

West/Steele Family Letters, 1913-1975

by

Darrell M. West
Brown University
and
Brookings Institution

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Preface

This volume contains around 700 letters written by various members of the Harry Steele family of Fairhaven, Ohio (my maternal side) and the Walter West family of Liberty, Indiana (my paternal side). It includes the correspondence of Martha Steele (a nurse in Cincinnati), her mother (Mrs. Robert) Emma Irwin Steele (a farm wife and home healthcare worker), sister Georgia Steele Thompson (a school teacher in Eastern Ohio who also was called Dorde), sister Mae Steele Huston (a farm wife in Oxford), and various relatives and friends.

There also are West family letters written to my father, Robert West by his brother Lawrence, sisters Minnetta and Helen, parents Walter and Laverne West, and my mother Jean Steele West during and after World War II. Robert was stationed in the Pacific Ocean as part of the U.S. military during the 1940s war. Lawrence was in the Navy during World War II and spent time off Japan and in the Marshall Islands. Robert and Jean got married in 1947 and they exchanged letters about the war, post-traumatic stress, the atomic bomb, voting, smoking, crime, inflation, housing problems, and personal behavior.

The Steele letters cover family life in rural Ohio during the 20th century as Mae gets married in 1921, Georgia and Martha go away to school in 1922, and brother Harry Steele remains on the family farm outside of Fairhaven. After early correspondence describing family and community life, there are dramas concerning World War I, infectious diseases, hog butchering, tornadoes, the introduction of cars and electricity, the 1923 stroke and 1926 death of father Robert Steele, Martha's 1923 nursing school problems and her various romances in 1924, 1927, 1928, and 1929, friends who attended Ku Klux Klan events in 1923 and 1925, Harry's 1925 marriage to Dorothy Sheffer Steele, and the birth of Jean Steele West in October, 1925.

There furthermore are discussions of Emma's struggles to find work taking care of infirm people following her husband's passing, a 1929 flood in Fairhaven, farm debt during the Great Depression, Georgia's 1930 pregnancy problems, Jean's pneumonia in 1931, a milk strike in 1932, why people should vote Republican in the 1932 elections, Steele family disputes over farm costs and operations in 1932, coal strikes in 1931 and 1932, a neighbor's first airplane trip in 1933, having scarlet fever and getting electric lights installed in the family home in 1936, Martha's insurance problems in 1938, a farm lawsuit in 1942 after Emma died, the Morman Church's request for money from Martha in 1954, concerns about Helen Steele's boyfriends in the 1960s, and the 1972 trip of Robert and Jean West to Hawaii.

The letters from each side of the family show what life was like during a 20th century period of tremendous economic, political, and military upheaval. Money was quite scarce for most of the family members and there were sharp disputes over finances as the Great Depression intensified. In 1932, Georgia and her husband John Thompson accused Harry of mismanaging the farm when College Corner banker John Pults demanded the sisters co-sign a bank loan for the farm. She and her husband confronted the rest of the Steele family and says Emma never taught the family about thrift and that is the reason the family is poor. Emma complains to Martha about John's nastiness and Harry says if John ever raises these unfounded accusations again, he will have him arrested. By 1933, Emma is no longer on good speaking terms with her daughters Georgia or Mae, and is pleading with her other daughter Martha for information about the family. Mae got lung cancer in 1932 and died in 1937 while Emma passed away in 1941. That year, there was a lawsuit between Harry, Georgia, and Martha after Emma died concerning farm valuation and asset division.

The correspondence shows the extraordinary amount of time people in the early 20th century spent attending to daily needs such as cooking, cleaning, washing, ironing, and home and farm maintenance. Infectious diseases were a regular concern in the 1920s and 1930s before the advent of antibiotics as small pox, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, pneumonia, measles, mumps, and scarlet fever often tore through communities and led to extended sickness and death. Doctors would make house calls but often were unable to treat outbreaks other than through quarantines and/or bed rest.

War was another preoccupation as the United States was pulled into World War I and II and local men were drafted or volunteered for military service. It was not always easy for rural people used to small town lives

when they were put into military camps with those from different backgrounds and sent to far away locales in Europe, Asia, or the Pacific Ocean.

One of the unusual aspects of the Steele family was how parents Robert and Emma Steele sent their three daughters (Mae, Martha, and Georgia) in the 1920s off the farm and into the world to find their own paths almost as soon as they graduated from high school (Harry remained on the family farm). Mae married a local farmer, Glenn Huston, whom Emma did not like. She regularly criticized him to the other daughters and complained that Mae and Glenn were poor and that he was not a good farmer.

Martha went to Cincinnati for nursing school but she did not graduate with her nursing program and had to take her probation year all over again. She struggled financially from low-wage nursing jobs throughout her life and at one point moved to Chicago and Iowa to become a massage therapist. She never seemed to have enough money to pay her insurance, which caused great consternation within her family. She stayed single throughout her life, but had several suitors including Lee Houck who described himself as a member of the Ku Klux Klan who was happy she was not Catholic, Arthur Fleschman, a writer who bragged about kissing her and who loved to drink Scotch, and an old man who Martha told her friends had “smutty ideas”. Her mother constantly worried about Martha and told her the city was a dangerous place, she should avoid people who would take advantage of her, and she should focus on “number one”. Sometimes, Martha would disappear for months on end and not answer letters from her sisters or mother, which concerned them greatly.

Georgia went to college at Muskingum and became a school teacher in Steubenville, Jewett, and Carrollton, Ohio. She married another school teacher named John Thompson and they became the most prosperous of the daughters. But despite the financial security, Emma did not like John and thought he was too controlling. When Georgia suffered a miscarriage in 1930, Emma blamed John for not giving her adequate medical care and he later was instrumental in family disputes over Steele farm bank bonds and the farm valuation after Emma died in 1941. A neighborhood group composed of Jim Beckett, Carl Kline, and Levi Shoemaker eventually was put together to provide an independent estimate of the farm’s value and Harry Steele purchased the 175-acre farm for \$11,681.66 (or \$66.75 per acre) in 1942 based on their assessment. His sisters thought that price was way too low for the farm.

My great-grandmother Emma Irwin Steele (1865-1941) was a strong force in the lives of all of her children and the community in general. As a farm wife and home healthcare worker, she kept track of people’s medical problems, family squabbles, marriages, divorces, the plight of friend’s children, weather-related difficulties, and people’s shifting financial circumstances. She was not afraid to voice her opinions and often expressed intense views about family members and people who lived in Fairhaven, Camden, Eaton, Oxford, and College Corner, Ohio. Her letters are filled with news, gossip, personal assessments, and advice for other people. This was true for her children as well as the many individuals she encountered as she moved around the community.

Several times during the correspondence, Emma asked Martha to burn her letters so other family members would not see the negative comments she has written about them. However, her daughter did not burn the letters and after her death, the letters passed to my mother Jean Steele West and then onto her children. Since it is almost a century after the exchanges and all the letter-writers are deceased, I have compiled them so others can gain a better understanding of life during this important historical time period of economic depression, war, social transformation, and personal trauma.

For more information about our family, see my 2019 memoir *Divided Politics, Divided Nation: Hyperconflict in the Trump Era* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press) and also my personal letters compiled in *Letters of a College Student, 1974-1983*, *Letters of a College Professor, 1992-2007*, and various family genealogies, pictures, and histories found on my www.INSIDEPOLITICS.org website. There also are YouTube videos I made such as “Growing Up in Rural America, 1930s to 1970s” and “Secrets of Being Married for 50 Years” that show family experiences. Those sources cover the personal journeys that our family took in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Darrell M. West
Washington, DC

December 27, 1913
 Nellie Somers
 Eaton, Ohio

Dear Martha [Steele],

How are you? I have got a bad cold. How is Georgia? Tell her Zelna got her card. Do you like to go to school? I like to go to school pretty well. How is Mae? When are you coming over to see us? I don't know when I will come over to see you. We have got 4 little calfs. I was past your house one Sunday night. I wish you was going to our school, don't you? Tell Georgia I will write to her the next time we have a nice snow. What did you get for Christmas? I got 2 books and some other things. Ma is churning butter now. I don't know if that is the way to spell it.

Your friend, Nellie

March 12, 1916
 Louise M. Schlegel
 College Corner, Ohio

Dear Martha [Steele],

How are you? I have a bad cold and coughed nearly all week, but it is better. I like school pretty well. We moved the 1st day of March. I just hate it here. There is not anybody to play with. We have to walk to the crossroad to get on the hack bus. I don't like it at all, but we will get to ride after a while. Every night and every morning going and coming to school, they tease Ruth Ferris and Clara and me and step on our feet. I only got to take three studies in the exams that were language, agriculture, and history and I have not got my grades yet. Have you gotten yours? I only got my grade cards Thursday and I passed in everything but spelling, which I only got 60 on. I will have to try and do better next time. We had to write with ink in our examination. In physiology, we are having a booklet in drawing. I haven't got mine done yet. I must stop for this time. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Louise

March 12, 1916
 Louise M. Schlegel
 College Corner, Ohio

Dear Georgia [Steele Thompson],

How are you? Fine, I hope. I like school pretty nice and I like my teacher only when her fellow goes back on her and she is mad. At Morning Sun, we play Old Dan Tucker and Captain Gints and four hands round the rogue world and have lots of fun. Myrtle Morrow goes with Lester Heavenridge. When are you and Martha coming over? I would like to see you as I have a lot to tell you when I see you. We are not going to have a telephone, I don't think. Our mail route is College Corner, Ohio RR 2. The day you come over, let me know and I will meet you. Come the same way you always did. How may head marks have you got? We do not have any down here. How many days of school have you missed? I have missed 27. Come over soon.

Louise

March 12, 1916
 Clara Schlegel
 College Corner, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you? I am fine and dandy these windy days. I am so lonesome today. I don't know what to do so I thought I would write. We have to walk to get on the hack bus now. We walk about a mile to get on it. Some mornings, it is pretty cold but we are going to try to get them to bring us.

We have not got our examinations papers yet, have you? We have 5 in our class: Edna Graven, Margaret Jamieson, Arthur Bess, Glen Hamilton, and I. Aren't we some class? You wanted to know who Louise's little fellow was. She wanted me to keep it all to herself. Ha, ha. I have not got anybody to play with on our hack. The boys are so mean that we have to fight to take care of ourselves.

Your friend, Clara

September 25, 1916
 Mae Steele [Huston]

West Alexandria, Ohio

Dear Martha,

You girls must be having a time with colds out there. I haven't had any yet.

Helen surely does have a time with her little children. I hope my children won't have such mishaps.

I will also get you a shuttle and give to Harry and a ball of thread. Do you want a crochet hook? You can tell Harry if you do. I will give the things to him on Friday at the fair. I thought Aileen was going to go away on the 15th of September.

Last Saturday night, I went to the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" show. Mrs. Kelly gave me two tickets and I gave one to Miss Huber. Miss Huber came down here and went with me. She said show was short and not much good. But I didn't have to pay out any money for it.

Well you must write to me as soon as you get time. If I should stay at Eaton, I am going to take my books with me and study.

Grace is going home Tuesday evening but I will write reports and study on Wednesday and maybe sew a little. I don't know what we will have for supper but we had pork chops for dinner and they were good.

Tell Harry that I will write to him later but I haven't time right now. I sent a card home this morning but I expect it will get there the same time that this letter does.

Well I must close and get to work. Write whenever you can. Hope you are getting along allright at school.

Your loving sister, Mae

December 7, 1916

Louise Schlegel

Trenton, Ohio

Dear Friend Martha [Steele],

How are you this nice weather? I am not feeling very good for I have the blues so bad since last night.

Well Mama went to Camden or over to Mrs. Ramseys Tuesday. Clara thinks that she can do as she pleases. Guess I liked to cried my eyes out last night. Say this pen point is not very good so I will finish with pencil, I guess.

How is school? I hope I am kinda glad I don't have to go to school this year.

Well, Martha, haven't you ever had the chicken pox? If you haven't, I surely do pity you. I don't know what they are for but I had them when I was a little bit of a baby.

Martha, do you ever see Fannie any more? Her and I write real often, but I haven't got any letter from Mary for a long time. Don't know what is the matter with her.

I could have spanked you for not writing sooner for I thought you never was going to write. Soon as I get a letter, I have to answer it. For if I don't, I forget all about it. I will write to Georgia now so answer real soon.

Louise

December 7, 1916

Louise Schlegel

Trenton, Ohio

Dear Georgia [Steele Thompson],

How are you a coming? Have you got the chicken pox yet? Say kid, I would dearly love to see you. You don't need to be surprised if you see me before very long for I am just crazy to come and Mama said we could come about Christmas and I will be around to see you if you wish.

Say I am just about crazy there was two women had a fight over the telephone this morning and one of them called up and gave Mabel the dickens and the other woman and her old man came this afternoon and Mabel had gone to Hamilton and so they was telling me all about it so if I have any mistakes in this letter, don't think anything about it, please.

Say I want you to ask Georgia Charles if she got my card. Say I would clearly love for you and Martha to come down and stay with me til after Christmas. I would surely be at home.

I forgot your birthday. Was the fifth but I won't forget you on Christmas. I will have to close. Hoping to hear from you real soon.

Louise

P.S. Please don't wait so long to write.

December 14, 1916
Mae Steele [Huston]
West Alexandria, Ohio

Dear Harry,

I received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you, The only thing is you didn't write a very long letter but a half loaf is better than none.

Are you going to go to Eaton Friday night to the Basketball game? I am going to the Farmers Institute here at the schoolhouse. Jennie says she is going over to Eaton. If you come to Eaton and can come over here, please come for I would be glad to see you.

We have a great deal of work to do now. Tonight I will have two lesson plans and an outline for the first four months in drawing to write out. Now you know from this that this means work.

Mr. Kelley has been real sick. They had to call the doctor last night between 4:00 and 4:30. Then he came again about 9:00 and is coming again but don't know what time.

Mr. Kelly came home sick with a bad cold and said that his back hurt him. They think that maybe John (their grandson) has hurt his back carrying him in playing horse. The doctor said that he had taken another cold on the first and don't know whether he has pleurisy or pain in the heart. Either one is bad enough. I don't think the doctor that they have knows or is very much good. Mr. Kelley is white and looks as if he had been sick for a long time. I am afraid that he is worse than the people realize. Grace thinks the very same thing. Mrs. Kelley is about all right again. Grace's cold is about all gone again.

No, Harry C. doesn't come over here anymore. Tell Mama and Papa that I thank them very much for the money. Harry, you never answered the question that I asked you. Please answer this letter. I am not certain yet as to the time I will come home.

I am glad that you are having such good luck trapping your loving sister.

Mae

December 14, 1916
Mae Steele [Huston]
West Alexandria, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I received your letter and was also glad to hear from you. I am pretty busy with one kind of work then another. I have so many notebooks to keep up. Now this is no easy matter. Drawing, poems, story, school management, school law, and method notebook to be kept up to date. I am back on my sewing notes so I expect to do that Saturday if I stay and will have to do it sometime during that time.

I expect to get the black skirt made Saturday if that woman doesn't go back on me again. I hope the chicken thieves don't get around home any place.

The Farmers Institute is Friday and Saturday and both evenings. I am going Friday evening because I won't have to pay to get in.

Well, I must close and help get supper.

Your sister, Mae

December 14, 1916
Mae Steele [Huston]
West Alexandria, Ohio

Dear Georgia,

Was glad to hear from you. Was surprised to hear that you had had the chicken pox and am glad that I missed them, although my turn may be coming. I hope you will be over with it before I come home.

If I stay and take part in the exercises here, I won't get home until Xmas morning. I have some notes that I have to copy and perhaps will have to stay and do that during Saturday.

That certainly was too bad about Ralph Doty but I don't doubt but that he is better off. Did Mr. Bailey or Troxel have the funeral services?

You asked me what I wanted for Xmas. Well, I don't hardly know. But I want a muff that will match my coat but I know that I won't get it. Now what do you want?

Tell Mama and Papa that I will write to them at another time as I have told most everything now. Write whenever you can.

Your sister, Mae

October 24, 1917
 Louise M. Schlegel
 635 Fairview Avenue
 Hamilton, Ohio

Dear Martha and Georgia,

Well, girls, what is the matter you never write to me? Have you forgotten there ever was a nut like me. How is school? Who is your teacher?

I have been sick all week with a cold. It is a little better now. I was so hoarse I could not talk loud at times.

We moved to Hamilton [Ohio] the second of this month. I don't like it at all down here. I haven't gotten acquainted with anyone down here yet. I sure did hate to leave Trenton and my friends for we sure had some times up there.

This place has been dead this week. The street cars went on a strike Sunday morning and haven't started to run yet. I wanted to go to Trenton to the Doctor but can't get there.

Do you ever see Fannie? I wrote her a letter quite a while ago and then I sent her a card about two weeks ago and she hasn't answered yet. Guess she must be mad at me.

Does Mary Austin go to school this year? Who did Ruth marry?

I wish you could come down some Friday night and stay til Monday or longer if you could. For 2 weeks would be great to see you.

Well, I don't go to school anymore but wish I could for we sure used to have some time together.

Do you remember what fun we used to have when we went to Miss Charles? Do you know very many boys that had to go to Chillicothe for the military? Vernon Breitenbecker at Trenton had to go. I get a letter from him about every week. Poor kid, I sure do feel sorry for them. It wouldn't be so bad if they wouldn't have to go across the waters and fight. My brother-in-law didn't pass the physical exam and I sure was glad.

Well kids, I will have to close so as to get in before they gather the mail. Write soon and come down.

Your old friend, Louise

May 9, 1918
 Unknown writer
 26 N. 6th Street
 Hamilton, Ohio

Dear Martha and Georgia,

No doubt you will be scared to death to get a letter from me although I hope not. I have been so busy here of late. We moved uptown and you know that means a great deal and I have been working for about 2 months now up at the Home Telephone. I like it real well, only it make me so nervous that I can hardly sleep at night. So you can call me up some time.

How is school? I suppose it will be out before long. No doubt you will be glad. Are you both in the same class yet? I would give most anything if I was going to school as it makes me sick when I think of it.

About 3 weeks ago, I thought sure I seen Mae [Steele Huston] in town. She went into Kesslers and I didn't say anything for I was afraid it wasn't her. How is your mother and father?

Do you ever see Fannie? I haven't heard from her for the longest time and I seen in the paper where she was married. I could hardly believe it. They surely weren't engaged very long. Where do they live?

There is thirteen more boys leave here tomorrow for military camp. Say ain't this war [WWI] getting to be something awful. I was over to the train when the boys left before and you never seen such a crowd. It was something awful. It sure makes you feel bad. I told Mama I wasn't going over any more. I have a friend that

leaves I suppose the 26th of this month and I don't see how I can stand it to go over. But he says he has too. There is two boys from Trenton now in France. Well I had better change the subject to something else.

Do you ever see Dorothy Ramsey? If you do, tell her she had better get busy and write me.

Say do you ever think of the good times we used to have at the old Ramsey School? It makes me homesick to think of it. I wish we was still living there and everything would be like it was then. I would have a little sister at home with me,

Say I would give anything to see you kids. I wish you could come down some time and stay awhile. Do you still wear your glasses? I have goggles now with black rims around. I don't like them very well but he told me they were the kind I should wear. How is Bernice Casey?

Unknown writer

May 31, 1921
Mrs. Holcomb
PawPaw Illinois

Martha,

How are you? I had a drive of 40 miles posting bills in Wisconsin this forenoon. I moved farther south this afternoon. I shall be at Oquiawka, Illinois about June 6 and 7 and would be glad to hear from you there.

Yours truly, Mrs. Holcomb

December 24, 1921
Georgiana Pattison
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I am sending you the recipe for the good fruit salad recommended. I saw Georgia [Steele Thompson] in Doctor Coombs office and would have told her but since I was sick this morning, I didn't get to find out until this evening.

The dressing of pineapple juice with corn starch using what you would for gravy can be cooked a day ahead. Prepare two packages of orange jello and when ready to set or harden, add the dressing of pineapple and cornstarch. Have ready by this time, you cut up 2 average size bunches of celery, 1 can of sliced pineapple, 1 pound of white grapes, and the number of apples you desire. Cut into 16ths and 10 cents worth of marshmallows cut up. Then allow your salad to harden. We served the salad on breakfast-sized plates with sandwiches and coffee.

I certainly wish the bride much happiness and trust. She has an ideal day for the wedding.

Yours sincerely, Georgiana

January 2, 1922
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I wonder how you are this morning. I do hope you are better long before this. Maybe we will began from you today. Your father has been complaining for about 2 weeks and Doctor Coombs has been here a couple of times. He has hardening of the arteries. He is terribly grumpy and fussy. Harry and I can't tell whether there is much wrong or not.

Doctor Coombs said that the nursing programs were never so hard on the girls where you are after the probation was over. In fact, it got easier all the time. I'll tell you that sounded good to me. I can hardly wait now til you get the probation off your hands.

Georgia goes away next Saturday afternoon. Leaves Richmond at 1:20. If nothing happens, Harry will take her to Richmond. Wish I could go with them but your father ain't fit to be left alone. Last night, Bill B and Cleo, Garry and Georgia, Bill Brandin, and Bob Ramsey's 2 boys had a rook party at Sarah Scotts. I reckon that will be the last blowout Sarah will have before she is married. She showed Georgia and the wedding groom and all the other presents she had. Georgia said they were very nice. The wedding will be some time in February. I'll sure write again soon to you. It seems like it looks so much time to get ready to travel again. Now if you ain't able to write, get somebody to do it for you. There is so much talking, I can't think. I do hope you are better.

Lots of love, Mamma

January 4, 1922
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Received your letter yesterday and I am sure that I'm glad you are better. Your father is doing very poorly. He has hardening of the arteries and we can't tell just how it is going to be. Believe with the work and sickness that I have neglected you but I thought of you all the same. If everything goes well, I will leave Richmond next Saturday pm and I'll have Harry send you a registered letter of \$7.00 and you get a pair of shoes, rubbers, and stockings. Now don't spend the money for anything else and get your foot wear just as soon as possible for we don't know when you might need them and we don't want to stop to buy shoes. Don't let the Doctors go to carving your nose now. We have too much on our hands now without that. It's mail time so I'll have to close. I'm sending some stamps. Don't loan your stamps. I'll write again soon.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

January 8, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mamma, and Harry,

Monday evening, I was so good for nothing that I didn't get a letter written. I thought I would get home before the mailman went, but he was somewhat early I guess so missed him.

Got to Steubenville OK. Did not have to make any changes at all. I got in a Pullman car just after leaving Richmond and stayed there until about 6:00, then was changed to a chair car, had to pay \$1.43 extra. Got to Steubenville at 10 minutes til 1:00 o'clock. Mr. E. Bremer was there and took me to Haughaus. Mrs. Palmer has been visiting ever since New Years. Mr. Vaughn went to Columbus today.

How is Papa getting along? Hope he is better. Suppose Martha is getting along OK? Was that yarn all right that I got for the blanket?

They put a new stove in the school house, just went fine today. Only had eight out today, four girls and four boys.

Got a letter today, but you could never guess who it was from so I will tell you. Samuel Steel. Real nice letter too.

Have you heard from Aunt Mary lately or since I left?

Got some report cards to get ready and also papers to grade so will stop now.

Love, Georgia

February 5, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
New Concord, Ohio

Dear Folks,

Read your letter yesterday evening. Also got a letter from Aunt Mary. I saw in the newspaper where Florence Worley is married. I am glad that it is the other fellow instead of me who has to live with her. The paper says that she is 25 years old but I know better.

You was asking about the picture that I sent home. The girl back of Maud in the checked dress is Sarah Care, Homer Silver's girl. Then the other girl which I suppose you think is me is the girl that asked me to go home with her Thanksgiving.

I am over at the other side partly hidden as they said. It is not good at all. I will explain the picture when I see you.

I paid my tuition last week and it was \$49.00 but had nothing left after that was paid.

Was Mae [Huston] home this weekend? The people that had the measles are coming out one by one. I don't think there are any new cases. There was one girl that had the measles and when she was able to be up and around, there was something the matter with her mind so she had to go home.

Glenn Jeffers was here on a visit from Wednesday to Saturday morning. I think that Aunt Belle had quite a bit of nerve but as they say, it takes nerve to get through this world. Have you been back to Grandma's house since that other time? I had a letter from Milton [Irwin] last week.

We are having fine warm weather over here. It seems more like spring than anything else. One of the springs in my glasses gave way the other morning. How are my shoes coming on? I wanted to buy some shoe polish yesterday and they wanted 50 cents for one bottle so I let them keep it.

Martha McD and Grace Wright are on the verge of a blowout. I expect it will come about the end of this week. Bob is sailing around now with any girl that he can get his hands on. I don't think there is much to him.

With love, Georgia

March 1, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
New Concord, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you? I am still able to navigate although it has been awfully slippery all afternoon. It is something like it was when I came home Christmas but not nearly so bad. Mrs. Laurey, the wife of the Superintendent of Schools and also a teacher in the Normal School, died this morning. She had an operation last Saturday at Columbus for gallstones. She was a very nice looking woman, they had two little boys. Mrs. Laurey has not been able to be to class to teach for the last few days. I don't know when he will be back.

I had a letter from Sarah Scott this evening and also one from Mama. How is school coming on? Have you got your play yet? Are the parts assigned? Cleo told me in her last letter that she was going to be an old Negro woman and she will make a fine one. I am here to tell you I owe Cleo Ramsey a letter now but it will have to be an awful cold day when I answer it. I am sick of her, don't tell her a word that I say or a bit of news from here for she don't deserve knowing.

You asked about your cooking apron. It is all right and I am using it. I will not have to send my washing home until I send it home for spring vacation. I told Maud that it would be all right for her to go as far as our house like we did for Christmas if she wanted to. She is going to write to her folks and see if they have any different arrangements made.

Sarah Scott said that Helen at Middletown had a 9.5 pound boy. I hope the roads are better by the time I come home so we won't have such a time getting from home.

Tell Papa, Mama, and Harry that I am all right and will write them a letter before the week is over. I can hardly realize that it is so near vacation.

With lots of love, Georgia

June 22, 1922
Martha Steele
Camden, Ohio

Dear Louise (?),

Will write as I promised but it is not quite as soon as I thought it would be though. I suppose that you are living in Dayton now as I do not know your Dayton address. I will send this to your old address in Hamilton, then maybe your folks will get it. You may be down over the weekend and get it that way.

How are you anyway? And how is the baby and how is your hubby? I hope that all of you are all OK. The baby must be big and fat by now. Fannie Neal Hansen has a baby girl, Ruth Austin is married and had 2 children. Mary Austin was married last fall. Bessie Fuston is married and has a baby girl.

How is work in Dayton? Is it slack now or is there plenty of it now? If there is any good place a girl just out of high school could work, I wonder if you would care to let me know about it. I would like to go to the hospital at Richmond next spring but I will have to work some place this winter if I do.

You know I never get away anyplace to find out anything so I just have to do the best I can. If you should happen to know of any place in Hamilton or Dayton, you would be doing me a great favor if you would please let me know about it.

Write real soon telling me all about yourselves and your new home in Dayton. Do you like it there? Now do not go to any trouble if you do not know of any place I could work. But I just thought perhaps you would know of someplace.

Your old pal, Martha

July 17, 1922
Campbell Bailey
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
Moline, Illinois

Dear Martha,

It is a long time since we received the invitation to the Commencement Exercises of the Dixon High School which you so kindly sent us. We should have acknowledged it and thank you for it long ago but when one is busy all the time it is very easy to let some things slip by unattended. And that is just the reason that we neglected writing to you after receiving your invitation. It was very thoughtful and kind of you to remember us with an invitation to see you graduate and we truly appreciate it very much. Had we been close enough to attend, we would certainly have attended your graduation unless something over which we had no control had prevented us from doing so. Accept our hearty congratulations of finishing your high school work and receiving your diploma. The invitations your class issued are certainly very pretty and neat in design.

We will always be interested in you and your future work as in all of the Fairhaven people for we did enjoy our work among them and they will always have a very large place in our hearts. We will never forget them. I had a very nice visit with Georgia [Steele Thompson] in New Concord and if I remember correctly I think that she told me that you were taking up nursing as a profession. It is a noble work but one that is hard and attended with many subtle temptations.

But the Lord Jesus is able to keep you safe in every temptation when you put yourself in his care. It would be fine Martha for you to take a course in nursing and give your life to that noble work in some of our foreign mission field where there is such a great need for nurses and physicians. I should like to be a physician and go over there to serve my Lord myself, but he called me to preach instead. The need over there is tremendous and a life invested in serving Christ over there as nurses would bring great return for his Kingdom and also great joy to the one who gave that life to him in such service. Of course, there is great need for nurses here in America, but the need there is many times greater and he would appreciate your service there so much.

Very truly yours, Campbell

July 25, 1922
Doris
Eaton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I have racked my mind for something you could do and can't think of a thing unless you want to clerk in a store. I think you could find a place in either of the ten-cent stores. They are always taking on new girls. Richmond is rather dull at present. I can't find anything to do either so my sole contribution is to wash dishes. Ha! Ha! I am going to Dayton to see if I can find anything.

Myrtle comes home from Oxford Friday so there will be no chance of my stopping at your house. I am awfully sorry. If I hear of anything I think you would like, I will let you know at once.

Your friend, Doris

October 1, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mamma, and Harry [Steele],

I have at last worn one month out. It is at last October. I suppose by the time you get my letter all the flurry and hurry will be over. What time did Harry get home from the trip to Cincinnati?

A week ago last night when in Steubenville, I got cushion top to work. Yesterday I got it finished, washed, and ironed. Am sending it to you in my washing. Ask Harry if he thinks that something like that one would come in handy about Xmas or sometime? Ha ha. It think it is real pretty myself.

I didn't get my washing sent away yesterday. The mail man comes about dinner time and just as I left the table to go to the mailbox, he just pulled away. I will send it in the morning with this letter for sure.

How much did Mary charge for making Martha's clothes? Enough, I suppose.

You asked if Steubenville would be a good place to buy a hat, coat, etc. when I was ready to buy? Yes, I think it will. It has about four very large stores. The Hub is the largest than some others too. I have been in them but don't remember the names just now.

Also had I gotten acquainted with the young people? No, nobody but the Palmers. There are not many to get acquainted with. There is a large strip of land north and west of my school that is owned by the Wayne Coal Company and people have moved away and foreigners come in. The foreigners only stay for a year or two at a time.

I had a letter from Sarah S. Friday and her cousin. Mrs. Steele had been visiting her. I guess Cleo R. and Margarita B. had a bust up. I thought that would be impossible. Sarah said Mae [Steele] was to come up to her house when Glenn [Houston] sows wheat but had not seen anything of her yet.

Had a letter from Aunt Belle. They have been torn p this summer putting electric lights in. Aunt Bella has been awfully bad with Rheumatism also. Said Mamie had an awfully bad cold, but was working every day.

Have you your tomatoes etc. up yet?

It has only rained once since I came over here. I think there is more dust on the road between Vaughan's and my School than all of Preble County could scare up. The dust is so deep I can almost raise a cloud of dust myself when walking to and from school. But when a machine passes, I can hardly express it then. When it begins to rain, though, I expect I will get stuck in the mud. I will stop for now and maybe I can think of something else before time to mail this.

Back again, we went to church this afternoon and heard the new M.E. preacher. He is only coming to preach at this place once in two weeks. He also preaches in Wintersville and at the County Infirmary. I can see the Infirmary from my school house door. It is quite a distance away when you go around the road. I have never passed it, though.

I don't think that I could have gotten in a place where they make you feel more at home than they do here.

I want to write another letter so will stop now and get busy at them.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 4, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your letter today and was surprised to hear from you so soon. Also had a letter from home. They said Harry thought it was a beautiful place and grand for anyone wanting to be a nurse. I am glad that you have a nice room and hope you will continue to like your roommate.

Do you think that you are going to have enough money to last you until another month? Do they pay you so much a month? If so, how much?

When you find out what studies you are going to have, will you write and tell me what they are.

The Old Superintendent was round today. He about set me crazy before he got away from there. Nobody likes him. It seems like they put him out once but in back again this Fall. I am going to the Board meeting next Saturday morning at Steubenville. Then I will get my pay. I won't be rich very long when I get my debts payed. But they won't last for so very long then maybe I will have a little ahead.

I think that I shall get a wrist watch when I get my second months' pay. How do you like your watch? Did you get one of those fountain pens that Danser was showing us that time that you picked out your watch? I think that I would like one of them as well.

I suppose that you will be having some old acquainted parties before long. I hope you will soon get acquainted with the place and like your work. Write to me real often and I will try and do the same. I bought some stamps and am sending you a few of them. Now don't forget to write and hope that you have a real good time.

Someone got into the school house over the weekend and stole both of my brooms. So I got out of sweeping this week. I expect I will get a new one while in town Saturday.

Your sister, Georgia

October 6, 1922

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I must write a little to you this morning. I am sending Georgia's washing and I wanted to send your letters to her. But behold, I can't find either of your letters any place. Harry read them last and he went to the fair this morning and now I don't even know what your address is. I'll get the call and look at it and maybe you will get it. He got back at 3:15. Did you get your new white shoes and rubbers, and what did they cost? Did you have to pay that extra dollars we wondered about? How did your uniforms and aprons look beside the rest of them? Do you wear your uniforms all the time? Tell me what kind of work you have to do. Are you like have to get down on your knees and scrub all the time?

When you give your address, old Mrs. Reese called up Wednesday afternoon to see if you got any. I'll bet she was hoping you didn't.

Mrs. Ewing called up Tuesday morning and inquired about you, but I'm sure her inquiries were all the best of feeling. I've got to do a little more ironing before Georgia's washing can go and maybe you won't get this anyway. If I find either of your letters, I'll write some tomorrow. Now Martha, don't allow yourself to over sleep in the mornings for I am so anxious for you to make a go of it. I'm sure you will if you just get awake. Write as soon as you can. I will too so goodbye. Lots of love.

Mamma

October 7, 1922

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I wonder what you did today? We all went to church as usual. Mr. Rife preached but there were mighty few there. Mrs. Rife ain't home yet. Ain't heard anything about her. Lawrence Whitesell's had their 5 week old kid out. It never whimpered. Bessie Fisher was there too without the kid. She looked fairly good to have been so sick. Harry Lybrook is just living and that is all. Doctor Hawley waits on him. Say how much money will you get when the probation is over? Surely you will get something. How many new girls came into the school when you entered. It sort of scares me to hear of you going downtown. The city [of Cincinnati] is so wicked. I'm afraid you might get into some bad place. Do some of the head ones go with you? Do be cautious who you get with. They changed the young people's meeting to 7 o'clock. Sarah was there today but Mae wasn't. I ain't seen Mae since you went away.

Harry [Steele] has gone to see Dorothy [Sheffer]. May Ewing said you wrote her a postal card and directed it to Camden instead of College Corner. The card was put in Sam Ewing's box and he took it over to Williams. Well, I guess this is about the time of evening that you rub the old fat woman's back, and give the old man a drink of "tay" and spank that kid and tell him to go to sleep. Are you and your roommate working in the same ward? How many are in your ward? Lawrence Ramsey and Harry Lybrook were both in Christ Hospital. Stewart's hog sale came off this week but it was sort of a failure. Harry said Cleo was there too. That evening after the sale, Mrs. Reese called me up and wanted to know if the Dayton hospital would take anyone who had only 3 years of high school. I told her I didn't think they did but I would ask you. She said some of them at the sale declared as they would and some said they would not.

I'll bet this firm was discussed at the sale from A to Z, don't you. I will write to Danser and have him forward the directions on to you. How do you like your match by this time? Which is the nicest, yours or your roommates? Does anybody want to borrow your pen? Nothing would do for Mae and Glenn [Huston] but Harry must get that pesky pup for them and now they say they are afraid to take it down there for fear it will get the same disease that nigger has. But they can just get that out of their system for I ain't going to be pestered with it til next March. No sreee, I ain't.

Mae did make out to bring the Kodak up but there was no film in it. She said she would like to borrow it again at Christmas time and I wrote Georgia and told her not to bring it home. It is just a year now since I was called to Hamilton. Have you written to Mary Belle yet? I haven't heard a peep out of them since you went away. Did you have a good time at your picnic out on the roof garden? How many of you were at that party? Do

you have potatoes, beans, and sweet potatoes at your house? What time of day do you have your main meal? Well, I'll quit and go to bed so good night.

[Next morning] What did you do about marking the rest of your clothes? Did they give you more of your own name and number? How do they work the handkerchiefs? Do they mark them or are you going to send them home? We don't want them to get lost. Well tell us all about your house when you write. You know everything about it is all new to us. I am going to send Georgia's last letter to you. It didn't take her month's wages long to slip away, did it? Well goodbye and write as soon as you can.

Lots of love, Mamma

October 8, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

When I got home from town yesterday evening, a letter from home and yours was waiting for me. I got my first pay Saturday morning. It was a check for \$95.00 by the time I sent \$42.00 to the Teachers Agency, \$25.00 to Camden Bank, and \$25.00 for board and room for five weeks. There was only \$3.00 left for me. The next time I get my pay, which will be the first Saturday in November, it won't be so hard on me.

I went to town Friday evening with Mrs. Palmer and stayed all night then came home Saturday evening with Mr. Palmer. We were at home all day but this evening when Elma's friend came, she was going after her mother to bring her home as she was away visiting. She asked me to go along which I did. You don't catch me refusing to go when invited. They are awfully good to ask me to go along when ever they go anyplace

Well, how do you like your work anyway by this time?

I expect Aunt Belle would be glad to hear from you some time. You know her address is 214 North 20th Street. I have never heard from Milton. Homer's address is 305 Pike Street, Manchester, Ohio. I have had one letter from Sarah S. and one from Cleo Ramsey since I came over here.

My feet are getting cold so I had better go to bed and get them warmed up. So will close for this time and write me again real soon.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 8, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mama, and Harry,

We have at last got some rain. We were wanting it awfully bad for the sistern and other wells were almost dry. Did you get scarce of water?

I went to Steubenville Friday evening with Mrs. Palmer. She was going in to stay all night and she thought that I had better go with her for fear it would be raining Saturday morning. Earl took us down in the car machine. Mr. Palmer was going to town Saturday morning but the buggy that he was going to go in did not have any top on it. Sure enough, it rained on him the whole way to town. It did not rain in the evening so I came back out here with him in the buggy.

I went to the Board meeting at 10:30 and they read the monthly report of each teacher, then they found out what each teacher needed in the way of supplies and then passed out the checks. My check was for \$95.00 and \$4.00 went to the Teachers Pension and beginning teachers had to pay a fee of \$1.00. So I only got \$95.00 and next time it will be \$96.00. By the time I sent \$42.00 to the agency, \$25.00 to the Camden bank, and paid \$5.00/week for 5 weeks boarding (or \$25), I only had three dollars to keep me over the next month. So I am not rich yet and I am through with the agency for good now. We get \$4.00 a month for doing our own janitor work and we will get a check for the first four months at the holidays.

What did you think of that cushion top that I sent home? The girls here thought it was so pretty. Mable got one like it to make. The girls were anxious to know what you thought of it. So sometime pass your opinion on it one way or the other. Ha! Ha!

I had a letter from Martha yesterday. She told me not to be so long about answering this time and I got her letter one day and answered it the next. Time must seem long to her, don't you think so?

Tell Harry to ask Dorothy if she ever got my letter. I sent one to her a long time ago. I got a table runner to match the cushion top yesterday.

Palmers have some company. They just got here and I think I shall go down and see who it is and what they look like. It is 9:30 o'clock and am back again but no news so will say good bye.

Love, Georgia

October 8, 1922

Aunt Mary Bell

Eaton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I got your letter but you did not say how you liked the prospect of being a nurse or whether you were homesick. At Muskingum, Georgia could not keep it from her folks that she was homesick..

We have been busy the last two weeks fixing the front bedroom and the summer kitchen to rent out. Mrs. Craig will move in this week. The house she was in has gas and electric lights and it has a bathroom and water and a furnace and the rent went up. The word is a man offered the owner \$35 a month for it or \$25 for the north side. Houses are scarce. When you make a fortune, come to Eaton and put a modern house on them and live off the rents.

Mrs. Craig will do her own cooking and all the work but will go through my rooms to the summer kitchen and to get water. She can keep her canned fruit and potatoes in the cellar. She will go to her sisters in Iowa about Thanksgiving and stay til April but her rent will go on just the same. It will help me out some and I intended on getting those two rooms papered in the spring but got them done now as she was going in.

I just wrote to Georgia last week. I was in hopes you would come to the fair and stop a few minutes. Margaret Bell came Tuesday with her teacher. She brought some school exhibits. Margaret went alone every morning and came back for dinner. She went down every afternoon til Friday am when she had cramps. She sat around all afternoon and we had an early dinner.

Hope you had a good time at the picnic. That is a good way to get acquainted with the girls and the city too. Do be careful what kind of people you associate with. Keep in touch with church members. I know a little how some nurses talk by what Lizzie Bradford said. She and Mattie started at State Hospital now. They have a sanitarium of their own and a 6 room cottage near it and money besides. Lizzie invested in a ranch in Texas. I think she must have got rid of it as she never writes anymore about it.

Love, Aunt Mary

October 9, 1922

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

We all went to church today. Paxton preached and Francis Jackson played the piano. Sarah wasn't there. After church had been going on a while, somebody came in and behold you it was Hazel Whitesell but no baby. After church was out, I inquired about it and they said "Oh Hazel has a new baby girl 5 weeks old." Say they sure kept their business to themselves for I never heard it before.

Harry has gone to see Doctor Bob Newton. He came along and took Harry and he was going to see the preacher's girl.

Well Martha, you have been in the hospital a week now and what do you think of it by this time? Do you find the drudgery that people said? Velma Stewart told me today that they made that classmate of yours that went to Reid Hospital in Richmond wash out such awful dirty clothes but after a while, they gave her a better job. What has your work been besides making beds? How many can you make in a day? Be sure and tell me about it.

How did your dresses fit the cuffs and collars and do you wear the white cap? How long can you wear one dress without having it washed? Hope your dresses are as nice as your roommates. I asked Mae [Huston] if she remembered her and she said "yes, she was a nice quiet girl and you were lucky to have her for a roommate." Does the noise of the city bother you at night and what time do you go to bed and what time do you get up? It looks like they gave you good eats. Harry said you had a beautiful dining room. Do you get to eat in the room he saw?

Do tell me if you got your shoes and rubbers and what you paid for them. Did you have to buy anything else? Harry went to Camden last night and paid Dansen \$5.38. I reckon the 38 cents was tax. He said Dansen was as pleased as a basket of chips. Dansen said he had visited a friend at the General Hospital and it was sure a dandy place. Do they have any kind of religions services at the hospital on Sabbath or any time at all?

Martha Ewing told me today that she is going to write to Bessie Ewing and tell her to go and see you some time. Bessie is Martha and Mary's own niece, their brother John's daughter, and she owns the farm where Kirkers live. She must be about 40 years old and is mighty nice. I have explained her to you so you will know about what to expect. Martha says she is going to Cincy sometime this Fall and is going to see you. You watch and see if any of the other nurses have company to stay with them at night. Maybe they would let Martha stay with you at night. Maybe they would let her sleep with you?

Did you ever go out on the town? Martha, be mighty cautious how and where and who you go with. You know there are so many ways you night get in trouble. I do hope you will like it and get along all right. Everybody is crazy to hear what you have to say about it. I finally found your letter that had the address on it. I was about worried green because I couldn't find the address. Mae and Glenn are coming up tomorrow to borrow the one horse wheat drill. The cats and dogs in general are all sassy. Harry calls the new dog Whiskers. I hope Mae takes it away tomorrow.

[Next morning] Harry took a load of hogs to Cincinnati this morning. Do tell if they are going to pay you anything during your probation period and if so, how much?

Lots of love, Mamma

October 14, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Got your card yesterday and also a letter from Mamma. How are you getting along? Do you have classes or what do you do? Yes, Palmers know Mary Ekey. She taught at Pleasant Hill last winter, Pleasant Hill High School is in the same township that I am in. Palmers were surprised to hear that she was taking nurse training for they thought she was going to college.

Had a letter from Cleo Ramsey the other day and says she is having a fine time having dates with the like of Hershell Coy, Glenn Buchanan, and other old scratches. I don't envy her a bit.

I have embroidered a cushion top since I came here. I sent it home and Mama thought it awfully pretty. I am now embroidering a table runner to match the cushion.

I want to wash my hair today if I don't get frozen out before I get at it. I also have a couple pair of stockings to washing. Am sending my laundry bag home today. Maybe Elma Palmer and I will go walnut hunting sometime today or tomorrow.

Where do you go to Church at? Mama said Francis Jakson played the piano the other Sunday. I am about out of news so will stop and write later.

Have had only one letter from Mae. I'm not going to say anything more to her about writing. Haven't my kodak yet either. Did you get the package that I sent you? Be sure to say when you write.

Love, Georgia

October 14, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Folks,

Expect you are looking for a letter from me this morning but I just neglected writing yesterday. I am having to build fires at school this last week. It isn't so very cold but still cold enough that we need a little fire. I am going to build my own fires for the next two weeks at least then I will get \$8.00 extra from the school. Then I am going to give one of the school boys the job for the next four or five months.

I was so surprised to hear about Gordon. I thought about him all afternoon and hope he gets along good.

