

Independence Mo
Feb 15th 1867

My Dear little Niece

Your very interesting letter of the 10th inst. came today. We were very happy as well as very much surprised at getting a letter from you. The surprise is all the more agreeable that your letter is (mentions).

You tell us what we are glad to hear and tell it well.

Your spelling and grammar are correct, which does you great credit. This is the first letter from any of my Nieces or Nephews and I will place it away to see who next of them will come in to dispute the palm with you.

We are glad to hear so much of you all. Tell Ross I will

not think of him as a baby, for
him to make haste and grow
for after awhile I shall want
him to make a lamp of.
Tell him to grow strong, ride
the horses, feed the pigs, hunt eggs
chop wood and everything else
that will keep him in the open
air that he may grow robust &
strong.

Tell your Pa and Ca that
we have not been forgetful
of them though we have not
written them. The horse had
much sickness. Since we
wrote you before we have
had a sweet little babe born
into us and taken from us.

It was born Jan 8, and died
July 7, looking one day of being
a month old. We called her
Maud. She was a very sweet
child and grew rapidly and we
hoped she might have lived

but she sickened of congestion of the
liver and bowels and in 240 hours
after she was first attacked she
was dead. We have buried her
here.

Though we have had so
much sickness and already two
deaths in our little family yet
we hope for better.

We thank you very
much for your invitation to
visit you but will hardly
be able to this summer.
We will remember it though
and visit you when we
can. Meanwhile tell your
mother that when you are
a little older she must let
you and Ross come and spend
a summer with us. We have
a little sister just about your
age and I know you will
find her a very sweet companion
for a summer and as for Ross

He can hunt and fish with me,
stay in any office, ride pony,
or anything else to enjoy himself.
We are delighted with this Country -
Tell your Pa as for climate and
tell me on for ahead of old
Rush.

How my little Eva doubt
let your first be your last
letter but write often

Give our love to your
Pa & Ma and all the children
receiving the longest portion for
yourself as you have shown
yourself the most deserving.

Tell Alice to write us too. She
must be writing also. Your Uncle
Ross & Effie

P.S. Aunt Lucy says tell your Ma she will
write her soon. R.S.

to your Pa & Ma and the little ones.
It is the story of a little girl & I know
will interest you. I would send
you a copy but as we get few
copies we have to make one copy
do for many.

And now I have
written you a long letter & shall
expect an early reply -

Show our love with your
Pa & Ma & the children. Tell your
Ma to ~~send~~ the letter for us,
and if you will write me a pretty
letter in reply I will kiss your cheeks
when I see you.

Your Uncle
Ross

Independence Mo

July 15. 1867

My Dear little Niece,

You think your big
uncle a very negligent correspondent,
and so he is. But you know we
always intend better than we do; at
least, it is so with me and was
so with boys & I suppose, may be
so with little girls. You will
forgive. I don't expect my little niece
to be very exacting anyhow. You
see affection & stiffness don't belong
to the true & lovely woman & that
is what I expect you, & all my
little nieces, to be.

Well now what shall
I write you. It is a very hard
matter for me to write to little
folks. I succeed much better in
talking to them; or rather in getting
them to talk to me. I suppose it

must be very good looks that inspires
the confidence of the little ones, for they
will prattle away to me all day.
I can hardly expect as much of
my writing. For I it is fortality, when
even little folks, think, or call me "good
looking"; since my looks are not
our good, my writing you will
say is abominable. And now
assuming that you have said this -
the justice of which I admit - let me
determine myself by my own opinion
& error & make myself a fine
writer. To do this (for you can do it
& promise well), you must be patient
and careful; practice a great deal
and always take pains. There are
three accomplishments, the most
rare & most valuable, in women, -
all of which are within your reach.
I will name them & expect when I
see you to find you proficient in
them. I name them in the order of
their importance: First, then, a good

talker; second, a good reader; &
third, a good writer. When you
are proficient in these you will be
an accomplished lady & not before.
Labor then for this. Put in use, when
talking with your parents & little brothers
and sisters, the grammar you learn
at schools. Learn from your
dictionary the proper pronunciation of
words & use some you cannot
pronounce correctly. Learn to articulate
well and speak distinctly. In this
all, you are talking and reading,
go together. While you are learning
the one, you are learning the other.
Now I suppose I have given you
less on enough this evening. -
We are all well. Your
Aunt Lucy is writing some pretty
little stories which are being published
here. I think we will send some
of you, perhaps Uncle George, the
papers containing the one now published.
You must get them & read the story.



November, 1. 1871

Dear muel

I received your letter
 and last thursday and i was truly glad to hear
 from you i should have answered ~~the~~ your
 letter sooner but we have had so much company
 lately that it has kept me busy to do the work
 Sarah Jane started home last monday week and
 Siller started last thursday and since that time
 we had ^{had} so much company ~~at~~ last monday
 night there was about 30 here and they stayed
 till about midnight and i tell you ~~you~~
 we had a nice time sure ~~the~~ both ~~and~~ and
 Oehltree done the marketing ~~and~~ Oehltree come before
 Super he did not betch any one with him
 but betched ~~the~~ Inda King and ~~of~~ Sally ~~and~~
 with Mrs Downeys girls ~~and~~ i cant tell you
 how they all come it would take me to long
 me was ~~at~~ Armstrongs one last week and me
 had a very nice time but ^{not} as nice as we
 had here Mrs Oehltree was here last night

all night and they set up and
played ~~the~~ on these guitars till it was late
he fetched his guitar down Sunday night
and did not take it away until this morning
mine comes in here tonight and they are cutting
up so that i can hardly write mine and
says that they send you their love and
best respects bob has gone away and he
started yesterday and i was busy to see him here
we will miss him sure

i must tell you that on last Sunday
week my brother and sister all that are living
were here together and i suppose it will
be the last time that we will all be
here together again for sometime ~~ago~~ it is
hardly likely that we will ever all be to
gather here again in mother's lifetime it was
the first time that we had all been together
for fifteen years mother said

