

December 7 1900
Westminster Maryland
Friday night

My Dear Friend:-

I just made out my Weekly School Report, and now I will write you a few lines. Maybe you got my letter today, and are reading and writing me some lines tonight. I have also just been looking at your picture , You know I must look at your dear face every day, until I can be where you are, so that I will have you to look at. Another week of school has gone, and you just know I count the weeks, although I am coming on nicely at school.

Christmas will soon be here, and I will go to town in about a week and get a treat for the scholars for Christmas. As I came home from school this evening Mrs. Kate Schneider was past here, hunting her husband, she said one of their horses was right sick. I hope it will not die for them. I walked home near all the way this evening. I stopped in at Mrs. Ditman's a short while. She said she thought I had forgotten her, she had not seen me for so long. They had butchered this week and she was finishing up her work. She said she had written to you, but did not say that she said anything about me. I left those 3 pictures with her for a while, for she said she wanted to show them to her husband. But I took the last one you sent me with me, for I just treasure this so much. Mr.

Ditman just came in as I was about to leave, and Joe, he smiles so much like you, I can hardly look at him any more, for fear he could tell I love you.

T think I will close for tonight for I have nothing very interesting to tell you anyway, and I will write some more some other night, before I get your dear letter. I hope you are well, as I am at present. Good night my dear. Yours ever true.

Eva

December 10 1900

Westminster Maryland

Monday 8 A.M.

My Dearest Friend:-

You must not think, because I have not been writing oftener, that I have not been thinking of you. You have had the first thoughts in my mind every hour in the day. I would have written some for you last night, but I went to Deer Park with Dora. I was glad I went for the service was nice and good. And your brother was sitting up in the 'Amen Corner' of the church, and I did look at him and think of you, for I believe you are just such a good man as he is. I could not help but wish you were with me in person, I believed your thoughts were with me. As I know I am with you in this way most of the time.

Yesterday and last night was cold and blustery, this morning is clear and cool, but a nice day for this time of the

year. Andrew brought me up to Holmes' last evening. I told you Frank's horse was sick. Frank was over to our house yesterday morning, and he said it had gotten near all right again. He said he was going to write to you before long, and asked me, what he should tell you for me. Thrifs [thieves] have been at work in our neighborhood, stealing harness from Wagners, and we heard last night that some one had stolen a lot of blacksmith tools from a blacksmith on Bird Hill, and also Mr. Tom Smith's grinding stone. My dear the scholars are coming in and I will close for this time. I hope you are well. I will look for your dear letter tomorrow, and will write some more and send as soon as I can. Good bye My Dear. Yours ever truly,

Eva

November 10, 1900

Westminster Maryland

Monday night

I will tell you now that I received your letter this morning just after I had taken in school. The letter carrier had left them at Mrs. Gists' again. The lady I wrote to when I wrote to you last week, answered my letter, and a small package came for me, and all was left at Gists. I asked her as I went to school if there was any mail for me, but she said no, yet her son had received it, and she did not know it, then the little girl brought them to school. My dear, I cannot tell you how pleased I was to get your kind letter, I did not get to

read it until recess. I was glad to hear you were well, you know this is always what I want to hear. I hope you will remain well. I am well and coming along all right at school, my pupils were all present today. Joe I got a sample of our picture I spoke of. I will keep one for you to look at after while. I told you I wrote to a lady friend, a teacher in Taneytown. I will tell you what I asked her, whether she would teach the Spring term of school. if I could tell her where she might get a school, she is a good teacher, but her eyes were bad and she went to Baltimore and is better now, and said she would be glad to teach the last term. So when I resign I will recommend her, and the people will get a good teacher again, if the board will appoint her. I did not tell her where the school is, and she did not seem to think I meant my school. I will tell her later.

You said you were at a turkey supper, now I would have been glad to have been with you. But as it is, I am glad you did think of me, and even wrote me when you got back. You know my dear, I can easily realize that you do think of me, for it does not matter where I go or what company I am in. I always think of you first, and it seems as if thoughts of you are ever present with me, and no place is complete in pleasure because you are absent. You will understand what I mean.

Joe you spoke in regard to a round trip ticket, certainly this will be all right. We can arrange matters to suit. I will say something, please excuse me, if you should think it inconsistent for me to say. But if pap should be so,

that I could not tell him all as I would like to, why we will not go home until after we are married, I know he can say nothing then, he will have to abide by it then. Whereas if we would go home before, he might say something that might not cause the best good feelings toward him. Joe I am telling you this, so you will know what we might do, if everything suits you. Pap is a peculiar, but of course I like him and would not in any way try to do anything wrong to him. But in this case I will do the best I can. I am most certain he will say nothing mean after all is settled. As I told you before, it wont matter, "God Willing" I am going with you, and by his help I know we will be happy together. Joe, so you just rest satisfied that all will be right and there will be nothing serious thrown in our way, you know you said you would leave the management of pap to me. And I will manage him or get around him in some way.