Sometimes when in Camden, would you go to the Bank and see if they got my letter? They have never recognized it if they did. I have heard from the agency already. Maybe the Bank's letter will come today.

I will tell as nearly as I can about my watch. I don't want one as big as Martha's is. I think Harry would know about the right size. Do not get the chain with the watch, just have him put the ribbon band on then I can adjust it myself. I think that \$30.00 ought to buy the watch. Harry might go down and see them and if it takes a little more, I will pay it if necessary. Tell Danser to send directions with it for I want to know how to wind and set the thing. Also I want one of those pens, the new kind that he showed to us the time Martha, Harry, and I were there in August. I want one with a ring on the end. When I find out how much it costs, I will send the money to Harry. I will also send enough to pay Grange and Christian Endeavor dues.

In Martha's letter, it sounded like you had added a new dog to the family since I left. Where did it hail from? I want you to put that cushion to use someplace. Had a letter from Aunt Mary. She says Mrs. Craig is moving in with her for the winter. Am sending my washing to you today.

With love, Georgia

October 15, 1922
Georgia Steele Thompson
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mama, and Harry,

I suppose you got my letter and laundry by now. I was glad to get those two letters of Martha's. I hope all the nurses are enjoying themselves down there. I'm afraid I wouldn't be at home when it comes to Martha coming home. I was also glad to get the other letters. One was from Rachel Skinner, the girl I was with so much last winter. I hadn't heard from her for so long I didn't know what she was doing.

I knew that you was doing your best about the Kodak camera and also that you was sick and tired of hearing anything about the thing that I had given up and wasn't going to say anything about it. But since you have it, may I please send it in my washing? I will have to wait til I get my pay before I can buy film. But as I have waited this long, I can wait a little longer.

It is just beginning to rain. When I get my pay, I am going to get myself a pair of high overshoes although the ones that I have at present are all right for this kind of weather.

You heard Martha speak of Mary Ekey? She taught over here at Pleasant Hill in my district last year. Her home is around here someplace close. The Palmers asked me several times if I saw her at Institute or Board meetings. They didn't know that she was taking nursing courses. They say that she is a fine girl. You asked if it cost me anything the night I stayed in town and went to the School Board meeting? It did not as I stayed with Mrs. Palmer at some of her friends in a very nice place.

Love, Georgia

October 17, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Got a letter from home today, also Mama sent me a couple of your letters telling all about your place and work. I hope you enjoy your work but am afraid I wouldn't be any good there. Are your studies hard?

Mama has at last got my Kodak home. She will send it in my laundry this week. Maybe someday I will have some pictures of my school kiddies to send to you. I have nineteen at the present time.

It has just begun to rain and is dark as black cats outside. When I get my pay in November, I am going to purchase myself a pair of high overshoes for the mud. It sure gets deep over here on these roads. Expect you are glad you don't have a mile of dirt road to travel over every morning and night. Am going to try to get a better place for next year nearer home and in town, You can tell Mary Ekey that the Pleasant Hill teacher (Miss Hann) is giving a Halloween pie and box social at the Grange Hall the 27th of this month. Don't know whether I will get to go or not.

I have written two other letters tonight and graded papers. I want to do a little other work then I am going to retire. So will say good night and will write again soon. Write often.

Your sister, Georgia

October 19, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Got your two letters this week. I am getting along just fine only the weather is getting somewhat cooler. I sure hate to pull out in the morning, but after I get out, is isn't so bad. I am building a fire in the stove every day now. I sure get dirty when doing it.

It won't be long till the first Saturday of November and I am glad of it too for I get my pay then. Do you get pay every month for the first four months there? Does Mama send any money now? I couldn't help you much for a month or so anyway. Have you got the most of your things bought? When you write, answer these questions and let me know how you stand.

The kodak has gotten home at last and Mama is sending it to me in my washing. I am embroidering a table runner now and it is real pretty. I think I suppose that you will see if sometime or other.

I thought I was stumped on some problems in 7th grade arithmetic today but got them worked this evening. They were in "foreign money".

I wrote a letter home this evening also. Will stop now and write again soon.

Love, Georgia

October 21, 1922
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Glenn [Huston] is getting seed wheat here and Mae came up yesterday and got a couple of sacks and is coming back today for some more. We are trying our best to get the house straightened up before cold weather comes. I talked to the Elevator at Camden and they said they were expecting some hard coal after a while and we could have some but I am afraid it will be wind talk.

Harry is through sowing wheat but is done cutting fodder. Poor boy, he just can't get any help and he is just about wore out.

I am sending some stamps and don't let anybody see them and then you won't have to loan them. Well, 3 weeks is about gone and then one more and you will have your nursing probation period over. I reckon they will pay you something, won't they? How much will it be? They had a masquerade grange last night and Harry was there. He didn't mask.

Sarah Scott and Cleo drew the prize for being the best dressed. Sarah was dressed like a great big fat woman and was wheeling a go cart and Cleo borrowed Charlie Wilson's overalls and wore long whiskers with a pipe in her mouth and an old hat on. Harry said they were sure a sight to behold. I don't know what the prize was.

Harry B's Helen were passing here yesterday and stopped and just made Mae and me lose so much precious time. They didn't want anything in particular. We ain't had a duff that was worth anything since you went away.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

October 22, 1922
Mary Scott
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your card the other day and was glad to hear from you. There has not been so much going on but enough. Enough so I could not get a letter written. I have written two and have one to write to Leonard yet.

Grange people is still going on. Had a social at Jim Stewarts the other day and there were about 22 present. They changed the time to seven o'clock tonight.

Genevieve Morgan said the other day at school she was writing to you and I told her to tell you I would write soon, but she forgot it.

Got a card from Leonard the other day and he is learning to swim. He is pretty busy now. He said that Chemistry was the hardest and he got 92 on an exam they gave him so I don't think they will send him home for awhile if he does that.

Margerita Brown is working at Eldorado. She went up there against her folk's wishes from what I hear. Things have quieted down a little now. They don't talk about her like they did. Cleo does not have anything to do with her anymore since that party of hers.

Down at the Grange the other night, everyone had to mask. And so I wore Leonard's pants, shirt, shoes, socks, coat, and Dad's hat. Since I had a corn cob pipe and corn silk beard, I was a darky. But Cleo and Sarah got the prize since they were funny. Cleo had Uncle Charley's pants on stuffed with pillows and then she had her Dad's old shoes on and an old hat. Sarah had on an old skirt and waist stuffed with pillows. This made them about twice as big and they had an old doll baby carriage. Cleo had a big bottle of milk with a nipple on it in her jacket.

We have been having nice weather here lately. Had a good frost two. I did not go to the Grange people's meeting tonight because I do not like to go down there by myself. And Grandpa is not a bit well so he could not go with me. Anna Bell B. has been going with me but she and I do not like to go by ourselves. The Fairhaven boys get to fooling with mechanics. Well I must write a note to Leonard and it is bed time. Everyone else well.

With love, Mary

October 29, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I decided to write you a few lines this evening even if it is 10 o'clock. This has surely been a pretty day. This morning, Cora Richardson, Mr. Palmer, Eleanor Palmer, and I went out and gathered two baskets of wild crab apples to make jelly with and one basket of walnuts. This afternoon, Elma's brother, wife, and baby were here. Then this evening, Earl and Mable took Cora and Mrs. Paler to Steubenville where Cora lives. They asked me to go along. You bet I did not refuse so you see I had a pretty good day of it at last.

I met Miss Ekey's father and mother the other evening at the Pleasant Hill Pie and Box Social. I believe I wrote and told you about it, did I not?

I am thinking of having a Pie and Box Social at my school about Thanksgiving time and have a Thanksgiving program. It worries me a little bit but I suppose I will get through with it all O.K. Get my pay next Saturday. It's about time too or I would have to hang on the fence.

Martha, write when you have time and I will do the same.

Mrs. Palmer had a brother George and they called him Dardie and she has got to calling me that. It seems to follow me everywhere I go. Ha ha.

Love, your sister Georgia

October 29, 1922
Aunt Mary Bell
Eaton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Hazel and I are getting rested up after our tear up and fixing the place again. Mrs. Craig is old and doted. She told me in the beginning to not tell anyone that she was going to move in with me. She would not even write to her son Frank til she was settled. She wanted to move in a certain Tuesday. So Hazel and I worked like tigers to get ready for her. That Tuesday it rained and Wednesday morning was drying. I went over to know her arrangements and then she told me she had written to Frank and told him she thought she had better stay where she was. What didn't she come and tell me then when she had told all her friends in Eaton she was going to move in with me.

After she decided to stay where she is, her son said he would help her pay her extra rent. She has been paying \$15.00 per month now after it has been improved and all conveniences in it, the cost is \$30.00 per month. She told me she had paid me well for my trouble but I have not seen it yet, only a few fallen pears.

I understand she and Mrs. Sturr are trying to find me a woman renter. I won't take in everything. I don't think I will take in anyone. She does not come here as often as she did. I think she is ashamed but I look over her old age. I am out between \$12 and \$15. Of course, part of that I would have to have paid out anyway. I got a wood stove and two joints of stove pipe, which I would have to pay anyway. I would have left the room papering to the Spring.

I have not heard from Georgia for some time. I got a letter from Margaret Bell and she said Mae Steele was going back and forth there quite often. She did not know of anyone being sick.

Miss Mary McCreary aged 82 passed away very quick. She took sick one day and died the next night. I spoke to Iva Kline yesterday and she had been up to see Anna Clark. Her brother was buried a few weeks ago. She said was well as common as far as she knew. I will send you a paper once in a while. The Band Street Carnival is a thing of the past. Tuesday the merchants begin their event but it will be in their own businesses. Monday and Tuesday, lots of businesses will be closed til 7 o'clock. They have a shock of fodder tied to every telephone pole on Main Street. I do not know what it represents. The Merchants Fall Festival lasts one week.

With the election, the political parties have been busy. I have been out twice to member meetings. By the time it is over, there are as many men as women as usually it is men speaking and just 1 or 2 women.

Love, Aunt Mary and Hazel

November 1, 1922

Mae Steele Huston

Somerville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

At last I have my pen in hand and will just drop you a little surprise by sending you a letter. What do you think of your work? I hope that you will like it even better than you could ever have dreamed of liking it. I have read some of the letter you wrote to Mama and from then I would take it that you like your new work. I hope that you will make good there as there isn't anything but has bumps in it. I heard that you have twenty in your hospital ward now. I also hear that you have a big fat man's back to rub.

In looking through today's paper, I see where Lucille Ramsey is married. Symmes has the paper so I can't tell you her name now. I remember Carrie Dorsey as she roomed at the YWCA with Ruth and Mildred Jones. Say hello to her for me and that I am glad to hear from her again. Since you moved to Cincy I have heard of several people that have taken training there where you are. Norma Weble graduated there and also hear that Mary Werble is there now. Do you know those girls? It is getting dark and my pen is nearly dry so will write more later.

Love, Mae

November 2, 1922

Georgia Steele [Thompson]

Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Got your letter yesterday and was glad to get it as it and one from home are all that I have had this week. Mamma's glasses were broken and she would not get them before Tuesday or Wednesday of this week and she could not see to write very much. I am going to get my wrist watch next week. Will be mighty glad when it comes too. I am going to get a pair of high overshoes in town Saturday and also a pair of wool stockings. There are lots of other things that I would love to have but will have to wait another month. Do you get any time off Thanksgiving or Christmas?

The only chance that I will have to go over into West Virginia and Pennsylvania will be Thanksgiving so think I shall stay. I am going to try to get two weeks off for Christmas vacation.

I am glad that a little fortune or luck came your way the other evening that you went to the show.

I went to Steubenville Halloween with Elma Palmer and her friend. We saw the parade and also the dance given on the street. There were certainly a crowd and lots of funny costumes. What did you do Halloween?

Do you hear from Mae and Glenn often? I have had only one letter the whole two long months that I have been here.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham's are moving away from this community and they are having a party for them tomorrow evening (Friday). Palmers are invited so I am going too.

I am building a fire every morning now at the school. I get \$4.00 a month for doing it. When the weather gets some colder, I am going to give the job to one of the school boys.

I will try and send you another letter about Saturday. Have told all the news so will close. Am sending the Eaton Register Herald newspaper.

Love, your sister Georgia

November 3, 1922
Mae Steele Huston
Somerville, Ohio

My dear sister [Martha],

Here I am again with another letter. I was talking to Harry [Steele] last evening. He said they had three letters from Georgia but none from you. Mama is getting pretty anxious to hear from you. She said for me to write as she has been having an awful time getting along without her glasses. She probably will get them today. You know how lost she is without them. You be sure to write her since you know she can't write you.

I hope the old fat man doesn't want you to rub his back all the time. Ha, ha. Georgia seems to be planning her Thanksgiving program and a social. Suppose she will keep busy. Do you have anything on Halloween? I suppose you had a "tea" and masquerade party or something.

We were good children that night because we stayed home and went to bed. I wish we were going to move next week. I am sick of this place. When do you change to another ward?

Love, Mae

November 4, 1922
Mae Steele Huston
Somerville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I am wondering if you are sick or just what the trouble is that we don't hear from you. Please write me and also the folks at home if you are all right. Let us hear right away if you are not able to write. Please have someone else write us. I am sending a self-addressed envelope for this. I hope this finds you well.

Love, Mae

November 5, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I guess I am not much in the humor of writing letters for I have been all day writing three letters.

Yesterday, I went to the Board meeting. After the meeting when I got down stairs, Mrs. Ekey was waiting there and she asked me if I had any place special to go for dinner. I told her no so we went together to the Olympic restaurant. I enjoyed it ever so much. I came home about 6 o'clock then Elma and her friend Mr. Williamson were going back to the show. Elma asked me to go with them, which I did. We went to the Herald Square Theater.

Today I was home all day. This afternoon Elma and I laid around and had a good time doing nothing. Then we decided to get some walnuts so we took a basket and started out. I guess we got about a half bushel. We will hull them some evening.

Yesterday I got a pair of high overshoes and a pair of wool stockings. I sent money home to Harry to get my wrist watch. I have all my debts at the Bank so maybe it won't be so hard on me next month.

I sent some pictures off to be finished. If they are good, I will send you some. I got my picture taken yesterday also. Will get them when I go to the Board meeting on December 2nd. I paid \$10 for 12 pictures. Not bad I don't think. I will get the proofs next Saturday.

I am making preparation for a pie and box social for the evening before Thanksgiving. I want to buy a Victrola with the money.

I had a letter from Mae last Thursday. I did not get the Register Herald newspaper sent the other day so will send it with this letter.

Did you ever write Homer Irwin? If so, did you get an answer?

Love, Georgia

November 9, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Just got through writing a letter home and one to Mae so will write a little to you also.

How is your work coming on? I am getting along all right, only I have a new kid in school. He is 14 years old and in the 3rd grade. I have had more trouble with him since he started than I did with the whole bunch together. His name is Gordon Ford. He don't know beans about anything.

I got my stove fixed now so have a good fire in day time and can keep one overnight. I took some pictures at school and got them today. I only got one of each. I have to send some home also to Mae as I suppose you know she hasn't been very well. I have one left which I will send to you.

I have my bills advertising our pie and box social November 29 up now so will have to get busy.

Did you vote November 7? Did you ever write to Dorothy S.?

Love, Georgia

November 13, 1922
Martha Ewing
College Corner, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Was glad to get your card. We always ask your mother at church for you, Mae, and Georgia as we are interested in you all and if you are away from Fairhaven. We have been busy on the farm. There are always plenty to do. We had quite a lot of pears to can, some cleaning to do, and there is outside work getting ready for winter.

Margaret was home over the weekend two weeks ago and was well. She likes her work very much. How are you getting along? We hope you like your work and are having a nice time. Mrs. Rife had the baby out yesterday at church for the first time. She calls her Edith Cecelia.

I will not be down in the city this winter as I have been troubled with rheumatism and had better stay close to home. Mr. Rife preached our Thanksgiving sermon and we got something over \$180.00 for him with juniors included. Don't you think that was good for Fairhaven?

The men are busy in the corn field every day trying to get their corn out while the weather is good. Suppose you get Thanksgiving day? You will have lots of new recipes to give us. What will you get in the hospital? This is the fourth week of meetings at the Methodist church in Fairhaven. They have a new minister (Rev. Learner). He is a very good speaker. We have been down a couple of times. It is good to hear from you when you find time to write.

Sincerely, Martha

November 16, 1922
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I write to let you know Hazel died about 7:30 o'clock last night. Had been complaining for 2 or 3 weeks, but just awful bad for about 3 days. Don't know what arrangements have been made. Houser is here today making the big farm door so when we get dinner over, we are going to go. We are all well as usual. I am sending \$1.00 bill in this letter. Be sure you let me know you get it all right. I'll write again soon.

Lots of love, Mamma

November 19, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville

Dear Martha,

I suppose Mamma wrote you about Hazel being sick then the word came that she had died. I do not know the particulars at all. Mamma didn't say for me to send the news on to you so supposed that she wrote you. Aunt Mary never wrote me about her being sick.

Last Thursday morning at the first recess, I went out to the coal house for a bucket of coal. Before I got in the schoolhouse, I heard a crash and one of the boys had broken the lower glass in the book case. His name is Gordon Ford. He is fourteen years old and in the third grade so you know he must be brilliant. I could have smashed his nose for it.

Yesterday it rained all day and in the evening, there was to be a business meeting over at the Methodist Church and it was necessary for all members to be out so I went with them. The roads were so slick and Monday I didn't know whether we were going to land at the Church or in the ditch. We finally got there safe. I suppose that Mary Ekey has heard something about it. That is about the church. Just five weeks and you will find Georgia making for Preble County in Western Ohio. Saturday after next, on December 2, I go to the Board meeting again. I suppose I'll have to do my Xmas shopping then.

How is your money holding out? It has been impossible for me to help you any so far but perhaps I can in December. I have my wrist watch and fountain pen now and all my bank debt is passed so am in the clear, thank goodness.

I ought to write a few more letters yet this evening so will close. Write soon.

Love, Georgia

November 19, 1922

Mae Steele Huston

Somerville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

We received your letter this last week and was glad to hear from you again. I am glad that you like your work as well. Are you in each ward just one month?

Glenn has two weeks of corn husking to do yet if the weather stays nice so that he can work. They expect to have corn shredding up home about Wednesday. I don't know whether I will get up or not. Will try my best to go.

Old Man Symms sold his young chickens so we have to watch ours. He has a man staying there with him now. The doctor comes quite often to see him and says he looks better now. He is up and about. I seldom see him though.

Wasn't you surprised to hear of Hazel's death? I was very much surprised. She was only sick such a very short time. Mrs. Jeffers was up there the last few days with them. I don't know what Aunt Mary expect to do now. Some of those aunts and cousins that we have heard of and yet never saw are with her now. I won't attempt to name them for I couldn't. What would you like to have for Christmas this year? I am going to try and make most of the presents that we give as I can't do quite like I used to. Is there anything in the way of wearing apparel or anything for your room that you would like to have? Do you have to furnish your dresser scarf or pin cushions or trays or anything that way or does each girl just put out what when wants to?

We would surely like to come down and will as soon as we can but will have to wait until after Glenn gets through with the corn. He thinks that Van Ausdal is going to move two or three months before our time is to go there. Van Ausdal lives on the Western farm. We are in hopes that he does go early so that we can go there. Glenn wants to move his hay and corn and everything else before we leave here. I surely will be glad to get moved.

Gordon's getting along fine and is back to school again. I think we are getting company so will stop now.

[Monday morning] We had company and it was Harry and Dorothy [Steele]. Harry had trouble with his car machine so he took ours to go home in. Hope they did not have any trouble with it.

Aunt Rhoda is still in bed but feels pretty good, They have a woman there to take care of her and do the cooking. Homer and Milton did not come home.

Tell Carry I was glad to hear from her again. I am going to try and send you girls something in a few days. Guess I have answered all the questions you wanted to know. Do you know what days you get off for Christmas yet? I'll have to stop and write a few lines to Georgia also.

Love, Mae

November 23, 1922

Mrs. Henry Beckett

Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your card was received some long ages ago. You see I have been horribly neglectful, but nevertheless, I haven't forgotten you. I think of you quite often and wonder how you are getting along. It seems that when I am

real busy, I think of writing and when I have a leisure moment, I don't think of it. No doubtful, you will excuse yours truly this time and I promise to be more prompt in the future.

Your folks had shredders the other day. I'll bet mother missed Martha and Georgia, eh?

Elea was over about a week ago and spent the day with me. She sure is jolly company to have around. They are cooking for the men today. I guess that is the last job.

My baby is over visiting Goldie and Grandma. Frances and I are just about last. Tell me, do you get home Xmas? I are going to get some cute snapshots of the kiddies before long. So don't be surprised if you see a few going your direction. When you write to Georgia, tell her to write me a long letter. I would love to hear from her. Harry told me some time ago that you were still looking for a letter from me.

Dixon didn't have any school Monday or Tuesday of this week. The motor was broken so they couldn't get up steam to heat the rooms. I don't have such good luck where you are, do you? Ha ha. I want you to write real soon and tell me all about your work. Your mother was telling me how many deaths you'd had but I forgot just how many she said. But really now I believe you must be entirely too hard on them. Ha ha.

Let me tell you a joke. When your card came that long ago, Henry happened to get the mail. So when he brought it to the house he had taken his knife and scratched the s off Mrs. Ha ha. So then it read, Mr. Henry.

I guess I don't know any news at all. If you were home, you might have a job. Ha ha. Earl Howards have a baby girl. I presume you'd have to stay at home and take the job. Ha.

I suppose by this time you know how to make a patient's bed, dress their hair, bathe them, and every other thing there might be necessary to learn. Ha ha.

Don't forget you have an anxious friend at home waiting for a big long answer to this.

Lots of love, Helen, Henry, and the Babies

November 26, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Have not heard from home since Tuesday. How are you? I am ok. I had to change the date of my social to November 28. The ground is white with snow here. Have you had much snow yet? Hope you have a nice time Thanksgiving. I don't know how much time I get and will find out Saturday. Write soon.

Love, Georgia

November 28, 1922
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Now I am not going to be a scold but I do say that I have simply got to know what they are going to do about paying you wages when the probation is over. I can't help but believe that you will get something when that time comes and you have been there long enough by this time that you know who to ask about it. If I can't find out from you, I am going to write Mrs. Dare for she will know all about it. If they are going to work you for 3 years without any money, why I'll have to give up the job at that place for I just can't get enough money to even pay Mary K for doing your services, along get anything to wear for myself. Now it don't look reasonable that they could get enough girls to run that concern if they didn't give them any money. Girls simply wouldn't stay with it. Now don't answer this letter til you find out good and sound what we can count on. For the last year, I have just been simply worried to death over finances and I want you to get someplace where you can at least get enough to keep you in clothes. Now I don't want you to come home to work but I do want to know what the Cincinnati General Hospital is going to do for you when the probation is over. I have a perfect right to know.

Lots of love, Mamma

December 3, 1922
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I am surely sorry you are having such a sick spell, but if you just have to have your

tonsils worked on, I do hope it is over before this. There is one thing sure, they ought to be able to take the very best care of you, better than I would be able to give you if you were home. But still, it is hard to not know just how you are coming along. I sent you a Thanksgiving box and I thought I'd not say anything to you about it and behold you didn't say anything about getting it and I am afraid you didn't get it at all. I sent some roast chicken, some apples, and pears. Even if you did get it I'm afraid your appetite wouldn't care for it. Harry put it in the post office at Camden Wednesday afternoon and the postmaster said you would get it on Thursday. You wrote your letter on Friday so I guess you hadn't got it yet.

We shredded a week ago last Tuesday and Nellie, Essie, and Sarah helped get dinner, I am going to have 3 or 4 extra men for dinner tomorrow, Stewarts and Scotts. Harry and I have talked it over and we think you had better stay where you are til you graduate. We will make out somehow or other and get your clothes. But it is a real shame that they won't give you girls something when your probation is over. That gang of old women had surely had a big fill up on watermelon tea and senna leaves.

Do the nurses ever get crabby with you girls? Were the women you were helping with about to die, you said they had such bed sores and I would think they were pretty bad off when they had bed sores. You said the maid brought them your meals (you made Harry and I laugh just thinking of Mrs. Latham, she always had so much to say about the maid).

Well, as I was saying, did the maid bring you anything good to eat when you got it? And tell me if you got your box and whether you could eat any of the chicken? Now take good care of yourself and let me hear soon.

Lots of love, Mama

December 3, 1922
George Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Got a letter from Mamma yesterday, also the letter that Carrie wrote home. Sorry to hear you are sick, hope it won't last long. I have just been fine ever since I left home. Only three weeks til Xmas.

Yesterday I went to the depot to find how I would go home. I am going to leave Steubenville at 10:25 in the evening and get to Richmond, Indiana at 3:40 the next morning. Then at 5:00 o'clock I take a train for Camden, which will get to Camden about 5:40. I hate to think of traveling all night but guess it can't be helped. Suppose you met Mrs. Ekey when she was down to visit Mary.

I am in just a little hurry as I am going out this evening. Will tell you Xmas who with, nice kid I tell the world. He took me home from the Oyster Supper Thursday evening then we went to the show in Steubenville last night.

Don't say anything about it when you write home for I can tell all about it on Xmas. I am having just a fine time over here, better time than I had last winter I believe.

Yesterday I got a new coat, hat, dress, and slippers like them just fine. Well Martha take good care of yourself and have a good time along with your work for I am sure enjoying myself. Write when you can.

Lovingly, your sister Georgia

December 7, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Suppose you have parted with your tonsils before this and are getting along all OK by this time. I suppose that you saw Mrs. Ekey when she was down to see Mae. How long and what time will you be home Xmas? I start home Friday evening December 22 and get home Saturday morning. I am going to teach this Saturday and next Saturday then make up days on Saturday after I come back then get two full weeks of Xmas.

In the letter I got from Mamma, she sent a card which we got from Miss Hilda. I wonder who paid her to send the card. Guess some thought that I was going to be home Thanksgiving but I was not. Had a mighty nice time over here. I really don't have much news but that I would write and send your our wonderful card. Ha ha.

I am going to get another check before I go home Xmas, maybe I can help you some then but by the time I got my new coat hat, dress, and low shoes, there wasn't much left. Then I had to save enough to buy the kids treat with Xmas. I am going to give them an orange a piece and a sack of candy and let it go at that.

Let me hear from you again. How did you get along with your Thanksgiving entertainment?

Love, Georgia

December 7, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Mamma and Papa,

Got your letter yesterday and was surprised when I saw who the card was from. I forget whether I told you in my other letter or not, but Mr. McCulloch gave me permission to have school this Saturday and the next Saturday and then teach two Saturdays after Xmas and then take two whole weeks off for Xmas. Guess I will teach this Saturday. He also told me that he would give me my pay for the month of December before I went home. He will have to for sure now for after I got my clothes, I didn't have enough left. If he hadn't said it, I wouldn't have spent it all. I only got a new brown coat, blue dress hat, and pair of black low shoes, nothing elaborate but still I wanted them to look nice. Think you will like them when you see them.

The Superintendent was around again today. We don't have our examinations until after Xmas. I am as glad as the kids are about that. I have to buy the kids a Xmas treat. I am going to give them an orange and sack of candy. I had such a blowout Thanksgiving that I am not going to put myself to much trouble this time.

I am having the time of my life with the old furnace at school. I think I can persuade one of the boys to be janitor starting next Monday. I am about black every evening, my hands don't look like they ever had been washed. I have run the old thing all fall which will be \$16.00 to my favor, It is just all that I can do to make one middy last me a week. Then I have to keep my sweater on after Xmas. I am going to invest in a serge middy. Guess this is all I have to say at present so will stop. I am mighty glad to know that you have your coal.

Love, Georgia

December 10, 1922
Aunt Mary Irwin
Eaton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I will write you a few lines. I got a card Thursday morning from Glen Jeffers saying he was told to let me know Clarence Steele had passed away and for me to let Frank Steele and his mother know. It was drizzling and raining, and I had on overshoes and went down and told them. Glen did not tell when the funeral was so we called your Pa answered and said Friday 2 o'clock (just three weeks after laying Hazel away). He took double pneumonia and I understand he passed away at 10 am Wednesday.

Birdie, she is not alone but has four children to be responsible for. The lone nurse went away day after Thanksgiving and I was not sorry. I will tell you when I see you. Ev and Rinda and Glen and Harvey come past for me and we all went. I went with Ella and Frank Steele to Clarence's funeral.

Went to Dayton to hear [Pastor] Billie Sunday. He and Ma Sunday was in Eaton yesterday 10 am at the Presbyterian Church. She was in a Christian Church. I did not try to go for I knew there would be a jam. I heard there was not standing room for any more.

My summer kitchen got to leaking. I had it patched and plastered. Still it leaked. So I had a carpenter come and tear off the old roof and put on new shingles yesterday. I had to junk my old shingles and put some in back porch and some in coal bin. The consequence is my muscles in my legs are so sorry I ca hardly stoop to pick up my kerchief. I went to church but could hardly get upstairs. I think I will stay here til 6th or 8th of January on account of money matters to look after. My pension comes sometimes the 4th and sometimes the 5th of the month. Mable Hines McKilligan's oldest daughter has her name in the Reids Memorial Hospital. She does not get to go til next September for \$5.00 per month.

I want to put you on your guard. At one time when Dr. Shaw (Aunt Ella's brother) was living, the Doctor sent some patients to General Hospital. They came away and complained of the treatment the nurses gave them and also of the food they got. So he determined to find out the truth so the doctors sent Dr. Shaw as a patient. He took old clothes with him and in going to the hospital, he put them on and had not shaved for a week

or more. They put him to bed. Nurse paid no attention to him that night til the next morning. A nurse brought him some sloppy stuff for his breakfast. He mused over it but could not eat it. All day and the second night, he got very little attention. The nurse told him he was a tramp and anything was good enough for him. He didn't deserve any better (he was not sick, only a spy).

He raised up in his bed and asked her if she knew who she was talking to, that he was Dr. Shaw of Eaton, Ohio and he had heard complaints about the treatment and food. He dressed and went out and had a meeting of the board and doctors. He turned every one of the nurses out. They sent their patients to another hospital and closed the doors for three weeks. They got new nurses and started anew. I am telling you this to let you know there are wolves in sheep's clothing sometimes. Be on the lookout.

Well, I must close. Don't let anyone see this as it is as I was told it.

I want to wash tomorrow but my legs feel like I had run a mile. Maybe they will be better in the morning. Mrs. Craig has gone to Iowa. Her household goods were moved after she was gone on the North side of Main Street.

Write soon about your work and yourself.

Aunt Mary

December 10, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Got a letter from Mae [Huston] yesterday (Saturday) telling me that Clarence Steele was dead. It certainly was a surprise to me. I wonder what they will do down there now? I have had quite a time this last week. I taught school yesterday (Saturday) so I will get an extra day Xmas. I am planning to teach this next Saturday then by next Saturday, I expect to be home.

Last nite (Saturday), I went to Steubenville with ____ to the show. I got a big two pound box of chocolates for my birthday. Pretty good, eh? Do you think that you will be lucky enough to get something like that? Today (Sunday), Elma, Mable and I took a great scad of pictures hope they will be good. We have certainly been having wonderful weather for December. Hope it will be nice weather holiday week.

I sent off and bought a key to the 7th grade arithmetic so I won't have to worry my brain working those old problems now.

I just got through talking to Mrs. Ekey. She called up to see if I had heard from you since you had your tonsils taken out. Don't you think Mrs. Ekey is nice? You must write and tell me how you are getting along, I am trying my best to be good and not get sick for that would be a great calamity, wouldn't it?

They all are trying to tell me what to write. Guess I will stop. This is our supper: blackberries and whipped cream, elder berry pie, taters with jackets on, bread, butter, and water. Some combination, eh? Will write more later.

Love, Georgia

December 12, 1922
Mae Steele Huston
Somerville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

We are wondering if you had your tonsils taken out yet? Harry was talking to Martha Ewing and she said Bessie had been to see you but you had your tonsils just taken out and couldn't see anyone.

I hope that you are feeling much better now and soon will be getting real fat as usual as everyone picks up after getting rid of the tonsils.

Mrs. Rees called me up Wednesday about 11:00 o'clock and said she was talking for Mama to me. Of course, I wondered what was wrong. Mrs. Rees said that Clarence Steele had died about an hour before she called. He had double pneumonia and complications. Mama and Nellie Hays went down after dinner that day. Mama stayed until the next day.

Glenn and I went up that evening and I was there until there until Glenn came after me. He went to Van Ausdal's sale The funeral was Friday at 2:00 p.m. There were a good many there. I don't know what Birdie

expects to do unless she stays right there. All the children are in school now, Erma is in second grade and a cute little girl. She had quite a time playing with Harry and Glenn.

I saw the letter you sent Mama and said you needed a hat. Mama is rather short of money right now so I wonder if I could help out a little. There is a satin hat that is almost the same as my wedding hat. That is the one I am sending you. Perhaps some of the girls could suggest a change that you would like on the hat. If there is some change you would like to make, feel free to make it. I haven't been to Hamilton since September. A long, long time isn't it. I want know how to act when I do go I suppose.

Birdie corrected my first few pages and then took the pen to tell what he could do. I likewise corrected him so all funny marks are marks of the critics. Birdie is my little boy and says let's go to bed. I am sleepy. Guess I had better take him now before he gets cross as most children do.

[Tuesday morning] The box I spoke about sending hasn't started yet. When we heard you were sick and had a sore throat, I knew you couldn't eat anything, Is your throat all right now? It is, I'll get busy and fix it right away. Would you have anyway of cracking walnuts if I should send you some? You know if I crack them, they might go down the little red lane and you wouldn't get them. But if you haven't any way of cracking them, I will do it. We are planning a move in a month or so. I am packing a few things every day. The first chance I get, I want to go to Hamilton. After we move, I can take a bus to go any time. Hope this finds you better. Write again soon.

Love, Mae

December 12, 1922
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I expect you think that Mama has sadly neglected you when you were sick, but it would take half a dozen Mamas to reach around all there has been on hand. The first of last week, we had men here helping with the shredding of corn. On Wednesday (the day Clarence died), we had nine men for dinner. Birdie called up at 9 o'clock and said he was very low. Before 10, Clara Wright called and Clarence was dead. Harry [Steele] could not believe this news so Nellie took your father and I down after dinner and I did not get back home til after dark the next night. Then we three went home. As soon as we got the work done, we did not get back until after dark that night.

On Saturday, I had to do Georgia's washing and yesterday her ironing. Here it is Tuesday and I am going to do my own washing. Harry is done with his corn and is helping Arthur LaMar yesterday and today. Mae brought one of her good hats up to send you and it will help until we get you another one. I am sending some stamps and two \$1.00 bills in this letter. Tell me if you get them all. As soon as I can get the money, I will send you some for high shoes. Do you need dark stockings? Don't forget to tell me. Do you think \$6.00 will be enough to get the dark shoes and overshoes? When you go in the nurse's home, do you on the street or through the tunnel? It is just a burning shame they promised you 2 days off and then cut it off to a half day. Harry and Georgia will come see you for the holidays. Mrs. Reese called me up yesterday and said Ida fell on the ice yesterday and broke her leg. My heart just aches for all of them.

Unless you are sure you are going to those parties, Mae says not to give them money. She says there are always girls who have the nerve to ask for money and then spend it as they please. Now you and Carrie, let them have their dollar and neither one of you have any good of it. Mae said they always had girls at the YWCA that would do the same thing. Now I am sending you the \$2.00 and some stamps. But unless you are sure you want to go yourselves, you should hold on to it. There are some things you would like yourselves but can't have. Just let those girls know that Carrie and you have an opinion of your own.

Lots of love, Mamma

December 12, 1922
Glenn Huston
Somerville, Ohio

Martha,

Here I am at last and only a few words. Just got through unloading a load of corn and the best I can guess I have eleven loads in the field then I will be done husking. The next big job will be hauling it away. I

will start almost immediately to haul it away. Sorry you cannot get to come home for Xmas. Sometime in the near future, you can come on the bus from Cincinnati to our front door for the weekend. You will not be on the road very long and yet probably you can get to stay a long time. We was up home yesterday and telling the folks the same thing. It sounded pretty good to them. I have written more than I expected. Mae is yawning and I feel rather sleepy as we did not get to bed last night til nearly eleven thirty, almost as bad as it was a year ago only it was one of us then. I told Mae I was only going to write five lines. Well they were not long enough. I must close for this time and probably I can write more in 1923 than I have in 1922.

Good night, Glenn

December 17, 1922
Georgia Steele Thompson
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I guess the week has at last come that I get to go home. I have my Xmas program at school Friday after dinner then I am coming back to Palmers then to Steubenville. I want to do a little shopping before I start home for I won't have a chance after I get there. I am also writing a letter home which I hope to be the last one before I get home. Am awfully sorry that you can't get home for Xmas.

I had my picture taken in November and thought I would wait til I got home to show them before I told any of you about it. But as you can't get home for Xmas, I will send you one for your birthday. Be sure to write me and let me know if you get it OK.

I am doing pretty well for I have gotten a string of pearls for Xmas already. Gee but aren't they pretty. Oh yes, don't mention anything about a picture when you write home for I want to surprise them.

I went to Steubenville again last night (Saturday) and got the school kids Xmas candy and oranges. Also got the Victrola for the school.

The ground is covered with snow again today. Now it look more like Xmas. I hope that it isn't icy this time when I get ready to go home.

Well Martha, I have another letter to write so will stop but will write you again in a few days.

Love, Georgia

December 17, 1922
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Just a week ago tomorrow since I sent you the hat and scarf and then the next day I sent \$12.00 and some stamps to you and I have never heard a word from any of the things I spent you. I am wondering if you didn't get them or are you sick again? Now if you have not written about them yet, write immediately for I am so anxious to know.

I scared up a little money and sent Harry [Steele] in last night to settle with Marg Killon tonight. I behold you her bill was \$14.78. Don't that beat you? I never dreamed of it being more than \$10.00. I won't have to furnish new uniforms at the end of the your nurse's probation, will I? What have they got on the docket for you when the probation is over? Well, that will be over in 4 or 5 weeks won't it? How may are there left of you now? How is your throat coming along? Is it about well? Mr. Rift had his tonsils taken out soon after you went this morning. Laura Haays called up and said it was Monday morning. Write when you can.

Lots of love, Mamma

December 19, 1922
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your welcome letter arrived OK this morning. Am so glad you are feeling so much better again. Poor Carrie, it was a dirty shame that she got the nasty lice in her head. But I suppose it is likely to happen with any of you. So you will all have to be on the lookout all the time about it. It seems like that the head ones at the hospital try to make it as pleasant as they can for the girls but I suppose they have to do it or they would run out of girls.

We got a postal card from Mary Bell this morning saying that her and Lou Braddford starts for California tomorrow morning. Her pension has raised from \$30 to \$50 per month making it \$600 a year she gets for nothing. Don't that beat you and them always bawling about "hard times".

[Wednesday morning] When I went to get my tablet, I found I missed a piece of my letter to you so will send it this morning and maybe you can make out where it left off in the other letter. Harry is taking a hog to Becketts to butcher this morning. Wish you could have a good fill up.

Don't forget to tell me about your "roof garden". You know it is all new to me. The other evening, your father was in Foley's store and Lou and Sam Early had a lot of questions to ask about you. You know they always were interested in you girls. I'll write again soon but I thought I'd burst if I didn't tell you about your Aunt. Take good care of yourself and write soon and tell me all about everything and Carrie too. Well good bye.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

December 26, 1922
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I have been home for a few days but this is the first time that I have had a chance to write you. I left Steubenville Friday night about eleven o'clock and got to Richmond, Indiana about 5 in the morning and had to wait there almost three hours. I got to Camden at 8:30 am.

Yesterday (Xmas), Birdie Hannah and the four children and Mae and Glenn were here for dinner. We had a real nice day.

I guess I will go up and call on Miss Cleo and Miss Ida this afternoon. Mamma thought maybe I had better.

Did you get the picture all right that I sent you? We sent you a box yesterday morning. I hope you got it OK also. I have some more things to send you but could not bring them with me as I was so loaded down as it was when I came home. I guess that we will do my washing this morning.

I guess that we will go down to Harris's for dinner tomorrow. Won't we have a fine time with the girls, you know I will when they can't talk.

Guess I have told all the news so will stop now and write again in a few days. Hope they fixed a nice dinner for you girls yesterday.

Lovingly, Georgia

January 3, 1923
Mae Steele Huston
Somerville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along by now? I hope that you are feeling so much better now. Was Old Santa pretty good to you this Christmas? I hope that he was. I did not get to get near all the things I wanted to because several unexpected things took place here.

Mr. Symms died December 19. Of course, that made a change in business here. We have the place rented here until March 1 but expect to go to our new home very soon. If Glenn can get all his corn and hay moved this week and first of next week, we will soon be on the way. I think things will be so much nicer there. We will be on the Oxford phone line and can talk most everywhere one chooses.

After we get moved and things all straightened up, you and Carrie can come up some afternoon and night then go back the next morning. I will plan to have Mamma and the rest down that same evening for supper. You could take a bus at Cincinnati and come to Oxford. I don't know whether you would have to change buses at Hamilton or not. We won't have a furnace after we move.

It gets dark here so early now. It has been snowing some this afternoon and is much colder now that it was. Glenn and I went up home last Sabbath. Harry and Georgia went to Church. Papa hasn't been very well so Mama stayed with him. He has been having trouble with his feet.

Did you know Aunt Mary started for California a few days before Christmas? Elsie Shoemaker had a dinner party and announced her engagement to Harold Dunlap. I am not sure whether I have his name right, but

the fellow she has gone with for so long. I hear that Sarah Scott's wedding will be in February. I suppose Howards will soon follow.

I have also been told that Ida is wearing a diamond ring. Did you know she fell and broke her leg before Xmas? Mrs. Smith asked how you liked your work. I told her that you found it hard but any work has its hard places as well as easy places.

Glenn took the cream over to Somerville and is just getting home so will stop now.

Lovingly, Mae

January 3, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Mamma wrote you yesterday morning and forgot to tell you all she wanted to so I will write and if I can think of it, I will tell you. How are you getting along with the flu? Hope that you are better now. Papa is not very well and Mamma just got through calling the Doctor. He is still up and around but don't do any work.

Guess we won't get down to see you this time as we don't care to run into the flu and other sickness if we can avoid it. I have my washing all packed and ready to send back to Jefferson County in today's mail (Wednesday). Am so afraid the weather turns bad before I get back over there. I am going Saturday and will leave Camden at 11:43 Saturday morning.

How is Mary Elrey getting along?

Did Mamma tell you about Scotts having a little party Monday evening? Cleo, Bill, Raymond, Ralph R., Harry, and I were there. Sarah showed me all of her things, also her wedding dress. It is real pretty. It is brown. Suppose I will have to make something for her. If I can run onto something real nice and not too expensive, I will get it and send it to you then you can send it to Sarah. So don't you spend any of your money for a present or anything else for you need all you have. Sarah is to be married sometime in February.

Well Martha, expect I had better stop and you are getting along all OK. Will write you again when I get back to old Jefferson County and write when you can.

Lovingly, Georgia

PS Mamma did not have time to write this time.

January 4, 1923
Aunt Mary Bell
Hollywood, California

Dear Martha,

I took a notion in an iffy to come to California after talking. I wanted to come so bad for so long. Susie Bradford wanted to come so she came with me. This is the first morning I have been able to get my address. I caught a cold and had a spell like I did last March. One day the temperature was 103. They have palms as big as a truck with big washtubs growing on the lawns. Lizzie had her grass lawn mowed yesterday. They have been picking tangerines off their trees for me to eat. They have oranges and lemons, geraniums and roses and lots of flowers in bloom outdoors. I do not know when we will go back to Ohio but not before the last of March. I do not want to go through this sickness again with pneumonia. I have seen some wonderful sights since I left Eaton. I am sitting by the window looking over foothills on the other side is old Balda Mountain with its snowcap. How are the folks we know? I am tired or weak and have had carnations or roses like greenhouse flowers in the room ever since I have been here.

Your Aunt Mary Bell

January 6, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I send you a registered letter of \$7.00 to buy your shoes, rubbers, and stockings. Now Martha, take good care of your money and do not lose it. Get your footwear just as soon as possible. Harry is taking Georgia to Richmond this morning to meet the train for Stew at 1:20. Your father is just about the same. The Doctor comes every other day. Let me hear from you just as soon as you get the money.

Lots of love, Mamma

January 8, 1923
Cleo Ramsey
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Well, I suspect you will be surprised to get a letter from me, but I was answering some letters tonite and so I counted you among my list. This is only my fourth one. Well, how to you like your work? Bill and I was over to Henrys last night. Goldia was over there and they wanted us to come over and dance. So Helen was telling me about getting a letter from you.

Well, I will try and tell you some startling news. Did you know that Opal Hart and Harold was married? Dorothy Shinn was going to get married. I suppose you knew Maria Gulley was I think the junior class is doing fine, don't you. Ha ha.

Roy Matix's have got a boy. Its name is Herbert. I think the name is pretty. It is a real nice baby. It weighed 9 ½ pounds, with clothes on.

Scotts butchered today and I went over. Sarah had neuralgia this morning and it made her feel pretty tough.

Mamma was talking to your Mother this evening and she said your father was about the same. I should think it would be kind a hard on your Mother.

Ida Rees is going back to school Saturday.

Well, I must close for this time so will expect an answer before long. Tell me all about your work. Answer soon.

