the box, then I went out and get your dear letter, with two others from stores in Westminster. I was so glad to get your letter for it surely is a nice good letter. My time is short in which to answer it, as I want to mail this tet today, so if I miss any of the good things you said, I will make up for it in the next letter I write you.

We are having a beautiful morning, I hope it will stay pretty for me to go home this evening. You spoke of my coming up last time to school, and hoped I did not have to walk. No my dear Andrew is very good to me and he will always take me when it is bad: of course I have always been kind to him: and there is nothing he could do for me, that he would not do. My dear I have never said any thing to pap yet, that I expect to go away: he is a peculiar old man, and I hardly know how to manage him, only to go when I get ready. I know he will not like it very much at first, but he must get used to the state of affairs. I would not desire to do any thing inconsistent for of course I like him. But one thing I am going with you, and as Andrew says, he will manage to get along.

Joe you spoke of a debt on your farm, of course you know that makes no difference in my caring for you. I would love you if you had nothing worth speaking off, just so you are

a good noble man, which I believe you are: and nothing could easily change my faith and trust in you. I am sure we are both willing to work together, and of course, "God Willing", we will get along all right. You said what was yours would be mine, and "vice versa". Well my dear my worth will be chiefly myself, that is about all you will get worth speaking off. But if you can learn to value me as highly as Mrs. Ditman does, you will not be left so bad after all.

The scholars are beginning to come in and I will have to hurry and get through writing. I hope you will be able to make it out and understand me. My dear time is going fast and I have a lot of sewing I want to do before you come in. I want to do a lot for pap, so he can do for a good while after I am gone. I am glad you were pleased with those few chestnuts I sent you.

My dear I must tell you Dora's beau's name Walter Lockard from Sandy Mount. He and she are both very good to me and would take me with them very often if I would go. There is a lot more I could write to you in regard to your letter, but I will have to stop for this time. But will write and tell you all about how I spent my holiday next time. Write so I will get your letter Tuesday or Wednesday. I am truly thankful to Mrs. Ditman for her kind complements. With love I am yours ever loving.

Eva