You said you only hoped that I would not get very homesick for you, for this would put us in a bad shape. Now my dear you know it will be natural for me to think of home and friends. But I think I can safely promise you that I will not get homesick enough to make any unpleasantness in out home. For I studied well over the matter, and I know what I am doing. I am going to be happy with you, and try to make you as happy as I can. Mr. Burdette is our preacher, he preaches on Deer Park circuit, and Zion belongs to this circuit. Joe, I know Mrs. Ditman will be pleased to get one of your pictures, it will be nice to send her one.

Joe, You said you wanted me to know as much about your situation and place as I would want to know, so I would not be disappointed in any thing when it is too late. Now my dear I don't look to be disappointed in you, for I am just certain you are as good as I am, and maybe better in some things, of course I do believe that I am as good a woman as you could ever get, and I believe you will think the same. And as for your situation is concerned, I believe you will be able to keep me: or at least that both of us, can make a living. So I am looking forward to a happy life for us both. You say you will do what you can for me, and my dearest we will be just real happy together. Joe, you said you would be glad when the time comes, for you to come in and I shall be so happy to see you, and to go with you, and happier we will both be when we get back home, won't we?

You said your letter was long and maybe not interesting in some parts. Now my dear your letter was just all right, write as much as you can, every thing is dear to me.

A few lines more then I will close for this time. I suppose your mail route has not been changed yet because you said you got my letter in the afternoon. Write as soon as convenient after you get my letter, and if it should suit I might get your answer on Monday again. You see you may get this a day sooner at Darrrtown, I will get it on Monday anyway. I hope you will be pleased with my letter today, it just afforded me so much pleasure to read it, that I can not thank you enough. Good night my dear Joe. Lovingly yours,

Eva

December 7 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Saterday night

My Kiendest and Best Friend Eva

I have just red your kiend and good letter. It makes me feel happy to read your dear letters over and over agan and everry one I get seams a little better then enney of the rest I have reseived and I feal trully thankful to you for writing such and just know that you ar not diseatful but mean just what you say and I just want you to know that I appreciate them verry hyley.

My dear you told me of a gentleman coming to your house. I am glad you did not tell him to stay. I wonder wether thats the fellow that said that he would doo enney thing to keep you from likeing some one els. Dear Eva I was looking wen Christmas was. It is onley 2 weeks from Tusday so I dont think it will be much more then about 8 weeks or 9 or such a matter till I will be coming over. I will be glad wen the time comes for me to come for I do want to see you wen I know that you ar the best and sweetest friend I have.

I am so glad to hear you speak so well of the picture I sent you. I intended it for a little surprise to you and my letters I am glad that you say that tha pleas you so well and that you can read them all right. I am glad that you all had a

nice time at your little partie of cours I would have enjoyed it too if it had bin posibel for me to of been thare. I will try and be to the next one you have. Now my dear I will not write enney more to night. Good night my dear Eva. From your loving friend,

Joe

December 9 1900

Darrtown Ohio

Sunday

My Kiend and Good Friend

I have just come home from church and will write a few lines to my dearest friend before dinner though it is after 12 oclock. Now I was at the Luthern church to day. There was no preaching. Tha had a kiend of a mishsionnarry prase meeting and I will tell you that Harrie was thare. He said that he would come up to see me this afternoon. He tells me that he is going to Dayton next Friday. Now Dear Eva I will go down to dinner and then to night I will write a little more. I will try and fiend out whar Harrie knows of enney thing.

December 9 1900

Darrtown Ohio

Sunday night 7 oclock

My dear Eva

You know that I promesed you that I would write some

more to night for you. Harrie came over and Joe Burns was hear too. Harrie wants to know wether I ever I ever herd from you. I told him no. He thought that I did. He gave me good by. He is going to Dayton Friday and if he gets woork he sys he will stay thare this winter. Joe Burns is going to Indiana to morrow. He will drive over. He is going over thare to hunt a few days.

Dear Eva I have got our picturs siting hear and I write a wile and then I look at the pictures a wile and wonder how you ar spending your evening. I know that you ar thinking of your friend over in Ohio and meby writing him a few good lines. My dear it has turned real cold to day and will freas sharply to night. But I am sure if I was over in Maryland to night that I would be out for a short time at least. Now I will close for to night. Remember this is from your loving friend.

Joe

December 10 1900

Darrtown Ohio

Monday night

My Dear

I will write a few lines to night to let you know that I am well and feeling just all right to think that I have found such a good and sweet friend as you ar to me and I hope that you as feeling the same. My dear Eva I was just looking at the

callander and see that just 2 weeks from to night will be Christmas eve. Time will soon slip around wen I shal be truly happy to call on you and I hope you will be happy too. I am looking over your letter I see whare you spoke of your organ & sewing machine. I dont remember wether I said enney thing in reply or not but I will say that the machine that the folks have hear I think is a nice and good one. It is cauld the Elgin machine and is new and as for your organ if it is not worth shiping why of cours dont bring it. We may be abel to get us a better one wen we see fit and this machine if I wer you if I could get enney ways near the worth of it I would sel it.