Your friend, Cleo Ramsey

January 8 1923
Mae Steele Huston
Somerville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I am writing instead of Mama this morning. Mama told you that Papa was sick. Well Doctor Coombs is going every day and told him to go to bed and stay there until he told him different. He has hardening of the arteries but I guess you knew that.

How are you feeling by this time now? I hope that you are ever so much better now. Did you know that Aunt Mary went out to California and got sick? She some someone write Rinda a letter but hasn't written anyone else.

We are going up home again today because it is too raining to do anything here. Don't know when we will move because Van Ausdal hasn't left that place yet.

Love, Mae

January 9, 1923
Mrs. James Dorsey
Hamilton, Ohio

My Dear Miss Steele,

I want to thank you for letting us know about Carrie. It was mighty kind of you and we are grateful. I am sorry she is sick but I was not greatly surprised because she had written me that many of the nurses were sick with colds.

I hope she gets along alright and if she does not improve, I shall run down and see her.

Thinking of you so much.

Sincerely, Mrs. James Dorsey

January 11, 1923
Mae Steele Huston
Somerville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received the letter you sent home this morning and hope you are much better now, I also hope that Carrie is better too. I was up home yesterday and the Doctor came in the evening while we were still there.

Papa had some fever and felt restless and cross. He did not want very much to eat. He will like one thing once but maybe won't touch it again. I am writing so Mamma won't have to for she has very little time. The doctor said that Papa was seriously sick and that he couldn't tell how things will be yet. And maybe he could get him up again but couldn't tell yet. Mama hopes that everything will go all right so that you can stay til your nursing probation is over then maybe you could help at home some the next 2 weeks. Of course, if you feel better than now. I was up Sabbath and Monday and Wednesday and will go Friday. Get your shoes as soon as you can. Glenn said he was glad you explained the Doctor terms in your letter. They have lots of company most all of the time, especially in the evening. Will write again soon.

Love, Mae

January 12, 1923
Mrs. Robert [Emma] Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dearest Georgia,

Well, Harry [Steele] and I have been taking turnabouts at night taking care of your father. It was my turn to sleep upstairs last night, but he always sees to it that I get downstairs in the morning about 5 o'clock. Well I've just got through washing his face and hands, giving him a drink of water, wrapping each leg up in a hot blanket, giving him a dose of senna and as I've just run out of a job for a quarter of a second, I'll write a line to you between jobs. Harry is in hot water just now because he ain't out feeding but I let the poor boy sleep just as long as I can keep him down.

Last Saturday morning, the Doctor came out and said your father just had to go to bed. Well after so long a time, we finally got everything adjusted and got him down. Well Saturday night, Harry went to Camden and that left us here alone. Well that night, your father was just crazy with fever and he was just determined that he was not going to stay in bed. I sure thought Harry would never get back and it was a little after one o'clock when he came. Your father was awfully bad for about 3 days when the Doctor got the fever to breaking a little and night before last when it became about dark, he didn't have any fever at all.

We thought we were going to have one good night anyhow and it was my night to take care of him. Harry and I done what we had to do, which was a plenty. He went upstairs and I pulled the lounge round by the cellar door for it was so hot and all went gloriously til 5 minutes after 12 when everything was as quiet as death. Suddenly somebody commenced pounding on the north sitting room door and Tools [the dog] jumped out of the porch and round the corner. I've never heard or seen the dog so mad in my life. Your father commenced screaming and just waking out of a sound sleep. I was scared most to death and it was that old fool John Brandenburg going home from sparking and had run out of lubricating oil and wanted Harry to get up and get him some. Well, your father was so excited. Nothing would do but old John must go in and talk to your father while Harry was dressing and it was plum 4 o'clock before I could get him quieted down so that he could sleep. As long as I live, I don't think I can ever treat old John very good. If Harry hadn't been upstairs, I think I would have just dropped. The old fool was smart to make Harry get up and you know that makes the second time he has made Harry get out of bed in the night in about 3 weeks and it is going to be stopped.

When Harry came home from taking you to Richmond between Locust Grove and Boston, there was a large crowd of people scattering from a culvert. When he came up, he saw a Ford car just like his own turned upside down with the wheels in the air and when he got to Boston, they said Harry Greggerson (Florence's brother) had upset his car and was killed. But later on, we heard it was Harry's boy that was just mashed to death. Miss Mors, an old maid, was with them. She was knocked senseless. The boy was about 10 years old and it made me feel so bad although I didn't know them for it could just as easy been you and Harry. It is now daylight and I'll have to close. I see I made a mistake and skipped a page. Don't worry about us at home. We will get along somehow. I will write and tell you how things turn out.

Harry says to tell you that he has been expecting a telegram asking for a permit from a certain young man [Georgia's boyfriend] and if the party expects to get his consent easy, he needn't be too long about doing it. Ha! Ha! Will you please send this letter to Martha? It is so hard to get writing done. I must close and write a few lines to Martha. Your father seems about as usual this morning and I do not see any immediate danger although I don't believe he will ever be much better.

Love, Mamma

January 13, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your father was restless and hot but done a good deal of napping last night. Harry and I think he is better than he was the first of the week, But we do not feel that he will ever be much better. As you have gone this long without coming home, Harry's want if at all possible for you to stay down there til the nursing probation is over. Then we do want you to come for a few days even. If you can't stay the second week, maybe they will let you stay that long for Dad is sick. It sure keeps Harry and me on the jump. Mae just called up and said her and Glenn would come tomorrow.

I wrote a letter to Glenn and sent your 2 letters to her. I told her to send what I wrote on to you. It is mail time so must quit. Let us know what your arrangements are about coming home. Tell me you got your footwear.

Lots of love, Mamma

January 15, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Got a letter from Mamma today. She sent me your letter also so you won't have to go to the trouble explaining about your nose again. You sure are having a time of it with your nose. How is Mary Ekay and your roommate getting along?

I am back to work again, and have no room to complain as far as my health is concerned. I went to Steubenville Saturday evening with Edwin, we went to a picture show then home again. He was coming over again Sunday night, but must have got stranded somewhere in the mud. At any rate, he didn't get here. He is going to have to do a good job accounting for himself next time I see him. Ha! Ha!

Mamma wanted me to send her letter onto you so I am doing so. She got somewhat mixed up or missed a page when she wrote so I got things straightened out and numbered so just follow the numbers and you will get along all OK.

It looks to me like things are in a pretty serious condition at home. Mamma and Harry [Steele] surely have their hands full. I am sending my washing home in the morning so ought to write a few lines home. Take good care of yourself and I'll try to do the same. Write when you can.

Love, Georgia

January 21, 1923
Mrs. Robert [Emma] Steele
Camden, Ohio

My darling Georgia,

Harry went to see Dorothy [Sheffer] and I finished up the evening work. Your father was asleep so after I made Harry's bed, I woke him and asked him what he wanted for his supper. He was sort of out of whack and he finally said he didn't want anything but an egg nogg. Well, he can't drink anything cold for it gives him the stomach ache. So I had to warm the milk and he got all out of sorts before I could get the chill off of it. But we finally got that job off our hands. Then he wanted an all-over bath of alcohol so I gave him that. I'll tell you that is some job that will get a person's goat for all the rubbing has to be done with the naked hand. We got that done at last and he said that was all he wanted so I thought I'd drop a line to you and by the time I got the paper out of the cupboard and got your envelope, he said he wanted his leg wrapped up in a blanket and I done that. He said that was all for just now so I got this letter dated and he said he wanted a blanket warmed and put over his bowels. Now I will write a little more and I will hear him grunting and I know there will be something else in about a second.

Now this is a sample of the way Harry and I have been living for the last 2 weeks. I can tell you it is a hard way of living too. Now when he is just awful sick, he is pretty good with Harry and me, but when he gets to feel a trifle better, his impatience is something awful. The Doctor was here this evening before Mae and Glenn [Huston] went home (he comes every other day now) and I told Mae to go out and quiz the Doctor, which she did. He told Mae that he was right smart better than a week ago, but also said that it would be a long

time before he was able to be out of bed, even if he got along good. She asked him if the symptoms of having a stroke had passed away and he said you never could tell anything about that, for that sort of thing always come quick.

Mae and Glenn went to Cincinnati yesterday and they certainly had a delightful day. They went to see Martha [Steele] and they sure did enjoy the sights. They were mighty busted over the baby ward, especially of the little nigger babies, but everything was pleased to them. You can call Mrs. Ekey and tell her that they saw her daughter and that she was well and they were so glad to make her acquaintance for Martha always had something to say about Mary Ekey. But taking it all around, Martha sure had a fine place to stay.

Just while I think of it, Mae brought Whiskers [the cat] along today and she was most tickled to death to get back. She had to investigate all her old stomping ground. Harry gave her a very warm invitation to come back and see him the next time the folks come back. She wriggled her tail most off as much as to say you bet your boots I will. I think they expect to get over to the other place next week to stay.

Sarah Scott and old John Brandenburg come over here the other night and Sarah said after her Dad come back that she was going down to Mae's to stay a while. I think her "do" comes off March 6. Your washing got her Friday morning but Harry had another hog butchered and I had to cook that down. I've got it all cooked now but the pork chops. I want to wash your things tomorrow, iron them the next day, and send it back on Wednesday. I was awful sorry I couldn't have washed them before but I just had to tend to the meat before it spoiled. Mae tried on the shoes you sent to her and thought if she got the shoe man to stretch them for her, maybe she could wear them. I'll send the waist on to Martha, which you sent. Well you please send this letter to Martha, but I am going to write her too, but don't want to write the same thing twice.

We got an invitation to the wedding of Howard Scott and Cora May Withrow. They are getting married on June 17th, 1923 in Camden, Ohio at home.

Lots of love, Mamma

January 21, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Mae and Glenn [Huston] came up today and said they got to visit you yesterday. There were so pleased with everything and said everything was so interesting. There was one patient who had been in your ward that make a remark to Mae about you that has done me a world of good. It was this "I can say of your sister what I cannot say of all the nurses and it is this, she is always kind." Now if you will try to cultivate that trait, you will be able to get a job where the ones who don't care, would miss it.

We all felt so much better after they had given an account of their trip. Mae said you were about out of money again but I'll do my best to get some for you this week. I want you to have your rubbers and then will need some spending money too.

The cows and chickens ain't doing any good. It takes just about all I can make to keep the Insurance going but I hope the hens will get to laying soon. I got 8 eggs tonight but of course have to use so many for your father. I can't get many ahead to sell.

Mae said your new brown slippers are nice but said the white slippers you got when you went there were getting pretty well worn. So just as soon as I can, I'll send money and get another pair of white slippers so all of the slippers won't be new at the same time. You will have something that is easy all the time.

I do hope you can come home for one week anyhow. I must tell you about Mr. Rife. The other afternoon, he came out to see your father and I had just been telling him about your having so much trouble with your throat and nose. So when he went in to have a prayer with your father, he remembered "Martha in her affliction down at Hamilton," well Harry was just ready to bust, he was so full of laugh. Now Mr. Rife just had never concerned himself to really know where you were. But Harry said he bet he would find out where you were as soon as he got home. For after he said it, he knew he had said it wrong.

Howard Scott was married this week and went to Detroit, Michigan on their honeymoon. Vick and Bertha McDonough are staying with Mae and Sarah while they are gone. They went off to wherever Mr. Shriver lives and got married and then came to Nattie Stephens and ate supper. Then they took the June 15 car to Dayton. All of Arthur Hayes and Mae, Sarah, Vicki and Bertha went to Eaton to give them a good sendoff. I

guess they done it up good and proper. They took old shoes, onions, rice, and all the other things that go to make life miserable for newlyweds. I wrote a letter to Georgia tonight and told her to send it to you for I never have time to write the same thing twice.

[Next morning] Don't tell Mary Bell anything about your father for she wrote Rinda that if he was very bad she would come back right off. She needn't come and am thinking she'll stay here for I won't allow her.

Lots of love, Mamma

January 24, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Got a big fat letter from Mama this evening and am sending it on to you as she didn't have time to write the same thing twice and it is really not necessary.

Heard that you had a grand surprise the other day when Mae and Glenn [Huston] called to give you a little visit. Am mighty glad that they got to see the place. Hope I will get to see the place in about three more months.

School is going on about as usual and I am able to go, have no room to complain at all. The roads were awfully slick this morning but I got to school with nary a tumble. I have all of my school time made up now. You know the extra time they gave me Xmas vacation.

It seems like the times just flies. I only have three more months of school for this year. Sometimes I wish it would never be out.

Mama is sending you my tricolette blouse. I forgot to send you the camisole that you will have to wear under it but will send it the next time I send my washing.

When I was home Xmas, I bought a new sweater one of the slipover kind. It is light brown with a dark brown stripe in it. I took the brown silk dress apart and am wearing my weather with the brown skirt. I expect to buy a new skirt a week from Saturday when my ship comes in.

How is your nose? Guess I have told all the news and write and tell me how you are making it. Write soon.

Lovingly, Georgia Steele

January 24, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mamma, and Harry,

Got your long letter this morning. Can't imagine how glad I was to get it. Glad Papa is getting along as well as can be expected. I am still traveling with no room to complain. This morning, the ground and everything was covered with ice. I got to school though with nary a tumble.

Am awfully glad Mae and Glenn [Huston] got to make their trip to the city and to see Martha. Do you still look for her home in February?

The next time "Whiskers" comes up with Mae and Glenn, tell him I said hello. Suppose Mae and Glenn are getting their things in the house down and packed again, are they not?

Yes, I got my Grange receipt from F. R. Campbell Monday of this week.

So Sarah does not want to stay at home with her stepma. She is more concerned in her mother-in-law just at present. Don't think she expects to live many more years. Do Harry and that township road fellows still expect to spend the night with H. D. Scott?

Sorry I can't write a whole lot of news like you have but I haven't been off the place but once since I came back only to school. I don't find much news on the road or after I get there.

I am sending the part of your letter that you told me on to Martha. One thing I forgot to send for Martha to wear with that waist was what she wears under it but can send that the next time. Hope those shoes will fit Mae for I wasn't wearing them at all.

Hope you get all of your meat cooked and saved.

If you expect you think I forgot about the bread, tell ae when she gets settled she might try it. They buy the yeast foam. They were Pillsbury or their common flour, either will do.

When you get your potato water, put your pinch of salt in it and let it cook.

Soak the yeast in about a pint of lukewarm water. After it dissolves, take the sediment out and thicken with flour. Cover and let rise. After it raises, stir in potato water. Cover and put in a warm place over night. Make out in the morning. Suppose you know when to put some lard in. This is best I can tell you.

Love, Georgia

January 25, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

Martha,

Your father had a miserable night of it. I was on the jump all night. His bowels puff up with gas and make so much pain. He gets so peevish and cross with me.

Say Martha, old Mrs. Bell wrote to me and said if your father wasn't any better, that she would be here in a few days. I wrote her back that on account of her own poor health, I can change him and nurses take care of what she had been doing. She should stay where she with the sickness in our own family. What Harry and I could not like of her, we would let her know. He wouldn't put up with us. I know she is mad. Harry got a card from her Saturday. Said she would not stay longer than another month. If you write to her, you need not say anything about your father. It is mail time and I must go. I have Georgia's ironing to do today.

Lots of love, Mamma

January 25, 1923
Mae Steele Huston
Somerville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

We arrived home safely the other night. Went up home the next day. I wasn't worth 2 cents for we had to wait out in the rain uptown.

Mama is very anxious for you to come home for a week after your nursing probation is over. Papa is wanting to sit up so they let him up in a chair yesterday for 10 minutes. He was very tired after that. Roy Mattis cut his hair this am. He was worn out after he got through. We are going up home again Sabbath. Mama is anxious to see you and also glad that you are getting along so nicely down there.

We expect to move next Thursday if nothing unexpected comes up. Let us know when you can come. Buddie [Glenn] will finish the card now.

Lovingly, Mae

January 25, 1923
Glenn Huston
Somerville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Mae said I would finish this, well probably I will and again probably I cannot. Mae said she was not worth 2 cents then I wasn't worth nothing for I was worse than she. I laid on the sofa most all the time I was up home. I went over to Oxford this afternoon and purchased a team of horses. Now I am broke flat as a pancake. They are going to have to work very hard and long to make what I paid for them. A fellow wanted to hire me this afternoon and I thought he was too high. So I called Harry [Steele] and he said the same thing as I did. He will have to look further. I wrote more than I expected.

Your brother-in-law, Glenn

February 1, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Folks,

Got your good letter yesterday. Glad to find out how Papa and the rest are getting along.

The roads are so muddy that it is almost impossible to walk on them. So I came through the fields this evening. It is now five o'clock. Don't know whether the mailman has gone or not. Am going out to see when I finish this letter and maybe it can go out this evening.

This morning when I was eating breakfast, which was oat meal, the tooth that Dr. Fisher filled with gold got to hurting. Did not have time then to investigate and it hurt again when I ate dinner. I found out the filling is loose from the tooth. Don't exactly know what to do although I think it ought to be fixed for fear it begins to decay again.

Bet I let Fisher know his work was no good if I have to make a special trip to his office to tell him.

Am going to send you another note I got from Mrs. Ford. Her children are not at school hardly to get in trouble with rest of children. Anywhere from one to six days out of twenty, they get out.

Maybe this is enough for now and will go to see if mail has come yet.

Love, Georgia

PS The mailman came just as I was ready to go to the mailbox so will put it in the morning. When are Mae and Glenn [Huston] going to move?

February 4, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along? How is your nose getting? I have had a cold for the last three or four days but am better now,

Elma and I walked over to the church this afternoon as the ground was frozen. Are you going to get some time or a vacation to go home sometime this month or not? I only have ten more weeks to stay over here after this week. Time is getting short all right.

I am invited to a party Wednesday evening of this week and hope to goodness I get to go for I know I'll have a good time.

I went to Steubenville Saturday and got myself a new sweater and skirt. They are both brown and I like them real well. Got some other little things but they were of most importance. Goodness only knows that I needed them bad enough.

Don't know any other news of importance so will stop and I want you to write me again real soon.

Love, Georgia

February 4, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Well ain't we having some awfully cold weather. It is just fierce. The Doctor came in here tonight and he said he was about froze. Harry and I have decided that it just wouldn't be safe for you to try to come home this week for it is so terrible cold and the roads are just fierce. I am sending you \$2.00 in this letter and you must get a pair of boots. I will get some stamps and send you in the next letter.

It was an awful disappointment to us for you not to come but we just could not take the risk of your getting sick again when your father is sick too. He has got so he gets up about an hour every day and the Doctor seems to think that he will get up again. But I don't believe he will ever do any more work

Has your roommate ever been home since she went down there? Will you have girls room together again when you move? When are you going to get your new uniforms and when are you to begin wearing caps? What color will your new uniforms be?

Mary McDivitt has quit Miami University and I don't know whether the Summers has or not. Mary quit before the first term was out so all her money and credits are lost for this year.

[Monday morning] All as usual this morning and fearful cold and last but not least, your Dad is as mean as the dickens. I'll tell you what's the matter. Harry and I can't hardly hold on to the windows most of the time. You are sure lucky you don't have to stay here. It's mail time. Let me know if you get the \$2.00.

Lots of love, Mamma

February 7, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Folks,

Got your letter this evening. Am awfully glad to hear Papa is getting along so well. I am all right with the exception of a little cold, which remains from the one I had last week. Last Thursday, my nose just run fierce but between Vicks salve and the mustard ointment, I was able to go to town Saturday. I wore my high over shoes to keep my feet warm and wore the big scarf around my neck while riding. Did not get any more cold over the ride. My nose run at such a rapid rate that I put the mustard ointment on the outside of my nose, which nearly burned it off my face for a while. But never the less, it gave the desired affect and am coming along fine now. Have not missed any school yet and hope I don't miss any either.

I have to watch my tooth that the filling came out of that I don't get any sugar or salt in it or it will raise me off of my feet.

Oh yes, did you get my letter and what was in it all OK. Hope so, be sure to let me know. It was a \$20.00 bill for Harry to put in the Camden Bank for me, please. I still have some money here if I should get a call.

How is Martha? I have not heard from her for quite a long time. What was Cleo Ramsey's errand the other day? Got a letter from Aunt Mary. Am going to send it to you with your letter.

It seems like Russell Huston has his troubles every winter, don't it. Suppose he will have some time to make up next summer, like he did last summer. Are Mae and Glenn moving yet or not? I am working a cushion and table cover for Sarah Scott, but not finished yet.

Expect you noticed an over supply of dirty handkerchiefs, but I explained the reason. Don't worry about me. Will take as good care of myself as I possibly can. Write.

Lovingly, Georgia

February 11, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I have been trying to get a chance to write to you since your letter came. But every minute is taken up by Harry [Steele]. Your father has not been so well for the last few days although the doctor won't admit it. Mae and Glenn [Huston] were home today and they say they can see that he is not so strong. Harry stayed downstairs on the lounge last night. He said he kept him on the furnace all night. Harry has gone to Campbells twice so there is nobody here but Tootsy and me. He is sure a clean, good dog. He stays in by the lounge every night when Harry is gone. When we go upstairs, he goes too.

We gave a shower for Sarah last Friday and was assisted by Mrs. Glenn Huston. They had a nice time and she got lots of presents. Sarah is going to Dorothy's tonight to stay a week and then she is going to Mae's to stay week, and then at Howards a week and there "jump the broom stick", as Grandma used to say. From what we can learn, Howard and the Wilsons are trying to make the best of John coming in the family since she is bound and determined to marry him.

Have you a new roommate since the other one moved? If so, is she one of your own class or is she a spick and span new girl? I would love to see you in your new uniforms and caps on. I talked to Mary Hillough the other day after your letter came and she said to tell you not to sell your pink dresses and aprons unless you got just all they were worth for they would be so nice for you to wear next summer when you come home. She said they would be so pretty for you to wear then so take good care of them and save them for your vacation.

Oh yes, about your shoes, are they white or white slippers that you will have to wear. Tell me all about it and also what you think they will cost. I will do my best to get them for you.

Joe Marshall is sick. Doctor Edwards was out to see him yesterday and again today. He has stomach trouble. When Mae comes up here, she always brings Whiskers with her and when they got to the place he runs in the yard all morning. She jumped down off the seat and likes to have a fit when she found out where she was. They had to box her ears to make her behave. When they started home, she jumped on the seat between them and she just looked so cute for anything. Her little tasseled heard sticking up between them. Doctor Combs says they never work them so hard after it is over.

Will your work be the same from what it was before? Wasn't it lucky to get you started in down there just when you did for if you had waited til now, we know you wouldn't have got off. Mary and Mat seem just as much concerned about you as if you were their own relations. It is first six weeks today since your father took

his bed and he has never in that time set up more than 1 ½ hour in a day. That much only a few times and for about 4 weeks, he never set up at all. I guess Mae and Glenn [Huston] want to get a move before the first of March.

Love, Mamma

February 11, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along? It has been quite a while since I heard from you. I sent you some writing paper and envelopes the other day, did you get them OK? I am all right with the exception of a little cold which is about gone now though.

Are you having any snow down there? We have about eight inches of snow here now.

Well, what are you doing any way? Saturday I made myself a new bungalow apron. Suppose you got an invitation to the shower at Cleo's that was given for Sarah and John. I am working on a table cover and scarf for Sarah and I will get her something for you because you can't afford to spend money that way. Maybe it will be a pair of pillow slips.

Just 10 more weeks of school and then maybe I can make you a visit. I want to go to summer school next summer and will stay at Maes [Huston].

Russell Huston has pneumonia again. Don't he have a time? I expect he will have some school to make up next summer.

Lovingly, Georgia

February 13, 1923
Ethel Pellman
Nurses Home
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dearest Martha,

How are you? How do you like your work? Write me and tell all about it as I am very anxious to hear from you.

This enclosed letter came today so am sending it at once.

I told the girls about you and they were all glad and wished you success.

I sure do want you to write and come on the first day you can.

Best wishes for your sake and don't forget

Shortly, Ethel

February 18, 1923
Mary McDivitt
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I have just been wondering whether I answered your last letter or not. Well, how's everything in the city? Suppose you like city life much better than farm life. Thought I would get to see you over the holidays but I heard that you didn't get home but was coming home in February. Suppose you got along fine with your tonsil operation. Suppose you knew that I quit school at Miami at Christmas. I didn't like it so I didn't stay. Do you like nursing? How long do you have to take training? Suppose you knew that Frazier's have a new baby girl. I don't know what they named it. Did you hear that Maria Gulley and Dorothy Shin are both married? I imagine that they will make good housekeepers, don't you? Suppose you are having lots of beaux are you not? I bet you will be married before you come home to stay. Mamma and Papa went to church but the rest of us stayed at home It has been very cold here and we can hardly keep warm. They have not been having much school at Dixon or Israel either this last week because they could not heat the buildings. Well, Martha, I guess I have told you all the news and I had better close. Hope to hear from you soon.

Lovingly, Mary

February 23, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I'll bet you think your Ma am a peach about writing but your father takes so much care that Harry and I never have a minute. For the last few days, he ain't been suffering so much. But the Doctor changed the medicine and I believe that is what eases the pain. He sleeps so much in day time and then when night comes, he ain't got any sleep in him. He just keeps us on the jump the whole night long. I just get so tired we can't hardly drag, but we have to drag anyway.

Your letter last week about moving sure gave us a surprise. Will they allow you any credits over there and how often will you get your pay? How do you like it by this time and which of the places would you rather have? Martha, do be careful when you go uptown as the city is so wicked. I am so afraid something happens to you.

Did you get your rubbers When you get your money, don't you think you had better get yourself a new cloak? Do they do your washing and ironing free and what did you do with your old uniforms and aprons? How many hours do you have to work in a day and what do you do when you ain't working?

Sarah is going to Mae's [Huston] today to stay a week. Harry is going to help John move Sarah's things next week to pay her back for corn husking. It looks like it would take lots of gall to haul her stuff off before they were married. Sarah is to have a planner. I am sending you a lot of the Duffs. This ain't much of a letter but I'm in such a hurry. Tell me if you are well. It just seems to me that you ain't feeling right. Tell me what is the matter. I must write a little to Georgia. Do write soon and take good care of yourself. Mae won't move much.

Lots of love, Mamma

February 25, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I wonder what you have been doing today. Tell me what your Sabbath work is and if you ever get to go to church now since you have moved. It is eight weeks today since you father took his bed. Harry and I have never been to church since he took his bed. In fact, I have never been off the place during that time. One or the other of us have had to be in the sitting room all night every night since he got sick and dear only knows when it will ever by any other way. He seems a little better the last few days but I don't suppose he will ever do much good.

What kind of people do you have to deal with? Are they men or women and are they very sick and what do you have to do for them? Be sure and tell me if they allow you any credits at Presbyterian. The Doctor said he thought you ought to have credits on your work. How about it? How long do you expect to be there and do you know Mrs. Barnet at your place? She is from Camden. I never saw her although I have often heard of her.

Roy Mathex's moved yesterday and Harry helped then. Sarah is down at Maes now. Her wedding comes a week from Tuesday. Sometime in the afternoon. They are not going to have anybody stand up with them. Did she send you an invitation? She sent Georgia one but she knew she would get a present out of her. Harry has purchased a new Ford tractor from Albert Van Ausdal. He traded Doc in on the tractor and got \$140 for him. By the way, Harry sold our old Babecom and her calf to Lou Byers the other day for \$60.00. He comes after her in the big wagon and Harry was away so Lou and I loaded her in the big wagon and we like to froze ourselves to death getting them loaded. Poor old thing, she sure got a dandy home. Whiskers is going to have pups. Don't that beat the hand. She is at Maes. I reckon Glenn will move this week.

Love, Mamma

February 25, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Got your letter the other day and was sorry to hear that you did not get capped [at graduation] but hope you will get that all made up all right. Did Carry get capped? Mamma send me the last letter you wrote her and

you said you got paid \$50 per month where you are now. That sounds good. When do they pay you and do you get the accommodations out there that you did before?

We did not have to teach school on Washington's Birthday, but I taught on Thursday then got Friday off. Had three days vacation together that way. Won't get any more vacations now before school is out. Only eight more weeks of school. I somewhat hate to see school so nearly out.

Mrs. Crawford, an old lady neighbors to Palmers, died Friday morning and yesterday afternoon (Saturday). Mrs. Palmer and I walked over and made a little call. Everything looked so nice. She would have been 87 years old if she had lived until Monday.

I am afraid the roads over here are going to break up now before long.

Mamma said that Harry [Steele] had bought a Hardson tractor from Van Ausdall. Guess Mae and Glenn [Huston] will move the first of March. Will be glad when that job is over with.

I am going to Steubenville to the Board meeting next Saturday, March 3.

Hope you like your work now and get your back work all made up so you can be capped and go on with the work with the rest of the class.

I have embroidered a table runner and cushion top for Sarah S. Also made some lace for a pair of pillow cases and when I get the Muslim, I will put the lace on and send that for you.

Guess I have told all that I know so will stop now and write when you have time.

Lovingly, Georgia

March 4, 1923

Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along by this time? I am just fine. Went to Steubenville to the Board meeting yesterday (Saturday). It was certainly a fine day to be in town. Only six weeks of school after this and school will be out. I am glad in some ways and again I would like to stay. The Board told us to put in our applications by the next Board meeting and they will hire what teachers they can at their May meeting. I have a big notion to put my application. I will get \$110 a month next year if I stay here.

I have made an edge of ric rac and crochet for the ends of pillow slips for Sarah. Got the Muslim yesterday and will finish it and send as soon as I can. That will be for the shower from you. Perhaps I had better send them to you and let you send them. What do you think about it?

When do you get your pay now? Guess Mae and Glenn [Huston] moved the latter part of last week. Don't know what their address is now.

Do you like your work where you are now? And do you get credit for your work?

Elma Palmer was called on the jury which meets March 5. Don't know whether she will have to stay or not. It is a murder trial.

Guess I don't know any more news so will ring off. Write when you get time.

Lovingly, Georgia

March 5, 1923

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

We are just scared green over you getting so far away from the General Hospital and dealing with so many different people. How is there nothing keeping you away from the General Hospital? Only beginning to get some money to get some clothes. Why get back there just as lively as you can. We will see that you get a cloak, hat, dress, and whatever you need. Harry was going by there today and bring you home for a few days visit and also to take you to Richmond and get you whatever was needed. It was 4:30 this morning and the roads are just impassable so the trip was laid over for 2 or 3 days. We will come down and get you and bring you home for a week or 10 days. Then you can go back to the General Hospital and just take as much work as you can stand.

Martha, you can answer this by return mail and tell me this. Can you go back to the General Hospital and stay any time you wish and if you cannot, tell me honestly why you can't. It just worries me so I can't sleep

at night to know that you are away from there. The wedding is tomorrow night at 7:45 pm. He can't go tomorrow but he will go the first day after tomorrow that he can take a machine over the ground. Be sure and tell me too what became of the Minnesota girl. Did she stay at Price's Hill? Now Martha, answer this by return mail and tell me if you can go back to the General Hospital and finish your training any time you want to go. We simply cannot have you in not trying to make a cent for clothes. Now answer me honestly by return mail, don't keep me in suspense a second longer than is necessary.

Your loving mother, Emma

PS Who was it that promised you \$30.00 a month and then went back on it? Was it Miss Logan? Now answer by return mail.

March 10, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Thought I would send you the pair of pillow slips which I made for you to give Sarah. Suppose you would address her Mrs. John Brandenburg. I put a paper in so you could wire her name on it. Didn't know whether you would have any wrapping paper or not.

We had quite a snow this morning then rain this afternoon. It makes things awfully sloppy now. I only had six pupils today, three boys and three girls.

Love, Georgia

March 18, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I have not written you before because I was not sure as to what your right address was. Am awfully sorry that you did not get to go along with the rest of the class. But am glad you found something to do so you could make a little of your own money. Do you have to pay your board where you are now? Be sure and tell me when you write me.

My school is out the 20th of April then I will be home. How about starting in at Reids Memorial Hospital in May, if a class starts then? I am getting along all right over here but am a little anxious to go home now as it is almost time again.

Did you get the pillow slips that I sent you to send to Sarah Scott Brandenburg?

Tell me when you write if you did or not. Are you busy most of the time now where you are? Tell me all about yourself and your work when you write. Cleo said in her last letter to tell you to write.

Guess this is all for now so write and account for yourself.

Lovingly, Georgia

March 19, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I got ready to write to you last Saturday morning and I had lost your address. Harry [Steele] couldn't be found so I had to give it up for that time. Harry got home from Cincinnati between 10 and 11 o'clock. He said you thought maybe you could come home the last of this week. I do wish you would come for me. We could talk things over so much better than writing and we could decide better what should be done. Don't fail to find out if there isn't some credits coming your way for the service you gave them at the Hospital. It's a dirty shame if they don't. You surely don't want to give up the nurse biz entirely after going through all that you have gone through. I have an idea that there are smaller hospitals where a person don't have to take so much studying. I am scared to death for fear you lose your clothes moving around and not having any place to keep them. Be sure and tell me in your next letter if you still have your pink uniforms and white aprons. Hold on to them and everything else with a death grip for we ain't got anything to lose.

I do wish you could be a nurse of some kind even a practical nurse like El Thompson can make good wages. Aunt Rhoda has been down in bed again and El Thompson has been staying there. I have a little package for you but if you are coming home in a few days, I'll not send it but just won't give it to you.

Mrs. Reese and old George were down here all yesterday afternoon and she was telling how terrible mad Sarah Scott was because she didn't get to furnish the music at your grandma's funeral. Said she just raved over Ernie Brown. I said Ernie suited Will and Ida and it didn't make any difference whether anybody else was suited or not. It's mail time and I must close. Do write soon and say if you should be so unlucky to lose your job, why come home right off. Now Martha, be a good girl and I hope to see you the last of the week.

Love, Mamma

April 8, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I am wondering how you are getting along by this time. Hope you are better now. I am just fine.

I went to the Board meeting yesterday. After the meeting, Alma Ault (one of the other teachers) and I went to dinner. Then we took a walk across the Ohio River into West Virginia. We bought some candy and walked back into Ohio again. So now I can say I have been in three states.

School is out this Friday, April 20. Then they have Field Day on Saturday, April 21. Then I think I shall go home on Sunday, April 22. I will leave Steubenville about 6:18 in the evening and get to Richmond about 12:20 Sunday night. I am going to try to get Harry to meet me at Richmond.

When you get out of the hospital, write me so I won't be sending letters to the wrong place. Remember after April 20 to address my letters at home.

Guess this will be all for now and write me when you can.

Lovingly, Georgia

April 8, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mama, and Harry,

Got our letter the other day telling me about Martha [Steele] being sick. I am wondering how she is getting along now. I wrote her a letter the next day after I got your letter.

I am able to travel just like always. I was in town to the Board Meeting yesterday. I put in my application for the same school that I have now. Am pretty sure I'll get it.

Miss Alma Ault, one of the other teachers, and I walked across the bridge yesterday into West Virginia, bought some candy, and came back. So I can tell them I have been in West Virginia now. Ha, ha. It cost 5 cents each over and 5 cents back.

Elma Palmer got married yesterday (Saturday) then went on a little visit but will be back Tuesday of this week. I have to think of coming back over here next year and Elma gone but guess I will. Maybe I can stand it a year. School is out on Friday, April 20. Then we have Field Day on Saturday. I am going to stay for it.

I went to the Depot and found out how I would go home. If I go to Richmond, I will leave Steubenville at 6:18 in the evening and get to Richmond at 12:20. If I went to New Concord I would leave Steubenville at 6:18 but would have to change cars and go to Zanesville and get a taxi back to New Concord. Guess I will go to Richmond and be done with it.

Likely Palmers will be busy on Monday and so will Harry. I wondered if I had not better come home on Saturday, April 22, then Palmers won't have to leave their work and Harry will be out anyways. He could meet me at Richmond that night.

This is only my suggestion if it does not suit, let me know. But I think it is as good as any. Now don't forget to let me know when you write. Tell Harry that he and Dot [Steele] could meet me and then go home past Campsbellstown, but suit yourselves about it.

Lovingly, Georgia

April 9, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Received your letter and am so glad that you are so much better but be mighty careful how you go out. You never said whether the Orphan's Home was going to save your old place for you or not. If they don't save it for you, why come home for I don't want you to be answering ads and I wouldn't for a minute to have you working in a hotel restaurant or factory. Now I mean that if you come home for you to get an income otherwise as soon as possible.

I have never been able to write to any of the hospitals just because I have 2 hired hands and your father to wait on. I am just about done out. Did you ever get your clothes and trunk? As soon as you are permanently settled, we will send your watch. Why can't you come home for a couple of days before you begin work again? We can talk it over so much better and understand what is best to be done. I do wish you would come. Whenever you write, be sure you have your letter well disinfected before you start it so we won't get with any more trouble here at home.

Kitty Black says to tell you that she has 4 little babies just the color of herself and Malty has 5 about a week other than Kittys. She says it is worth a trip home just to see her babies.

Lots of love, Mamma

April 12, 1923

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Camden, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I was sure excited when I read your good letter yesterday. As old Levi Reeves said, "I'll bet you walked up the street stiff legged when you got your money and started out shopping." You sure done good but you didn't get your trunk yet. But it will come the next time. Tell me, what your new clothes are like. They're mighty good to hold your place in the nursing program for you. I am in a hurry. I am going to have rooster for dinner and he must be getting in the pot. Wish you could have a good fill up of chicken too.

Harry will get your watch next Saturday evening and forward it to you, Will send Georgia's letter to you and please write again soon. Take good care of your health and also you clothes when you can get hold of a trunk.

Tell me when you think you will have a chance to come home for a few days. Of course, we don't want to lose your job for you since we want some more money. Well, I must get the chicken on and good bye for this time.

Lots of love, Mamma

April 18, 1923

Georgia Steele [Thompson]

Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

We are having our exams today and tomorrow then a little program Friday Morning then Field Day on Saturday at the Grange Hall. I expect I will go home Sunday. I will leave Steubenville about 6:19 Sunday evening and will get to Richmond, Indiana at 12:20 Sunday night. I am expecting Harry and Dorothy [Steele] to be there and meet me. Do not send any more letters to Steubenville as I am leaving on Sunday, April 22.

Two months ago, I got a pair of patent leather slippers then the first Saturday of April, I got a new spring coat. Will have to get a new dress when I go home.

Last Saturday, I was to go to a shower for Elma. She was married a week last Saturday. Her name now is Elma Palmer Williamson. I hate to lose her for we had such good times together.

Lovingly, Georgia

May 3, 1923

Georgia Steele [Thompson]

Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I have been home almost two weeks and have got my first chance to write you. I was down to Maes from Friday evening and came back Monday evening.

The Dixon Alumni was Tuesday evening of this week. Harry and I went. There were not very many there. Had a very good time though. Cleo Ramsey went with us.

The Israel School picnic is today. I think Harry and Bill Dinny are counting on going. Don't think I will go as I am not through house cleaning. We cleaned five rooms last week and would like to finish this week if possible.

Papa and Bill Denney went down to Birdie Steeles yesterday and got some peach trees. Bill dug a lot of holes for Birdie's trees. Papa was real tired when he got home. He is laying down sleeping most of the time this morning. Mama and I are tearing up the sitting room and the farm hands room this morning.

Expect you will keel over when I tell you that I am taking music lessons. Took my first lesson last Friday morning and he (Mr. Ward) is coming again tomorrow morning. Play Day is tomorrow in Eaton. Am not counting on going at all.

Are you looking around to find another hospital? You don't want to forget about it and just let nursing drop for you. Write when you have time.

Love, Georgia

May 7, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

What has become of you? We did not hear from you at all last week. We are all about as usual. I was in Camden Saturday night. I got your watch, and it did not cost anything to have it fixed. I am sending your watch to you this morning so when you write be sure to let us know if you got it.

When do you think you will be home again? Are you looking around about another hospital yet? I went to Church yesterday. Don't know of any news in particular so will close for this time.

Love, Georgia

May 20, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I wonder what you did today. We all went to church this morning. Mae said yesterday that they were coming for dinner today but they never showed up. Don't know what happened.

You remember that Genevieve Morgan gave Georgia a vase when she graduated? Well Genevieve graduated this year so Georgia gave her beautiful ever sharp pencils and paid \$1.00 for them and my but she was pleased. She says "oh I'll think of you every time I use it." She is going to Oxford next Fall and then teach the next year.

Harry took Georgia and I to Richmond one afternoon last week and I got a new hat, dress and gloves. I went to Camden last night and had my dress fit. We are getting pretty well along with the house cleaning. Mary Bell is just dabbing about coming down again. It just worries me to death to have her wanting to stay here all the time. Farmers are not near done planting corn yet. It has been so wet they couldn't get at it.

[Next morning] Your father got to belching last night, which made me retire. The men are planting corn this morning.

Lots of love, Mamma

May 27, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Received your good letter and I was so glad you are coming home next Saturday. Mae was up and read your letter and she insists that you come to her house just as you did before. Maybe that would be the best for the trains that go through Camden are so few and far between that you would lose so much time waiting on the train.

Georgia is a leader at young people meeting this evening so Harry went up and got to come back and got Georgia so they are all down at church just now. We all went to church this morning and when we came back

past Jeffers, who should be perched up in the door waiting to nab us, but your beloved old Aunt Mary. She is peeved at me because I didn't make somebody go to Eaton and get her before this. But I'll tell you what's the matter. Harry don't have time to take me and I'll be switched if he is going to stop and take her around. Maybe you think I needn't get so rambunctious but if you were plagued with her like I am, your dander would be up too. If everything goes well, we all want to go to the cemetery Decoration afternoon and Mary wanted to go to Hopewell Church. That will keep rid of her that much but of course she will be here when you get home. I had hoped there wouldn't be anybody here but ourselves when you come. Be sure and don't let on to her but what you are staying at the house for she will have to blow everything you say and it don't make any difference to other people just what you are doing. Now be cautious what you tell her.

There won't be any church next Saturday. I guess the pastor is absent on vacation. I am mighty glad you have decided to lock your door. This is such a wicked old world you don't know what some mean person might do and be awful careful when you are traveling home that something don't happen to you. Kitty Black says if you have any good juicy fat mice in your room to bring a couple or so of them along and Toots says if you see any dog biscuit in Cincy to remember him.

Well I am trying to wash this morning so I'll send this. Be awful careful when traveling to come to Mae's. Call me as soon as you get there. Try getting started up here Saturday morning as soon as possible for you won't have long to stay. Be awful careful.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

June 22, 1923

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

It sure is a shame that I have been so long about writing but I have sure been worked to death and a pegged sight more worried to death since you were here. Your old Eaton aunt and her cousin Mary Infall came and stayed one solid week last week and I sure thought I'd go plum crazy. They had their old nose in every nook and corner from garret to cellar and giving free advice as to what ought to be done hither and thither. I actually thought I never would get shut of them. Don't mention them when you write.

Mae and Glenn [Huston] were up last Sabbath and took Georgia back with them to go to Miami University. She don't like it near as well as Muskingum. Harry and Bill helped Glenn make hay 2 days this week and that left me all the outside work to do and I was about wore out when they got to staying home again.

The cherries are just in full blast now and I have 3 cans up and I am working at them every chance I get. I guess there will be plenty of fruit.

One day last week, Charlie Reeves and his old Dad were out at old Sallie Brandenburgs and Levi was riding on a load of rails piled way up high and tumbled off and like to bust himself. But he is coming out of the kinds all right and I suppose will soon be able to admire the ladies again. He is only 81 of course. Such a small accident as that wouldn't kill him. When will you be home again? Ain't it awfully hot in the city? Have you decided what hospital you will try to get in again? The Weibel girls are both in the Jewish hospital.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

June 28, 1923

Georgia Steele (Thompson)
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Time is getting short and I will soon have to leave the library and go to chapel. It is raining this morning and Mae and Glenn Hueston have gone to Hamilton. I was not certain whether Mama wrote you concerning your trip home this weekend or not but for fear she has not I will write and tell you. The Motor Bus lines have been changing hands and they are not running regular at all. We thought perhaps it would be best for you to stay in Cincy until they get themselves regulated so one can depend on them more. I can't even depend on them to go to and from Oxford. I expect to go home this weekend. We will write you later and tell you how the bus lines are running.

I have not seen anything of Homer or Milton Irwin since I have been in Oxford. Home certainly treated you good when he called on you. Well it is time to go to chapel so must close. Myrtle Wysong and I are in one of the same classes together. Write when you can.

Lovingly, Georgia

June 28, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I write to tell you one of the bus lines completely busted up and does not go any more. The other one is so dreadfully irregular that Mae's say for you not to try to come home til they get it straightened up. I am awfully sorry but that is just the way it is. Everything is about as usual only I have an awful backache and ain't worth a snap.

Lots of love, Mamma

July 15, 1923
Mrs. Robert [Emma] Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I was perfectly stunned last night when Glenn [Huston] called up and said Ida Reese was at Maes and that she had been to see you. Goodness do let me know what sort of a plight she found you in and did she find out all your business? Martha, I'll tell you I don't think it would be best for you to try to get in at that Sanitarium for it would be far from a pleasant job taking care of the crazy folks. Maybe you could do it to please them and maybe not. You wouldn't get any more money than where you are and then you would lose your old job in the bargain.