The big meeting commenced here at ^{ship} friend in 3 weeks
and next Sunday i would be glad if
you could be here to attend but you will
not i don't suppose

you told me to tell you how i
my dear is: I'm well i haven't done
anything at it ~~the~~ yet i thought
i would go the last of this week and get
the things for it and get my hat
and i will tell you in my next letter
as they had said all gone to bed and
left me sitting all alone i guess i will
stop writing for the night and write to
please write soon

Yours truly

John G. Wellman

St Louis City Nov 8, 1872

My Dear Niece;

I send you my birthday present reversing the rule & making the present from my birthday instead of on yours. The enclosed is supposed to be my shadow on my 36th birth day. I am aware that the "shadow" is not very handsome and if it were your brother would hardly recognize her brother. But supposing that you and your mother & father might wish to see me as I am and as I was under promise to have my photo for my wife's little sister I thought one to have one printed for you also. & send it. I suppose one will be quite enough for Rush County. I have no news of consequence

We are all quite well and tell
your parents I am doing very well.

We have an only child - a
little girl, fat, rosy and pretty fine
grows all. Can't you come
out sometimes and spend a
winter. We have something
here in the way of public amuse-
ment and instruction.

We have I believe the finest
opera house in the state & frequently
good actors. Already this fall we
have had three Stons about
as good as any traveling. We
also have lectures, one or two courses
of 12 each, a winter, and we have
some very good preachers. Though
I suppose young ladies generally
go to church to show their bonnets,
is this so? If you can come

out next fall say and spend
the winter we will take good care
of you and I am quite sure you
will find plenty to interest you.

Your Aunt Lucy has frequently said
she would like to have you or
your Cousin Alice, ^{or both of them} spend a winter
with her when you have left school
and are in society and as I suppose
that time has about arrived with
look of just please consider yourself
invited for next winter or if you
prefer next summer. Please
communicate the invitation by Alice
as I ^{can} hardly get time to write her.

Now I believe I have
said all I started out to say & will
close with the request to write in reply.
Give our love with your Mothers, your
Uncle Andrews & your usual precious folks.

Your Uncle Ross Duffin

Received Dec. 2nd 1871
at the W. A. S. Oxford, O

Monday November 25
Dear niece

as i have allowed sometime to elapse since
i have written to you i will ~~not~~ tell why
i have done so i thought that i would
see Alice at church yesterday and make
arrangements with ^{her} to go over to see you this
evening as you requested us to do but it was
such a bad day that there was more of ~~people~~
them at church and i was disappointed
i have not saw Alice nor you ma either one
since i got your last letter but thought
i would see them yesterday which would
be time enough to make the arrangements
to go over this evening but such was not the
case on the account of the weather and i thought
that i could tell you the news better than i
could write it but i am coming over ma
with in a few weeks if Alice will ~~not~~ go
over with me or if she will not go and not let
me know when she is going write and tell

one what day in the week ~~it~~
you will be at ~~Leisure~~ so i can come then
there has bin big meeting going on here
at friendship bus three days but closed last
night the ~~bus~~ house was almost filled yesterday
although it was a very gloomy day and
Mr. Thrap from Adrian College delivered most
an excellent discourse he is a very fine speaker
~~and~~ and he has a splendid education
and last night the house was entirely filled
and Mrs. Higden delivered a discourse on
the subject of faith which was very fine
the ministers were both here last night
all night and ~~with~~ Mr. Thrap was telling
me this morning about the college and i
think it must be a very fine and ~~an~~
accommodating college
there has bin ~~in~~ weddings here within the
last few days John Wiley and Miss
McCormick and Albert Mcmickle and Emma
Smith are married
i have got my dress made i got it made
in Nashville and it is turned in black

velvet and it is made with a
bush and a long over skirt
you asked what had become of Mr. Payne
and his new buggy they are still calling
on me occasionally but not very often ~~by the~~
i told him that you had bin enquiring about
him and he said that he was truly glad to
hear it and he even went so far as to say
that he thought you was a very fine girl
with out a doubt about it the boys
~~it~~ made good use of their sleighs last week
Griney poston has got a fine ^{new} sleigh and so has
mine crows and wayne has got his sleigh fixed
up real nice and he ~~has~~ some new bells
and i tell you he took one sleigh riding several
times last week and we had a nice time
we have had company to day Mrs. Moore and
her wife has bin here to day i feel like
that i could write all night but as it is
getting late i guess i will close asking
you to write soon

Yours truly
Miss Est. Hellman



Miss Cow Wellman
Care of Robt. Wellman Esq
New Salem
Kush County
Indiana



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Miss Eva Wellman

Eva Wellman

~~W. H. Seminary~~

W. H. Seminary W. H. Seminary

Chi.

Eva Williams
W. G. Seminary,
Oxford, Ohio

Recd Dec 2, 1821