You spoke of your minister. I am sure that I met him and herd him preach a funarl at Deer Park and I all so know whare he lives and if I am not mistaken he is not such an old man. I know he is tall anugh. And I see whare you say you fear that you will get the letter too long and I will get tired reading it. You bet I dont tha ar onley the gratest plesher I have in this world to look over your dear letters. I am glad to hear you say that you gave thanks that you ever did meet such a friend. My dear I want you to know that I am thankful too and hope that neather of us ar expecting too much and be a little disappointed in each other.

My dearest beloved friend I just am in extra good spired [inspired] to night and am in a talking humer and feel that if I was a good writer that I would write you a good and sweet letter for ones enney way. I just all most know that you

ar one of the best creachers [creatures] that ever did live. I judge by the way you write. I know that you ar of a kiend loving disposishsion [disposition] and that is just wat I was looking for. You say that you will be a good saving housekeeper and that you ar willing to doo your part. Now my dear I think that will bee a grate big part and the best of all you say on that will be good to me. My dear I doo appreciate all you say on that line. It makes me feel happy and I do thank you for your kiendness to me and shal suarly doo my best to pleas you at all times and keep you from geting home sick and will try to keep you so happy that you will forget that you ever taught chool in Maryland and hope that we shal be so happy together that you will never care to go back thare to live.

I hope that we will have a good crop of strawberrys and all so outhar good crops and that we will get along fine in every way. I bought a bunch of sheep to day. I often by stock and make some monnie that way. I bought 14 sheep in the summer just before I cane in to see you and sold them in a week or 2 and made \$28 on them. My dear I could write more then I could get into one envalope if I would keep on but I will quit and write more later. I wish you a good nights sleep and plesent dreams from your true and loving friend.

Josephus

December 12 1900

Darrtown Ohio

Wedendsday night

Well dear Eva another day has gone and I am most ready to retire but I just thought that I would write a few lines anyway and tell you that I am thinking of you and the time for me to come to see you and I will tell you I am commencing to get ready on the sly to come. Now my dear I won't write much to night for it is getting near time for me to get your next letter and you know I will want to write some after I get it and maybe I will get my letter too big and long.

The weather is quite rough and cold. I always think of you having to go to school when the weather is bad. I think that there is a letter coming over the mountains to night for me. My dear I hope you are well and coming on nice as I am. I will close for to night. From your loving friend. Good night dear Eva.

Joe

December 13 1900

Darrrtown Ohio

Thursday night

My Dearest Friend Eva

I am happy to tell you that I received your kind and good letter this afternoon and was so happy to hear from my dear friend Eva and will try and write you a few more lines to night and try and get it mailed to morrow.

My dear I will say in reply you say excuse you if I

should think it inconsistent for you to say. Now my dear thats all right all you said is just all right with me. I surley will let you manage your father and what ever you want to say to me will be all right. Now Eva I am going to try and tell you what I would do if I wer you at the proper time wen ever you think that is. I would just politely and kiendly explane to him what I was going to doo and then if he should object we can do otherwise. Some how I dont think that he will say enney thing aganest it but I dont know all about him. I onley hope that he will be all right. I understand you to say that you would not go home wen you quit chool or how is that you will have to make up some excuse then to tell him. I think that I would just tell him how it is. I would so much rather have his good will of cours all he could do or say would not keep me from coming after you as long as you say come.

Now I will say anuther thing if it seams too much for you to talk to your pap about this have brother Andrew to tell him. I should surley like to know how he will feal about the matter before I come over and then I would know just how to take him. My dear I will leave the matter with you to fix of cours as I told you before I expected to doo my part what ever it mite be and hope all will be all right.

You spoak of our mail rout. No it has not been changes yet. I dont know enney thing about it. We hear so menney diferent things about it. There will not be enney change now ontill the first of the year if then.

I was going to say about the 10 days trip. I dont want

you to think that I am in a hurry you know. If pap gets after me I mite come back in less time then that but I dont want to come back till you ar redy to come with me. I will see about that if I dont get it much cheaper I wont get that kiend of a ticket. Then we will take all the time we will want.

My dear if I dont be careful I will have too much of a letter this time but I dont think you will care how much I write. I fear some times that I dont get it verry interesting but I am glad you say that my letters pleas you and that you think that tha ar all rite. You told me that you got a sample of those picturs of your chool. I be glad to see it. I was glad that you showed Martha and brother Lew those picturs. Has Frank and Katie ever seen them? So Frank was about to loos a horse. That would of been too bad. That will bee just all right if you can get that lady friend of yours to take your chool. Peapel will wander what Mary os going to doo what she is quitting chool for.

I am glad that you tell me that you studied well over the matter of coming out hear with me and know what you ar dooing. Thats right I think I have spoke about this an anuther place. You will fiend it before you get throw reading this letter about you geting home sick. My dear you know it will not be like if you was going away of [off] and had no one to love you and kear [care] for you that would be a diferent thing. I know that we can manage to stay till we get this little det paid and then if we dont want to stay hear we can rent our farm and go East.

Now my dear I had better quit for this time or meby you will loos too much of chool time trying to make out my scribling. This is from your loving friend. Good night my dear.

Joe