Mary Bell came down this week that you was home and stayed here a week and now she is at Jeffers but will be back again in a few days. I have to churn butter before dinner.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

August 7, 1923
Genevieve Morgan
Camden, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

I'll bet you think that I'm some friend when it comes to writing letters. But I guess I did write the last letter. But Georgia told me that you were not at the General Hospital anymore so I supposed maybe you never got my letter. At least I will write another one and hope you get this one. Georgia would keep telling me your address I would keep forgetting it until I don't know ow whether I have it right or not.

I suppose that you have been very busy this summer. I haven't written to you for so long that I forget where to begin. I heard that you were home last Sabbath. I would have loved to have seen you. Do you still look like you always did? You see I haven't seen you for very near a year. Ha ha.

I intended sending you a commencement invitation but I had heard that you were not at the same place and didn't know your new address. We had only 25 invitations a piece and I had a dreadful time deciding who the 25 unlucky people would be. And so many people have told me they were mad because I didn't send them any. I guess they weren't very mad but they never graduated from high school and they didn't know how it went. Our class play "Daddy Long Leggs" was a roaring success. So was everything that we had. Commencement was fine. We had such a pretty stage, all green branches and flowers. Several people said that our play was the best ever given by a graduating class in Israel Township.

I am going to Miami University this winter. I am going to take a normal course in the Junior High department. You know Ruth Farr went to summer school this summer so I visited here about three days. I had the loveliest time. She lived in East Hall and that is where I have my room for this winter. I feel acquainted with the building now. I saw Georgia [Steele] several times, and I went to chapel with her two mornings. There was a serenade for the girls in East and West Hall when I was down there. It was about midnight. The matron enjoyed it with girls too.

Will you get a vacation this summer? Did you know Ruth Farr? She had an operation for appendicitis last Friday. She went to the Mercy Hospital at Hamilton. Last I heard, she was getting along fine. She is going to teach in Twin Township this winter. I wouldn't hardly think she would be able in such a short time.

Say Martha, could the hospital where you are use any scrap books? I have a lot of pictures cut out and a couple of books to paste them in. I would be very glad if you could use them down there. Please let me know as soon as you can and I will finish them. I hope you can use them. Well, I must close. Please write to me very very soon.

With love, Genevieve

September 9, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I just finished talking to Mae [Steele Huston] and she said Russell got a school about 200 miles from home and started this afternoon about 2 o'clock to go there in the car machine. He will be 2 or 3 counties in from the Ohio River. He won't get there til about tomorrow noon.

Your father was terrible drowsy yesterday and I was afraid he was going to have pneumonia. But this morning, he felt better and went to church. We all went. Presbytery meets at Fairhaven next Tuesday and that means a big dinner. They sent a list of what they wanted me to take and it was chicken, bread, butter, pickles, pie, and cream.

Your father's hand is getting better but he has to be dressed every day and he is sure cranky about it. For several days after you went away. He would say "well, that ain't the way Martha said it ought to be done" and one night Harry [Steele] was just wore out, he had been taking in a lot of orders and he finally says "well, now, is you or Martha or me doing this?" and then Papa quit talking.

I put up 8 cans of pears yesterday. Will, Rhoda, and Milton called here one afternoon this week and I brought enough plums to make 6 cans. I have just a whole lot of pears to put up. Harry bought two registered cows from Uncle Will.

[Tuesday morning] This is the day of Presbytery, but your father was all out of whack. Last night, I got up before 1 o'clock and stayed up and this morning he is all bummed up. So I fixed the dinner and Harry took it down to Laura Hays and then him and Will went on to George Winholl's to fill the silo. Before many days, Mae and Glenn [Huston] are coming up so I'll get along all right. Guess I'll try and paint some today. It's now mail time and I ain't even got the dishes washed. I expect Mary will be back one of these days. Somebody said the Jeffer's tribe was back home again. Did anybody ever tell you that Sal Brandenburg has a kid on hands? Ha, ha. Well write as soon as you can and I'll do the same. Be awful, awful careful about your company and look out for Number 1.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

September 22, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Received your welcome letter and was so glad that you are well and had also found a Presbyterian Church. You must be sure to go as often as possible and find out what the preacher's name is. I'll bet it was good to get to go to your own once more.

Last Friday morning about 4 o'clock, I was awakened by three great big trucks going down the road. It was way before daylight. They got down here to Neal's bridge and the first truck passed over all right but it must have cracked the timbers right in the middle of the bridge for the second truck got over and the front wheels were just leaving the bridge when the bridge gave way and let the truck down right on its end. There were 29 hogs on it and one was killed and 3 more were badly hurt. The driver was not hurt at all and the hogs just piled right out of the truck and went out in Neal's pasture field. The third truck was real close up to the truck that went down and came very near going in on top of the one that went down. While it was all bad enough, you see it could have been so much more that we felt like they got off good at best. Harry [Steele] says he bets we will be without a bridge there all winter.

Fay told me today that Fannie and Dewey have separated. She didn't know what the trouble was. I guess they ain't been getting along good for a long time.

This is the week of the Eaton Fair and our Aunt ain't coming down til that is over. Your father's hand is well enough he now that he don't have to have it tied up. The silo is filled and they want to sow wheat this week.

Calvin Wilson has typhoid fever and is in Reid's Hospital at Richmond. He has been there a week. Do you still like your boss? Well I'm so sleepy I guess I'll have to go a-bed. Wish I could sleep with you. It will soon be a year since you went away. Seems like a long time, don't it. Well write soon. I was going to write some to Georgia [Steele Thompson], but will have to give it up for tonight. Write soon.

Love, Mamma

September 23, 1923
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your letter and glad to hear from you. Was talking to Mama this evening. She said Rob Ramsey got his hand badly cut with the knives on a silo filler. They had to take 22 or 24 stitches in his hand. Raymond Weir died last week from cancer of the stomach. Will Brown was married last week. He is 41 and she is 20. She is a stranger in that part of the neighborhood. I have some nice apples and will fix up a box and send you tomorrow. Will try and start apples and this letter together so you will look for the two to come about the same time.

Papa was feeling pretty good for him. Mama seemed to feel pretty good also. Harry and Dot [Steele] were down to spend the evening with us a week ago tonight. Had a nice time. Dot has a new diamond ring.

Russell Huston is teaching at Glouster, Ohio and likes it fine. I have part of my house cleaning done now. The apples will come in the mail later than this letter.

Lovingly, Mae

October 1, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you and what has become of you? I have not heard from you for ages it seems like. I am all O.K. Last week, I was somewhat off my feet but am back again.

How are you getting along with your work in the Dentist's office? And do you like it as well as you did when I was there?

Mary Eky is home on her vacation now. I met her and her mother in Steubenville two weeks ago last Saturday. Then Thursday evening of last week, there was a party down at the Grange Hall. Earl, Mable, and I were there as was Miss Eky so I saw her there again. I like her very much.

Do they ever have parties round where you are that you get to go to? Have you been home more than once since I was down there with you? Suppose you know that Aunt Mary is going down home this week to stay all winter. I can see where Mama is in for a tough old time this winter but it is Harry's fault and I hope he gets his fill of it all too.

Guess Dorothy is going to go down to Maes to spend a week again soon. I can hardly wait for this Saturday to come. I will get about \$116.00. Gee won't I be rich? It's about time a little money is coming my way though.

Did you know that Hilda Ewing has typhoid fever? Guess I had better stop and write Mama a letter now. Don't forget to write once in a while.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 4, 1923
Doctor J. W. Coombs
Camden, Ohio

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to certify that I am personally acquainted with Miss Martha G. Steele and can recommend her for any position as she is strictly honest and a faithful worker.

J. W. Coombs

October 4, 1923
Campbell Bailey
Pastor, First United Presbyterian Church
Moline, Illinois

To whom it may concern,

I have been acquainted with Miss Martha G. Steele for the past eight years. I served as pastor of the congregation of which she is a member for nearly four and one-half years and as pastor of that congregation was in close touch with her. I have always known her to be an upright, dependable, Christian girl and feel that she will serve well in whatever place duty may call her. I take pleasure in recommending her as a young woman of sterling character.

Very respectfully yours, Campbell

October 6, 1923
W. F. Henning
Principal, Dixon High School
Camden, Ohio

To whom it may concern,

This is to certify that Martha Steele graduated from the Dixon Township High School of Preble County, Ohio and as a pupil was always faithful to her duties and above reproach in her character and general attitude. I believe that wherever she is, she will do her best work.

Sincerely, W. F. Henning

October 12, 1923
Mary Irwin
Eaton, Ohio

Dear Sister Emma [Steele],

I am still waiting for Harry but am not quite ready. Those papers that was sent to Florida to be signed have not been returned unless it has been done today. I just thought if he came, I could let him take my things down and I could wait a day or two or three, then go down to Camden. I have got two or three letters form Florence Reeve wanting to see me soon. I do not know of anything special, then I would get them to take me to your place. Our W.R.C. Inspector did not get here when the time was set for her but said she would be here Monday evening, October 15. So if Harry does not come before Tuesday, I will get to attend that but I have everything ready now and my cold is lots better.

Mrs. Craig has been sleeping here for two weeks and has been eating here for one week. She furnishes some of the eats. She says she feels so lonesome in her home at night. She just got her soft coal stove put in this week. This part of town was thrown into some excitement just about noon. Joe Coffman went out to his farm this a.m. past here and I spoke to him. His farm is west of Sugar Valley (the Henry Dillman farm). When he got out of his topless buggy, he dropped dead of heart trouble. He and his sister were both very hard of hearing. If Harry comes Tuesday, I will go down with him and run the risk of seeing F. later.

Your sister, Mary

October 14, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

We sure was glad to get your letter. It seemed such a long time since you left your old place and I did not know where to write you and I was like Carl, I got so anxious and had Mae call you. You must tell me all about what your work is and how long you have to work every day and what you get and if you have to go to Mass in the morning. Are there any other girls there who are not Catholic and if you like the "Mother Superior"? How is it compared with the General Hospital?

Bill Denny, the old donkey, went off to the Hamilton Fair the week before last and never came back. So Harry had all the wheat to finish up and we all had to buck in and dig the potatoes last week. I was plum worn out when we got done. We had about 35.

The Ku Klux Klan had a big meeting in that practice field between Jeffers and Willard Mosses. They are getting a little too close and familiar to suit me.

Loll Hames is at the Sanitarium at Glenn Miller and is not expected to live. Harry saw Doctor Coombs last night and he said you sure made a great mistake when you left the General Hospital and went to St. Mary's Hospital. I thought I would first tell you what he said but since you have made the change, I want you to stick it out and get to the place where you can make money nursing. Your Aunt ain't come yet but likely will come this week.

Lots of love, Mamma

October 17, 1923
Georgia Steele Thompson
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I was rather surprised when Mama told me that you were going to go back to the hospital. But I am mighty glad that you decided to do the thing which you have done. Am glad you like the place and also the people with whom you come in contact. I imagine that the work will be somewhat easier for you having been through part of it. I hope that you will get along well in your class work. Do you very best anyway.

School is going along O.K. I purchased myself a set of health exercise records for the victrola. Have only had them two days. We are using the everyday at school. I am so stiff and sore after going through the exercises but am going to keep right on with it every day then I will get over that. The children do the exercises real well for beginners.

I am planning on having another Pie and Box Social. I wanted to have it the 26th of October but two other schools were having there's so I postponed mine. I now have it dated for Nov. 9. I don't know whether it will be success or not but one thing I know that I'm going to do my darrest anyway.

Monday evening of this week, I went to a surprise birthday party on a man that I had never seen before. They only have a small bungalow but they also keep a garage. We all went to the garage and played party games then after a while they had a square dance. I danced in one set then it was midnight and Earl and Mabel were ready to go home and I also had to go although I could have danced longer. I had a fine time. Monday evening, I am invited to another surprise party on a young fellow. Hope to get to go for another good time. You could not hire me to stay at home anymore for I have a far better time here than I ever did at home.

Had a letter from Genevieve Morgan not long ago. She is going to school at Miami University this winter. She would like to hear from you but do not neglect your studies to write letters.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 28, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mama, and Harry,

How is Papa and everyone? I am all right just as usual. We went to Church this afternoon then down to Steubenville to see Mr. Vaughn. He is not very well. He has completely lost the sight of his left eye. They put ether and cocaine in his eye four times a day then some other medicine every hour. They say that he could not stand the pain if they did not put the ether and cocaine in it.

He wears real dark colored glasses all of the time. I guess the light is too strong for his eyes. I think it is the cancer from the throat but he does not know it.

Evelyn has one tooth. You ought to hear here squeal and talk to us.

My pie and box social is booked for Nov. 7. Can't hardly wait to see how much money we make. Last year, we made \$17.50.

What is everyone going to be doing Halloween? Next Thursday evening there is a party at Grange Hall.

Have Mae and Glenn [Huston] been home lately? And what are they driving at anyway? I am wondering if you have your anthracite coal yet or not?

We did not have enough water to start the furnace and there had to be a warm place for the baby so they put up a heating stove. I was glad that they had to put it up.

Am going to the Board Meeting this coming Saturday then I will straight up with the Camden Bank. Then I will be straight in my finances, you understand.

Guess I have exploded and I know so will stop and write again.

Hope Mae has my apron pattern home so you can send it to me in my laundry. Tell Aunt Mary to write sometime.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 28, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your good letter was received and we were sure glad to get it. This was Woman's Missionary Day at Church and Ida Cline always does the preaching on that day. Your father had been running off the bowels and was not in good shape. So the whole caboodle stayed home and rested. I sure was tired anyway for besides the regular work and a lot of canning, I took up the sitting room carpet, cleaned it, scrubbed the floor, got the carpet all tacked down, and the windows washed. So it won't be long til that room is finished.

I don't know if you know that Bill Denny ain't here anymore, as we don't have a hired hand, only when we can get Bill Freeman. He was here 2 days last week and will be here all this week. The Grangers all had a big blowout up at Monroe Township Central School yesterday and Harry belongs to the drill team so he had to go too.

Mr. Campbell had Miss Reese there, the first time that we have heard of him having her anyplace all summer. We have made it our business to watch for it. She ain't doing anything this Fall and Ramseys told Harry that when she did teach, she had an emergency certificate and now she ain't got education enough to pass the examination for she didn't take the right kind of stuff to pass it.

You and Dorde will be more independent that she is. Ramseys said Reeses didn't have money to send her to school anymore but if she could just marry Mr. Campbell, I suppose her troubles would all be at an end. Aunt Mary wants to know when you are going to write her.

Tell us what you have to eat. Don't you get tired being in the same room with so many girls? Are you so far away from the United Presbyterian Church that it will be out of the question for you to ever get to go there again? Loll Harvey still lives but don't get any better. They have got the bridge down at Neals so they can pass over it. Do they have as poor a class of people in St. Marys as they do in the General Hospital?

Your father and Aunt Mary have just been having a scuffle over the medicine bottle. He got mad but she got a hold of it and made him take it in the spoon and he wanted to just drink it out of the bottle. She makes him do things that he wouldn't take off anybody else. She don't care whether he is mad or glad.

Well, I'll close and write a letter to Dorde. Now do try to write a little this week.

Lots of love, Mamma

October 28, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Earl, Anabel, Evelyn, and I went to church this afternoon then after church we had to go to Steubenville. We just got home in time for supper. Last Monday, I went to a surprise party over at Bill Taylors. We also had a square dance and had a fine time. Thursday evening of this week I am invited to a party at the Grange Hall. Then Wed evening I am giving a pie and box social at my school. I am going to take a box this year. Am going to the Steubenville Board meeting on Saturday. Will have a little extra change again then.

Do you get to go away from the Hospital on Halloween? Don't know whether I will get to go to Steubenville on Halloween or not but a hoping so. Got to go last year and had a good time.

Mr. Vaughn is staying in Steubenville at the present time. He is having a terrible time with his eye. He has entirely lost the sign of his left eye but it hurts him so. They have to keep it doped all of the time to kill the pain.

Have you bought any new clothes lately? I have not bought anything only a rain coat, boots, high overshoes and underwear. Don't think I shall buy any more dresses yet for a while.

Lovingly, Georgia

November 4, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mama, Harry, and Mary,

Saturday evening and I will write and tell what has been going on for the last few days. Friday and Saturday, November 2 and 3, the Eastern Ohio Teachers Association met at Steubenville. The teachers got Friday off with pay if they attended the meeting. I went Friday morning and was there all day. Myself and another girl had the finest place to stay Friday evening. It was almost too nice to be true and the best of all was that we did not have to pay for our nights lodging. The lady of the house would not take a cent.

The Steubenville Pottery Company made cream pitchers and one was given to each teacher as a souvenir. They are real cute. I am going to send mind home the next time in my laundry the next time it goes home. It is in a good strong box and I can't allow too much junk to accumulate or never will get all moved again. I saw Clifford Jeffers there and went up and spoke to him. There was a girl with him. He seemed to be so engaged that he only had time to speak and ask how I was and he was gone.

There were two high school teachers from Toronto, Ohio who were on their way to the street car to go to Steubenville to attend the meeting and they had to cross the railroad track, they were waiting on the track for a freight train to pass when a through passenger train came on the track on which they were standing and killed both of them.

Got my pay Saturday morning. I purchased myself a new serge middy so you won't see much more of white middies for a long time.

My wonderful Pie and Box Social is booked for Wednesday evening November 7. I expect you think you have heard enough about it to have half a dozen socials.

Don't know whether you can make out to read all of this or not as Mrs. Palmer went home with Elma and Ralph this evening and I am trying to entertain her while Mabel finished her work and Evelyn has anything and everything she can reach.

Mr. Vaughn has lost the sight of one eye and perhaps it will have to be taken out and on top of that the other eye is hurting him.

Elma and Ralph are moving this week. Got my laundry bag Saturday evening. Thanks for the soap and patterns. Hope all are well. Write. How is Martha getting along? You send me her letters as she don't write often.

Love, Georgia

November 4, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Got your good letter and we are so glad you are coming along so good. Your father has been going down for the last 10 days. His heart is his main trouble now. You must keep your clothes in shape and enough money to bring you up to Mae's in case you should be sent for. We won't send for you unless it is absolutely necessary.

We got 4 and one-half loads of coke and the sitting room all cleaned and the stove set up. We are going to start the base burner in the morning. I ain't got the house all cleaned but the worst is over. I meant to get the piano brought in the sitting room tomorrow. Aunt Mary is here all the time now. Harry has gone sparking and its 7 o'clock and I'm bout dead for sleep. So I'll have to close. I'll try and write again soon.

Lots of love, Mamma

November 12, 1923
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along? O.K. I hope. I am just fine. Had my Pie and Box Social last Wednesday evening November 7. The weather was so rainy and bad that I did not have much of a crowd. But the ones who were here were real generous with their pocket books. Therefore, we were able to make a little over \$17.00. We are going to buy a globe of the world with our money Tuesday afternoon. I did not get to finish this letter yesterday and I think I saw the mailman go past about noon today so I won't get to send this before Wednesday.

Guess Papa is not so very good. Mama said he had been going down for the last 10 days.

I had a letter from Dorothy Sheffer [Steele] one day last week. Was certainly surprised and somewhat provoked at the same time. Guess that means I will have to write a letter to her and I'm not in the humor of doing it.

[Next day] Got a letter from home yesterday and from the tone of things I think Aunt Mary has been a little somewhat bossy. Guess she has gone to Eaton now. I don't know when she intends to go back down home.

Love, Georgia

November 15, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Mrs. Reese is here and I said to her, "Martha got a letter from Gladys Colin and I must send it to her". And she said "well, I know what is in it and I never saw the letter either." I said "tell me what it is" and she said "why it is a check for about \$4.50." Martha's class have just been raising Wednesday with Calvins for a settlement on their class business and finally Gladys's father got the money and paid it. Well, I opened the letter and there wasn't anything in the envelope but a check for \$5.50 and I am going to send it to you. You buy a registered letter. The money will sure come in good to you. Mrs. Reese said Carl Frazier wrote Gladys a terrible letter. You see by the time each of them got \$5.50, it would amount to between 5 and 6 dollars. Everybody about as usual and will write again soon.

Lots of love, Mamma

December 9, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

It does seem like the longest time since we heard from you. I do hope you are not sick again. You must write and tell me all about how you are coming along. When the corn shredding was going on, Harry had to be away so much. Now Dad got so that he was more than I could manage and when it comes to doing the working and running after him too, we got John Beckett at Oxford up here for a couple of weeks, while Harry had so much on his hands. But we got through with a lot of the work so we dismissed Beckett last Wednesday.

Old Lady Bell took her departure something like three weeks ago for good and forever so far as Harry and I are concerned. She got to pulling mischief in your Dad and made him mean with Harry and me and when we found it out, we just raised Cain with her and she skipped out the next day. I never will put up with her again if I live to be 1,000 years old. Harry has gone sparking tonight so your dad and me are by ourselves, Your Dad's health is better than I've seen for a long time but his mind ain't much good.

Georgia is going to start for home the Friday night before Christmas. Don't you think you could get off even if it was only for a day or two while Georgia is here? It would certainly be fine if you could. How do you like your new place by this time? Are they as hard to please as they were at the General Hospital? How do you like the girls? Do you ever get to go to Church anymore? It is just too bad if you don't get to go. There are so many things I want to ask you and it would be fine if you could get off for a little time.

Cleo Ramsey is working by the week for Mrs. Roberts at Camden. She has 3 beaux so of course she is very happy. They are all Eaton and Camden gentlemen so I can't give the names. Dewy and Fannie have made up again and are going to move over to Josiah Flora's farm again. They are also looking for a new kid. Arthur LaMar is going to move over on the Ferris farm between here and Camden. George Craig is going to marry Bostick and move in with Joe Marshall.

I am not sure but Harry Steele would take a notion to get married if he knew what to do with his old man and old woman. I sure am a stump to know what he could do with them. But one thing is sure, the old lady would be tickled to death to get moved out.

Your father is sure a great care and it is a killing job to do the work. There is so much to do here and I take care of him too. Sometimes he acts like he would not live long and then he will take a turn and act like he would live longer than any of us. Now do please write right away for I am so anxious about you. We all know you haven't got money to send presents just now but you tell me and I'll see what I can do for you.

Lots of love, Mamma

December 11, 1923
Georgia Steele Thompson
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along in your work by this time? OK, I hope. I am just fine, couldn't be any better. Next Friday, December 21, I am going home for a two week vacation. The Board of Education gave us two full weeks and do not have any to make up. Don't suppose that you will be home for Christmas, will you?

Went off to Sears Roebuck and bought a vacuum sweeper for Mamma for Christmas. It will help her out with her sweeping some anyway.

When will you get your first vacation or do you know? We have to sell Christmas seals at school so I bought some and I thought I would send you some so that you would not have to spend your money buying them.

Guess there is no news in particular so will close for this time and will write again when I get home. I am going home on Friday, December 21. Write me when you have the time.

Cleo Ramsey is working in the kitchen for Mrs. Roberts at Camden. The milliner, you know.

Lots and lots of love, Georgia

December 23, 1923
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I am sending you a registered letter of \$17.00. \$15.00 is to pay for your clothes and the other \$2.00 is to bring you home. Now don't under any consideration just come for one day for the days are so short and the distance so far. You must tell your Hospital Sister that you must have two days. Now you come up to Mae's as soon as you can in the day and they will bring you on up there and then Harry will take you to Mae's the next day. Should anything come up that you didn't get to come. Please let me know if you get the money. Georgia and a girl friend from over there got here Friday night at 3 o'clock. They came to Richmond and Harry met them there.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

January 20, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

It has surely been a long time since we heard from you. Mae and Georgia growl dreadfully because you never write them. Mae says you have never written her since you went to St. Mary's Hospital. Now you ought to write her because she is always good to bring you on home when you come and she is always trying to think of something to send you that would please you.

By the way, when you write, say something to Harry and let him know that you haven't forgotten him. It has been most dreadfully cold all day, way down to zero. All we could do was to fire up and try to take care of the stock.

The College Corner man preached at Fairhaven this morning at 9 o'clock. I'll bet there wasn't many there for that was too early for the farmers. A week ago today, our old Mr. Kyle preached at Fairhaven. We didn't know they were expecting him so Harry wasn't there. When you answer this, don't say anything about Mr. Kyle for your Dad would have a fit if he knew that he was at Fairhaven and nobody was there from here.

A week ago today, Mildred and her old man was up at Mae's and after dinner, they thought they would go over to Sal Brandenburg and call on her. It was awfully cold but they went anyway. When they got there, their machine was standing in the shed and great smoke was rolling out the chimney. They went clear round the house and knocked and pounded on the doors and windows, but they wouldn't show up. So they had to go away without seeing anybody. Dear me, but Glenn and all his crowd was mad. I'll bet Sal was ashamed of John, was the reasoning.

Well how are you coming at St. Mary's Hospital by this time? Dear me, but I would love to see your place. How long have you been there? Do you think that you are going to get through all right? Tell all about it when you write. Your father is about like he was when you saw him. Did you thank the Sister for my slippers? If you didn't, why you must do it. I would hate to think that she thought I had so little sense as not to do it.

Harry has gone sparking as usual. I hope this time next year that the knot will be tied. Ain't heard a grunt from Eaton since you were home. Did you have to go to work right away as soon as you got back? Ain't seen hide nor hair of Reeses since you were here. Now Martha, do write about all the news. Be sure and write so I'll get it this week.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

January 24, 1924
Eleanor Gutser
[? location]

Dear Martha,

I thought I would write you a few lines this morning while I wasn't busy. I got your address from Georgia last night. I wrote to May just after we came back, but have never heard from her yet. Maybe she's like you. Ha ha! Your mother said you needed a good spanking.

Georgia got vaccinated last Saturday and she said last night she didn't know whether it was going to take or not. She said it itched a little. There is so much small pox in Steubenville now that all the high school kids have to get vaccinated. And I think Georgia got scared out. Do you have any small pox out there? She also knows the mumps close here too.

Has it been cold in Cincinnati these days? It sure has been cold here. It was 6 and 8 below zero here for a few days but it is warmer now. I have had a healed tooth for 3 days. I was about crazy one day with it. But it's better now. Mother says I have to go and get it taken out after the healing goes down. And you know I'm crazy about that.

You know those pictures Georgia and I took of the bunch out home and the ones of you too? I have never sent mine to get them finished yet, but Georgia said she took hers in to the drug store last Saturday. So she'll get them some of these days. Have you ever gotten yours taken with your uniform yet? Don't forget me when you do. Ha ha.

You know you left your beads at home I discovered them on the stand the next morning after you left. Well, I must close for this time. Excuse my fancy pen and writing and please write soon.

From a friend, Eleanor

January 27, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Another week has rolled around and only one letter and it was very short since you went back on Christmas. Martha, why don't you write us oftener and tell all about what you are doing and coming along? When I go to bed at night, I just can't sleep. I am so afraid something or other has gone wrong. Now do write and not only to me but to Mae and Georgia too for they are both willing and anxious to do anything to help out. Mae says she has never received a letter from you since you went to St. Marys and Georgia has not had more than one. She lost your address and had forgotten what it was so she couldn't write to you again. Now I write this to you in order that you know that we are taking notice that you do not pay any attention to us.

We have been having terrible cold weather again. It takes Harry [Steele] and I all the time to tend to the things round the house and farm. The small pox got bad around Steubenville and vicinity that Georgia had to get vaccinated. I hope her arm don't get awful sore like some people have. Your father is about as usual. Harry

is away sparking tonight as usual. Well, I must write a little to Georgia so I must close for this time. Now Martha, do write to every one of us and if you are sick, we ought to know all about it.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

February 3, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Received your good long letter and you are sure leading a merry chase and I see that you are really awfully busy, but you see time seems awful long when it goes on and on and we don't hear from you. Just while I think of it, Arthur Mortons are going to move onto Therris' farm. Clarence Brown moved over by Liberty. Ora Becketts are going to have a new kid and Jim Becket has a cancer on his lower lip. Homer Irwin got back from Florida this week. Don't know how long he will be home. Uncle Jim Huston came back from Florida this week by himself. He stays at Glenns at night. Reverend Rife was out here the evening before he started to Bloomington and I spoke about having your certificate transferred and would he speak to Will Hayse about it. He said he would if he did not forget it.

I have not been in Fairhaven since last October so you see I have not had any chance to do anything. But I will manage in some way or other as soon as possible. They have never had any minister candidates at the church since Rife left. I guess it will be a long time before they get anybody settled again. I just can't see how you dare to go to church at night alone. It scares me stiff to think of it. Tell me when your four months will be up. I've got so much on my brain, I can't remember. Do you think St. Marys will play off on you like the General did? Well I'm so tired I must close. I'll write again soon and you do so too. Well good night my dear and take good care of yourself. You don't have to be on duty at night for that would be so hard.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

February 4, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along? I am just fine. Is your work lessons very hard? I only have eleven more weeks of school after this week. I will be glad when it is over as I am getting tired staying out on an old mud road and so far from a town,

There has been quite a bit of small pox around here and so I got vaccinated. My arm did not get very sore. It has begun to heal now. I have forgotten whether I wrote and told you about it or not but nevertheless I did. Elanor said that she wrote you a letter. Please try to answer it some of these days.

Eleanor and her sister Beryl were over here Sunday and we had a fine time. When do you think that you will get a vacation again. I do not have to teach Washington's Birthday. Am talking of going over to Elma's Thursday evening and then stay until Sunday. I went to the Board meeting in Steubenville Saturday and got some more money. I thought that the board meeting was never going to come though.

School is out and the kids have gone home. I want to make out the report cards before I leave school so will close and write to me sometime.

Love, Georgia

February 24, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

I received your letters and was glad to hear from you again. I can't tell you how glad I am that you are so well satisfied, but it will sure be a disappointment to me if they fool you like they did at the General Hospital. You say you will soon be there 3 months. About that time, you get a raise I imagine.

Now be sure and tell me. Do you have new girls coming in every once in a while like they did at the other place?

Now I must tell you the first thing about business. Jim C. has bought the Charlie Laird farm for some forest. I'll bet there was plenty of excitement up at Daddy Reeses when they got the news. He gets possession

the 1st of March. But I don't know whether there is going to be a wedding right off or not. If there ain't, I'll bet it ain't because she ain't ready.

It has been 20 for more than a week that both the Dixon Israel Schools have been closed. I suppose they will open up again tomorrow as it is beginning to get a little better. The scarlet fever is awful bad in Eaton. Oh yes, Ruth Wiley was married last Saturday afternoon at the parsonage at Eaton at 2:30 o'clock. There was a whole lot of marriages business in the Register, but Ruths was not in. I bet a nickel that she married some old scrub a whole lot older than herself. She had them keep it out of the paper. Now you and Georgia and Harry will never, never again have the pleasure of attending the Greenville Fair with her again.

We are going to butcher another hog again this week. I wish you could have a good fill up with fresh pork. A few days ago, Marion Lybrook and Frank Ramsy and their dogs were out somewhere and the dogs got into a fight. Marion's was just a little dog and Frank's was a big bulldog. The men tried to separate them and Marion's dog caught his whole hand in his mouth and he took his other hand to get it loose. The brute caught him and just bit it dreadfully and Marion had to go round with both his arms in a sling. He is coming along as well as can be expected.

Love, Emma

March 6, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along? I am just fine. I hear from Mamma every week and she sends me your letters. Just seven weeks after this and school will be out again. I don't think I should apply for this school again for next year. I want to be somewhere, where I can go to town and other places whenever I want to. Sometimes over here, I only get to town one in a month. You see I don't have Ralph and Elna to go places with. Ed Bremmer is as good as married to Beryl Critser that is Eleanor's sister. He got her a wrist watch, pink sapphire ring, beads, pin and no end of candy. You see he believes in spending his money, don't he?

Eleanor just spilled a skillet of hot grease on her foot week before last. It took a big patch of skin off the top of her foot. She cannot walk nor wear a shoe. I was over there last Sunday afternoon with Earl and Mabel to see her. Write to her some of these times.

Some of these weekends Mrs. Palmer and I are going to Pittsburg on Friday evening or Saturday morning, then come back Sunday. I also am going to go up to Toronto, Ohio and spend over Sunday with Elma.

I heard that Mary Eky fell and hurt her leg. She is now going around in a wheel chair. It is now time for me to ring the bell as recess is over so will stop and write me whenever you can. And I'll do the same.

Lovingly, Georgia

March 16, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

How are you coming along by this time? We are dragging along in the same old rut. We think you Dad's mind gets worse every day. He sleeps fairly well most of the time and eats heartily and gets out all he wants to. But he does act so goosy and when you are just in it all the time and vexed to death like Harry and I are, we just feel some times like we can't stand it a minute longer. A week from today is his birthday and he will be 72 years old. Mal Bell told Rinda she was coming down in March and it just struck Harry and I that she would try to get here for his birthday. Now if she does, it behooves her to be mum for if she stirs another stink up like she did last Fall, we will just forbid her coming to this house at all.

Charlie Williams got another baby girl a couple of days ago. Ought but he just to be killed? Harry said Ray Doty said that if they had been married when they were young, they would have enough kids to run a Children's Home by this time.

Say Martha, Mae and Harry were talking about you having your church membership transferred and they thought it would be better to let it remain where it is for your time in Cincinnati is more than half over and you don't know where you will be then. You said you would be sent to Dayton for 4 months and maybe you might take a notion to stay there. Now you can and ought to go to church in Cincy every opportunity you get

and still be just as much interested in it as though your membership was there. I ain't seen Fairhaven since last October and I spoke to Rife about it the last time I saw him but he was going to leave Fairhaven for good the next day and I never heard anything more and never saw anybody to ask so there it is. When you know for good whether you have passed or not.

Ida Reese is working in Richmond but Reeses won't tell what she is working at so we have no reason to think she has much of a job. Queer what happened to the school business, ain't it. One night last week chicken thieves stole 80 chickens from Jim Caruthers and some from Jim Becketts and McCalips. They think Ed Line and Harry Vanskiver done it. I hope they put them where they won't want to hear of chicken.

Lots of love, Mamma

March 21, 1924

Martha Steele
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mamma,

How are you? How is Papa? Did Aunt Mary come or did you hear anything from her? How many children have Charlie Williams got? I haven't been here six months of the eighteen months yet and when I am through at Dayton, I expect to come back to Cincinnati anyway. Mr. Person asks me all the time about it.

Last Sabbath evening, I went to church. Monday on my hours off, I washed and ironed somethings. Tuesday, we had class in the afternoon and they are having revival meetings. The first meeting was Tuesday evening and I went. There was preaching Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. I went Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, and Friday evening, he had class so I could not go. There is preaching the same evenings next week and I want to go if I can.

Martha

April 6, 1924

Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along with your work? I am just fine. Only three more weeks of school. I am just real glad that school is so nearly out. I have been having quite a little trouble with my eyes lately. Am also nervous. Expect the kids are as glad as I am that school is drawing to a close. If I don't feel very good and they don't suit me, I certainly tell them about it. Sometimes when I get home from school, I am completely worn out. Maybe I will feel better if vacation ever comes and I can get a little rest. Do you know when you will ever get another vacation?

You know Ida Ellen is married. The girls are getting pretty well cleaned out up in our corner, are they not. Cleo and May Scott are all that are left and Cleo is not there so very much either any more. May Scott will graduate this spring and I expect she will be next on the list to get married, don't you?

Don't know whether I will teach over here next winter or not. I can't just decide what to do. Expect more than likely I will teach school though. Bet you will be most awfully glad when you are through with your nursing courses so you can make more money.

Expect I will go home through New Concord and stop off there and see Milton and some others. I will quit for this time and retire. Write when you can.

Lovingly, Georgia

April 13, 1924

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your good letter was received and should have been answered before but I have been so busy. We have a 17 year old boy from the Children's Home in Hamilton working here. He has been here 2 weeks. He didn't know anything about work but he is willing to learn so we get along pretty well.

Yesterday, we planted early potatoes and got the garden all ready to plant. But the fence had to be repaired and by the time that was done, the day was gone and we didn't get it planted. But we will do that tomorrow.

There is great excitement around Fairhaven and surrounding country because Harry Austin has small pox. Wow ain't that enough to get up some excitement? He drove a school hack, kept the post office, and also the store. So he gives everybody a chance to catch some of his old germs. Eleod Wright Homer was buried last week. He had been sick for some time. But they thought he was a little better and everybody went to dinner and while they was gone, he took a spell and fell out of bed on his face and smothered to death. They brought him home to bury him.

Did I never tell you that our charming Ida Ellen Reese was married to Mr. Campbell along in March. I can't remember what I do write when I write to you and Georgia. Business Jim bought Charlie Laird's farm and that is where they located. Nobody has given a shower yet and Mrs. Reese has been here a couple of times lately and give me a mighty good hint but I was too much of an idiot to take the hint. I have lots more to do now than I ever get done. Mae and Glenn [Huston] were up today for dinner. They are all O.K. Mae brought me a nice lot of slips to plant. Georgia has 2 weeks more of school. She said for me not to clean house til she comes home. You bet it didn't take a lot of coaxing to get me in the notion of doing that.

[Next morning] This is a beautiful morning for work. Harry is putting in 25 acres of corn on Joe Marshall's farm. The LaMars moved over toward Camden. That makes 67 acres of corn that Harry is putting out. He took his tractor and went down there to plow this morning. Harry bought LaMar's wheat so he will have something like 60 acres of wheat to cut. The wheat all looks good. The Hamilton kid and me are going to put out the garden today so I must close.

Lots of love, Mamma

April 18, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along with your work? Fine I hope. I am OK. My school closes the 25th of April. I won't be sorry either as I am going to visit here about a week before I go home. Am going home by way of New Concord. Do you get any vacations soon? If not, I am going to see you in a week or so after I get home and straightened around. Will have to help Mama some first. Write when you can.

Love, Georgia

April 27, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I expect you think I have run out of ink. But I have had a little more ink than time and could not get a chance to use it. Georgia's school was out last Friday so I think she will be coming this way before many days. I am oh so glad for she will be such fully good company. We have got all the early garden made and some potatoes planted a couple of weeks ago. So we hope to have something to eat before many days.

[A week later] The whole week since this was commenced, but I never got a chance to pick my pen up again. Georgia is not home yet but I have just finished a note to her asking her to be sure and get home by the last of this week. Your father ain't very well and I never got the house straightened up after the old Maid's convention met and I am needing some help awful bad. I asked her to be sure and get here by the last of the week at the outside. There are so many jobs nagging at me all the time. That it seems like my services don't amount to anything. But if I had to lie in bed like poor Mrs. Neal, maybe the difference could be seen. She has been awful sick with neuralgia of the heart for the last month. I'll send Georgia's letter to you and close for tonight. I guess your \$15.00 a month will start about this week. Well, I'll try and write again soon.

Lots of love, Mamma

May 1, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Toronto, Ohio

Dear Mamma,

I had better get busy if I get a letter to you this week. School was out last Friday, April 25. I came to Elmas last Saturday evening and am going to be here until Monday. There is a big circus in Steubenville. May

5th, Elma, Ralph and I are going to go. I thought I would stay and go while I had a chance. Expect I will get home about Monday, May 12. I expect your letter is waiting for me at the Palmers. I will see what you say about coming home and act accordingly on where to come to.

I expect I will know how I came out about a school before I get home as they hire teachers this coming Saturday. Suppose I will get \$120 per month next year.

I will be leaving Palmers for good not later than Tuesday of next week so if you write be sure it will get there not later than Monday or Tuesday. Will write next week.

Love, Georgia

May 18, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Kitty Black visited us. The first thing that she told me is she has 3 new children and two of them are the exact image of their mother and the other one is a maltese. They are nice but they do pester me by hanging around the door. I arrived home last Monday and we sure put lots of work through last week. There didn't get near enough done. She will be home about a month and then go to Muskingum for the summer. I have 43 little chickens and 14 hens setting. Mae has 303 little chicks. It is going to keep her stepping to keep that many going.

Mamma started this Saturday evening and here it is Tuesday morning and it is still laying around here. I wrote to Edna and am now attempting to finish this letter. There was a circus in Steubenville on Monday a week after school was out so I stayed over there to take in the circus as I had never been to one before. It was fine too,

When I came home, I went to Wheeling, West Virginia and got bus service from there clear home. I got to see lots of new country that way.

I am expecting to go back to Ross Ridge against next year. Genevieve Morgan also has a school over there where I am. I got it for her. I am starting to school June 16. Am going to go to New Concord this summer. By the way, I stopped off in New Concord on my way home from Steubenville. Was there from Friday noon until Monday morning.

When do you think you will get a vacation again. I don't know when I'll ever get down there but would like to go before school starts.

Our garden is all out and peas, lettuce and radishes are all up and onions are big enough to use. Well, it is getting around mail time so will stop and write again real soon She got your card yesterday. Write us a letter whenever you can.

Lovingly, Georgia

June 19, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
New Concord, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I came to New Concord Monday. Got here where Velma and Martha are too. I see Velma often but not much of Mart. I am a waitress here at the dormitory. They were short on help so I thought I would get half off of boarding for helping.

Lovingly, Georgia

July 1, 1924
Eleonora Vonderhaar
Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear girl [Martha Steele]

I suppose you were surprised to find I had gone home when you got back for duty Sunday afternoon but you know honey how it was. The folks came for me and said I was ready to go so I did not get to say goodbye to you, the one I wished most to see but you will excuse me I know for I was anxious to go when I was ready and I will be down with Ursula to see you when I get stronger. I am feeling as well as can be expected but awful weak. But I will overcome that day after day. Well dear girl, I want to thank you again for all your kindness toward me. I never will forget my little nurse who took care of me with such patience. Take good care of yourself and do not forget your sick friend.

Eleonora

July 3, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

It is a burning shame that I have not written sooner but with the work and cherries, I've sure been busy. I have 27 cans of cherries up and quite a lot more to do if I can only get to it.

Everybody is sure busy. Harry commenced cutting wheat yesterday. Bill Freeman and the kid are doing the shocking. Poor Mrs. Neal died a week ago last Friday and was buried on Saturday. Every Van Gussen from far and near were on hand to see her die. But that was far better than to be like Mrs. McCalip. She ain't been down more than 4 weeks and they have had 5 nurses. She just stinks so bad they can't get anybody to stay with her. She has cancers on her hips and back and they say she just smells something terrible.

A letter came for you yesterday from William Anticipolion and I was so curious to know if you passed all right. So I opened it and took a peek and it was all right.

The barn and lightning rod are all finished and we are sure glad and it looks nice too. Well, Fisher is just getting worse all the time. Too bad isn't it? Everybody here is as usual. What are you going to do on the glorious 4th? We will cut wheat. This ain't much of a letter but I'll have to get dinner started. But I will not be so long about writing again.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

July 13, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

This is Saturday evening and I'll write a bit to you before I go to bed. We all went to Church this morning and everything was about as usual, Only I don't believe we have as interesting a preacher as Rife was. Maybe I'll like him better when I get used to him.

Well, I must tell you the first thing that Effie McDivitt is going to marry a Trimney. Now ain't she flying high? There wasn't any house big enough to hold the crowd so they had it in the Annex of the Methodist Church. They invited everybody they ever heard of. Arthur Hayes managed the rest and it make Nellie so mad.

[Wednesday morning] Here it is Wednesday and this letter ain't off yet. Just while it is on my mind, I must tell you that Harry was at town the other night and they were telling him that Lee and Pearl Ramey have separated. Don't that beat the bugs? They claim that he run off with another woman and she moved herself and the boy out to her Dads one day last week. Walter H and Fannie also separated and he is married again. Sort of a frisky family, ain't it?

The kid we hired got so lazy that he is gone and Sammy Steele is working here now. He does first rate. We are making hay and Sam and Freeman are both here working. We will begin threshing next week. I am going to try and get Helen Van D. to help me. We will have them for about 3 meals. We have lots of nice new taters. Mrs. McC was better the last we heard. I'll have to close and start dinner. It takes me a long time to get round. I'll bet you just roast these hot days. Write when you can and don't get sick.

Lots of love, Mamma

July 29, 1924
Miss Vonderhaar
Cincinnati, Ohio

Martha,

I took the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know that I arrived home O.K. and think of you every day. I got up in the morning at 10 o'clock and think how glad I am that I do not have to wash at 5 o'clock like you poor girls. We are having a fine time sitting in the yard and reading the papers and magazines, and time surely does fly. Before we know it, it is time to eat. Oh, how I do love to eat. I surely do sleep at night but not at the time as usual. It is nearly 10 o'clock every night.

How are all of you by this time? I hope Mrs. Detzel is feeling better now. I surely am praying hard for her recovery.

I would like to know if Mrs. Kisker got out of bed, and if she tried to walk on her leg. I hope you will have great success with your limb.

How is Mrs. Weismiller getting along? I hope she is feeling better by this time.

I am feeling fine gaining every day in every way a little more strength. Mother is surely glad to have me back home with her.

I hope that you all soon can go home like I did. This is all I know for this time as I am getting weak. Write and let me know how you are getting along.

Best regards to one and all, Miss Vonderhaar

August 5, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

The threshing is almost done. They are at Vic McDonanghs today and that finishes the wheat. But several of them had oats and that will have to wait for about a week. We had them for two meals and Mae and Nellie helped me get dinner for them.

The township road guys didn't turn up and I was mighty glad of it for they always make so much extra trouble. Miss Elsie Shumaker is to be married next Saturday night. Guess they are going to have quite a "do". Effie McDivitt at last got married and is going to live about half a mile from her home. She married a Trimmy. Don't you wish you were in her shoes?

Mae saw in her yesterday's paper that Mrs. Latham is to be married in the "early fall" and some of the big ones had given her a shower. She is to marry a "merchant" this time. Don't that beat the bugs? Will Fisher is awful bad but still Bell won't get a nurse. She tends to him herself. Mary Simpson does the kitchen work. Mae called up yesterday and said they will get to stay another year where they are. Georgia will only be home 2 or 3 days. Can't you arrange to get a few days off at that time too? You write her and find out exactly when it is and then make your arrangements accordingly. It's mail time and I'll write again soon.

Love, Mamma

August 14, 1924
Irma Weismueller
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Miss Steele,

I am home almost 2 weeks [from the hospital] and am improving slowly. My appetite is very poor, but hope to soon gain strength so that I can go out in the fresh air, I think of how all the sick ones in your room such as Jena Detzel have gone home by this time and Irina Smith too. I hope they are doing fine and the other lady next to Grandma's bed are doing nicely. Miss Steele, I will never forget your kindness towards me when you came by to see me. If any of the ladies are still there, remember me to them and please excuse this writing. I am still very nervous, and would like to hear from you,

Best wishes, Irma

September 2, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I got home last Thursday evening about 9 o'clock. There was a letter from the Steubenville Board of Education saying that school didn't commence until September 8 so I won't have to leave home before Saturday now.

Last Saturday was homecoming at Hopewell Church. Harry, Papa and I went down for church in the morning and then Mae and Glenn [Huston] were up for dinner. Today, Mama, Papa, Harry, and I are going down to Mae's for dinner. Wish you could be there too. Guess Uncle Will, Aunt Rhoda, and Milton will be at Mae's for dinner also. Homer was home for a few days but I went back to Chicago last night.

Harry and Leonard Scott are planning on going to the Indianapolis Fair one day this week and we are planning on having Uncle Will's up here one day this week. We are rather rushed for time but perhaps we can get everything worked in after all.

I'm wondering whether people are going to treat me as royally as they did you when you were home. Mama told me about you being at Fishers, Mrs. Campbells, and Reeses. I have not talked to anyone except Genevieve Morgan. Genevieve and I are going to Steubenville together. I will send you the pictures when I get settled down over here. I have been on the go so much I have not had a chance to think about pictures.

I certainly had a fine time this summer along with the work. Just wish I could live the good times over again or else was going back to school this winter.

Lovingly, Georgia

September 7, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear little girl,

I am pretty sure I have written you since you went back. I don't think it was very long and I can't remember a word I said but I sure did write. However, I want to update you with a history of what we have done. I believe the threshing was done before you came home. Well you know about that. The next job was to get that engine house put up. Jim and Clyde Pierson worked here most a week on it. Whenever Harry could get a minute, he helped too. But the Piersons charged a little better than \$50.00 just for their work but say it sure is a dandy. Harry and I are painting it whenever we can find a minute to paint and maybe we will get it done one of these days.

The threshing picnic was at Bert Ramseys this year. The men went but I didn't. I didn't care to go. By the way we are sort of suspicious that Cleo's old man has sort of played out. Harry was quizzing Marcus last night and Marcus said he was sick but Harry thought that was just a come off. I'll quiz George Goodwin one of these days and see what he has to say about it. Why but they will be bored if she has lost him.

Bert and Marta come down yesterday morning to get the fence stretchers and I asked Martha what Cleo was doing and she said Cleo and Aunt Ina are working in the canning factory at Camden. Ha, ha.

Poor little Dorde and Genevie started for Steubenville yesterday morning at 9:35 from Richmond. Harry took Dorde and her trunk to Richmond and the whole Morgan tribe was there from A to Z to see them off. They got there quite a bit before the train would start. Harry couldn't wait to see them on the train but the Morgans did wait. I told Harry I'll bet Rich got a regular shower and bath when the train pulled out. Genevieve didn't have any trunk. Uncle Wills and Mae and Glenn spent the day here last Friday. He missed you and Homer so much and was sorry you couldn't be here too. Rhoda says Homer has a girl in Oxford but I can't remember her name. She looks for them to be married before the winter is over.

[Next morning] I didn't get this finished last night so will write a word more now. I heard a machine drive in just now and behold it is Sam Steele. He called up last night and wanted to know when Harry wanted him to come back. I said I didn't know as he wanted him to come back at all. He says "well, he does" and I said I never heard anything about his coming back. It is just one of his lies and I told Harry I would cook for anybody else he wanted but Sam should never come back here to work again as long as I had to help run things.

Lots of love, Mamma

September 15, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson}
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mama, and Harry,

One week of school gone. Have not seen or heard from Genevieve since we left her a week ago Sabbath evening. I don't know how she is getting along. Suppose Milton and all the other bunch are leaving for New Concord today.

Palmers have bushels and bushes of peaches now and also ripe tomatoes and lima beans. We have had lots of sweet corn on the cob too.

I'm real important now with these envelopes, don't you think? I sent one of the girls out to get stamps from the mailman but he didn't have any so he gave her these envelopes.

Got your letter Saturday evening, will look for the laundry bag today.

Mabel told me all about Berrys and Lanky's wedding. Lanky took her to Wheeling, West Virginia one night after Grange. Then the next morning, he got ready and went over where she was and they were married.

When they got back to Steubenville, Edwin called up Mrs. Critser and said "we're married, it is all right?" Mrs. Critser said "I don't know whether it is or not" and Edwin said "it will have to be. Bye, bye." The Critsers and Bremers don't speak. Beryl will not be 17 years old until December.

Love, Georgia

September 15, 1924

Mr. Lee Houck
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dearest Friend [Martha],

How are you? I am not feeling so good today. Have been sick all day. I suppose you think I am a good one, don't you for not keeping my promises. But listen, dear little girl, it was not my fault for I worked all day yesterday. And if you care to go with me please answer this. Give it to my twin sister Gleona or please send it to me.

From your loving friend, Lee

September 18, 1924

Mr. Lee Houck
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dearest Friend [Martha],

I will try and answer your kind and ever welcome letter which I received today. It found me feeling somewhat better today. Only hope these few lines will find you all the same. I mean, all well. I was sick the other day. I had a very bad cold in my head and also had a sick headache with the cold. I still have the cold but my headache is nearly all gone. I get them sick headaches every once in a while. So I went to a doctor and got some headache tablets. They sure did help me. Yes, Martha, I am really very sorry I did not get to see you on Sunday afternoon as I promised I would. To be honest, I did work all day on Sunday until six o'clock in the evening. Gee it takes you a long time to write a letter, does it not? Oh well, better late than never.

Martha, dear girl, honest I don't know how I can arrange it to get to see you through the week. I work all day and at night is the only time I have to myself. Where I work at, we are so short on help I cannot get away during the day at all. Well dear girl, you say you are going on day duty next month. Now listen, don't you think we can wait until you go on day duty to be with each other in an evening? For I don't see any other way out of it. Do you? As the old saying, "where there's a will, there's a way" and I am waiting patiently for the evening when I can be with you. It's up to you where we go. I have no automobile yet. I am like you.

Martha, a good girl is hard to find and so is a good boy hard to find. You know what I mean? Well, I am telling you right now I will come more than half way to meet you in doing what is right by you. I have never been out with no girl here in Cincinnati. And I have been here in Cincinnati for better than 5 months. I don't care for no girl here. But you, I don't know, I fell for you right away. I thought my twin sister (Gleona) was just kidding me about you. But I see now, she was not. Where are you going six months for now? If I may ask you, I would like to keep company with you as you study. If you do not care, I mean be with you once a week or once in a couple of weeks. What I mean is you not going with this fellow and that one. I will promise I will be true to you to the end.

It does not make any difference what religion you have. But I am not a Catholic. In fact I am ashamed to tell you I do not go to any church at all right now. My home is not here in Cincinnati either. It is up at Lima Ohio. I did belong to the Grace Methodist Church up at Lima when I was home there. Well, Martha, I have wrote seven letters tonight already. This is the last one and it is after 12 o'clock now. So you must see I am thinking of you or I would not be up this time a time writing to you. I must close and go to bed or I will not get up in the morning. Will say goodbye for now, Only hoping I did not say anything that will make you angry at me.

Your new friend, Lee

September 21, 1924

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Sabbath evening again and all are well as usual. Fisher died yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock. His suffering was something terrible and the odor was fierce. His funeral will be next Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Mary Simpson has been working there and she said today that she didn't see how they could expect to keep the body that long for when they dressed his sores, the smell was so terrible that a person could hardly stay in the house. The services are going to be at the United Presbyterian Church in Fairhaven.

Sam Steele said that Martha Silver's father told him that Martha had gone to the Dayton Hospital to take nurse's training. I wonder what changed her mind. One of these days I will call her mother and find out if she really did go to Dayton and will report to you. We filled the silo last Wednesday and Glens were filling theirs at the same time. Mrs. LaMar helped me cook dinner for them. We got along fine and had 20 men for dinner. If I do say, it was a bully good dinner too.

Lots of love, Mamma

September 25, 1924

Mr. Lee Houck

Cincinnati, Ohio

Dearest Martha,

I will try to answer your kind and loving and most welcome letter, which I received today. It found me feeling better today. Yesterday, I was sure sick. I had cramps in my stomach and I also had a very sick headache. I was nearly cramped double yesterday. They gave me Jamaica ginger and soda in hot water. They gave me soda in hot water five times before it done any good. So at last it did some good. When I say "they", I mean up at the place where I am working. I hope you are getting better and we feel well together. For I know what it is to be sick.

Dear Little Pal, I agree with you, night work does not go very well. For I worked six years at night in my hometown at a bakery in Lima, Ohio. To tell you the truth, I missed only 3 weeks out of those six years. I got tired of night work and came down to Cincinnati for a change. I came down here to Cincinnati the 10th of last May. I have been here 5 months. The job have now, I have been with it 8 weeks yesterday.

I am an elevator operator at the Schmidt Building at Fifth and Main Streets. I forgive you for not writing sooner. Why not? I am waiting patiently until I can be with you. Why don't you go on day duty now? It will not be long any more until you go on day duty. Anyplace you want to go (all but a dance hall, where I will not go because I do not dance), I will go with you. We can take a walk if you say so. It is up to you where we go. Thank God! I have found a country girl at last. I always wanted a country girl and at last I have found one. I am a town boy myself but not from Cincinnati. My parents both live up at Lima.

I am like you, I do not like the Cincinnati girls. If I am not mistaken, you have not bobbed hair, have you? I do not care to go with a girl that has bobbed hair. You are right. Everybody is different here then from the country. I have not been with any girl here, either since I have been here. I will forgive you if you make any blunders the first few times I am with you. I will wait until I am with you. For you to tell me where you are going six months from now. But only hope you are not going to leave me for good. No dear little pal, I promise you I will not go with any other girl or write to any other girls but my sister as long as I go with you. You can depend on that. Thank God you are not Catholic. But I am a Ku Klux Klan. And I am sure proud of it too. You know how well a Klansman likes a Catholic, don't you? Enough said about the Catholics for me.

You asked me who I was writing so many letters to, the last time you wrote me. I will tell you. The last one was to my mother and father. Two were to a couple of Klansmen up at Lima, Ohio. One was to my cousin at Lima. One was to a girl I used to go with at Mt. Victory, Ohio. The other two were business letters to a firm at Kansas City, Missouri. But I have quit writing to that girl at Mt. Victory. I wrote my last letter to her last Sunday. I told her not to write me anymore. I have not heard from her yet. But it will not do any good if she does write to me for I will not answer the letter.

My twin sister Gleona when I came home this evening, the first thing she said was "Lee, you got a letter from your nurse." Believe me, it did not take long to open it and read it. I was so happy, I cried for joy after I read it. Yesterday, when I was sick, I longed for you. I would like to see you, my little dear. But I could not get to see you. I suppose you are tired of reading my poor hand writing so I will bring this letter to a close. I am enclosing a couple of stamps for you to use for I hate for you to have to spend your own money on stamps.

Just take them and use them. Don't say anything about them. Here are the key letters for you. YTHFO which is Yours Til Hell Freezes Over. Please answer this when you have time. But don't rush yourself too much.

Your friend, Lee

September 28, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Folks,

How is everybody at home? I am just fine. By this time next week I shall have one month of school over. Have not seen or heard from Genevieve yet. I thought she might write me at least as I have written her two letters. Palmers think she has been a little mean in her actions when she don't write.

Mr. Vaughn is trying to raise trouble here with Palmers. Guess he thinks he has someone else that he would rather have on the place than them. The Palmers were notified to go to Steubenville to Mr. Vaughn's lawyer last Saturday. Among other things that he was kicking about was some old posts that Earl and Mabel pulled out of the ground across from the house the first fall I was over here. He said he wanted to stretch wire on then, but two thirds of the posts were almost flat on the ground. He is also kicking about the school teacher wanting part of the Board money. Earl said the lawyer asked if the school teacher was a man or a woman. George said a woman, then the lawyer asked him if she was good looking. George said I leave that to you. Mrs. Palmer, Mabel and I had a big laugh over it. Said Lawyer had fun asking him silly questions. Palmers have to go back some time again and will keep you posted on how it turns out.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 5, 1924
Mr. Lee Houck
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dearest Martha,

How are you? I am feeling just fine and dandy and only hope you are the same. It has been a pretty day. I suppose you were on duty today. I did not work today at all. But I will go to work tomorrow as far as I know now. Did you go to Church tonight? I did not go to any place today. I am staying in my room all evening. But I am lonesome to see you. We had company today for dinner, Gleena's fellow. Her friend asked me why I was so blue. I told him nothing much. Then my other sister Mabel said "Lee cannot get to see his girlfriend." He then said to me "cheer up, old boy. You will get to see her before too long, won't you?" I said "I will get to see her before long." I guess I can wait until Tuesday night. I got my watch I was telling you about. It is up to you where we go on Tuesday night, for I will go anyplace you want. If God is willing, I will be down to see you on Tuesday night in front of the hospital at 7:30 o'clock sharp. So look for me dear. I don't suppose you will have time to answer this letter before I see you on Tuesday. I don't rush things too much.

With all my love, Lee

October 5, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mama, and Harry,

Got the laundry bag last night. I had been to town all day at the Board meeting and when I got home about 6 o'clock, Earl and Mabel were all ready to go to town and from there they were going to a serenade. I opened my laundry bag to get a handkerchief and found the little tin you sent to Evelyn. I took it out and gave it to her. It tickled the rest of them that she got something sent to her from so far from home. She uses it every meal now to drink out of. I went back to town with Earl and Mabel and this morning, I found my Kodak and the rest of my things.

Genevieve was over to see me last Thursday evening. Where she stays up there are two young boys, one about 18 and the other 22. Both of the boys take her places. Guess they scrap to see which one gets to take her places. She never has time to get homesick, I guess. She was in town Saturday with Mr. Cunninghaus' daughter, who also teaches school.

Saturday when we got our pay, I went in the bank with Genevieve. She got her check cashed and then deposited at least \$60.00 in the bank. She has to pay \$25 per month for board and my board is still \$20. I got a

new fall or winter hat and a pair of high overshoes Saturday. Guess that is all I bought. Paid \$5 for the hat and \$5.50 for the overshoes.

Am making my first payment to Anthony Wayne \$25 and sending \$30 to Farmers State Bank. Still owe them \$75.

I have my grade for the first three lessons and have most of the lessons ready. I spent over a week working on one part of lesson four before I got it. Maybe the more I have to work on it the better I will remember it. It is rather hard some places.

Evelyn calls me Georgia now. Mrs. Palmer didn't think that she had altogether forgotten me or she would not have called me by name so quick. Mr. Crawford over her taught her to say "Happy Day". Wish you could hear her.

Palmer's filled the silo Thursday and Friday of last week. Had more help this year so it didn't take so long.

Have you gotten all your wheat in yet? They don't have it all in over here. Mr. Palmer and Earl had to go to Steubenville last Monday afternoon to present what they had to say to their lawyer about Mr. Vaughn. Don't know what they said. You know I don't know anything only what they tell me. I ask no questions.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 7, 1924

Mr. Lee Houck

Cincinnati, Ohio

Dearest Little Pal Martha,

How are you? I am not feeling so good tonight. But only hope you are all well and enjoying life fine. Well today was a very nice day. Say, dear little pal, what was wrong tonight being I did not get to see you? I was down there tonight as I said I would be, but am sorry to say I did not get to see you. I was down there at 7:30 as I told you I would be and I wanted until after 9 o'clock for you. But you did not come. So I started back for my room. I even got the boss at the place I work at to let me off half an hour early so I could make it in time. On the way back to my room, I met my boss. He stopped me and asked me if I got to see you. So I told him I did not get to see you. He said that was too bad. Please dear little pal, tell me what is wrong. For honest, Martha, I do love and care for you. Are you sick, or what is wrong being I did not get to see you tonight? And when can I see you again? Did I make you mad or angry in my last letter I wrote to you? I only hope not. Say Martha, I received a letter from that girl in Mt. Victory today. I did not even open to read it but tore it up and do not care for her anymore. And as I said before, I am not going to answer anymore of her letters. So that is settled. Listen dear little pal, please answer this or come down in front of my place. For I want to see you so bad. So I will look for an answer from this letter or I will be down in front of the house every night until 9:30 o'clock looking for you until Saturday night. Well Martha, I only hope I have not made you angry in this letter in any way. And only hope you understand everything allright. Well I must quit and take this up to the Post Office so you will get it tomorrow. So please answer and let me know what to do. Answer soon. Good night.

From your little pal, Lee

October 8, 1924

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I am sending you a card that Charlie Williams gave us to send to you and Georgia so you would not lose your vote. It is all ready and you just fill it out and send it to Eaton. They will send the papers to you to fill out so your vote will count too. If there is anything you don't understand, ask your Doctor and he will tell you. We are all week busy. Harry is done sowing wheat (40 acres) and is at Will Browns today filling silo.

Love, Mamma

October 17, 1924

Mae Steele Huston

Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Expect you are surprised to get this letter from me but maybe this won't be the biggest surprise as it is yet to come. Now Mildred and Guy and Glenn and I are planning on coming down this coming Sabbath if this nice weather continues. We have been having such lovely weather and if it continues, we will come as early in the morning as we can but don't be surprised that it will be before 11 am. We are bringing our dinners with us and want you to eat with us. You can plan on a place for us to go to eat our dinner.

Love, Mae

October 21, 1924
Mr. Lee Houck
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dearest Martha,

I will try and write you a few lines to see if you are alive. How are you? I am feeling just fine and dandy and only hope you can say the same. Well, dear little pal, it was quite cool today. Don't you think so? Well Martha, do you feel better since you are on day duty again? Only hope so. I am kinda tired tonight. How about you? Well dear little pal, my face is all well again. You see I went to the doctor before it got a large start and the doctor cured me up in good shape.

Say dear little pal, what is wrong being I have not heard from you since October 7, 1924? It has been two weeks since I last heard from you. Are you mad or angry at me or did I say something to you that Wednesday night that made you angry at me? You said in your last letter to me, "Silence gives consent" I have been silent, but no consent from you. Yet listen, Martha, you may be too busy to write or too tired for an evening to write to me but I want to know if you intend to go with me anymore. If not, please tell me for I would like to know. As I said before I still love you with all my heart and soul. And I will be true to you to the end. Honest dear little pal, I do really love you with all my heart and soul. Well Martha, I am going up to my home town this coming Saturday. But I am coming back Monday morning sometime. So do not answer this until I come back. Please don't. For my sake, I thought of you all day today. And expected a letter from you today, but nothing doing. Oh well, I guess I will have to wait. Time will tell! I am here all my myself tonight, my two sisters went uptown to a show. And my brother and his wife went to a show also. So I am staying to home tonight. A week ago, tonight and a week ago tomorrow night, I worked down to the building until after one o'clock. The scrub man (the man that scrubs the floors in the building) was off sick. And Mr. Sanders, the main boss over everything asked me if I would not help scrub them two nights. So I told him yes. Well Martha, dear little pal, I suppose you are tired of reading my poor hand writing so I will close. I only hope I did not say anything in this letter that would hurt your feelings. But please little pal, answer this before long. For I am sad and lonesome without you. If you have any love for me at all or care for me, please answer this letter. Will say good night for now and hoping to hear from you soon. To my dearest little pal, Martha Steele, from your lonesome and loving little pal, Lee Houck. Answer soon.

Lee

November 3, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Expect you think I have forgotten where you are but I have not. It has been a long time since I wrote to you though. How are you getting along with your work in the hospital? School is going all right. I had a Pie and Box Social here at my school, October 22. Sold ice cream, cracker jacks, candy, and chewing gum. I cleared \$43.00. Doing fine, I thought. Are you going to get any vacations between now and Christmas? Don't know yet what I shall do Thanksgiving vacation.

Genevieve Morgan is giving a Pie and Box Social at her school this coming Friday night. Am planning on going as she came over to my social. Genevieve likes her school all right I guess. She has a fellow and gets to go quite a bit. I also get to go more this winter than I did last winter. I wonder how that I am writing a letter home and one to Mae also this morning besides four business letters. Had better get busy and get through with my classes or I won't get through by twelve o'clock.

Don't know any news in particular so will quit for this time and write me again some of these times. Will try not be so long next time.

Lovingly, Georgia

November 16, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

It's a long time since I wrote you but I have sure been on the move. I got the house all straightened up good and I feel that was something to be thankful for. We ain't started the sitting room fire, but it is all ready to go when we want it. We all went to church today and had communion service. Wasn't many there. While I think of it, the Methodists took Dell March to Christ's Hospital about a week ago. Nellie said everybody was just wore out taking care of her. I guessed they didn't know what else to do with her. She said she supposed she would be in the Charity Ward. Awhile back, somebody said she had an inward cancer. Somebody else said Dr. Gilmore had her full of dope so I don't really know what was the matter. Harry and Minnie Austin took her down in their machine. I wish you could hear and see Harry and Minnie.

We are going to shred sometime this week. Mae and Nellie are going to assist me in cooking for the shredders. I wish you could be here and get a good fill up. We have four little calves come in the last week. It looks quite calfy at the barn.

This morning of the Election, we all went down and voted before daylight. When I come out of the voting room, Charlie Williams says "you voted early, but the girls beat you", meaning as I thought you and Georgia. But in Georgia's next letter she said she didn't vote. She ought to have been spanked. So I guess it was you all by your little self. I can tell you I was proud because you voted. Harry has gone sparking and your Dad is snoring, and it has just struck 7. Bert Ramseys and Henry Becketts have both had dances in the last 2 weeks. Ain't that a beautiful tale to tell.

Monday morning, your Dad got to belching last night and I just had to go to bed. It's mail time and I'll be glad to have you write soon.

Lots of love, Mamma

December 1, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mama, and Harry,

Got your letter and also the two that you forwarded to me. I told Anthony Wayne Institute to change my address but they keep on sending to the old address. Had a letter from Mae and Glenn last week. Suppose they will be up home Xmas from the way she talked in her letter.

I will go to the Board meeting this Saturday. I got a statement from my insurance company so I can pay it from over here. School closes for Xmas vacation Dec. 24 and begins Jan. 5. We can arrange to close a day or so sooner if we wish. Genevieve is going to do that way.

The Palmers butchered a hog last Friday so we have been having lots of fresh meat. We are having lots now over here too.

I expect F. R. Campbell is glad that his woman is out making a little money, don't you?

Oh yes, was Mae and Glenn up Thanksgiving? Or were you by yourselves?

Think I shall try making my good dress this winter as I can do it at half the price of a readymade dress. I can make it here over Xmas vacation.

Evelyn is growing like everything and talks plainer all the time. Genevieve is coming over to Palmers to spend the weekend with me in a couple of weeks before she goes home.

Lots and lots of love, Georgia

December 2, 1924
Mr. Lee Houck
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Little Pal Martha,

How are you? I am feeling just fine and only hope you can say the same thing. Well, Martha, is it cold enough for you? This kind of weather makes a fellow full of pep. It does me. How about you? Say Martha, what is wrong being I have not heard from you for some time. Did I hurt your feelings the last time I was with you?

If I did, I am very sorry. For I did not mean to. Well Martha, I am left all alone now. My sisters left for Van Wert, Ohio over a month ago to live. So you see I have no one to cheer me up for an evening. Won't you be my pal again? Please do. Honest Martha, I do not like or go with no other girl here in Cincinnati. I do not like the Cincinnati girl's ways. But I do really love and care for you. Honest I do. There girls here are too fast for me. All they want is a fellow to have a car and lots of money. Well, I haven't a car yet. But I have all the money I need. And one other thing, most of the girls down here are not satisfied with one fellow. They must have two or three other fellows on the string. I don't want a girl that is that way. I think I could learn to love you allright. What do you think about it? I guess this is your last month here at this hospital. Listen dear little pal, you haven't turned me clear down have you. Hope not. Maybe you will give me a date a little later on. Hope so. You may be waiting until you get over to the other hospital before you give me a date. How about it? I am still at my elevator job. Have my ups and downs every day on the elevator. Well Martha, dear, I hope I have not hurt your feelings in any way. The way I have wrote this letter to you. You know that girl I told you about at Mt. Victory? She is married now. I received a letter from her Mother the other day telling me so. I do not care one bit if she did get married. So I cannot have her now. So why not you and I be pals now? When can I see you again Martha? I suppose you will say never. Please don't say that to me, dear for it makes me feel bad. Listen Martha, please answer this letter to me. I will be waiting patiently for an answer, Address it to the same old place. To my only pal that is you dear. From your lonesome pal. Answer soon.

Lee

December 5, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Am so sorry you have been sick. I didn't think they ever fed you enough to get your stomach out of fix. What do you think caused it? Be sure and tell me if you went to a Doctor about it. If you didn't, you had better see to it right away. Dolly Larsh died at Christ Hospital a couple of weeks ago. They brought her to Fairhaven to bury her. Maybe I told you before about it. It is hard to remember what all I do say to you girls when I don't write the letters at the same time. One of the teachers at Fairhaven resigned and they hired Mrs. Forest Campbell in her place. Old Jim's wife was on the board so that is how she got the place. Nel Somers applied too and Bert Ramseys were so mad they nearly had a kitten because they didn't give it to Nel.

Harry is having an awful time getting his corn husked. Bill Denny is helping him. It rains so much. We butchered a hog and Mae and Glenn came up last night and got some fresh meat. Dorde talks like she was not coming home. She does pay an awful lot for her car. She makes her money so fast and easy that she forgets that the rest of us don't get it so easy. It is mail time and I must close.

Love, Mamma

December 21, 1924
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

This is Saturday evening and Harry [Steele] has gone to see Dorothy [Sheffer]. We did not go to church today. It was too cold for your Dad and neither Harry or I felt very good. Your Dad has just put in the day fighting Harry. Harry worked too hard getting his corn all in and is just worn out. Harry was exposed to Willard Hayes' hired hand, who has the small pox down in Willard's tenant house. So yesterday afternoon, Harry went to Camden to get vaccinated. But the Doctor was out of town and Harry went back to get it done last night. He just raved today because he lay on the lounge and didn't go to Church. Your Dad thinks if he goes to church once a week, he is privileged to cut up all he wants to the balance of the time.

I am wondering if you are going to get home a little while this week. It would be mighty nice if you could do that. Georgia is taking a course in the Anthony Wayne and it cost her \$220. Well by the time she pays that and her insurance and board and so on. I told her that as everybody was well at both ends of the line, that she had better not come home this vacation for it was so far and so cold and for only 1 week that she had better save her \$15.000 so she has decided not to come.

Did you get a letter from Martha Ewing? She got your address the other day. When you write, be sure and tell me about your stomach. Are you sick at your stomach or does it pain and hurt you that way? If it ain't better by this time, you had better see a Doctor and find out what he thinks of it. It's a wonder the sisters don't do something for you. Maybe I will get to see you this week so I'll close. If you come, be sure and call up as soon as you get to Mae's and that will give us a chance to go for you that much sooner. I do hope it won't be so bitter cold as it was last holidays. Let us hear from you right off and be sure and come if possible

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

December 24, 1924
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Do you think you will get home over the holidays for a few days or so anyway? Of course, you know I didn't come this year. Wish you Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

Your sister, Georgia

January 4, 1925
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Folks,

I am back at Palmers. Guess I wrote to you when I was over by Toronto. I stayed with Elma until the day before New Years when I went over to Mrs. Watts and stayed until Saturday. Mrs. Watt and I attended two funerals Saturday, one in the forenoon and the other in the afternoon. They were two old neighbors. Earl and Mabel were at both funerals so I came home with them.

Evelyn was tickled to pieces to see me. You should have seen her. I got my laundry bag Saturday evening. I certainly thank all of you for what you sent me.

Had letter from Martha saying she thought she would get home. Just wondered if she did get there. How much longer does she have in the hospital before she is through?

I got a card from Mr. and Mrs. Linsey but did not know it was here until I got home Saturday and it is too late to send a New Years card now so am not sending any now.

I don't know whether Genevieve came back on Saturday or Sabbath am. I am going to write to her and have her come over and give an account of herself while home.

Did anyone ever call you about the party the Muskingumites always have? It is about mail time so will quit for now.

Lovingly, Georgia

January 15, 1925
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear folks,

Yours and Martha's letters received last night. Glad Martha is feeling better since vacation. Although I did not know she was not well until you told me in your letter. I am giving the mid-year examinations today and tomorrow. Only have ten to take the exams so there won't be so terribly many papers to grade after all

Bert Ramseys don't let financial affairs bother them much do they? I have not been down to Eleanor's for a long time only to drop in for a few minutes once in a while. Was there for dinner one day last fall and dropped in a few minutes several times since yes, she asks me down but I just never get there, I guess.

I don't expect to teach next year if I get along any way half with the other work. The way things are here, I don't get to study like I like to but am getting along very nicely. I do my work downstairs and Evelyn bothers quite a bit but no other way out of it. Depends on how I get along later on as to what I do next winter. Will let you know as I go along.

Guess this is all for this time and will write again first of the week.

Lots and lots of love, Georgia

January 17, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

It is mail time so I'll send this and once more I say "be very careful of men". They are the most deceitful critters on earth.

Lots of love, Mamma

January 18, 1925

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your letter was mighty short but I found out if you were well and O.K. so I was satisfied. I must tell you the first thing about something that would put me wild, had it been one of my girls. When Genivieve went back from her vacation, she told Georgia that Jessie Ewing was married and Georgia wrote home to us about it and we had never had a breath of it. Well I called Nellie Hays up and asked her if she knew it and she said "y-e-s. I heard something about it about a month ago" and said it was so. She wasn't crazy to talk about it on the phone but said she was married way last summer before school commenced and she had never been home since she was married and Marie H. heard Sam Ewing tell that they went to her husband's folks to spend Christmas. Now it is plain to be seen that there is a cog missed somewhere. She never came home last summer and it looks for all the world like she had made a fool of herself. Somehow or other, and didn't dare come home. Dear oh dear, how could I have even stood it had it been one of my girls. Oh do be careful of your company Martha. Don't go out with anybody unless you are perfectly sure they are allright. If I had been going to bet on either of those girls getting into trouble, I would have said every time that it would be Hilda. Jessie never seemed so smart and mean as Hilda. I am so sorry for Vera and Sam Ewing.

You remember John Scouler (the preacher), don't you? Well he died a week ago today. His home was in Philadelphia. They telephoned to Foleys Store from Philadelphia to Mary Scouler for them to come and Mary and Ed went. That was a long distance to phone wasn't it. They said they could hear each other fine.

Did you get your rooster eat up and was he good? Mae ain't' been home since you were here. Ida Reese has been in Cincinnati 2 Saturdays since you were home having her ears worked on. I think she has a good chance to be an invalid later in life. Harry said to tell you that he supposed you had a bad time holding somebody's leg or arm while those old Doctors sawed it off. That sort of biz don't appeal to Harry and I at all. Arthur Morton took his truck to Cincinnati East and the exhaust pipe on the truck was not working right and on his way home, he was overcome by the gas and they had a big time with him when he got home. They had to get Doctor Gilmore out from Camden and he was terrible sick that night. I never heard any more about him so don't know how he came out. Lizzie Simpson bought Doll Larsh's house and lot for \$500. Fairhaven property sells high, don't it?

Mamma

February 2, 1925

Georgia Steele Thompson

Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Mama and Papa,

I wonder whether you are having such changeable weather as we have been having? Last Wednesday, it was 14 degrees below zero. Thursday we had about a foot of snow and Friday morning the snow was so deep that Mrs. Palmer told that I couldn't walk through the snow so Earl hitched the team to the bob sled and took me to school. I never saw such deep snow. I only had three pupils Friday. The morning, the snow is melting and it was raining when I came to school. Now it is cooler and snowing again. Today, I only have six pupils.

Last Saturday, Earl and Mr. Palmer went to Steubenville in the bob sled. Next Saturday is Board meeting and I am going and hoping the roads will be favorable for the machine.

There has been quite a bit of sickness around: mumps, measles, small pox, etc. Ralph Williamson has the mumps and has had them for at least two weeks. None of Palmers have had them so none of the can go over to help Elma. Mrs. Palmer has had trouble with her throat all winter and it was worse this morning.

Have you had any trouble with sore throat or colds this winter? The old ground hog isn't going to get a chance to see his shadow today so hope bad weather won't last much longer.

Has Leonard Scott gone away to school yet? Don't know any more news so will quit and write later.
Lovingly, Georgia

February 8, 1925
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mamma, and Harry,

This is a real summer day so warm outside. Earl, Mabel, and Evelyn are down at Critsers today. They are having some of the rest there also (the children). Mr. and Mrs. Palmer and I are here by ourselves. I don't care, though. Guess we won't have a chance to be here together so terribly much longer though.

Yesterday, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, Earl and I went to town. They saw the Boss, Mr. Vaughn. He said that he would see that Palmers were out of here by the 1st of April. He'll never get anybody to do as much for him as the Palmers have done but he is the kind that has to have a fight ever so often or else he would explode. There is one place out on the pike that the Palmers have in view and if they can get it, I am going with them. It wouldn't make my walk much longer and if I got another place over here, it would be further too so I'm hoping they can arrange to get this one particular place.

I saw Genevieve at the Board meeting yesterday. We were together all day. You know I bought a winter coat the first winter I was over here and have been wearing it ever since so Saturday, I looked at the coats and just got the nicest one for the whole sum of \$15. It has the prettiest fur collar on it. I didn't want to get a coat with a fur collar but it was all I could find that looked any ways nice and for that price too. I know you'll like it when you see it. Now I won't have to buy a new coat next Fall and pay a big price for it. This was a \$49 coat. You can just see what they make on coats now.

Am sending another bill for my laundry. Expect you thought I was expecting the other \$1 to last forever. I sent my laundry bag home yesterday.

Martha won't be far from here if she gets to Bethesda. It is in the county south of here (Belmont County). Hope she get through at the hospital O.K.

[Monday afternoon] The Assistant Superintendent just left at recess and I feel about like 2 cents or less. Earl is expecting to find out today for certain what they are going to do. Will write later.

Lovingly, Georgia

February 9, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I received your dear birthday card. It was lovely of you to remember it. I also got your letter this morning. I did not get to write you last night for Maes [Huston] were here yesterday dinner and they stayed so late and I had all my work to do after they were gone. I was so tired, I just piled off to bed. Today I churned, baked bread, and made a big bread pudding. I thought of you and wished you had a crack at it and the cream. I suppose I'll wash tomorrow.

Harry [Steele] goes to Bookers tomorrow to buzz wood and then they will be here to buzz later in the week. John Durals are going to have a sale next week and they are going to move to Eaton. Ma Huston has been sick 2 or 3 weeks. She has got gravel or intestinal trouble. They keep Mae and Glenn on the bounce, but Carl and Daisy don't show up at all. Pretty one-sided, ain't it?

One day last week, Mae went over and done the washing and the next day had to lay in bed. I am sending you a couple of pictures. You know the Webster girl, but I am not sure about the Smiths. I suppose you ain't got more than 7 weeks til you will finish at St. Marys Hospital. My won't that be fine when you get to drawing more dollars per month.

Harry's arm got all right and he has a good scar. I am so glad that you got a good scar too. Will Neal's little girl has the scarlet fever. They go to Fairhaven School. The roads are just terrible muddy now. Can't hardly put through over here in front of Ora Becketts. Clarence Booker has bought Harry Lybrook's farm and Lybrooks will move up to Belle Fishers. Belle will live in the little house and Lybrooks in the big house. Fred has 2 kids now. Fred wouldn't have any time to run after Marha Gillopy now, would he?

[Tuesday morning] Harry has gone to Bookers to buzz wood and if tomorrow is fit, they will be here. We want a hired hand awful bad. Don't know whether we will be able to get one or not. Well it is mail time so I must close. Take good care of yourself and write when you can.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

February 15, 1925
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mamma, and Harry,

How is everybody? I am just fine. Got your letter OK. Did Harry and Glenn succeed in finding a new horse for Glenn? Hope they did. Everyone over here is stirred up about moving. We are almost certain that we will move now. There is a large house and farm on a place at the end of our mud road that is for rent. Palmers are planning on moving out there. I am going to go with them. It won't make my walk much longer than I would be on the pike all the time. We will have a bus past our place just like Mae [Huston] does.

Old George Vaughn is just a regular old D___. That's all you can make out of him. He said among other things that Earl was afraid of work and that Palmers had run him off. He tells all sorts of lies to the neighbors. Hunting sympathy, I guess. He is not finding much that I can see.

You asked me how I got home from school the time of the big snow. Well, I walked and took an old pair of stockings and wrapped around the tops of my over shoes to keep the snow from going down the tops of them. I just took my time on the road so it wasn't so bad. Only ten more weeks of school left, It won't take that long to go either.

There is quite a bit of small pox around here. It seems to be spreading all the time. Am glad that I was vaccinated last winter and I don't need to feel so afraid of taking it, but still I'm not going to go where is it if I know it.

Palmers are moving the last of March and first of April so I will get to spend a month with them in their new place. Am glad Martha is so near through at Cincinnati. Perhaps I can go to see her at Bethesda before I go home. Guess there is no news of importance so will close for this time. I wrote to the insurance companies. Have not heard from either of them yet. Will let you know when I do hear.

Lovingly, Georgia

February 15, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I will write a little to you before I go to bed but we are going to buzz wood tomorrow and I will have 5 men for dinner so I'll have to get up early to get dinner on time. If everything goes well, I will have them for two dinners but we will have enough wood then to do better than a year. I don't know whether I ever told you or not but Glenn Ramsey lost his mind last summer and they took him to the Insane Asylum at Dayton last summer. He died up there last Monday night and they had the funeral at Frank's last Wednesday.

You know Lee and Pearl are separated and Lee got work down in Kentucky so he took Em and Lawrence down with him to keep house for him and Lawrence got sick down there and had to go to the hospital. Was in the hospital at the time of Glenn's death.

Harry heard in Camden last night that Lyman Casy is losing his mind and Casey went to all the hardware stores in Camden and told them not to sell Lyman any ammunition. Harry said he understood that they were afraid he would kill himself. Clarence Booker has bought Harry Lybrook's farm and will move up to W. Fishers. Forest Campbells are going to sell out and she is going to teach school. She is teaching at Fairhaven now. He is going to paint. I understand that big Jim is going to sell the Charley Laird farm. When Harry Lybrooks move up to Fishers, Mr. and Mrs. Forest Campbell are going to move into Harry Lybrook's house. But they will only get to stay there a year for Bookers will want to go there then.

Your dad's mind is just dreadfully weak. Today, I saw 4 machines coming up the road together and I made a remark "I wonder if that is a funeral" and Harry says "I saw Henning's machine in at Arthurs and guess it was broke" and your dad says "Oh is there a funeral over at Arthurs?" He just makes the awfulest mess out of things when we try to talk any.

Henry Sanders had a two year old baby by that old widow that clerked in White's store and it died this week. I ain't heard a grunt out of old Mary Jane since you went away. Hope she will continue to keep mum. Have you put in your application for admittance over at Bethesda Hospital?

You know Mae Scott was taking a business course over at Dayton. Well she went over there about a week ago and was taken with appendicitis and was operated on last Tuesday. The last report was that she was getting along very well. The last report is that Sal Brandenburg is getting up another kid. Mrs. Brown will got a new kid this week. This is their first but I bet a dollar it won't be the last. Is the operating room as hard on your nerves as the night duty was last winter?

Mae and Glenn were up for dinner one day last week. Glenn bought Harry's pet horse and paid \$100 for her. He got a mighty good horse. Harry bought Ed White's sorrel colt that matches Harry's sorrel colt so Harry has two matched teams now, a black match team and a sorrel match team.

Love, Mamma

February 25, 1925
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mamma, and Harry,

I did not write earlier in the week as there wasn't going to be any mail Monday. It was a holiday for Washington's birthday. We did not have to teach school Monday but we were not certain about it until it was too late to tell the children so I taught Monday and the day that Palmers move, I'm going to take a day off. Mr. Palmer and Earl went to Steubenville yesterday and got their papers signed up so we can begin to move anytime now. I am moving with them.

The Insurance Company sent me duplicate receipts the same day that I got my laundry and the other receipts I will send back to you next time. My laundry goes and will you please put them with the other receipts and papers.

Martha doesn't have more than a week more at the St. Marys Hospital, does she?

Genevieve is talking about seeing if she can get work here in Steubenville for next summer. I'm going to help her look around some of these Saturdays. I only have fifteen pupils now and last of March and first of April, I am going to lose eight of them. Won't be much left, will there. Will stop now and when I have a lot more news, I will write you.

Lovingly, Georgia

February 27, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

We are just about froze up. Ain't had a scratch from Dorde this week. Don't know whether she is froze up or got small pox. A week ago today, George Goodwin run over Tools [the dog] and broke his hip. Harry took him to Camden to Doctor Otto and had him set it. Harry said when he was on the operating table, they had oceans of dog music. He hated awfully bad that he hurt him. I told him if he had been where he belonged, he would not got hurt. Bill Denny is going to work for Harry til after corn planting. Forest Campbell's sale was yesterday afternoon. Harry was there and said they didn't have much. We are all well as usual and I'll have to close for this time. Write soon and give all the news.

Lots of love, Mamma

March 1, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Mae and Glenn [Huston] went to Hamilton yesterday and nothing would do Gorden's mother but Mae must stay all night and eat dinner with them today being as this was Mae's birthday and she also said she had written you to come up and eat dinner with them today too. They waited dinner on you til 1 o'clock but you didn't get there. Mae said everybody was awfully disappointed and I know you were too for I am sure you

would have been more than delighted to have gone. If they had seen the letter you wrote home this week, they would have sure been surprised if you had gotten there.

Dear me, but we are having awful weather now. About the worst we have had this winter. Albert Van Ausdal bought a lot of new Fords at Indianapolis and he called Harry and Arthur Boohr up today and asked them if they would go to Indianapolis tomorrow with him and each one drive a car to Liberty for him. They both said they would go and drive a car back. Harry is hoping that they will give him a sedan for it would not be so cold. Albert has a garage at Liberty now. The mumps are scattered all over the schools now. Marie Hays has them and I suppose the boys will have them next. Thank fortune, Harry has had them.

Be sure and tell me how you are expecting to arrange your business the last of the month. Are you going to leave St. Marys for good the first of April and can you come home then and if so for how long? Georgia has never said but I imagine she will be home sometime in April. In her last letter she said Genevieve [Morgan] was going to try to get some kind of work in Steubenville this summer. I'll bet she has got a beau on her string over there. The little pup had better come home with her mother this summer. Toots says to tell you that he took the bandages off his leg this morning. He is coming along very well but he is far from being a well pup yet. It was George Goodman that run over him. George hated it awful bad but we all knew that he couldn't help it. The Scoullers ain't home from Philadelphia yet. Glenn's hired hand comes on tomorrow. Well Danny s going to work for Harry. Well, I must close and write some to Georgia. If you write, be sure to tell me what your plans are. Well bye for this time and write soon.

Lots of love, Mamma

March 1, 1925
Georgia Steele Thompson
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Mamma,

It was too bad Toots the dog met with such an accident, but it's nothing more than what one could expect the way he runs machines sometimes, is it? Glad he seemed to be better the last few days. I'm sure I wouldn't care to be around when he was on the operating table.

You asked if I was going to be home this summer or not. I thought about being home for a few weeks than going to Fort Wayne for about six weeks. I'm here to tell you that some of these lessons are not so easy for one that don't know anything about it and no one to ask questions. If I can get something to do the latter part of the summer, I won't teach.

I imagine Genevieve will want to come back next fall. I wouldn't mind it myself as far as that goes. You certainly are having a time with your coat. Do hope it fits after it does come.

Genevieve has three days of school to make up after my school is out and she wants me to wait on her. Will tell you why she is so anxious when I see you.

Mrs. Palmer went over to Elmas this afternoon to help her a week then she will get back home and help move here. Earl is going to the other place this week to clean out stables and get a few things moved.

March is starting out rather bad isn't it? Would rather see it now and good weather later on. Believe we had about our worst day last Thursday. It was terribly windy here. And I guess I'll have to go to bed. Will send my laundry about next Saturday.

Lovingly, Georgia

March 5, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

This has sure been a disappointing day. It seemed like everything you went to do went right against you. I sure hope you get back safe tonight. I couldn't understand just what you said about your side. But maybe Mae [Huston] can tell me when I talk to her. Mae had such a good dinner and I was so sorry you couldn't have eaten there and got some of her good stuffed sausages. I sure hope you will get settled in your own little bed tonight safe and sound and not get any more disappointments for you had your share today.

We cleaned up the dinner dishes and sat and watched and watched and could see everybody except you. We couldn't enjoy ourselves just because we wanted to see you so bad. Don't try to come next Saturday for we have communion and you know that will take so long.

I understand you to say that maybe you could comment at some point, Martha. If you wait that long, Dorde will be home and try to get them to let you have 2 or 3 days anyway. If she gets another kind of job, no telling when she will get off. I asked you if your side acted anything like appendicitis, but I couldn't tell what you said. Did Mae [Huston] tell you that Sal Brandenburg has a kid? Its name is Margery Gene. Some name, I hear you say. I wonder if it will have the mother's sweet disposition? Well it is 8:30 and I will have to go to bed. My but it scares me to have you alone in that big wicked city after night. Well, my dear girl, I'll close for tonight and do write if only for tonight to know if you get home all right.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

March 9, 1925

Mrs. Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Mama (Mrs. Robert Emma Steele),

Got your letter last Friday. Went to Steubenville to Board meeting Saturday. When the weather changes and gets so quick then cools again is such a good chance to catch a cold. I got some cold last Saturday. Nothing bothers only my nose runs fierce.

Am glad your coat came and fits you. Glad you like it as there was no other way of getting one,

Yes, I can be at home for a while and give you a chance to get your teeth fixed. It will be perfectly all right with me.

Genevieve wanted to get some work to do here in Steubenville for this summer but we couldn't find anything suitable last Saturday. She likes it over here just fine.

I just sent my laundry bag home last Saturday. Mrs. Palmer came home yesterday. They are getting things pretty well thinned out I the house. By two more weeks it will be over. We can hardly wait til we get out of the mud. Don't think of any more news just now. So will quit and write later.

Lovingly, Georgia

March 18, 1925

Mrs. Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Mama (Mrs. Robert Emma Steele),

Wednesday noon. Your letter and my laundry both came yesterday evening (Tuesday). I really don't know any news, only that it won't be long before I am moving to another house then moving farther in about a month. When we move, our address will be just the same as it is now. The same mailman. There are only five more weeks of school. School closes the 24th of April. Genevieve has a few days of school to make up after my school is out. She did not find anything to do here in Steubenville so she is going home with me. We are to have our applications for a school in by the first Saturday in April. I think maybe I will put in an application. Don't have to accept if I don't want to. Imagine Genevieve will apply too.

You got my letter last week, didn't you? It was in a long, blue envelope. I made a mistake and wrote Steubenville instead of Camden, that made it a day later. Guessed that I was writing my own name. Just so it gets there is all that is necessary.

It rained again today and made our roads muddy again. It just rains enough and often enough to keep them impassible. They won't bother us only a week longer now, then we'll be on Pike Road. The house where we are going is very up to date, furnace, lights, and hardwood floors.

I had better be getting down the road toward Palmers as all the children have gone now.

Lots and lots of love, Georgia

March 24, 1925

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

How are you coming along? We are just desperately busy, plowing and just terrible tired. Harry and Will Denney are coming on great with the plowing. They have the 20 acres east of Arthur's road plowed and half of the 35 acres plowed. Arthur Hays ain't plowed an inch. Mae and Glenn went to Richmond last Friday and bought 300 little chickens for \$35. Mae's Aunt Mary will want lots of fried chicken when she comes down, won't she. Ha ha. Maybe you remember about Charlie Morgan getting mad at Mr. Bailey, well he has not gone to church for a long time and now Charlie and the two younger kids have joined the Methodist Church and all Annie could do was to follow up. I go with them. I'll bet it about made her sick.

The Fairhaven school closed once this winter on count of mumps and now they have broken out again. The Moss boys are all down with the mumps and so is Nellie Lybrook. Gordon Lybrook is just about the same and is serious enough. How is your side? It is just a shame to work the girls so hard it will make them sick. Be sure and tell me all about it. Does the City look pretty now getting ready for Easter? Tools is coming on fine but his mishap didn't break him of running after machines. I'll write again soon.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

March 24, 1925
Georgia Steele Thompson
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Mama, Papa, and Harry,

How is everybody? I am OK. Only a month of school left after this week. Am rather tired of school now. Have been at it so long. Since we have been having nice days, the children want to take walks so we took one today. The weather has been so nice since spring started but it will surely change before many days.

I have three children moving from our school Monday. Palmers are moving next Monday too. Mr. Vaughn came out Saturday afternoon. He has been in Steubenville all winter. I really can't see how the old man can get along when Palmers leave.

Earl went out to the other place this morning with a load at 6:30. He was going to sow clover seed. How is Harry getting along with his spring work? Suppose the tractor is busy. Believe I told you that our address when we move will be the same as it is now.

I had my suit dry cleaned and pressed this spring. It looks like new. Genevieve is thinking about getting a new spring coat. She surely needs it too. Don't think I shall get many new clothes. Believe me, I have not spent much money on clothes this winter.

Has Forest and Ida moved yet? I have not heard from anyone around home for the longest time. All the news I get from you. Cleo never writes anymore. I have come to the end of all the news or anything to say so will close.

Will probably send my laundry about Saturday. Will be sending some things to be left at home from now on. Will mark things to be left.

Lovingly, Georgia

April 2, 1925
Georgia Steele Thompson
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Papa, Mama, and Harry,

I am now writing my first letter this week. Things have been upside down for the last two weeks. We packed everything up expecting to move Monday, then it rained and it was called off until the next day. Tuesday evening after school, I went back down to Vaughn's house and helped Mrs. Palmer pack some things and get Evelyn ready to go to the new house. We started about 6:30 o'clock and Earl came after us in the Ford car. There was everything imaginable in the back seat besides Evelyn and myself. Mrs. Palmer had a bucket of cream to carry. Her arms about broke before she got the cream there. All other things to carry cream in were gone. See I like the new house fine, a large white frame house with hardwood floors and marble mantles above the fireplaces. I will get a picture of the house before I leave. Only three weeks of school left.

Mr. Vaughn does not have anyone to rent his place yet. He is staying by himself now. Serves him right too. He can't even get anyone to rent his fields. He is such a crook. I only have eleven pupils in school now, rest have moved away.

It takes me from 30 to 35 minutes to walk to and from the school now. I never realized what it was to move before. I advise anyone never to move unless it is absolutely necessary. It's a real job. I didn't get my laundry sent off this week the way things have been and it isn't safe to leave it at the mailbox out at the pike as many going by and it's too far to carry it to school. Will take it to town with me Saturday as I am going to my last Board meeting then. Guess this is all for this time. Will write next week. Hope to hear from you in a day or two.

Lovingly, Georgia

April 6, 1925
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

It has been a long time since I wrote you or heard from you. Only 2 more weeks of school. I will try to get a letter to you before school is out. How do you like your work? Hope you will soon be through there. Write when you can.

Lovingly, Georgia

April 13, 1925
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Mama,

Your letter came last Saturday evening. I had my laundry bag packed for so long, I had forgotten that I sent that scarf in it. No, I did not buy it. Mrs. Palmer gave it to me for Christmas. I thought it was awfully pretty myself.

Harry surely has done fine this spring. Palmers have about a day's ploughing to do before they can plant their oats. They have 13 acres plowed for corn. Having to move put them back quite a bit.

Didn't we have a pretty Easter? I was at home all day. Carl, Mabel and Evelyn went over to Elma's for dinner. Guess Mrs. Palmer wanted me to stay to keep her company. I am going over to Elma's as soon as my school is out and stay with her until Genevieve gets her week of school made up.

Genevieve and I thought that it would be nice to go home by way of Cincinnati on the Ohio River. From what I hear, it is not as expensive as the train but takes longer. We could go up from Cincy on the bus. I don't say that we will go that way for sure until we find out more about a boat. I will let you know how we will come in about a week. I will send my trunk to Camden.

I sent Martha a card last week and will write her a letter when we decide how we are going home. Expect I will have to send my laundry bag back to you about as soon and get it or I won't get all of my things moved. Believe this is all for this time and write.

Lots of love, Georgia

PSA Do you think you could use any more grass seed or is it too late? I will get some if you can use it.

April 15, 1925
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Mama,

Wednesday noon. The laundry bag came yesterday evening and I packed it again and am sending it back. You can send all the things back except the red cap, two middies, perge dress, and books. When I send it home the next time it will be there to stay. School is out next Friday and Saturday as we all have to go to Field Day or loose a day's pay.

Will write first of next week and tell you exactly how and when we are coming home. Didn't want to put a note in laundry bag so thought I'd write in in a letter.

Lovingly, Georgia

April 17, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

This is the last time you will have to send the bag back. Now Martha, do please write me and give me all the news. I just can't rest when I have to wait so long for a letter. Goodbye and lots of love.

Mamma

April 19, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Are you sick, or why is it you never write me anymore? It is about seven weeks since I had a letter from you, only that card with only a few words saying you got back all right. It is 2 weeks now since I got that. I just get so worried and don't know what to think when it goes so long and no word from you. I have lost clear out, I haven't any idea what your plans are by this time. Would you be glad if Georgia would come past Cincinnati or would you rather she would not?

We have been awfully busy cleaning house, making garden, setting hens, and trying to get some flowers planted and yard cleaned. By the time I get around a little to all of them, it seems like I am more out and can't see that I get much done either. Then I have the three men to cook for all the time. The horse radish and greens are out in all their glory but today, I saw our 5 young calves mowing them off and I felt like knocking them down.

Where are the graduating exercises to come off and will you be dressed in your nurse uniforms? Tools has about recovered from his accident. When he is in the house with me and is waked up right good, I will ask him where Harry is and with that he will give a yelp and out he will go to the barn and garage to find him. "Smart pup." I hear you think kitty Black will have a new crop of cats before long.

Mamma

May 17, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your letter should have been answered sooner, but Georgia and I have sure been busy the last week trying to finish the house cleaning. We have got it all done now but the kitchen. I will have to get some money from Bill Baker to send you. I wrote him Friday but I may not get it into my hands for a couple of weeks. But I guess that will be time enough for you.

It sure is a shame that none of us can go to your commencement but Georgia is going to Muskingum the 14th of June to be gone for a 6 week term. So she can't go and it is impossible for Harry or I to go as we have no hired help now.

Martha if I were you, I would try to get in at the Bethesda Hospital for the training. Of course, they are going to have to keep you as long as possible but just have it understood that you have an opinion of your own. It must be a good place or your preacher wouldn't have let his wife go there. Are you going to bring your trunk home with you? If you were to go back in just a very short time, wouldn't it be better to have it stored til you went back? I will send you the piece of Miss Hart's graduation. Well, I'm so sleepy and will try and write again soon. You can depend on me for the money but it may not come for a couple of weeks, Well good bye for tonight.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

June 8, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

You think I am a long time sending that money, but they sent me one check and it was not satisfactory so I sent it back and am expecting another check just any day. I'll do my best to get some money to you by the last of the week. Mae says for you to express mail your trunk up to Oxford and she will bring it home in her machine. We cannot take a trunk in Harry's machine. She also said for you to come on the bus to her house and she would bring you home. Georgia goes to Concord June 15. It is a shame you miss seeing each other. Georgia says she will write just as soon as she gets to Concord. When you write, tell me how long you will be home and

where you are going to next. I hope it will be Bethesda Hospital. Charlie Laxel is working here now. Well it is mail time and I hope to see and hear from you soon.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

June 14, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

We got home O.K. about sun down and found everything all right. Martha, if you can find out just when your operation will be, some of us will be down to be there at the time. We can't tell whether it will be Harry or Maes or if Harry can't go, it will probably be Mae and I. If they can't go, I'll go by myself. One thing is sure, some of us will be there. Try and have it so it will not throw us after night getting home.

Harry and I can't go at the same time for we would have to take your father with us and he is an awful case when you take him to town. It has been so dreadful hot today.

I will send your money to you next Tuesday morning by registered letter. I've got so shook up yesterday, I've been lazy all day.. I'll close and go to bed and send the money Tuesday.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

June 16, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Harry and I are sending you \$30.00 this morning and we said you could call it your graduation present. Now for goodness sakes, don't let on that you have it or some of them will want to borrow while you have a little.

Georgia [Thompson] went to Maes [Huston] yesterday. I was so surprised when your commencement card arrived. My but we would love to be there. If you can spare one, be sure to send over to Georgia.

Please send a line right back and tell me if you get your money all right. It is mail time so I must close.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

June 19, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

The long looked for and the long wished for day has come, when you would graduate. Our happiness would be complete if you were well, but we hope that when your operation is over and you get rested up, you will feel like a new girl and feel good again. I would give most anything to be there tonight but we had better save our energy for next week, when you are not feeling so good. I got a postal from Georgia yesterday and her address now is in New Concord, Ohio.

Helen VanDyke was married yesterday and also Pearl Broadberry and John Whitesell. I must send Dorde a line so goodbye my dearest and I hope we will hear from you either today or tomorrow letting us know when the operation will be. I guess you have your money long before this.

Lots of love, Mamma

June 30, 1925
Marie Hayes
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you? I hope you are feeling better. It is nice and cool these days isn't it? I wish it would warm up as I want to go swimming so bad. I'm going to have a campfire meeting at our house tomorrow or I mean at the creek. Verla Bishop and I are going to furnish the eats. We are going to have a bonfire and roast weiners, and have buns and toast marshmallows. We intend to all go swimming in the big hole back of the barn, but I guess it is going to be too cold. Some of the girls may be merry enough to go in but I don't think I will. I don't want to freeze (freeze). I guess I can't spell very good.

We went to Richmond today. We got some fireworks. Harry Lybrooks and us, and I don't know who else are going up to Harry's Saturday night and have ice cream and cake and shoot off some fireworks. I'd hate to have to be where you are for the 4th. I was in the hospital for 4 days and thought that was long enough. I hope you are able to come home someday soon. Be good to yourself.

Marie

July 1, 1925
Georgia Steele [Thompson]
New Concord, Ohio

My dear Martha,

How are you getting along by this time? Just fine I hope. It has been quite a while since I wrote you although I have been kept busy here with my schoolwork. I don't do much running around. There are lots here in school that I knew last summer and from the winter term that I was here.

Today, they had what they call Bum Day. Everybody dressed up as comic as they could and went to school that way. I did not have anything out of the ordinary to wear so just went in my usual dress. Some of them were perfect screams though. You could hardly imagine some of them looking so horrid. I am going to stay here over the 4th. Don't know exactly what I shall put my time in at but suppose I shall live through it all right. We do not get out until Friday afternoon at 3:30 and have to begin again Monday. So see it won't pay at all to go home, wish I could though. There are only two and a half weeks of school left after this week. School for this term ends July 22nd.

I wonder whether you or I shall get home again first? Do hope you won't have to stay in the hospital so very much longer. How long do you suppose it will be?

Suppose that Mama told you about Russell Cunningham visiting Genevieve Morgan and going down to Oxford with her when school started and getting a job on one of the new buildings that they are putting up on the Miami campus. He sure must think lots of her, don't you think?

Did Mama tell you that Elma Palmer Williamson had a new baby. They call him John Dale and I would love to see him.

Well Martha, do hope you improve rapidly and can get home again real soon. I shall be home in three weeks from now and will be awfully glad. Take good care of yourself and I shall write again soon. Write me when you can.

Most lovingly, your sister Georgia

July 1, 1925
Mary Scott
Camden, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I am in hopes you will not be out of the hospital before this gets to you. I wrote to you last Saturday night but your letter was carried around in my pocket book instead of being mailed. All these absent minded people, ha ha.

Leonard, Darrell and I went to a K.K.K. meeting Saturday night. We do not belong. It was the first Klan parade that I ever saw. There were 300 or 400 people in it.

I am awful sorry that you had to go through that experience of appendicitis. I have not been feeling very well. I haven't since my operation. I was in Dayton when I had my trouble. This isn't very much news. Bert Ramsey has a new Ford Sedan. My Aunt and Uncle from Seattle, Washington have been at my Grandmothers.

We are starting back home this morning. I expect you remember Anna Livingston. She has been here nearly 2 months. I am using Leonard's fountain pen. The first fountain pen I have used for nearly a year. I sure have got some awful writing in this letter. I cannot use a fountain pen very good. I am used to free hand movement and I cannot use it with a fountain pen. So please excuse my writing this time. I hope you are getting along fine. When you come home, I will come down and see you. Hoping that will be soon. Wising you the best of luck.

Sincerely, Mary

July 2, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Camden, Ohio

My Dearest Martha,

I wonder how my little girl is this morning. We did not get a card from you yesterday, but maybe you did not get it in the office in time to get round yesterday, or that is the way I am beginning to feel about it. It is dreadfully hot here, what would it be like at the Hospital?

Harry finished cutting wheat several days ago, but Glenn is not through yet. I saw Cleo the other day and she sure looked as sour as a vinegar barrel. About how long do you think it will be before you can come home. Of course, it is a long trip, and you will not want to undertake it til you are headed up good. I am surely thankful that the operation is over.

Georgia's school is a little more than half out. I am going to clean the stove pipe this morning. Don't you wish you could have a finger in the job? I hear you say, "please excuse me."

I suppose Helen Van knows how it goes to get up and get her old man his breakfast. There will be quite a difference between that and having somebody else getting it all ready to swallow. Well, it is mail time so I must close and I'll write again tomorrow.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

PS Did you get letters from Mae Scott and Marie Hays? They both asked for your address.

July 3, 1925,

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Camden, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

How are you this morning? Everybody is well as usual, only me are not and I guess you are too. I'm so thankful you are coming on so well. It will not be so very long now til you can come home. Mae and Gordon were up a little while yesterday afternoon and they said the big covered bridge between her and Oxford was out. They had to go down in the water to get round. I suppose we will work on the 4th. That is what we always do. If it ain't one thing, it is another.

I guess I'll wash today. I think that will be very exhilarating, don't you? Well, don't get too gay on the 4th. I'll try and do likewise. A person would hate to get in the lockup. Hope I get a card from you today.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

October 11, 1925

Daisy Mahaney

Covington, Kentucky

Dearest Martha,

Dear, it's a shame I have neglected to write you but have not been well for past week. I called you even on night duty. When are you going to be back a day? Don't be angry at me Martha. Mother is going on a case most anytime now. Sister is moving to larger quarters so will have to have you down real soon. Hope you will forgive me. Isn't it awful cold lately? Well I do dread Winter and dear I have to go to court tomorrow about my case. Please write me real soon.

Your devoted friend, Daisy

November 10, 1925

Genevieve Morgan

Steubenville, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you these days? How do you like your change of work? Everything is going O.K. over here. It is rather cool these days. John [Thompson] is over tonight so you know how happy Georgia [Steele] is at present. She said to tell you "hello".

Do you know of any hospital in Cincinnati that would like to have scrap books for the sick children? I thought maybe that in your position, you could get that information for me. I think I shall have my pupils make them as something to keep them busy. Of course, we would want to send them where there is a use for them.

Farmer's Institute is December 16-17 over here. I'm trying to find a good recitation for my fourth grade girl to say. She is very good and each school is to furnish something.

Well, I have more letters to write so I must ring off and begin all over again. Write soon.

Love, Genevieve

November 15, 1925
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

You will be astonished beyond measure when I tell you that three weeks ago tonight that Dorothy [Steele, wife of Harry Steele] had a girl baby. I never for a minute thought of such a thing and when I went to bed at 7:30, she was sort of complaining and at 11:30, Harry called me and said Dorothy was awful sick and for me to come down right away, which I did. I told him to order Dr. Combs out right away and at 2:30, the child was here. It is a girl, and her name is Jean Evelyn [Steele West]. Mabel Brown was here a week, and I've been doing all the work since that. Dorothy is coming on just fine, and the baby is too with the exception of some indigestion and takes spells of crying. But I guess that belongs to the baby business.

Oh, Martha, you can't know what awful anguish I have suffered over this, and oh may I be spared ever going through such a thing again. I think we will make a split up here. Don't know just what arrangements will be made yet, but probably your Father will move to Fairhaven. I just can't stand the strain of all the work there is here, and as long as I'm here, I have to take the lead in everything. I'm just plum worn out.

Mrs. Merideth and another women were coming home from Hamilton after dark and the machine they were in and another one bumped into each other and threw Mrs. Merideth out and broke her collar bone and hurt her awfully. She will live, but it will be a long time before she is herself again. Julia Lybrook aged 34, married a widower 30 with several children and moved to Dayton. Hard up for a man, wasn't she. Arthur Hayes have a new Chevrolet sedan. Quite foxy, I say.

How many babies have you taken care of since you have been there. Is it harder than it was over at the other place? If you have as big a time quieting your kids as we do, the one here at home, you wouldn't be crazy for very many at a time. Matt Ewing and Margaret Williams are on a trip to Philadelphia. Wouldn't that be fine? I have my new teeth, but I haven't taken any pleasure in them yet.

It is dark and I must get to work. Martha, do be a good girl and never, never, never let anything shameful happen to you. Write and tell me all the news.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

December 22, 1925
Mae Steele Hueston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I haven't heard a word from you since you left and wonder why I don't get a letter from you once in a while. Are you going up home Xmas or not? We are going up Xmas day and want to get a good early start if possible but can't always tell about that. Now let us know if you are planning on going up home and come this way as you always do. Could you come up the evening before or else get an early bus from Cincy to Hamilton and call us to make sure that we will be here. I won't send your Xmas present until I hear from you as to whether you are coming or not. Everyone is as usual up this way.

Lovingly, Mae

February 10, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Why in the world don't you write to Mamma? I just wonder and wonder if you are sick or why you don't write? We landed here in Fairhaven last Friday evening and just like it fine. Everything is so nice and warm. Mae [Huston] has a brand new baby girl 10 days old and her name is Eileen Francis. It was born in the Hospital at Hamilton. Expects to bring them home today. Glenn was up yesterday and said the Doctor said she would not be able to do anything for 6 weeks so that means that your father and I will have to go down there for a while. Glenns are going to move after to Jim Huston's farm the 1st of March. There will be an awful year up for the new baby and its mother.

Your father ain't been a bit well for the last month, neither in mind or body. He really ought not to be away from home, but what else can I do but go when they are in such a bad shape. I ain't got this house anything like fixed up and put together. But if we once get rid of things, I am sure we will like it.

Jean Evelyn [Steele] is just growing to beat the band and just laughs and coos. These young ladies that have just come sure keep their old grandmother stepping. Now Martha, do write to Mamma and tell all about what you are doing, Send it to Oxford, Ohio in care of Glenn Huston and write right away. I have got oceans of work to do today so I'll have to close. It is mail time too. Now Martha, do please write soon and let me know how you are coming on. Mae Scotts is married and living in Dayton.

Oceans of love, Mamma

February 16, 1926
 Florence Leonard
 Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York
 Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear Miss Steele,

I am sorry to inform you that I have just received a notice saying that our company has postponed the issuing of your insurance contract for three months. By that time no doubt, you will be in better physical condition. It may be that they have to wait because of your operation having been performed within the past year. Anyhow, that may make it more convenient for you in the end because now perhaps you can be prepared to take care of our full annual deposit or at least the semi-annual when your three months are up. I'm sorry about the delay, but it is doctors' orders, you know! I'll get in touch with you again about the first of May.

Most sincerely, Florence

May 29, 1926
 Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
 Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I expect you have been anxious by mailing a letter but Dorde and I have sure been busy since she came home. Day before yesterday Mae called up and said she didn't have anything to wear to the Fairhaven Alumni tomorrow night and could I come down if she would come for her and they went to Hamilton yesterday and got the dress and we are making it today. She will bring Georgia home to stay tonight. If they don't look out, they won't get it done in time to get the pastings out, ha ha.

I am looking for a check from Bill Baker any day now and then I'll send it to you I think you had better send your trunk by Express C.O.D. and then you come on the bus to Maes. I believe that would suit us better. Be sure and tell me in your next letter how long you expect to be home and when you will go next. We want you to go to a Protestant Hospital the next time. We are very anxious that you go to Bethesda. Well it is mail time and I'll close and write again soon. We would love to be at your commencement but it will be impossible. This ain't much of a letter but excuse me.

Love, Mamma

June 25, 1926
 Mae Steele Huston
 Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your most welcomed letter some time ago, but the old story of not having time comes up again.

I am sorry to have to write the news this carries. Yesterday Mama called me and said Papa was very sick in bed and wanted me to come immediately. Well, I went and he is in a very serious condition. Doctor Coombs is away for a month's vacation and has left his practice to his son-in-law at Eaton. Mama succeeded in calling him. He said Papa was bordering on uremic poison. His heart is very weak as you know it would be.

Mama wants you to come home now if you possibly can. You call me by phone as soon as you get this so that I can make arrangements to take you up home. The Doctor spoke as though things would be very doubtful as to how things come out. Our phone number is 1413 Oxford. Be sure and call me as soon as you get this.

Aileen is coming on fine.
Lovingly, Mae

July 8, 1926
Ida ?
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Martha,

You can't know how sorry we are to hear that your father [Robert Steele] passed on. Martha, we all miss you but know that you need the rest now that you are home. So you have to take advantage of that.

I am at St. Mary's Hospital now and like the work fine but don't know so much about if there are so many things. But I run all the urinalysis, take blood counts, and do differential work. Don't you think that's pretty good for a week. Doctor Springer gave me \$25.00, which was a surprise.

Sister Margaret was operated on for appendicitis and all the girls are giving \$50. I'll put you in and when you go back to work, you can pay me.

Well old dear Mother tried to find the papers since you left, but some were lost. But you'll have most of them and we'll send them to you.

I called Mrs. Johnson and she said she was sorry to hear about your Daddy and that you should let her know when you are ready to go back to work.

Doctor Springer said Blik tried to get in his office. You know what she said now and she told me to try to get her in Beneke's office.

Love, Ida

August 11, 1926
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Mama and Martha,

How are you getting along? Have you had more rain since we left? It has been very dry here. Imagine you have been out at the farm quite a bit lately while they are finishing the threshing.

On our way home, we spent about three hours at Columbus and went through the Capitol building and out to the State University. We stopped off at Buckeye Lake and ate our supper. We came through New Concord. Was there about one half hour. Stopped to get stretched out. Got a new water supply and kept driving and got here at one o'clock Friday morning. The machine worked just fine, not a bit of trouble.

It rains just enough to keep them from threshing so we ain't got the oats threshed yet going on the train. Yesterday Ruth and I went out and got two gallon of dew berries. My but they were nice. They are at least three times larger than blackberries. Were only gone about an hour. The berries were made into jam. It made six quarts and a pint, besides some for the table. Only wish you could have seen them. They were so large and nice. Tell Minnies and Maud that John and I said "hello".

Will close for this morning and both of you write when you can. My glasses arrived safe. Thanks for them.

Most lovingly, Georgia

August 16, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Received your card and was so glad you got a job right off. I went out to Harry's the next morning after you left and was there all week. Dot (Dorothy Steele) went to Stewarts and Scott's threshing Tuesday and Wednesday and I kept the baby (Jean Steele). Thursday and Friday. Dot and the baby went to her Dads and Saturday Harry bought 2 bushels of peaches and we had to put them up. They made 31 cans. I had to lay my pen down just now and run Diner's old chicken out of the yard.

All of Harry Austins and Arthur Mortens started for Philadelphia this morning at 5 o'clock. Uncle Mathess is very poorly of palpitation of the heart and some of the people thought Mortens shouldn't have gone. Of course a person can never tell when things might come to a sudden end with that trouble. Aileen got her first tooth last week and her parents are very proud of it. I haven't seen it yet. We want to go to Eaton this week and

get the business ironed out. I do hope we get the biz fixed up right and I think we will if John keeps his head cool.

I want to can a bushel of peaches this week and some blackberries so you and I will have something to eat when we are here at Fairhaven. Fairhaven is looking for the Baileys this week. Everybody is wondering where the thresher picnic will be. I told Mrs. Boohs that Harry would not so they can get some place else. Nellie H. went to camp and was sick all the time she was gone. There was two big rain storms while they were gone so of course that spoiled it too. Well I'll stop and get at Thanksgiving. Wish I had your washing here. I'll send Dorde's letter. Write real soon and take good care of yourself. Tell me what your patient's troubles is all about it. Write soon.

Oceans and oceans of love, Mamma

August 22, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

This is the afternoon of the homecoming at Hopewell Church. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey are at Fairhaven now and he is to preach there this afternoon. Harry's intended to go and said they would come past for me but I thought it over and decided I wouldn't go as I would be sure to run into old Molly and I want to avoid such a scene as that. There is to be a social at our church tomorrow night in honor of the Baileys. I was asked to produce a cake so I suppose I'll have to go. The Baileys are looking fine. They keep their machine (car) in our barn.

I have had one short letter and a couple of cards from Dorde since she left. Guess she has forgot home. Tomorrow afternoon is the day that was set for the appraisal out at home. The farm, chalets, and town property will all have to be appraised, There will be some papers for all of your children to sign. Maybe you can sign yours when you come up with Ms. Person. You thought maybe you could come with him, didn't you? It would sure be nice if you could.

Austins and Mortens are off on their trip. I had a card from Minnie yesterday. She says they are having a wonderful time. It just makes Mabel sick because she can't scoop up some of that money. Mrs. Lindsey is still going to church. I haven't seen her basket hanging on her arm yet, but she had better get wise and take it.

Nellie Hays was sick all the time she was in camp. She said it would have been nice to have had a nurse. We ain't threshed a bit since you went away because it rained. The appraisers will be Arthur Hays, Harry Lybrook and Levi Shumaker. Fairhaven is as silent as the grave this afternoon. It is so quiet a fellow can't even sleep. Be sure and write and let me know if you can come up. I sure hope you can. Good bye my dearest and write as soon as you can.

Love, Mamma

September 15, 1926
Mrs. Georgia Steele Thompson
Toronto, Ohio

Dear Mama,

How are you? I am just fine. We are having quite a storm here this evening. Have you been having much more wet weather or has it dried up enough to get the rest of the threshing done? Have you and Dorothy done much canning since you canned the peaches? There are lots of peaches around over the country over here. Seems like everyone has some.

Heard not long that the stork is expected to visit Earl Palmers about October first or sometime soon after. The school teacher over there lives in Steubenville and at the present time is driving back and forth. But she expects to stay at Palmer's later on. Have not seen any of the Palmers yet but was over to see Elma one evening.

The people where we stay have one little boy. He goes to my school and is in the first grade. John walked to school this morning and in fact we both walked. I have about a mile to walk and John has about two and a half or three miles.

Suppose Harry Austin's reported a fine trip. Now Mama, please don't work too hard and write when you can.

Most lovingly, Georgia

September 19, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

The week that you left home, Harry and Dorothy went to the Indianapolis fair. They left home about 3 o'clock Thursday morning and did not get home til three o'clock. The next night, Evelyn had a bad cold and I stayed out here and took care of her. I came home Saturday evening and Mae wanted me to go down and help her thresh so I went there a week ago today and was there all week. They filled their silo and threshed their oats while I was there.

Mae gave a party Friday evening for the Miami girls and I helped her get that over. Thirty girls came out and Mae cleared \$4.90. Yesterday Mae brought me up to Harrys to cook for silo men. There but it was so muddy they couldn't get in the fields so it was laid over til tomorrow. I suppose I'll go out to Harry's tonight and be ready for tomorrow. All the time I was at Mae's, we looked and looked for a letter from Dorde but it didn't come. So last night after Mae went home, she called me and said she got a letter from Dorde and that everything was alright and that she was going to say to Risinger to send her the papers and she would sign them. It is about time that she comes to her senses before she puts us all crazy. There was a letter from Dorde and two letters from your mailing when I got home. I will send Dorde's letter to you. You can plainly see that she don't know what to do with herself and she never mentions John at all.

Mamma Simpson died in California the 10th of September. They are expecting the body to arrive in Fairhaven sometime this week but they couldn't tell just when it would arrive. She had a stroke and lasted just a week.

It would be awfully nice to go to Cincinnati but I don't think we can get there this Fall. There is so much work to do and the days are getting so short and the babies are so little that you will just have to come home often. I think you are really better off that you didn't get steady work. You can soon make that up where you do get busy. I'm hoping that I won't be called to Maes for a while for there is so much work right here in my own house that ought to be done and I would like to stay here long enough to keep it real nice. Uncle Will's sale was last week and it amounted to over \$5,000. I'll close for this time. Write real soon and take good care of yourself and if you get anything special from Dorde, let me know.

Oceans of love, Mamma

September 24, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I write to tell you that poor Mamma Simpson was buried this afternoon from the United Presbyterian Church at 1:30 o'clock. The body and Laura Epling arrived yesterday at College Corner at 4:30 o'clock. You know that Mamma Simpson had always been such a dear friend of the family. When the word came that she was dead, I just said right off that they could stop at our house and everybody fell right in with the idea.

Night before last, Mary Scouler came round here and said that their house was so much larger than this one and taking everything into consideration she thought the body should be taken to their house, Well that just suited me to the very T for as the time drew nearer, the more my nerve failed me and I just thought I would about collapse if they would come here. Laura stopped at Jim Orrs so I got out of everything completely.

Mae was coming up to the funeral but Glenn was feeling so bad with his bowels that she couldn't leave him. I called up down there this evening but I couldn't get anybody to answer. So I suppose they were not at home. Here we have a fearful rain and the farmers are wondering if they will ever get any wheat sowed. Maggie Wilson called here this evening after the funeral and gave me a nice little visit. She said Kirkers are going to build a new house out there beside Sam Ewings.

Mrs. Harris' tribe were at the funeral this afternoon and I supposed I'd have around with but they must have got side tracked at Will Hays for they didn't stop and that just suited me. I saw them dragging down through town about an hour and a half after the funeral so I'll bet that is where they were.

Have you heard from Georgia? If so, how is her heart beating. John has never uttered a sound to me since he went away. Does he send any word to you? Well, it is time to go to bed so I'll stop for this time. Write soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

September 30, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I'll bet you will be surprised when I tell you that I've landed a job down at Venice. Ernie Browns got the place for me. It is an old man and woman. He is blind and the old woman is more out. The old man gets a great big pension so he will have to part with a good lot of it if I stay. I am to go to the place next Saturday afternoon. I want to go to Mae's next Saturday afternoon. Don't send any more letters to me til you hear from me and I'll write to you real soon after I get there. Take awful good care of yourself.

Oceans of love, Mamma

October 3, 1926
Mae Steele [Huston]
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I was very sorry I couldn't explain things to you when you called but Glenn's mother was sitting here in the kitchen and I didn't want to explode things to her anyway. She knows too much.

Now down to business. Last Wednesday, Harry and Dot [Steele] went to Preble County Fair and Mama kept Jean [Steele West]. That afternoon Mable Brown and Jean Brown called Mama by phone and wanted her to go to Venice to take care of two old people. Mama said yes she would go for \$10 per week. Harry didn't approve of it at all and neither do I. I told her if she went that she should have at least \$18 or \$20 per week but we didn't want her to go at any price. Mama said she had her mind made up and no amount of talking would hold her. I delivered your telephone message Sunday, She said never mind, I am going anyway. Mama said she slept better down here than any place else. I told her this was the place to stay then but she couldn't see it that way. She said when she was home, she just dreamed all the time about Papa. She said the last night she was there at home, he was out of his head and had gotten away from her. She also said she wanted a change.

I think Georgia is having a pretty hard time of things. She writes that way to me. Mama also thinks so. Georgia wrote Risinger and told him to send the deed to her to sign. I don't know anything farther. She also said when she was writing me that she didn't know whether it would be safe to let anyone know she was writing or not.

When can you and the Gyers come up? Let me know in time to get ready for it but want you to come when you can.

Love, Mae

October 5, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Venice, Ohio

Martha,

Well here I am down at Venice. Now Martha, you know I have always had lots to do and lots to think about. After you girls went away this summer, I found it would just make me sick if I just set around this winter with nothing to do but eat and sleep.

Now nobody would afford to stay in Fairhaven just to keep me company so I told Mabel Brown about it. She said, "Well, there is always something that a fellow can do, if they will do it." We just watch round and see what happens. Well, she told Jean Brown about it and she knew of this place that I am at and said that it would just suit both of us.

The old man and his wife are both 83 years old and he is totally blind and she is just worn out. She is only able to sit up about a couple of hours a day. Nothing especially the matter, only just worn out. Now I agreed to start in on \$10 a week, just to see how we suited each other. But if I stay, I'll have to have more

money or move on for I can't afford to stay for that. You know that isn't living wages hardly compared with what other people get. I'm sure they will give more than let me go, for they have tried the Red Cross and everywhere to get somebody and failed. If I do say it, they plan to have me round.

I don't have to wait on the man at all. He takes care of himself. Now don't worry about me. I've got enough to keep me up home, but I had had to have something to kill time. Now Harry will see to that I have what I need. If I go home, I must do something. If you and your friends go up to Mae's, I believe I wouldn't go for a meal for the baby is so awfully bawley.

I'll write again real soon and you do the same. Take good care of yourself.

Lovingly, Mamma

October 16, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Ross, Ohio

My dear Martha,

How are you coming on these days? It seems an awful busy time since I heard from you. It is two weeks tomorrow since I came here and I'm leaving tomorrow for good. They only give \$10 a week and I do all the work and I have to be with them constantly and they haven't any telephone and I can't even talk to Mae once I a while. I get so lonesome and I just can't bear to stay here. I had a letter from Mae yesterday and she says Sarah Brandenburg has a new kid, John will be so busy he won't have time to get the "fruit jar", will he?

Mae says Aileen's latest accomplishment is to stand up in her high chair. Jean Evelyn [Steele] is busy getting her fifth tooth. She can say "Mamma" as plan as anybody. If I can get a place where I can make something worthwhile, I'll go but I'm not going just for my eats.

Oceans of love, Mamma

October 24, 1926
Georgia Steele Thompson
Toronto, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Have made several attempts to write you but am keeping at it this time until I get it finished. How are you? I am just fine. Last Friday evening, John had a "Pie and Box Social and Cake Walk" over at his school. He had a Halloween program and the social afterwards. He cleared something like \$18.00.

Mr. McClellands are having a furnace put in their house. And before the furnace could be put in, they had to have a new chimney built in the basement. John is building it. He worked all day yesterday on it. I did a washing in the morning and ironed Saturday afternoon then we went to Steubenville to a picture show in the evening. Today has been so rainy and bad. We did not go any place at all today.

In my spare time, I am getting all my winter clothes fixed up to wear. Have you gotten a new coat yet? I got a new hat about six weeks ago. It has a broad rim and is a bright or light red.

Do you ever hear from Dot [Steele]? I sent them a card soon after I left and never got any answer. Mamma only stayed at that place down at Venice about three weeks I believe. As far as I know now, she is at Fairhaven on the farm.

It won't be long til Thanksgiving will it? Are you planning on going home then or are you working every day? I do hope that Mamma can content herself there at home instead of going away like she did.

Well, Martha, I will close for this time and write a few lines to Mamma. By the way, do you want those negative that you sent to me back again? I have a print off of them. I just now happened to think that you sent me the pictures instead of the negatives. John and I took a picture of a French house between Dayton and Eaton on that film and we wondered whether it was good or not. Must stop for sure now and write the other letter. Write when you can find time.

Most lovingly yours, Georgia

November 7, 1926
Georgia Steele Thompson
Toronto, Ohio

Dear Mamma,

Saturday evening at 8:15 o'clock. How are you these days? I am just fine with exception of a sore place in my mouth where I had a tooth taken out yesterday. The tooth had three large roots on it and they were awfully hard to get out. The Dentist put some medicine on some cotton and packed in my jaw and I had to keep it in until this afternoon when we went back to Steubenville to the Dentist and he worked with it some more. It is awfully sore but think it will come on all right now. John is getting some work done on his teeth now too. He had a tooth treated yesterday then again today and is going back again Tuesday.

Have you been at home these past few weeks or not? I just look for a letter from you every day but nothing ever comes. I keep thinking that maybe it will come the next day but still it never comes. Can't you please write me and let me know how you are.

You know I told you about Mabel Palmer? I heard a little more today. They say it weighed twelve pounds when it was born and was so fat. Said they had to get a casket large enough for a seven month old baby and it wasn't any too large. Guess Mabel is getting along all O.K. now. Yesterday in town I saw Earl Palmer with a birdcage so I suppose they are getting it for Mabel.

We don't have to teach Thursday (Armistice Day) unless we want to. They are having a big celebration in Steubenville on that day.

Guess this is all for tonight. Please write when you can.

Most lovingly, Georgia

November 18, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Received your card and was so glad to hear from you. Well I worked and waited around here Monday and Tuesday for Frank Campbell to come, but he never turned up. So last night about 7 o'clock, here he came and was well-nigh bored to death. He said Mabel was going to go home and they didn't have anybody to stay with his father and mother and unbeknown to each other, they both got busy. His mother got Mabel to get after Mrs. Ruby and behold she accepted, and his father got after Frank to get after me and behold I accepted. The first thing he knew here, they had Mrs. Ruby right on the ground so that pushed me clear out. Frank hated it dreadfully bad but I told him never to mind that there wasn't anybody to blame. If the old ones had let each other know what they were doing, everybody would have been better off.

Well I got some of my clothes fixed up on the strength of it and I sure hope something else will develop. Maude and I got both of the blue aprons made and they are awfully pretty. I made a new dust cap too and got to looking round among the underwear and found him suits so I won't have to even buy new underwear. Now I'm getting my clothes in good fix so that when "opportunity" knocks at the door, I'll be ready to accept. I called up at Harry's twice but she has never called so I'm just going to let her go to grass. I have just given up everything to her til she thinks I ain't got any sense. I have given up and stood back for her about everything so that she thinks I'll do it again. But I'm going to hold my area this time. My but I do wish I had a job. I do hope something will turn up real soon.

I'll send Dorde's letter. Ain't got any reply to the one I got when you were here. Write real soon and I'll do the same.

Lots of love, Mamma

November 19, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

My but this is a nasty, snowy morning and I wonder where you are. I'm wondering if you are coming home for Thanksgiving. I've just written a note to that case at Story Point and begged off. Nellie Hayes came in the other morning and advised me to let them alone. She said they didn't have any close neighbors, no telephone, not much to work with. And no telling what sort of trouble I might get into and then having a Darrtown Doctor and we couldn't see the nub of that. Say maybe I'm getting ahead of my story. Pearl Heavenridge and her step-daughter came here the other day and just about compelling me to consent that I'd take care of the step-daughter about the middle of December, who was going to have a baby. The girl said she

knew you and Georgia and went to school with you at Dixon. Her name was Moore before she was married. I have just written to her and begged off. If she would die on my hands, it would make me feel bad as long as I lived.

I had a letter from Georgia and she said she returned the papers to Risinger just the way she received them. I would send you the letter but Harry wanted to show it to Risinger and has it with him. She said she thought they would be home for the holidays. Dorothy had her back up right away and said "well, they needn't come to my house."

I talked to Mae this morning and she said Aileen had a tooth that was really through. Now write and tell me what your arrangements are for next week. I'll hang around home here so if you get to come, then I'll be here. Now take good care of yourself and let me hear from you real soon.

Oceans and oceans of love, Mamma

December 7, 1926
Georgia Steele Thompson
Toronto, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Your most welcome and new letter came yesterday. I certainly thank you for the Postal you sent. It was the only birthday card I got and I only got one present but it was surely nice. John got me an awfully nice sewing basket, something I have wanted for quite a long time. How are you? I am just fine and dandy. Couldn't be any better.

Am very busy nowadays and so is John. Getting our Christmas programs ready at school. The Christmas vacation only lasts a week this year as Christmas comes on Saturday. In regard to going home, Mae has invited us to go to Oxford from Richmond, Indiana by bus and then go out to her house. I think it a very good plan. In my letter from Mamma two or three weeks ago, she said I had better go to Camden by train so that Harry would not have so far to go after me. Martha, I don't know how about going to Cincinnati and going up on the bus with you. Am sure I will consider the proposition and let you know in a week or so.

So the very one that Mamma was working herself to death for last summer has got smart, has she. It shows how much the help was appreciated, doesn't it? I tried to get Mamma to see where she was doing double service for so little returns. But she couldn't see it my way. Am willing to forget all about that if she can possibly change her attitude toward me when we are home Christmas time. Would love to see you and have a chat with you before we get home, but don't know for certain how it will be though

John has to be in Columbus for his examinations December 28 and 29. My but that spoils our vacation like everything. Am hoping that all business can be satisfactorily settled with every one of us.

I sent Dorothy a card when we were away at the Centennial at Philadelphia but never got any answer from it so never bothered about writing anymore. Must close for this time and will write you again in about two weeks. Hope this finds you O.K.

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 9, 1926
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

One week ago this morning, Harry and I got up bright and early for Harry to go to Cincinnati. I was going along and stay at Mae's til he came back. He had trouble to get the auto started but finally we did and it went first rate. We sailed along and got down to between Clarence Whitesells and Magassa's corner when lo and behold we run over a horseshoe in the wheel tracks and punctured the tire dreadfully. We just crept along til we got to Morning Sun and it took 1 and ½ hours there. When we got to Maes, Harry was so cold he had to go in and warm. By the time he got away from there, it was 11 o'clock.

He started out to find your Delta Avenue address and he had a dickens of a time to find it. When he did find it, there was nary a soul at home and he knew he would never find you before dark. So he just turned round and came home. He was just sick with disappointment. He said we would just have to fix the thing without your signature, and we did. We have the thing all fixed up now and moved a few things down yesterday and want to get settled immediately.

Ida Reese has made a plum ziggle at her school and they asked her to resign and that means a new teacher. I'm all worked up and want to board the teacher if it is one that has to be boarded. It's mail time and I must get this out. I'll write more soon. It is so hard for me to get a little writing done anymore. Write and tell all about yourself. I ought to have wrote before but couldn't get it. All is well as usual. Write real soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 20, 1926

Mae Steele Huston

Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I have thought ever since you went back that I surely would get to write you. Have you been working ever since you went back? I expect you are about worn out. Did you know that Mama had been up with Mrs. Dunham Hart for the last two and one half weeks? Mamma will get home Thursday morning. I was talking to Dorothy [Steele] and she said Georgia wrote her and said she would come to Richmond and then on to Camden Xmas morning. Harry is to meet her there.

Aileen is on my lap so if this writing looks like chicken tracks, you will know part of the reason why. Dorothy and I each have planned to take some things up for dinner. Thought we would just surprise her. Of course, she won't have time to do much. What time do you expect to get off to come up? I will look for a telephone call as you never can tell til the last minute.

Oxford is planning on having a community Xmas tree between the parks by the bus parking place. Now we would like if you could be here and go with us. You can let me know when you call me by phone.

Aileen is crawling everywhere. It is rather hard to keep track of her as she always manages to crawl under something and bump her head. Give the Geyers the Xmas greetings form the Hustons.

Love, Mae

February 3, 1927

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear little girl,

I received your dear birthday card yesterday and your letter this morning. Thank you my dear. The card was so pretty and thoughtful of you.

The Thompsons have never returned those papers and I wrote them yesterday and asked them to return them and that we must have their decision at once. They have had 7 months to decide what they want to do and we know this if they are not with us, they are against us. They might just as well say it first as last. If they hold the business off, so we can't finish it in a year, we will be fined. When I go off on a case, I can't have any peace and am just worried stiff all the time because I have no idea what they are going to do. Georgia sure made a mess of herself when she married him. We wouldn't have any trouble with her if it wasn't for him, But she is afraid to wink without his consent.

Work is very slack around here just now. Mabel has not been out but twice this winter and I haven't been out for ten days. Mabel was in here this afternoon and we just both agreed that we wished we could both keep going all the time like you do. I do wish I could get down to Venice again and get to stay for about 10 weeks and scoop up \$100 or better. Harry went down to Birdies the other day for some apples and he also got some winter pears. He gave me some and I have a great big kettle of pear butter just about ready to can. I will have something good when my daughter comes home. Jean Evelyn [Steele] just walks everywhere now and just looks so cute. She is so short. Now I must close and will write again as soon as I hear from the east.

Oceans of love, Mamma

February 27, 1927

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dearest Martha,

Received your dear letter and you will never know how much good it did me. Now I am going to tell you something and don't you ever whisper to the [Georgia Steele] Thompsons for they would be meaner than ever. Our very own Mr. Risinger is dead. Just think of it, he is gone and the business ain't settled. He had been

in his usual good health, had been in his office all day, went to lunch at 6 o'clock pm, went back to the office and stayed til 8, went home and complained that he had such bad pains in his arms but went to bed and about 10 o'clock, his wife heard him making a noise and went to him and he was unconscious. She called the Doctor but before they arrived he was dead. They called it apoplexy [a stroke].

Now they wrote him to send those papers to them on the 2nd of January and he send them on the 3rd of January. I wrote them about 2 weeks ago to return them, and I had a letter from Georgia this week and she never mentioned business in any shape or form and never let on that I had even asked for them. She wrote to Mae and wanted to know what would happen if they didn't sign the papers and Mae answered that it would end in a lawsuit.

I am very very sure that Georgia would sign the papers if the old bulldog would let her. Now if you, Harry, Mae and I will just stick together, we can buy them out at a forced sale and I can tell you right here, that he has no right to the exclusive right of way, when he never earned a penny of it and Georgia is the only one of the family that ever enjoyed any luxury and she promised to pay that back and didn't do it. I'll tell you right here, if they don't sign up, they are done laying round here for me to wait on.

D. B. Eikenberry (Mr. Risinger's father-in-law) has been appointed administrator and we don't know what his bill will be, but we know it will be more than if we settled with Mr. Risinger himself. If they had only singed when they were home, Harry would have settled with Mr. Risinger right then. But you see we will have that to pay and now make around and get another lawyer. Does Georgia write to you? Now don't ever tell that Mr. Riseinger is dead for they would be tickled to death. It is only about 9 weeks til their school is out and they think they will just hold us off and then they will come back and have a good fight. Why can't you come home the 1st of March and rest us and see and hear what is going on I'm sure that would be best. I'm not going out working any more now. There is plenty to do at home. Write real soon and tell me that you will come.

Loves of love, Mamma

March 21, 1927

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I sure was glad to get your letter for it seemed a powerful long time since I heard from you. I went down to Maes a week ago last Friday and stayed til the following Friday. The weather was nice and sunshiney for several days. So we got at it and cleaned all the down stairs. It was some job too for Mrs. Huston has broken up housekeeping and rented her farm. I sent any amount of junk down to Maes to be stored and that all had to be gone through and disposed of. It was sure some job.

I got home Saturday noon and found so much water in the cellar that I have not been able to get in there. I wanted so bad to wash today but my washing tools were all in there and I couldn't get to them. So I had to let it go. It just poured rain Saturday night and yesterday. But it is so much cooler today that maybe the creek will get a chance to run down.

About a week ago, Mrs. Bowers had a severe attack of tonsilitis and come very near to being diphtheria. She didn't take care of herself and it settled on her kidneys and she swelled up. They are going to take her to the hospital at Cincinnati tomorrow. Nobody said but I imagine it will be Christ Hospital.

They are going to have a Silver medal contest here at the Methodist Church tomorrow night. I wish you were here to go. Carl Van Ausdal works in a garage at Eaton. Last Saturday, he was at work and something exploded and hurt him dreadfully. He was hurt in the face and they are afraid that he will be totally blind.

Aileen [Huston] is just beginning to walk real good. She looks so cute but I never saw a child that could beat her bawling, If anything should happen to Mae, somebody would sure have a time taking care of her. Mae insists that it is because she ain't used to seeing other people. But I would say it was just a case of being spoiled.

I spent today cleaning cupboards. I want to get my house cleaning done before the garden comes on. About when are you coming home? You have been working so long that you must be about worn out. Now plan to take a good rest when you do come for you don't have to work like you were killing snakes all the time.

When I had been at Maes about two days, a man from Will's Station near Boston came to Harrys to see if I'd go and take care of his wife. But we had got into the house cleaning business so I couldn't go. I'll have to

close and write to Dorde. Do you know what they are going to do with themselves this summer? Now take good care of yourself and write soon and let me know when to look for you.

Oceans of love, Mamma

March 31, 1927
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

On Wednesday of last week, Mr. Doners (the son of the folks where Mabel and I were last winter) called Mabel to come immediately as Mrs. Doner had the flu and the Mister had pneumonia. Well, she went and the next day, they phoned for me to come. It was about eleven o'clock and I told them I would be ready by one o'clock. But the man was here by 12:30. They lived about a mile below College Corner. We got there and found them dreadfully sick. The Doctor was going to see them twice a day. When we were there a week, they were getting better and thought they could get along so we got back yesterday.

Your letter reached me at the Doners just the day before I left there. Was sure glad to hear from you. You are sure a busy girl. I will keep a watch out for the Dixon Alumni event but I'm pretty sure it won't come off til June sometime. You had better come home and take a little rest before that or you will have to get a nurse to wait on you.

It hadn't rained for about a week so I got at it this morning and raked the garden. I thought I got a pretty good scald on it. Maude gave me two ramblers and I planted them. This afternoon, I was so swelled up over then that I told Maude I'd have to take some soda as I might burst. The word was passed around this morning that Harry Lybrook's little Mary [Thomas] has the scarlet fever. It just seems like they can't get that stamped out. Vira Charles sale is the 17th of April. They are going to sell property and all. Bessa Charles took it so hard that her man just had to move to Liberty. Dessa wouldn't stay at that place any longer.

Arthur Morten and Ernie is going to Columbus tomorrow to stay til Monday and Mabel Brown is going with him for a visit. I had a letter from Dorde yesterday. I hadn't had a letter from her for about 3 weeks. Her letters are awful short and don't have much to say. Seems to have lost all interest around here. Said they hadn't decided what they would do this summer. I think they had better to go house-keeping like other married people do. He has got just as good a right to work as the rest of us. For my part, I'm tired of him laying around and stirring up a fuss with the rest of us, every time a vacation comes around. I must close and write a little to Dorde. I think you had better take a little rest now and then you can come to the Alumni too. Now take good care of yourself and write soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

April 8, 1927
Georgia Steele Thompson
Toronto, Ohio

Dear Mamma,

Should have written this earlier in the week, but it seemed like I couldn't get at it. How are you? I am all right. Am getting a little tired of school but it only lasts two more weeks then I will get a rest.

I heard that Genevieve Morgan applied for a school over hear for next year. Must not think much of Morning Sun or something. I did not know that she was going to apply over here. Don't know whether she will get it or not. I did not apply here in this Township but may someplace else. We want to get in town next winter if we can. Did Kirker's decide to accept your services or not?

Mrs. Palmer does not get around hardly any. Her whole left side feels so cold all the time and her left eye is very weak. We went over to see her one evening. We are going to take dinner Sabbath with Elma Williamson. Her little boy is surely growing.

My 8th grade pupils took a state examination today and I have the papers to grade. Will try and get my letter out in better time next time. Write when you can.

Oceans of love, Georgia

April 12, 1927
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I was out taking care of Marge Kirker last week and will be there this week and next. She is bed-ridden all the time and not able to be up any. Am afraid it will turn out to be cancer or a tumor. Am looking for them any minute now to be after me. Everybody is all O.K. Got your letter last night. Also one from Dorde. Don't work too hard. Take good care of yourself and write real soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

April 20, 1927
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My darling little girl,

I can never tell you how surprise and pleased I was yesterday when I received your precious Easter present. It was so sweet of you to send it, but oh Martha, I don't want you to spend your hard-earned money on me. I'll tell you right here that unless it is a Doctor, I don't know of anybody who gets their money quite as hard as the nurse. I've had that impressed on my mind good and hard for the last 2 weeks.

Sam and Vira Ewing came her to see me about going to take care of Marge. To start out with, I didn't want to go but they teased and insisted that I should and it ended by my saying I'd go. She wasn't able to sit up at all and there were times when she was wild with pain in her bowels and she was always worse at night. I would just have to worry it out as best as I could. I came home last Sabbath morning and beat it to bed and stayed there nearly all day. I was to go back but Doctor Hawley had a specialist come to see her and they decided to take her to the hospital at Richmond and she will be operated on today. It is supposed to be an inward cancer or tumor.

The Kirkers are dreadfully hard run for money so I don't know when I'll get my money out of it. They are putting up new buildings over on the state line and they have moved in the house. But it is not finished. The barn is going up now and the buildings are set out in the middle of a plowed field.

Mabel charges \$25 and \$30 a week and people just won't pay it til they get pinched so they just have to. I had a letter from Dorde and she said their school was about out and she didn't know what they'd do this summer. But she guessed they'd go up to his Dads for a while. Now he can't bear to think of spending his money to fix up a little place where they can stay when not in school. He just wants to pull in and not use their money. This little home here is for you and me to pull into when we want to lie down or sit down and be ourselves. But Dorde is married now and let her do like Mae and Harry. They should fix up a place of their own. Jean Evelyn [Steele] and Aileen [Huston] are just too sweet for words. Jean Evelyn will shake her finger and say "Well, I should say so."

Vira talked to me the other morning like they would want me to go back when she got back from the hospital. But no sir ee, they won't get me back there again. While I was over there, I had two good calls that wouldn't have been near so hard as that one was. One was down to Fay Gilmores to take care of his wife and the other was at College Corner to take care of a Mrs. Shultz. Kirkers took me just because I was cheap so I think I'll put it up to \$20.00 a week or stay at home. I don't know where Mrs. Ruby is but it seems like there is nobody who will go but Mrs. Ruby and me so we might just as well be paid good for it.

Let me tell you the latest. Ernie Boyer and Mabel are awfully sweet on each other. They were out walking last Sabbath afternoon and they tried to act like two sixteen year old kids, ha, ha. Now my darling, don't work too hard and tell me when you expect to be home so I'll be sure to be here.

Oceans of love, Mamma

May 22, 1927
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dearest Martha,

I thought that maybe I'd get a letter from you last week, but didn't and maybe it will come. This ok. We had a most terrible storm last Wednesday night about 10 o'clock. I sure thought that I was going to get blowed off the map. It seemed to just come in a straight line and hit me and Mary Scouller about proper. My big maple right out here on the corner was split and about 2/3rds of the tree was laid right across the road toward Taylors.

Then it went onto Scoullers and tore their tree up awfully. Harry, Harvey, and Bell (he is working for Harry) and Mr. Freeman all worked here all day Thursday getting my place straightened up. They split up a lot of wood made by the storm and after they were gone, I had that to bring I and put away. I was sure played out when I got through, but after all, I was very thankful it didn't tear the house to pieces. While we thought that our storm was awful, they have had it still worse in some other places, even at Indianapolis.

You know where Mary Ballinger lives in Camden, don't you? That little house right besides Dan Paynes where Doctor and Bell Gilmore live in part of that house. The Doctor has been in poor health for about six weeks. One day this week, he went out on the porch and had a sharp spike and placed the sharp end right over where he had his heart and gave it a hard lick and thought he'd killed himself. He didn't get it hard enough so the next morning, he took the scissors and cut the arteries in his wrist. While he lost lots of blood, it didn't kill him. They found he was determined to put an end to himself. They took him to the insane asylum at Dayton. He wrote a note and pinned it on his breast and said "Be good to Belle, poor thing she is sick." She has spells of appendicitis. I wonder how much more trouble is laid up for her. It looks like she has more than her share of grief.

The Israel Township banquet is to be held here in the Methodist Annex next Thursday night. I am going to beat it out to Harrys about Wednesday night for I am just pestered to death with people arriving every time they have a feast over here and they who don't return the things after they get them. I am just wore out with them borrowing so I'm going to lock up and skip out. They have the mumps up around Dixon so they won't have theirs till they get better. I'll keep on the watch out for it and let you know right off.

Do you see anything in the Cincinnati papers about Charlie Stout and the bank? The old pup ought to be strung up on a tree. People talk they were going to take everything Roscoe and his sisters have got. I worked out and got about \$25 in there and here it is gone. They got Marge Kirker back from the hospital and they have never said a word about paying me for the time I was taking care of here. Of course, I reckon I can live without it, but who would have thought of them not paying it.

I have to go down to Mae's and see what is going on now in a few days. Ain't it just awful that she was to have another one right off. Had a letter from Dordee this week. They are staying at his Dad's and John is painting the old man's house. He is too stingy to get a place of his own to stay. It is a burning shame that she married him and now can't have a place of her own to stay. Well I must close and now my dearest do try to find time to write a little and let me know how you are coming. Now do arrange your affairs so you can be off of the city where the hot weather is on. Oceans of love.

Mamma

June 2, 1927

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your invitation to the Dixon Alumni came out to Harry and Dorothy [Steele]. We are returning your acceptance to Dixon so everything will be O.K. Now be sure to be back in good time. I suppose you are safely landed in old Cincy by this time. It is sprinkling this morning and I wonder where I'll be by night. Down at Glens, I expect. Now take good care of yourself and be back in good time. I'll drop a card to you as soon as I take my departure.

Big love, Mamma

June 19, 1927

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Dorde and John [Thompson] came Thursday evening and will stay for 6 weeks. They will stay here at Fairhaven and he will go to Miami University. Mae went to see the Doctor yesterday afternoon and the Doctor said she might be sick just any time. Dorses are taking me down there to stay. Want you to come up to Maes just as soon as you can, for I'm afraid the party will come off before you get there. I wouldn't know what in the world to do. Marge died yesterday at 10 o'clock and the funeral services will be at the Fairhaven Church at 3 o'clock. Come as soon as you can for I'm afraid to be without you.

Oceans of love, Mamma

June 23, 1927
Art H. Fleschman
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Friend Marty [Martha],

If I were to write as you ask and tell you everything I have since I saw you last, it would simply take a blank piece of paper and send it to you because I have done very little besides work and that would not be interesting to discuss. The fellow with the car and I have been out after work until 2 in the morning for an hour's spin but it does not run any too good yet. And that I know was a perfectly innocent sport. Yet it worked harm for I did not get to bed til 5 or 6 a.m. and so felt pretty bad the next day. I have not been to any shows since Tuesday and don't expect to go as I will likely work Thursday and Friday nights.

Saturday, if the weather is good, I'll go over to the racetrack as it is a special day for the Derby. Saturday night I may go there. But Sunday! What to do then? I do not know what I'll do but I'll miss your soft pink loving, honey. Yes, I'm pretty sure I'll miss you lots! But I won't come up to Oxford as I don't want to take any chance on being in the way. After the event, I'll try to figure out a way to see you, honey. I missed the 3 o'clock car by half a minute and walked halfway in.

I'm sorry you didn't sleep well after I left and I wished I could stay and comfort you for you seemed so nervous. But as I told you that night, Marty, from now on it will be different so you won't be miserable any more. I have been very nervous the last 2 nights through a somewhat similar cause and so I am not sleeping well and feel punk all day. The shower bath I start the day with is about all that keeps me awaked and after I start work, I forget everything else. But when I finish the night I am so tired.

Now baby, are you really my baby? You be a good kid and don't work too hard and don't worry because when you come back, I'll be so nice to you that even you won't like it!!! And we'll make up for the good times you missed while at home. Hope you are well. Write soon.

Your friend, Art

June 28, 1927
Art H. Fleschman
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Marty [Martha],

It is now Tuesday afternoon. I have just gotten your letter and am answering right away. I guess you will be up there longer than 2 weeks since you have been there a week already and nothing has happened. That will be tough on me, for I am not having much fun here alone. Saturday I went out to the race track but did not win anything. However, I did not lose either. I did not go to Hamilton Saturday night because I could not find out whether the dogs were running there or not. So I hung around town all alone because my boyfriend worked. Sunday I walked out to Latonia and watched an amateur ball game but could not get interested so walked back. In the evening I met a blond woman at the hotel and as I was really very lonely. But as I talked to her, I grew disgusted with her and decided I'd rather be alone than with her. So I did not ask her to go out with me as I had intended. The boyfriend worked again and I was all alone and so down blue and disgusted and just sick of everything, the town, the people in it, the job, all of it! I loafed and loafed and loafed and after a while, I went to bed. I don't know what you did or didn't do but you certainly could not have been more miserable than I was. And no, I'm not sleeping at all. It seems like almost 1 good night's rest each week. But last night, I was back on the job, well at least one's not lonesome when at work. That's something to be thankful for. The regular boss has come back and I am uncertain how he will be. Seems O.K. the first night. I hope he keeps on being satisfactory.

Marty, you baby! Getting lost! I guess I have to come up and look after you. Sort of nurse the nurse. Would probably be lonesome myself in the country. But not if you were there. Am glad you are all right now. Bet you are keeping busy too. Wish I were up there. Maybe I'll come up Tuesday or perhaps I'll phone you from Hamilton and you will be able to come down and we'll spend the day together. Will know more about it after I have seen your next letter.

I have not seen a show since Sunday before last when you were along and disgraced us both by laughing. The weather is too nice for shows but real cold nights. Today I'll just stay about the hotel til time to see about work around 6 p.m.

When you write again honey (are you my honey?), let me know if you think it will be O.K. for me to see you at Hamilton next Sunday. Perhaps I'll go up there anyway. Lord, I must do something. Hanging around alone is getting my goat.

Hope you are well, busy and happy. Am just a little bit lonesome for you. I had gotten so used to being with you. Hope you write me a letter too. Write soon.

Your friend, Art

July 3, 1927
Miss Art H. Fleshman
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your letter Saturday just before I went to work. I worked every night last week and have 2 nights in on the new week. The old back is back but it does not seem to have made any difference and I hope it will keep up the way it is now so I can remain here for a long time to come. Right now the outlook is quite good for plenty of work.

Gee, it has surely been hot the last part of the week. Cooler today and I'm glad that I got some new shoes yesterday and some new house slippers and also a new alarm clock for \$3.69. The old ones have worn out in the 6 years I had them. I shall keep on buying things til I am all fixed up because I have not done much work for quite a while and things are low. But I'll change that.

Congratulations on the arrival of your new nephew [Myron Huston]. Tell me about him. Is he a husky fellow and what color hair and eyes? And what did he weigh? I hope that the other child was not seriously ill and is quite well now. You will be some little aunty with 3 to your credit already.

I have not been to a show yet but I think I may go to the Lyric this week. Partly I haven't gone because I don't like to go alone and part because I have been feeling rather listless this sultry weather. I went to the races on Wednesday and got back in time for work. I think I'll go over again tomorrow as it is a big holiday and the best of the horses will be shown. I lost on Wednesday but hope to do better tomorrow.

I'm glad you miss me a little bit, Marty because I am missing too. But I am not going to come up that way because I don't want to bother you while you are busy. While I hope you will be back before long. I don't want you to come back just on my account but want you to stay there til your work is done. I'll be awfully glad to see you when you do get back though.

I'm afraid your suggestion is going to be wasted. Marty, old thing, because you know I don't believe in such things. Each room in this hotel has a Bible in it from the Gideons but I have put mine away somewhere and I don't even know where it is. I am reading some and working crossword puzzles but not reading for consolation. I don't need any and if I do, a certain party will be expected to supply it when she gets back to Cincinnati. Do you know, can you guess whose job that is going to be? Of course, she may not want the job. If so well, that's a bridge I won't cross until I get right up to it.

Hope you enjoy the holiday. Write soon. And don't forget to let me know as soon as you yourself find out when you are coming back.

Your friend, Art

August 25, 1927
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I wish I could have a talk with you this evening and I'll tell you why. Last Saturday, Harry [Steele] and Glenn and Mae [Huston] were here in Fairhaven for dinner. About 4 o'clock, Harrys went home and as soon as they were gone Mae and Glenn commenced to work on me to give them a bank security note. They want to buy a 50 acre farm about 2 miles from Oxford for \$8,500. That would be \$170 per acre.

Now Martha, listen to me. Our home farm was appraised at \$71 an acre a year ago this time and farms are not selling good at all. They wanted me to go their security for three thousand, five hundred dollars. I said

no, I couldn't do it and Mae was peeved right off. Now Martha, they are in debt on the little bit they have and you know as well as I do what sort of a farmer he is. You know as well as I do how he treats Jim Huston and he got so mean with you and me, when we were doing his work this summer. I told them if I could go their security, then the rest of the family might come in and say "you backed them, now you ought to back the rest of us". I might lose the whole thing and Glenn says "Oh you needn't tell the rest of them about it" and I said "I'm not going to do things that way."

One thing is sure, I am not going to do anything that I'm shamed for the rest to know. They said they had enough insurance that I couldn't possibly lose it. Now Martha, if Mae ever says anything to you about it, don't you let on that you think I should have done it. For if they had got me on their bank note, he would have made me pay it. They never said how they would fix the other \$5,000 but that would have to be borrowed too and there would be 7% interest on all this borrowed money too. The upshot of the whole thing would have been that our home farm would have to be sold.

He complains he can't rent a farm, No wonder, who would want to rent to a man who never so much as plowed his corn after he plants it. His wheat was threshed at two different times and the last time, Jim didn't know when he threshed and of course was not there and Glenn stored the wheat at one of the neighbors and would not tell Jim where he put it. Now would you be willing for me to be their bank security? I don't think you would unless you wanted to see me skinned and I don't think you want anything of that kind to happen.

Mae never calls up and yesterday I called her and she just passed a few words and said she would have to go and would call again but she never did it. I was always scared to death for fear Papa would give somebody security and we would have to pay it. Now Martha, tell me what you think of it.

Oceans of love, Mamma

August 29, 1927
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Yesterday afternoon about 4:30, here come Mae and Glenn and the youngsters. Now several years ago. Mae [Huston] took out some insurance and made me her beneficiary. After she married, she never had it changed. I had told her several times she ought to have it fixed for her family but she had never had it done. So they came up yesterday to get the papers signed so she could have it changed. Now they didn't say a word about buying that 50 acres but I feel very sure that they are going to try it and do business on their insurance. Well, that is perfectly O.K. with me so long as they do business without getting me implicated in it. I sure hope they make good on their venture. Now I never said a word to Dorde about what they wanted me to do so don't you ever "yap" to Mae or anybody else about what they wanted a week ago. They were horribly mad at me last week but seemed to be all right yesterday. Now if at any time Mae tells you that they have bought a little farm, you must be very much surprised and tickled to death. Now Martha, be very mum and don't let on you know anything about it. If anything new comes up, I'll let you know right away.

Next Sabbath is the day Mr. Bowers preaches his farewell sermon but there is communion at our church and I want to go. Aggie Browns oil stove acted up last week and burned her face and she has been real sick. But she is better now. You must be very ignorant when you talk to anyone dearest for they would be mad again if they knew I told you.

Oceans of love, Mamma

October 7, 1927
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I wish you could draw your chair up close so we could have a good chat and nobody else could hear. I have been here at the Evans just four weeks tonight. Mrs. Evans is much better but is not able to sit up yet. I can't believe that she will ever do anymore work.

Mabel Williams has said several times that she hoped I would stay here all winter but I didn't say whether I would or not for I wasn't quite sure I wanted to. I will tell you the reason when I see you. You said in your letter that you thought maybe you would come home the middle of October. Now I have never been away

from this home two hours at a time since I've been here and I can't quite figure out how I could ever be with you when you come.

I told Dorothy [Steele] about it and she said "you tell her to come to our house and they maybe you can come out here on Sabbath while Martha is here." I think I ought to get off one day while you are here. Everybody else has to let their hired help off on Sabbath once in a while. Mabel Brown is still here but I think they will soon be done with here. I hope so anyway if I am expected to stay here.

Glenn [Huston] is sowing wheat over at the new place and Mae is not quite so peeved as she was. I'll close and write soon and tell me what arrangements you have made about coming home. This is the week of the Hamilton fair but none of our crowd had time to go. Now dear, write real soon and give me your plans and tell me if you expect to stay at Rock Hill all winter.

Love, Mamma

November 14, 1927
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

It is sure a long time since I wrote you but I didn't know where to send it. So that was why you didn't hear from me. Aunt Belle died 2 weeks ago yesterday morning and was buried the following Tuesday afternoon at Earlham cemetery. The services were at the house. Harry, Dorothy and I went to the funeral and left Jean Evelyn [Steele] at Campbellstown with the grandparents while we went on. We three were the only ones of our side of the house that got to go. Uncle Will was not even there. I expect his old lady vetoed his going. I was so glad we got to go to the cemetery for we had never been there. I asked the Sexton to take us to Uncle Lyons grave and he did. Aunt Belle looked so sweet and peaceful as she lay in her casket. They had everything so nice for her.

I don't know what Mame expects to do. It sure is a great pity of her for I don't see how she can have anything ahead. I have never been to Maes since the night I came away. Ma Huston is at their place now and she told me she expected to remain awhile. So I made up my mind I'd do something else while she stayed. They are not going to move til after Christmas. I was at the Evans 7 and one-half weeks, which spelled \$75 for me. They moved Mr. and Mrs. Evans down to Charley Williams so they are going to try to get along without hired help now.

Dorothy [Steele] was sick with the cold all of last week so I was out there and came home yesterday. I've been working to beat the band today so that if another job comes along, I'll be ready to take it in.

There is quite a bit of sickness over the country so I'm hoping to get my share along with the rest. If I were you, I wouldn't make a business of taking care of those consumptions for you might get the disease from them. You know it is not an impossibility. We moved my barn out to the farm and attached it on to the corn stable and it sure made a swell barn. We will have such a fine place for the sheep and little pigs when they come in the spring. I can't tell the day that I've had a scratch from Dorde. She must be pretty busy teaching and keeping house too.

Do you remember Nelson Boyce (Ernie's brother)? He died in Kansas City last week. When you write, tell me our arrangements for Christmas so that in case I should get a job, I'd know just how to make my arrangements. I don't know whether Dorde and Ino will come or not but I hardly look for them. Now write real soon and let me know where you are.

It is mail time and I must close. I've been out burning leaves this morning. Well goodbye my dear and write soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

November 21, 1927
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

My dear girl, I'm sorry things are not going the best with you. Maes and Harrys and Ma Huston were here for dinner yesterday. I sounded Mae on that cloak business and I think she would like for you to take your cloak back, for those people at Hamilton are going to make her stick to their bargain with them, and she won't

have a red cent to give you. You cannot afford to give it to her. Now as I see it, you could wear it if you had it down there til you could do better. How about your coming up this week? You know perfectly well that I'd love to have you come. But the question is how are you to get to Fairhaven. The road is closed up between Oxford and Morning Sun. Glens had to come by way of College Corner. That big bridge down in the Devil's Backbone is out. Harry had to go way round to get to Camden. If it is not storming, our ring is going to be right in the midst of shredding this week so I can't see my way clear to get you to Fairhaven.

Now the best I can see at present is for you to come as far as Maes anyhow and then you can trust to luck to get on. That will give you a chance to get your cloak too. About those people at Oxford, they were just crazy for me while I was at Evans. But you see I couldn't go til there were through with me and by the time Evans were done, the Oxford folks had got somebody else so I was left. I try to keep my things in shape here at home. That if I should get a call, I could go right off. For you know when a call comes, you have to go right off. I do hope I'll get a call soon for it is so lonesome here. When the weather is so bad that I can't work outside. Awhile back, they took Lyman Casey to the Insane Asylum at Dayton and he died last week. He was brought back and buried at Camden. So Mary Killough is rid of one nuisance. Now my dear, I think you understand how hard it is for me to make arrangements about your coming home. The best I can see is for you to come as far as Maes and then see what happens. I have a dab of washing to do this morning, so I'll close for the time. Write real soon.

Oceans and oceans of love, Mamma

November 23, 1927
Art H. Fleshman
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I got your letter at 2 pm. Wednesday and called the Anna Louise Inn. They said you were out. So I went out and tried on my new suit. Then I remember that you said in your note you would wait til 4 pm for me. So I called the Inn again and when she said you were not there, I told her you were supposed to be there til 4. But she said you had left a note saying you were going home and wouldn't be back for a week. Well, I didn't know what to think so I just have to believe that you have gone instead of waiting til 4 pm. I am sorry you didn't find me on Tuesday. When I learned you had called, I phoned the Inn but they said you were out. So I went up to try on my overcoat. When I got back, I called the Inn again. After eating some breakfast, I went to Lytle Park and hung around til 5 o'clock. You were still out.

I am sorry not to see you before you left. But I hope you will have a very enjoyable visit and come back feeling like work. Write me and if possible, I'll try to meet you when you get back.

The Dentist should answer right away unless he has already had the job filled, 2 days at the worst. I don't know how you could find the Xmas card now but I wouldn't worry about it if I were you. Neither would I sell any more set til I found out. Hoping you enjoy your turkey tomorrow. Til I see you again. But why didn't you wait til 4 o'clock, Martha?

Art

January 10, 1928
Art H. Fleschman
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Steele [Martha],

I was glad to get your letter and you surely had plenty of news in it, some good and some not so good. But one thing I call good is your getting away from "116". You know, I told you I did not like the peculiar odor in that place. It was a damp, musty sort of smell that I never could classify. And I have told you right along that I did not think Johnson was doing much for you. You can remember how I "enabled" about the various cheap jobs she'd send you out on, So I am really glad you have left there and I hope your conversations with the new agency will be more satisfactory and that you will manage to get a room with a nice girl or in a nice family, where they will treat you well and not try to impose on you. I'm glad you like it out at the Storie and hope that when you get through, then you'll have no trouble getting another nice pleasant place.

It's too bad Gordon must go back to New York. Don't forget what I have told you so often Steele, to be careful about the fellows you know and never to give any of them the chance to get rough with you. The best

way is to put your foot down the minute they get familiar in a way you don't like. But I guess my honey will be stepping down the aisle to the alter someday soon and after that she won't be interested any more in other fellows.

If I were you, Marty, I would not tell your Mother about that old man, the one with such young ideas. In the first place, it's all over and she can't help you now. Then she will worry about it and she'll start to being afraid to have you down there alone. As it seems to me now that you are in the clear and away from the dear old soul with the smutty ideas, that the best thing to do is forget it and to be careful that it don't happen again.

Work is poor here. I got 4 days this week. Been here 3 weeks now and have done little more than "break even". What is worse, prospects are poor and one can't tell when things may pick up. I see the Commercial Tribune went out of business recently and I had letter from a fellow in the Times-Star and he said it was awful in Cincy now in my line of work. The weather the past 3 weeks has been mild and sunny, which is very unusual for this town, where it is usually very cold. I worked Xmas night and was alone New Years Eve. Short of dough and not spending any more than I have to in order to get along.

Hope this finds you well and happy and with an occasional thought for your friend who truly wishes he were there now, Why not utilize some of the wee morning hours while on duty by writing me soon. I also wish you were nearer to your loving guy. Write soon, honey!

Art

January 17, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Read your letter yesterday and was sure glad that you arrived safe and also had a job. Goodness, I do wish I had a job. It is too cold to work outside and I haven't a speck of patience to just diddle round in the house. I went out to Harry's the evening you left and stayed til Saturday night. Dorothy had her chicken money laid up to buy herself a cloak so Thursday they went to Richmond and bought it. It is a black cloak trimmed in black fur. It is a very nice cloak but all the young women get some other color than black so I didn't like it quite so well on that account. She paid \$25. I don't see any other cloaks that quite comes up to yours.

Friday, Harry and Dorothy went to Dorothy Miller's funeral and Saturday afternoon, they both went to Camden while I stayed with [Jean] Evelyn. So after supper they brought me home. I sent your package out yesterday morning so you should get it today. You haven't got as far as Morning Sun til I spied the things on the back of the chair. Yesterday I was talking to Mae [Hueston] while Aileen was screaming at the top of her voice. Mabel Brown came down Sabbath and sat awhile. She is hoping that Evans will soon be home and we will get back there again. I just thought to myself I'll never go there again if I have to be with you. I say she knows a snap when she sees it. Now write real soon if only a few lines.

Lots of love, Mamma

March 6, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Let us know immediately first what you did with the arelies. I have phoned to both drug stores twice today and they insist they don't know anything about them. Did you send them back on the bus or did you send them through the mail? When you talked to Nancy, she thought you said you would send them over the bus. If I had something to wear, I'd walk up to the bus man. If we ever find them, we will get busy right away as usual. Let us know if you get back.

Love, Mamma

March 7, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

The man you gave the arlies to, was off all day Monday so Glenn [Huston] found your man yesterday afternoon. He had the arelies with him so I have them now, all O.K. Glenns are moving things over to the other

place, and the family will go on next Saturday. I am going to try to get Harry to come and get me next Saturday. As soon as I get home, I'll write you. Everybody as usual. Hope we get some things from you today.

Lovingly, Mamma

March 8, 1928
George Steele Thompson
Germano, Ohio

Dear Mamma and the rest,

Have been wanting to write to you all week but couldn't get at it. Have not washed my hair since New Year's Day so this evening after I got my work done, I washed my hair and had no more than got that done when Mrs. Graham (the owner of the house) also lives in the other part of the house. She knocked at the door and she came in and talked until 9 o'clock. It is bed time but will write a few lines anyway.

We are both getting along all right now. My arm is better or alright now. It doesn't hurt anyway. We have two months and one week of school yet. We are talking of moving to Jewett when school is out. Don't think John will go to summer school at any pace this summer.

Got your letter O.K. Was glad to get it and was glad you liked to stay with those two ladies in Oxford.

Don't know much news only that a coal company near here has just closed out this week and lots of people out of work. Some are moving away where they can get work.

When is Mae and Glenn [Huston] going to move? Would just love to see the two children. Bet they have changed since last summer.

Be sure to let me hear from you often and know of your whereabouts. Write and tell all the news.

Oceans of love, Georgia

March 12, 1928
Art H. Fleschman
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Your letter reached me this Monday afternoon and after carefully perusing same and digesting its contents, I am convinced that you are treating me harshly. The fact of the matter is that you should never feel blue and troubled and so wish sometimes that it would all come to an end. That's simply too silly for words. And I'll show you why.

First, you must realize that life's a game. And all you have to do to enjoy it is to learn the rules and practice for a while just as you would in any other game. Now supposing you wanted to learn how to play bridge. Would you begin by playing with the best players you could find? No, you would play with someone of about your own ability. And the same should apply to playing the game of life. That's why you will have to meet a lot of people in a lot of different circumstances before you can begin to enjoy life yourself. So be sure to have a good teacher and make yourself a willing pupil, and then you won't talk about getting our nice clean river cluttered up.

Love? You don't know what it is, Marty. It's only after you have come to the end of the lesson that you will know that and even then, you'll wonder at times.

Temptation? Oh you'll find plenty of that all along the line. And that is why I have so often warned you to be careful of the companions you chose. It is real important, you know.

Have you got your chemise washed yet? You should watch things like that too. I am going up on Nassau Street on Sunday to get better acquainted with "Dyle". You've made me curious.

I hope you will dig in now and get some nice girl friends and meet some nice fellows through them. But remember what I told you. If you get caught in a blind pig, no one would ever believe you didn't come there purposely so be very careful.

Anyway, I guess you are still my baby, just a little, aren't you? You can call me up late or write me and I'll come out and go out with you once in a while, just as if you had not turned me down at every angle. In other words, we will still be friends. How does that suit you? Of course, it's really too bad that I always want to be "bad" with you but you know it's hard to teach an old dog new tricks so what could one expect?

At any rate, you should not worry over it because you'll learn. The only thing is, what price will you have to pay for your knowledge? And then will it be worth the price? But I've warned you to be careful of your

friends so you are O.K. You be a nice little girl and if you can't find anyone but Rife to go out with, stay home and you'll be better off!! Not knowing where to send this, I'll send it to the address you gave me at the Inn.

Your friend, Art

March 20, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

Well, Harrys came for me last Saturday night, down at Maes, and I don't think I was ever so glad to get home. Aileen is such an awful bawler and she sure wore me out. Myron is just as sweet as can be, but he is so heavy and I had him in my arms so much that I thought my back would break.

We got over to the new place last Thursday night after dark. The big truck and the big wagon had to be unloaded and by the time everything was done, it was 2 o'clock before everybody got settled. They have got the farm in the real estate man's hands for sale and just think, maybe this moving business will all have to be gone through again next Spring. It seems like they ain't got the knack of looking out for themselves. Their house is awfully nice, but the soil is not very good. They have a nice lot of fruit trees.

I don't think Mae liked it very well because I come home but she always is that way when I go home. I told them over and over again, that I didn't see any reason why Glenn's mother couldn't help them out. Mae would say "you needn't think I'm going to have her here bossin round." Mae can't see any bodies interest but her own. They are on the eve of getting in a lawsuit with Uncle Jim. Jim asked time and again to have a settlement and Glenn would snap back "there is nothing to settle!" Now they are going to law. I didn't take any side in it and I am sure Mae felt sore at me for not going against Jim. Jim and Addie always treated me well enough and I'm not going to get in their rows. They ought to move to Hamilton.

They all went East Monday and are going again this week. They can't do any good at anything for running round. Harrys are coming on fine. Bob Thrush is working for him and he has lots of plowing done, has a lot of little lambs and pigs, and working every day. Do burn this letter for fear something might happen that Mae would get to go through your trunk. I ain't doing much. Just sitting round resting up my back, which is getting better. We'll send Dorde's last letter. Write soon and come home when you can.

Oceans of love, Mamma

March 30, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

I received your letter today and will answer it right away and then I'll burn it so there will never be any chance for anybody else to see it. Now you must burn my letters right off too so that should anything happen to you that nobody would get hold of what I write to you.

This has been an awful bad snowy day, but it is to be hoped we won't have more of this kind of weather this Spring. My back is a whole lot better this week and I think I'm going to get all right now. I think I just ruined my back holding the baby and Aileen, Mae, and Glenn were gone every day for about 3 weeks. The youngsters would just well right bawl their heads off. I need to get home and away from them more than I needed the Doctor. But Mae and Glenn would not give up for me to come home. I tried my best to get them to let me go home and get Mrs. Huston to take my place. But no sir, they wouldn't hear to that at all.

Since I've been home, I go to bed at 8 in the evening and stay there til 7 in the morning. I think that does me more good than medicine. I'll bet anything that they will have to move again next Spring. Before they moved, Glenn kept saying that he would have more than 60 acres for corn and now he says it is 40. He has not planned a furrow for corn this Spring. Harry has 60 acres for corn and has 30 acres planted for corn right this minute. There ain't a drop of farmer blood in Glenn and yet Mae is bound to make him stay on the farm.

Mrs. Evans is in an awful fix again. She has lost her mind. All of Charlie Williams have been sick so Al Bishop and Thelma are running the ranch now and a nice run they make of it too. Mabel Brown and I have never been there since we left last Fall. But people who have been in think she is about on her last pens. Oh yes, we heard a little more about poor Charley Laxal. He got down sick in Richmond and he belonged to some order and they made up money enough to send him back to Massachusetts to his father and sister. So he died with his

people at East. He had a sort of consumption too. Now Martha do burn my letters for you now they would make an awful fuss should somebody get them. Now honestly, I feel real good again. Write real soon and give me all the news. Harrys are all right and [Jean] Evelyn [Steele West] is sure a darling. She is game to try to say anything you let her say. Write soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

April 19, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dearest Martha,

Just a line this morning to send your invitation to the Dixon Alumni event. There was not room on the envelope to put your present address. I was perfectly sure that it was the banquet for Harrys and Maes. Both got one just like it so I knew that was in it. Mae says they can't go on account of the kids and so much work.

You know Dorothy [Steele] got such a dose last year and declared she'd never go again to Dixon so they are not going. It gives you very short notice but if you don't get home for that, you will be up for Decoration Day, won't you? I haven't heard from you for so long I'm afraid you are sick. Please drop me a few lines and let me know if you are all O.K.

Ma Huston is up at Maes now. They had the baby baptized last Saturday. I'm cleaning house and just about half done. Last Monday, Uncle Will called up and said he was going to Richmond and didn't I want to go along. I went and we sure had a dandy time. Rhoda didn't go so we had quite a conflagration by ourselves. Harrys are all O.K. but awfully busy. [Jean] Evelyn [Steele] is just too cute for anything. The other night when they went to go home from here, she got in the machined and saved her hand and says "goodby darling". Now my dear please write a few lines and let me know if you are all right. Write soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

April 28, 1928
Art H. Fleschman
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Martha,

Just a line to let you know I am out of Cincy at last and for a long, long time. I quit my job Friday and was on my way today.

Whatever has been the matter with you lately? You have made it next to impossible for me to see you, either coming out or meeting you downtown. I guess I was near to correct when I said Ray had "beat my time". That is the only way I can account for the rigidity with which you have treated me of late.

However, you was surely within your rights in the matter and I hope you have oodles of fun. But remember what I have been telling you all along and use good judgement in picking friends,

Gee, but I'm sleeping and its 3 p.m. and I have just got in. I must wash my face in cold water to keep me awake til 9 o'clock tonight at least.

Now you be a good girl as you always were and get some nice girl friends to go with. I'll write you from time to time as I move about.

Leave here Monday for Chicago. Best wishes from your honey.

Arthur

April 29, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

It is a shame I didn't get a letter to you last week but with cleaning house, cleaning the yard, and making the garden, the week slipped by and you didn't get a letter. But I'll say right here, I thought of you lots of times. Everybody of our own is all well but the community is alive with mumps and measles. A few are having mumps and measles together. That is what Earl Parks is trying to do right now. He is awfully sick but things don't seem to come to a head.

Yesterday, Harry [Steele] got my garden in shape to plant and I got all the little stuff in but we haven't got the fence up yet. Andersons have got about a thousand chickens here and I didn't dare go to church this

morning for fear they [the foxes and raccoons] would get in and tear it all out. Every few minutes, I have to look out to see if everything is all right. Harry will put the fence up the first day it rains. I think everything will be very nice when we get it finished up.

Maes [Huston] and Harrys were here last Saturday for dinner and we thought if we understood your letter that on Decoration Day, you would only be free from 7 a.m. til midnight, which would not give you very much time. You would want to see what Mae's new place looked like and it would be better for you to come to Oxford and Mae would meet you and then take a run out there and then come up to Fairhaven for dinner. Now of course, there is some time yet before that and if things can be arranged better to get more good out of your time, why we will do it. Can they not spare you any more time than that right now? It sure won't take long for the day to slip away. When are they going to give you your vacation and for how long?

My how I wish you could see Myron. I do declare it won't be long til he will be as big as the little girls and he is going to be as big a rogue as his daddy. Aileen [Huston] don't talk much but Jean Evelyn [Steele] flows off at a wonderful rate. If you ask her if she wants to go bye-bye, she will say, "no, no, too told (cold)". She has a great time singing "Rock a bye-bye" to her doll. The other night, they started way from here and when she got seated in the machine, she waved her hand and said "good-bye, darlin".

Oh yes, somebody said they didn't get to have the banquet at Dixon on account of measles and mumps. I'm not sure that is correct, but that word was passed around. Ain't heard from Dorde for two weeks. I'll have to stop and write a line to her. Write soon if only a few lines.

Love, Mamma

June 22, 1928

Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

It has been a long time since I have heard from you. Howa are you? John and I are O.K. Had a letter from Mamma a week or two ago and she said that you had been home for two weeks and was now back in the city. I was so in hope that you could be home when John and I were there and then you and Mamma come back with us in the machine and when you got ready to go back to Fairhaven, the Railroad is real handy. I'm afraid I can't get Mamma to come by herself. Do you think you could get a few days' vacation again about the time John and I are ready to come back. Then you come up to Fairhaven and come over with us and then you and Mamma could go home together. I would hate to see Mamma start back all alone. The last time Mamma wrote to me, she sent me your last letter to her and I didn't know whether you was at the Anna Louise Inn anymore or not so thought I would address your letter to the hospital.

Lovingly, Georgia

June 26, 1928

Art H. Fleschman
Seattle, Washington

Dear Martha,

Why, holy smoke, honey, write me a line and let me know who is loving you now and how you like it! Address me at general delivery in Seattle, Washington. How have you behaved since I left?

Art

July 2, 1928

Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Mamma,

Every day last week I thought I would get a few lines written to you but didn't. Last Monday I washed and among other things was our heavy winter blankets. On Tuesday I ironed and patched. Wednesday John and I went to the country to pick cherries all day. Thursday morning I canned cherries and then in the afternoon we went to pick cherries again. Friday I worked with the cherries and made 13 glasses of cherry jam.

Seems like it can rain so easy. We got a shower almost every day. I wrote Martha [Steele] a few lines the other day. Have not heard from her yet. Is she still at the Anna Louise Inn or is she at the Hospital all the time now?

As far as I know now, John and I will start towards Fairhaven Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of next week. We want to leave our garden in good order. John was working or started to work in it this afternoon then it rained. And of course he had to quit.

Just as soon as we can get things in shape to leave, we will come. So you can look for us sometime next week.

Lots and lots of love, Georgia

July 6, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Received your letter yesterday and was sure glad to hear from you. No, I wouldn't stay where you are now for to start out with, you are not getting enough pay. I think you had better come home and rest up real good this hot weather and then this fall when it gets cool, look around at some of the first class hospitals and get some work there. I don't want you to work in the factories for I don't think that they are of very good class of people and when you get rested up good, you will think better of the nursing business. You are just plum worn out. That is the reason you are so sick of the nursing. Now just come home and rest up.

I got a letter from Dorde today. Will send it to you. Harry will cut the wheat and make hay next week. Everybody is well here. Ma Huston is and has been at Maes for the last month. Oh yes, your pictures were just too cute for anything. Dorothy [Steele] says to tell you to be sure and save the films for she wants to get some of the pictures. Now try to come while the kids are here.

Oceans of love, Mamma

July 8, 1928
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I will just write a note just now and will tell more later. Georgia and John [Thompson] are expected home this week. Now I am expecting to have them, Mama, and Harrys here next Sabbath for dinner and would like if you could come too. That would be all of us then. I know Harrys wouldn't have all of us at once and it is up to Mamma or I. I called and asked them to come and they said yes. Now I hope you can come. If you had a chance to come before all is O.K and if not until that morning, we will meet you.

I am going to ask them to come down to church and we are expecting to go to church too. Now if you get up that morning anyway around church time, you go to church and come on out with the crowd. The Presbyterian Church are having union services in the new Presbyterian Church and I hope you can come. Aileen is saying or trying everything and says to tell Aunt Martha to come. Myron is walking and is tickled to pieces about it. Be sure to come.

Love, Mae

August 6, 1928
Grok ?
Newport, Kentucky

Dear Marty [Martha],

How are you and Mother? I start to work this morning. Miss Emmanuel was operated on by our friend Doctor Alexander. It was an emergency operation and she is doing nicely. Answer real soon.

With lots of love, Grok

August 6, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Although your letter had been written most of a week, it was not received until Saturdays. Harry [Steele] said he would go to Richmond for you anytime you wished to come but it would suit him a little better if you came sometime after next Wednesday.

You had better write directly to Harry and in that way, there will be no possible chance of there being a misunderstanding between you.

We had the threshers for dinner on Thursday and for supper the next Tuesday. They had the threshers picnic at Jim Stewart's last Saturday afternoon. Miss Bailey stayed overnight in Fairhaven one night last week. They were on their way from the east to the west in an auto.

Lots of love, Mamma

August 29, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I came out to Harry [Steele] a week ago tonight and did not receive your card until yesterday afternoon. You wanted something and I sure would have been glad to send it to you. But by the time you get this letter, it will be September so I imagine you will not want it. Now let me hear from you right off and let me know if that is right. Don't hesitate to let me know.

You got a card from Art and also from Bob. Dorothy [Steele] and I thought it would be nothing more than a little nice for us to just read the letter and then we could send it to you. Tell them to just write to us in person and then we can understand it better. Well we have two extra men for dinner so I must close and get the beans on to cook. Write real soon, I'll bet this letter will be sweet being wrapped up with so much sweet.

Oceans of love, Mamma

September 9, 1928
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I received your card and am wondering if you received your shoes all O.K." How do you like your job by now? What kind of nursing is it?

The youngsters have had a kind of summer flu and bowel trouble. Both are almost back to normal. We had to make one trip to the Doctor. Have been real busy canning fruit. Have almost all my cans full.

We have 4 tickets to the Zoo Saturday, September 15, 1928. Could you get off to go that day to the zoo too? Now if you can go, all O.K. I am enclosing a ticket so you can go when you get ready. But would like it if you could meet us at the Auditorium on the Zoological Garden grounds at 12:00 o'clock. Get your appetite ready for fried chicken.

Remember the time is 12:00 o'clock, Saturday, September 15, 1928. Let us know if this will be O.K. as to time. Will look for a card for particulars as to what you can do.

Love, Mae

PS I am going to try and get Mama to come and go with us.

September 11, 1928
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I stopped at the post office when we came through town on our way home from school. Was surely glad to hear from you. John is on his second week of school and mine started Monday. Don't know just how well I will like the other teachers. They are all strangers to me. I took the teachers exam the last Friday in August and last Saturday. I got my certificate. It is a 3 year certificate. So I can teach two more years after this without any more college or worry about exams.

Edna and her roommate started for Muskingum this morning Their folks took them as far as Morristown then they went the rest of the way on the bus.

I have other 100 quarts canned counting everything together. I canned 11 ½ quarts of tomatoes Monday afternoon and there will be lots more ripe to be canned Saturday.

I have 24 children in my room, 11 of them are beginners. One of the beginners is almost blind. I have to use a reading glass with him. The first day I used the reading glass I looked through the glass some of the time. It was so strong that it gave me a very bad headache. Am not entirely over it yet.

Am sending you a few pictures and some more negatives. One of the negatives is the Swamp College bunch taken down at the church. Another is Charley Laxell, Papa, and Tootsie. The other is you and Aileen. Have only had one letter from Mamma since we came back from here. Take good care of yourself and look out for number one.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 17, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

I'm sure ashamed that you have gone so long without a letter but I've been out at Harrys and he was on the Grand Jury all week. We sure have been on the go. I came home yesterday morning and I thought I'd write you and Dorde a letter today but I went to Church this morning and after dinner Mabel Brown came down and stayed all afternoon. By the way, we were sitting out on the porch and who should come down the street but Miss Brock and she halted long enough to inquire about you and Georgia. She looks fine but was going back to her home this evening.

Mr. Lindseys are looking for a newcomer next month and I am staged for a month's job there. Don't you pity me. Oh yes, Jim Stewart's wife came in and played with me while the kids went to church. I was sure disappointed I did not get to see you down at Maes and just to think that you were sitting up in Oxford and saw us pass by. Why didn't you throw a stone at us if we wouldn't look any other way.

I'll have to work like everything and get my heating stove up this week for the missionary society meets here next Friday afternoon. Then I'll have to get busy and get Mae to help me make a couple of everyday dresses before I go to Lindseys. I'm plum out of everyday dresses.

Jim Marshall (Fay's grandfather) dropped dead on the street in Camden last Friday afternoon at 2 pm. Will and Lyda had gone to Richmond and never got home til after dark. They did not know that he was dead til they got home. He was 84 years old.

Now my dear, I'll do my best to write again soon and you must write and tell me all the news. I did not get your postal inviting me to go to the Zoo til it was over a couple of weeks so you see why I didn't go. But Mrs. Huston went so I couldn't have gone. Now write real soon. It seems so long since I've heard from you. As Jean Evelyn [Steele] says "nitey night".

Oceans of love, Mamma

October 19, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I have just got through calling Mabel Williams about your voter registration and she said Charlie would forward your card to you immediately. That will be much better than for you to try to vote down in Cincinnati for you might run into somebody that would get smart and you might lose your vote and we need it.

I'll tell you the first thing that Marie Hayes is in the Bethesda Hospital. She has been there for something like two weeks and will be there that much longer. She had an operation on her nose and they worked on one side and then had to wait til that would heal so they could work on the other. I guess she is coming on very well. Maybe you can arrange to go see her.

I came through the missionary ordeal all right and have got the heating stove up Fay Fimon the dresses next. Well, I have to go to Mae's for the dresses. It is about time so I'll have to close. It sure did me a lot of good for the preacher's wife to ask you to dinner. I can't bear to think of your being away from your own kind all the time. Write real soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

October 26, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I write you this morning to see if you ever went to see Marie Hayes. I wrote you about her being at the Bethesda Hospital last week, but for fear you missed getting the letter, I will go over the details again. It must be something like a month since she went down there and had her second operation last Tuesday. Since her second operation, she has slept all the time, and they would even have to waken her for her meals. Their Doctor told them that this sleep might be caused just from exhaustion. Have you been to see her? If not, try to go.

Fay Gilmore buries his wife today. She was like Martha Wright, she had T.B. and had to stay out in her tent. Old Jim Jackson is in Cleveland being worked on for a goiter. Janie is with him. Everyone is well. I'm going to Mae's in a few days to get a couple of everyday dresses made.

Charlie Williams sent your voter registration papers. Did you get them? For goodness sakes, don't let anything keep you from voting. Write and give all the news. It seems so long since I have had any news from you. Mrs. Lindsey is not getting along very well. Feel like I'd have to push round or I wouldn't get my duds made. Write real soon, my dear and give all the news.

Love, Mamma

October 28, 1928
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

This makes letter number three for this evening. I have written one to Mae, Mamma, and now one to you. How are you by this time? We are both as usual. Guess I had better start in and try to answer some of the questions you asked me in your letter. One thing was, how was Mrs. McGill, our next door neighbor, getting along? Well, I am happy to say that they moved out about three weeks after you was here. The man who owned the property told them that he would like if they could move sometime this fall so they got busy and found a house up at Cadiz. All the neighbors but one were not sorry to see them get out.

In the "Funnies", Toots met her devoted slave. He came to her home and met her on the front porch. He turned out to be very rich. After he met Toots, he went to Europe. Casper got very jealous and angry about the devoted slave.

You asked about some negatives of pictures that were taken down at Mae's. Well I sent them to Mae. Probably you could get them from her. How were the pictures that you took when you was over here?

Yes, I am ready to vote for Hoover. Are you going to vote a straight Republican ticket? I may not. I may vote for Davey for Governor of Ohio. When you vote, be sure that you do it absolutely correct so that your vote will be counted. I'm going to practice up and have John give me instructions so that I will be sure to mark things the right way.

Had a letter from Mamma Saturday and she said that Marie Hayes was in a very serious condition? Did you go to see her? Hope she comes out all right.

It is about bedtime so will close for this. Write when you can find time.

Lovingly, Georgia

P.S. You can count on my vote for Hoover. Be sure to vote for Davey. John Thompson

November 17, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

Just a line to say that the Camden Bank sent a notice out to Harrys yesterday and it was to "Mrs. Martha Steele," and Harry said he thought the bank thought that Dorothy's name was Martha and that it was for Dorothy. As near as I can come at it, the Bank has furnished the money to keep your funds growing. Harry says to tell you to attend to it immediately and keep the bank in a good humor. I don't know first when your note is due. This is all for this time. Everybody is well. Write real soon and let me know is everything O.K.

Lovingly, Mamma

December 17, 1928
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

I must write you a few lines this evening. Maude was over and stayed for more than an hour and she is so honest and whole souled that I sure enjoy her thoughts. All of Theny's have been having the flu. They have all been confined to bed and Mabel was not able to build the fires. So I went up this morning and have to go again in the morning. But I'm in hopes that I won't have to do it after tomorrow morning. It is sort of a bilious job, when the weather is so cold. It will just be a "thank you" job so I'm not much enthused. There is a terrible amount of flu through this country and our folks are all well. I'm thinking that maybe I will get to take in a job I'm trying my best to take the best of care of myself and maybe I'll get to "rake in" a few dollars.

Poor Uncle Elmer died this morning and will be buried Thursday afternoon. Mae wants to go to the funeral so bad and you know that is no place for the children. I finally told her that I'd go down and keep them if they could bring me back right away. Anybody wanting my services expect me to be right at home and if I'm not there, they get somebody else. People think now that Mrs. Silvers shot the Doctor and then shot herself. Old Albert Van Dyke came straggling back to town Saturday and people don't feel a bit good over it. How are you and little Dick coming on. I believe you have a nice place to stay and I would just freeze to them if I were you. I'll just wait and give you your Christmas when you come home.

Well, I'll have to pile out early in the morning so I'll have to go to bed Write a line when you can and I'll write again soon.

Lots of love, Mamma

December 17, 1928
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I received your card and have thought I would get a letter out to you almost every day. How are you? Do you think you are safe from taking scarlet fever now? I hope so.

I wanted to tell you about Uncle Emory Snyder. He died this morning at 8:30 and will be buried Thursday at 2:30 pm. Don't know anything more as yet.

Mama has been going up to Brown's every am and working taking care of them as they all are down in bed. Doctor Coombs is going to see them. They have heavy colds and I am so afraid Mamma will get it too. She says she is not afraid.

Mamma and Harrys are planning on going to Richmond one day this week. Would you rather that I send or hold your Xmas for you? I am planning on sending Georgia's out net Friday. Everybody here is OK. Both youngers are getting cuter and sweeter every day.

Most lovingly, Mae

December 30, 1928
Art H. Fleschman
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Martha,

How could you be so mean to me as to send me a card from Cincinnati and never even write a single line on it to let me know how you are getting along and who are your friends and all the other things you ought to know. I would be interested in having you tell me. When I remember that I have not had one single line from you since last August in San Francisco. I simply don't know what to think about it. All I can guess is that my Marty has reformed and joined the church. But it can't be because she never had left the church and did not need to be reformed. But I still can't figure out why she don't write, even if only to say "hello, you big bum!"

Say Marty, you drop me a line and let me know 1) where are you staying and 2) are you working and 3) how are you getting along and 4) are you enjoying yourself down there and 5) are you happy and 6) who are your friends and 7) all the things we would like to hear.

I have been back here since October and have made lots of dough. But it is all gone and my job will probably go the same way after the first of the year so I'll probably leave here and will look you up in dear old Cincinnati.

So be sure and tell me all about yourself and who is getting all the "lovin" now.

Your friend, Art

January 2, 1929
 Georgia Steele Thompson
 Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Am wondering whether you are working or vacationing up at Fairhaven and the farm. Our vacation is at an end until school is out next April. So you was up at Mae's for Christmas dinner. Am glad that you could arrange to go. How was Mamma and all the rest?

We got our letter and also your packages with Mae's packages. Thanks ever so much for the socks and bloomers. Did you see the little lock of hair that Myron (Hueston) sent us? It was just darling. Was awfully glad to get it. Did Myron object to having his curls cut off?

Did you get the little packet we sent you? Could have sent it to Mae's but was not sure whether you would get up or not so just sent it to Cincy. Did you get lots of Christmas presents? We did real well. I got 16 hankies, 2 boxes of candy, a flower wall vase, and a small dish, all from school children. John got me an Indian blanket. I keep it on the day bed to put over myself whenever I lay down for a nap. I got a Turkish towel and wash rag, an everyday towel, long pink candles, then Nancy had her picture taken and she gave us one of her pictures. Nancy's boyfriend gave her a cedar chest for Christmas. Boy but it is nice. 6 a.m. will roll around pretty quick so I must stop and go to bed.

Oh yes, we got a quarter of beef during vacation and we cold packed 17 quarts. I made elderberry pies last Saturday. Wish you could have had some. New Years Day, I made my first doughnuts. They were very nice. Wish you could taste them also.

How is business with you nowadays? Is there much sickness or not? We have chicken pox in our school at Germano now. There is one case of small pox here in Jewett. Do hope it does not spread. I just must close so good night and write when you can.

Be awful careful about riding those old buses. Saw in the paper this evening where 2 people were killed near West Alexandria in one of the Greyhound buses.

Lovingly, Georgia

January 6, 1929
 Mary Rees
 Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Emma Steele,

Will you please send me Martha's address? I am here in Cincinnati nursing. Will be glad to look her up and it might be she isn't so far from me.

How are you making it this winter? I haven't seen any of you for a long time. Probably about a year ago, I stopped in that afternoon that Martha was home. If you write to Martha, right away, just send her my address. And then she could call me up over the phone. My number is 143X Woodburn. I wouldn't be surprised that you are like mother you feel you have done pretty good by the time you get your own written to.

I'll appreciate your kindness Mrs. Steele I connecting Martha and Me.

Sincerely yours, Mary Rees

January 6, 1929
 Art H. Fleshman
 Chicago, Illinois

Dear Martha,

I got your short note, Mary and was glad to hear from you. I do not know how long I will be in Chicago but I expect to be here for a while yet, as long as work holds out because as usual I am "short". At any rate, when you write be sure to put a return address on your letter and in case I should write and the hotel would not forward same, it would be returned to you.

I got a letter from the lady who owns the hotel where I used to stay in Cincinnati and she wanted to know when I'd be back and I told her as soon as work dropped off here. It is very cold and I don't like it but it pays \$13 a night and I do need the "dough" so I am sticking.

Well baby, how are you? I am better I think than when I saw you last. My shoulders do not bother me nearly so much. I guess that is because I have reformed. You will remember that I told you I was going to do that.

It was a wonderful trip as you can guess and you otta have been along. From Calgary to Vancouver was the most wonderful train ride I ever took. From Vancouver to Victoria in British Columbia was a delightful ride on a fast steamship. Victoria was comparatively a very small place but what it lacked in size, it more than made up in beauty and it just seemed as if no home was too poor to have a beautiful flower garden. At this, it was a grand little town and I had a chance for 6 weeks work and a doctor wanted to work on my neuritis. I would not stay there for 2 reasons: First, if I spent 6 weeks there I would miss out on work farther down the east and it turned out I was right about it and second, it is a closed-up town on Sunday, same as were Winnipeg, Regina, Brandon, Moose Jaw and all the rest of the Canadian cities. So I took a grand boat ride to Seattle and snuck in 2 bottles of whiskey, but don't smash your lips cause it's all gone. I worked a whole month in Seattle, a wonderful city. Then I went to Tacoma, Portland, Medford, and Sacramento. I worked a whole month in San Francisco and all told I was there from July 13 to August 11. I wore the top coat because it was cold. From Frisco I went to Fresno, then Bakersfield and then Los Angeles. Worked 2 weeks in Los Angeles but found time to go to Venice and to Jackson, Mississippi, Memphis, Tennessee, 4 days at St. Louis and back to Chicago. Getting plenty of work and making good money, but been getting bad breaks so have not saved any of it.

Write soon and tell me how you have been behaving yourself without me to watch over you. Are you on a case or do you live at this address? Where have you been working Who is furnishing the loving for you these days? What did Earl Clause do for you? And tell me all about yourself too. Write soon and remember the real story, same as on Nassau Street.

Your loving friend, Arthur

January 9, 1929
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dearest Martha,

Just a line to tell you where I am. I came here the day before Christmas and things have been getting worse and worse. Now gangrene has set in and I suppose the end is not a great way off. Don't worry about me for I'm working in the kitchen.

Jim Henry and wife are about gone with the flue. Don't let Mary Rees find out all about your business. Don't let her find out what wages you get. She will want to know the whole story.

I'll write again as soon as possible, but don't worry if you don't hear from me.

Oceans of love, Mamma

January 13, 1929
Mrs. Georgia Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Isn't it awful that I never write to you. The week of New Years, John was sick with the flu. He was not out of the house for a week. His school started the day after New Years and mine didn't and as John wasn't able to go to his school, I would do all the chores about the house and then go to his school in his place. That lasted just two days and by that time I had such an awful cough that I went to the Doctor for medicine for myself. Then I was sick and laying around myself all the next week. John was able to teach his own school last week but I wasn't so feather tick and we are now sleeping in the sitting room. Don't think we will much longer though.

The next time you come to see us we will have a decent place to sleep. I made a tick and John took it up home and got it filled with straw although not real full. Then we bought a mattress and put it on top. We also have new blankets for that bed and have about completed another comfort so we can keep people overnight in winter as well as summer now. Maybe in time we can get things fixed up like other people. Maybe this letter will be long enough to make up for my not writing sooner. Am glad to hear from you anytime you can find time to write and take good care of yourself.

Love, Georgia

January 20, 1929
 Mae Steele Huston
 Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I expect you have wondered and wondered why I haven't answered your last two letters. Well, I will come to the point right away and not keep you in suspense any longer. We have had the promise of a farm for some time but there was a hinge on it like this "if it do not sell". Well it didn't sell and we got it. Now "where is it" is your next question. We have it real handy as it is on the paved road from Oxford to Hamilton about 20 to 22 miles south of the Western Farm. It is known as the "Martin" farm or "Vaness" farm. A man by the name of Crawford owns it now. It is one the left hand side of the road coming up from Hamilton, a large white brick house and white barn. The place in some things would remind you of the home place where Harry is. We took some things over there yesterday PM and Glenn has his wagon loaded with things ready to start early in the morning if weather is fit. He expects help so I don't know how long it will take him to move everything. Now about your trunk, we will just take it along with us and you can decide what you want to do, leave it or take it. You are welcome to leave if you please, we have lots of room. Oh yes, we have electric lights too. The house is old but well-kept and is very nice. Our bedroom will be downstairs but we will also have the davenport and day bed downstairs.

Mama is still at Mrs. Evarrs. She remains about the same. Mable Williams' youngest girl has scarlet fever but is coming along very nicely now. Now tell me about yourself. How are you? Mama said in your letter you were pretty busy. What are you doing? Anything besides taking care of little Dickie? If everything goes O.K., guess we will move this week, maybe not until Saturday. I will drop you a line and let you know when we are settled for sure. Hope this finds you O.K. and will expect to see you oftener.

Love, Mae

January 21, 1929
 Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
 At Evans

My dearest Martha,

Just four weeks today since I came here and me thought the old lady was going to hand in her checks right off but gangrene set in and she seems to thrive on it. It looks like she was getting better and she is as content as the dickens. Anna White, a girl from Kentucky, is head fellow and Mrs. Evans just scolds her all the time and a week ago this morning, Charley Williams had a child taken with scarlet fever. So they have been quarantined for a week and of course will be quarantined for three weeks yet. I reckon Anna and I will have to stay here for three more weeks.

I never have thought that Mrs. Evans was capable of talking so mean. Charley Williams came up this morning to give her a setting and when he started away he says to Anna and I, "well you will just have to ford the stream as best you can for I've said all I know to say." Mr. Evans is in bed every few days. Jim Henry died last week and when he died, the thought she was going to die there too. But now she is getting better and the Masons are going to take her home with them to live.

Martha Campbell that lived down the State Line died with flu last week. She lived only three days. Say, tell me all about Mary Reese. Don't get too thick with her as she will know more about yourself than you do.

Mae told me yesterday that they were going to move over on the brick road, a couple of miles below the Western. That will sure be fine for you when you come up. Are you living with Dicky anymore? Write and tell me all about it.

Harrys are well and Jean Evelyn [Steele] is just too sweet for anything when she gets up to the phone to talk to me. I can't hardly tell what she says because she is so full of giggles. Mrs. Hart died a week or so ago. Milton Irwins have moved down to the farm. Hope I hear from you tomorrow.

Oceans of love, Mamma

January 25, 1929
 Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
 College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Received your letter today and you sure must rest before you take on another job. If I were at home, I'd say come straight home and rest, but I can't get off from this job for the Evans for two more weeks anyway. The Charleys are quarantined in and I can't get out to get someone to take my place. I think Anna and I will go when Charleys get out to hunt somebody else for Mrs. Evans who is so awful grumpy that we don't care to stay here. She does just say such awful mean things.

I was just heart sick when I found Mary Reese had found you. I just don't want you her to have any dealings with you at all for she will just come home and blow all about your business. There is just no telling what she would tell. Now, don't you go out with her. You give her the slip and if she gets into any mischief, you will be the one that will get the blame. Now promise me in your next letter that you will give her the slip.

Glenn [Huston] is moving his outside stuff down on the paved road two miles below the Western. I wish you and I were cuddled up in our own bed across the street here tonight, don't you? Everybody is well. Now answer this real soon and tell me that you won't go with Mary Reese. Write real soon. Nighty night, as Jean Evelyn [Steele] says.

Lovingly, Mamma

January 30, 1929
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I came over to College Corner last Monday night to stay with Misses Anna and Margaret McQuiston. Miss Margaret has been very sick, but is somewhat better. Don't know how long I'll be here. Glenns moved yesterday. I'm glad it's over for we had a big snow last night. Don't know how long I'll be here.

Aunt Rhoda had a stroke last week and was very bad, but is better. I've not been over to see them. Milton and wife are staying there. Please address me College Corner, Box 87.

Love, Mamma

February 20, 1929
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you coming along? We are all well and busy most of the time. The youngsters are particularly busy all the time with the exception of the time they are asleep.

I had a letter from Mama this a.m. and had one just a day or so ago saying that Aunt Mary Belle had a stroke and is pretty bad. I would like to go and see her. How about you going with me? I don't think I will say anything to Harry about it for I don't know what he would do or anything about it. Mama is still taking care of Miss McQuiston of College Corner and will be there until Friday. Then she comes to Oxford to take care of Miss Morris (Bessie Fisher's aunt) at the same place she was at last winter.

Are you in a position that you could come up Saturday p.m. or sabbath a.m.? If so, I would like if you could and we could go and see her. I am also writing to Georgia and will send Mama's two letters on to her as I will get to see you sooner.

Now if you should suddenly take a notion and want to phone me, you would have to call Emerson Elliot on Oxford line and leave the message with Mrs. Elliot. They live a quarter of a mile from here. If I get to Hamilton, I will go and find out why they won't let Oxford put their phone in.

Remember we are about 2 miles north of McGonigles on the paved road. We are on the west side of the road and live in a big brick house. There is a small brick house on the place and colored people live in it. There is a big white barn with a long cattle barn hitched on to it. We live between Wagonfields and Elliotts. The place won't be hard to find. Would be glad to hear from you some way on the other soon.

I forgot to say that Rinda is up there taking care of her. This clipping was taken out of the paper that we got today about Mrs. R. E. Jeffers being called to Eaton last week by the serious illness of her step mother, Mrs. Mary Bell.

Lovingly, Mae

March 3, 1929
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

My dear Martha,

I wonder where you are. I left College Corner (they were through with me) and went to Oxford to take care of Miss Morris last Monday. To my surprise, when I got there, I found her as crazy as a bed bug and no one to ease me off with. I got up Saturday morning and I mustn't say "got up" for I never got a chance to get down and tell her sister I was going home. So Marion Fisher was down Saturday morning and I piled in and beat it for home. Ida Lemon called on me the evening before and when she went away, she asked me to walk down the street with her and she said that Morris's had to pay \$5.00 a night for a nurse to stay with her and here I wasn't getting but \$12.50 per week. I told them the next morning that I was going home and I went.

There was a terrible flood in Fairhaven while I was gone, It was as bad as it was in 1913. Got in the houses but it didn't get into ours. But I've never been able to get the cellar door open so I don't know what it looks like I there. Well I reckon you've heard before this that Mary Bell is dead. Mae [Huston] tried her best to locate you but couldn't. I think it was a good thing for you that she couldn't. I suppose she has written you before this, that they tried so hard to get to the funeral and then missed it. I suppose the Bells will try to survive in all of it. But we will try and nose around and see what is going on.

Where are you coming home? I'd think you would just be dead for sleep. I know I'm tired. I've never got my money out of Evans yet. It is \$49. I wish they would bring it over. Mrs. Evans died 3 or 4 weeks ago. She got a little better and they thought they could get along with one woman and let me go for McQuistons at College Corner were crazy for me to go there. A few days after I left, Mrs. Evans was taken with pneumonia and Evans wanted me back but of course I was tied up to McQuistons then and I couldn't go.

I have turned down more than a dozen cases this winter just because I couldn't be but one place at a time. Do write and tell me where you are and all about your activities and tell me be sure to tell me what you know about Mary Reese. Jimmy Pierson died last night. When do you think you will get home? Now answer real soon and tell me all about yourself. Believe me, I'm soaking up sleep every chance I get. I was washing this morning.

Oceans of love, Mamma

March 7, 1929

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Ida Lernon called me last night and wanted to know if I had heard about the will at Eaton. I said no and she said everything was willed to Walter and Clarence's children and . refused to look at her after he was dead and also refused to sit in the room with the relatives. Can you imagine the situation?

Everybody is as well as usual this morning. Jimmy Pierson is to be buried this afternoon. The flood made an awful mess in my cellar and I've been waiting all week for Bill to get over his drunk so we could clean it. But it seems like he gets drunker all the time. I do hope I'll get a letter from you this week. Write and give me all the news.

Oceans of love, Mamma

March 16, 1929

Art H. Fleschman
Washington, DC

Dear Martha,

I am still wondering why you did not reply to the letter which I sent you at 5 Springfield Pike. I left Chicago a month after writing you and on March 2, I was in Cincinnati. My first thought was of finding you, but I could not figure how to do it. The 5 Springfield Pike did not look like a place where you might be living and if you were only working there, I could not come in anyway. So I had to give that up. I found Miss Bentley but the only address she had was the same one. As I was anxious to get to Washington for the Inauguration, I left Cincinnati the next day without getting to see you for which I was very sorry. But I do not know how to account for your failure to let me know how to find you. Maybe Bentley gave me the reason when she told me she "had been out with you several times and several nice-looking young men had spoken to you" and also that "you were a good dancer now." When she told me those things, I almost thought she meant another Martha.

Well chick, I sure hope you are enjoying life. But don't forget a lot of things I told you from time to time. Not knowing how you stand, I'll close this letter now with my best wishes all the time for you.

Your friend, Art

April 26, 1929
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your two letters one yesterday and one the day before. Was glad to hear from you. The money order arrived O.K. Many, many thanks for it, but you did not need to add so much extra on.

My school is not out yet and as this was Friday, I let school out at 3:30 and have supper cooking. Am writing to you in between times. John's school was out April 19th. I have one more week of school yet. Will be glad when it is over.

Received my card about the Dixon Alumni reunion on May 4th. It is the next evening after my school closes, Of course, we won't be there. Do you think you will go to the Alumni with Mae's or Harry's? Don't know whether we will go west this summer or not, Have not planned anything on it as yet. Would be glad if you could come to visit us again this summer.

It is now 6:30 pm and time we were going to the post office for the mail so must close for this time. Will write again real soon and I want you to write again soon. We may go to Steubenville tomorrow. Again, I say thank you for the money.

Love, Georgia

June 5, 1929
Mrs. Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Will attempt to answer your letter this evening. How are you? We are both real well. John has been shearing sheep every day for about three weeks. He has shorn 335 sheep this Spring. I got mixed up on what I wanted to say so just scratched it out. I have about all my house cleaning finished. The garden is made and looks real nice. We are having onions, lettuce and radishes right along now. Come over and you can have some free of charge and also all the rhubarb you can eat.

In the last letter I had from Mamma, she said that she was writing you to tell you to take your vacation in August as she would be home then and asked me if we couldn't come then too. I wrote and told her that you said that you wanted to come over here this summer and I asked her if you both (you and Mamma) couldn't come over here then. I wouldn't go west this summer. I am having my teeth fixed and I don't know how long it will take to do that and I will be a pretty looking thing over home with my front teeth out. People would sure give me the laugh.

I am going to ask you a question. Expect you will tell me to take a dose of soda bicarbonate. I may before I go to bed but this spring before school closed and since then also whenever I eat a meal my stomach just feels like a balloon just ready to burst. It's very uncomfortable. As John was away shearing sheep today, he was not home for supper so I ate half a slice of bread and an onion and a dish of oats and the way I feel you would have thought I had eaten a big, big meal. If you would prescribe anything other than soda, write and tell me about it and I'll surely give it a trial.

John's sister Ruth has not been well since about January so her folks took her to a Doctor in Wheeling, West Virginia one day last week. She has inflammation of the gall bladder and also her appendix is giving her trouble. The Doctor gave her medicine and told her that if the medicine didn't help her, she would have to have an operation.

Did I ever tell you that John's sister Mary was married in March? Edna's school at Muskingum is out Friday and she has a school to teach next year. Wayne, John's youngest brother, will be in the 2nd grade high school next Fall. Guess this is all of the family news of importance.

You talk to Mamma and see if you can't talk her into coming over with you to see us just any time. It suits both of you to come. Don't forget to write and tell me about what I asked you.

Love, Georgia

June 9, 1929

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest little girl (Martha),

Well here I am back home again and as busy as can be. Houser came and fixed the back porch for me and also put a new roof on the closet and it sure looks nice. I must tell you the first thing about Rinda. She has had diabetes for some time and also a cancerous tumor in the lower part of her bowels. She has taken violently ill last Thursday night and was moved to Fort Hamilton (the new hospital) the next morning. They have no hope of her recovery. It just don't seem possible to me that Rinda is going to die. She was always so full of life.

Next Saturday is the day I am to go to the Dennisons. I sort of dread it but I always do dread going into a strange place. Do you? If Mary Reese ever asks anything about me, don't tell her anything for they know too much anyhow. Aunt Mary McWilliam's daughter Edith and her daughter are visiting us Thursday. They are from Oklahoma. Thess is awful, feeble, and looks like he could just die anytime. I got back from Mae's last Saturday. Mae and Glenn never got back from Hamilton til between 7 and 8 o'clock that evening. You were away after the doings at the cemetery. They went out to old Elisas and stayed for supper. Mae is looking for Ma Huston next Saturday to stay the balance of the summer.

How do you like your new place? Do you think you will stay there the rest of the summer? Wish you could see my garden. It sure looks good. Harry put my new fence up while I was at Mae's and it sure looks good too. Now if any chickens get in they will have to go round to the front to get there. Now as soon as I get to Dennisons, I'll drop you a card and you can write me there. As Evelyn says, "I expect" I'll be pretty busy with the youngsters but if they will not bawl at me at night, I'll come out all right. Now tell me all the news when you write and tell me if you like it. Lots and lots of love.

Mamma

June 21, 1929

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Oxford, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Here I am at the Profs. I'm mighty glad I came for they are as nice of people as you will find in a day's drive. I came here a week ago this morning and the Mrs. went to Dayton last Saturday evening and the baby came Tuesday. She stayed at her mother's until it was time to go to the hospital. That left the Mr. and 4 year old boy and the 17 month old baby here at home with me.

A colored girl comes every morning at 8 and stays til 1 p.m. And then another colored girl comes on two afternoons in the week and cleans the house from top to bottom. You say and what do you do? Well, I get supper and breakfast and there is no end to the things that have to be done for the children and a lot of what nots, that keeps me busy. I put forth my best efforts for I would like to get more jobs of this kind here in Oxford. I get \$15.00 a week here in Oxford and you know that ain't so bad for me.

I very innocently asked Mrs. Dennison if she knew Homer's wife and she says "yes, she has just gotten a divorce from her husband" and the subject dropped. Mabel Brown said the Hays said that was what come so near killing Rhoda last winter. It made me so mad at Mabels for she just rejoiced in their trouble.

When you write, let me know if you expect to come home in August. Now I'll be home and you will have a good rest while it is so hot. The Mrs. expects to come home a week from next Saturday and I rather expect they will want me to stay a few days after she gets back. It would be mighty nice if you could be home when we thresh and get a good feast. Harry's will have the threshers for about three meals. Now just write me a few lines while I'm here and that will be all of next week anyway. Now be sure and come home soon. I have not seen Mae's since I've been in Oxford. My address is 210 Tallawanda Road, Oxford, Ohio.

Oceans of love, Mamma

July 8, 1929

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Here I am at home again and was sure glad to be here. I was at Professor Dennisons 3 and one-half weeks and was never away from the house while I was there. Mrs. Dennison and the new baby got home from Dayton last night about 5 o'clock and by the time supper was over, it was too late for him to bring me home. So I got here about the middle of the forenoon and then washed this afternoon.

I received your good letter and was sure glad to get it. I nearly busted over the Reese news. Mary sure wants a man-man. Ben Austin died at the Soldier's Home last week. He had gall and liver troubles. The family are terribly broken up over his death and I feel so sorry for his mother.

Ma Huston is up at Maes now for the summer. Mae came up to Dennisons twice while I was there. It is a true bill that Homer and his wife are divorced. I heard that while I was at Oxford, I don't know if it was really true or not, but Arthur Hays said that his wife would go away so often and stay over weekends and Homer got a detective on the job. They found that she was out with other men. Don't blame him for getting rid of her.

[Next morning] There was a threshers meeting at Jim Stewart's last night and Dorothy and Jean Evelyn [Steele] came down and stayed with me while Harry went up there. Jim Stewart has high blood pressure and has not been able to do a lick of work since last March. The three girls put on overalls and take their team of horses and plow all the time. Ain't that awful?

It is so rainy they could not tell just when they could begin threshing. They are not going to give the threshers their supper this year. That is a good idea, I think.

Now Martha, you had better take a vacation in August. You will not be so run down when the fall trade sets in. I wonder if I'll ever be able to get another job. I hope so anyway.

Oceans of love, Mamma

July 11, 1929

Georgia Steele Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Will try and answer your letter today. Will get it started at least but can't promise to finish it but will do my best. Suppose you remember I said in one of my other letters that I was going to have my four upper front teeth pulled and have bridge work put in. Well, I got my four front teeth out all right and found that my bridge would cost \$30 and the rest of my upper teeth had deep fillings in them and a Dentist told me that within the next 5 or 7 years, they would all have to be pulled so I decided to have them done. All are pulled now and I get a plate for my upper jaw. My front teeth have been out 3 weeks and Tuesday of this week, I went back to the Dentist and had 5 teeth on the left side pulled and have 4 on the right side to pull. Since Tuesday, the whole left side of my face has been swollen quite a lot. Tuesday night, I didn't sleep scarcely any and I felt so sore and tired that I told John [Thompson] I must have sprained every muscle in me when he was pulling my teeth. When he pulled my eye tooth, he had John hold my head and he pulled with both hands. All I have done today is keep the hot water bottle to my face and use hot salt water. I am sitting in the kitchen over the sop bucket right now using hot salt water. All that I have been eating is Posts Bran cereal and canned vegetable soup. I don't even care for eggs.

John was away yesterday and today he is painting his Dad's barn and helping his Dad with the harvesting. I didn't go up and I thought I'd feel better at home.

Guess I have talked about myself long enough so will start answering your letter. We have had quite a lot of rain. We have kept the weeds pretty well under control this summer, You asked me if I had any new clothes, well not very many. The first of May, I bought a new coat with a small fur collar and a small bow in back. The coat was light brown and cost \$25.00. Then I got a small blue hat for \$2.00 and a tan or brown georgette dress. I don't like my dress one bit after I got it home. A pair of black patent leather shoes was \$5.00. Last Monday, I got material to make a new summer dress.

The last letter I had from Mamma she said that you and some other girls were going to take a trip north to Michigan or Niagara Falls. She had forgotten which one and that she was on the case down at Oxford and you couldn't tell how long she might be kept there. She thought with the work at home, it would not be possible for her to get away for a long time. I don't think that I will go over home this summer. Am not planning on it now. I think that we are just about as busy as some other people.

Now if you can't persuade Mamma to come your way, maybe we can plan a little extra outing after you get here. Would like for Mamma to see this part of the country once at least, but suppose if she won't come, it's not our fault.

The next time my stomach bloats, I will try your remedy. Fortunately I didn't die from the other attack.

You asked about Ruth. The Doctor kept giving her medicine for her stomach and she kept getting worse. So they took her to the Wheeling Hospital in West Virginia and had X-ray pictures taken. They said it was her appendix so she had them removed or was supposed to have them removed. But I guess they are not real sure what they did to her now. The cut is right across the middle of her instead of more to the right side. And from what they heard a certain person remark, it was something else. The Doctor at the hospital wants to see Ruth in two weeks so they are going to find out the particulars when they go back. Ruth came home from the hospital last Sunday.

How do Mae and Glenn [Huston] seem to be getting along? Honest to goodness, it seems to me that they have an awful hard time trying to make a living. Would just love to see Aileen and Myron [Huston]. Wish they were big enough to come over with you.

Gen and I still write to one another but as for any of the other girls over there, I never hear a word. Does Ethel Henning go with Herbert Rees? If she does, I'm surprised at that. Didn't suppose she would even give him a decent look unless he grows more charming with age. I didn't know that Mary R. was working in Cincinnati. That's more news. Suppose Hamilton wasn't big enough to hold her.

I intend to teach this winter. Am going back up to Germano and teach the primary room. I have the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades and John is going to teach the 7th and 8th grades in Germano. We will both be in the same building. Germano is 5 miles from Jewett and we will drive back and forth like I did last winter. This will be my eighth year teaching and my third year in Germano. Last Sunday, John and I went over to the Palmers and spent the day. Think I have been more than an hour answering your letter and have had hot sale water in my mouth all the time. But my face is still swollen. My teeth have been out two days now but I have not had the nerve to open my mouth in front of a looking glass yet. John looks at them occasionally. I will sign off for this time and hope you can persuade Mamma to come over with you. But if not, you come anyway. Write again real soon.

When Ruth was in the hospital, John, Mother, Mary and I went to see her but before I had been in her room 5 minutes, I began to feel sick and had to leave and go to the car. Don't I make a dandy to visit the sick? If must have been the smell of ether or something.

Lovingly, Georgia

August 4, 1929
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I had been out at Harrys for about ten days and came home last night and was so glad to get a letter from you. I must tell you the first thing that Charley Williams lost their oldest boy (Lewis) early yesterday morning. He had tonsilitis and the poison went through his system, settled on his kidneys and he died a horrible death yesterday morning. It don't seem possible that Lewis is dead. He was such a big, overgrown boy and didn't seem like other boys of his age. The funeral will be tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 at the house. Don't suppose I'll get to go as Harry has to help with a couple of jags of oats at Reeses and Schumakers tomorrow. I sure do feel sorry for them.

I wrote Mae when I came home from Dennisons and have never heard from her. That is about a month ago. Glenn [Huston] phoned Dorothy [Steele] that Aileen had been sick with summer grippe and tonsilitis and I suppose she got well for I never heard anything more from her. The last I heard Ma Huston was down there and I suppose she is still there. If she was not there, I'd go and help Mae cook when they threshed the oats. But if she is there, they would not have any use for me.

We had 1,233 bushel of wheat this year. Our wheat was good. I have not got any job in view now. Hope I'll get something this fall. I think you had better come home and get some sleep while it is so hot. I don't see how you keep going when it is so mighty hot. There are doing a lot of tarring on this road through here so I think that is one step nearer to having a bus line through here. I sure will go some if they ever get that started.

I've been wanting to get myself a summer dress but I can't get any place to get it and I sure a sick of my old winter duds.

Oceans of love, Mamma

August 9, 1929
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Here I am at home again. Came home last Friday morning. Found Uncle Will seemingly not very sick but serious enough. His urine is just blood but he does not suffer and feels like he would like to be walking around. But the Doctor demands that he lie in bed. The Doctor is taking him to a specialist in Cincinnati today. Mae and Glenn [Huston] are quite sure it is a cancer starting, but I sure hope they are mistaken. I do feel so sorry for him, for you know it is his nature to be doing something and the time is just a drag to him. There wasn't a thing I could do for there isn't much to do there. He is still able to go to the toilet and stand up in the bathroom while shaving. I thought I wouldn't wear my welcome out by hanging around too long.

Harry's birthday was last Saturday and Dorothy had a little surprise party for him. Glenns, Ma Huston, the LaMars, and myself was there. She had oodles of ice cream and cake and I did wish you could have been there. I am looking for a letter from you every day telling me when you will be home. Mosey right along for I am right here on the beach to be with you. Be sure and let me know as soon as possible. Now take good care of yourself and don't get run over. Write real soon.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

August 14, 1929
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Have been trying to get down to writing a few letters but it seems almost impossible. We were up at Mama's last Sabbath. We took our dinner with us and ate picnic fashion. She didn't know we were coming. We then took her down to Uncle Wills as you know, he is sick in bed and the Doctor is going to see him twice per day. All I know is that he has been passing blood in the urine. Aunt Rhoda said he had kidney and bladder trouble. I am wondering if it can be a cancer. What do you think? Mama started to take care of him. When do you expect to get home? You can come up here if Mama isn't home. You can come here whether she is home or not. Harrys were down an hour or so last Sabbath afternoon.

Had a letter from Georgia a week or so ago. Georgia wasn't feeling very good when she wrote but may be better now. I hope so. They both expect to teach this fall again at the same place Georgia taught last year.

Fix your mouth up for some fried chicken when you come. Have you had much work this summer? I have had a lot and more to come,

Harrys just dropped in at 9:00 pm. Dorothy wants to have a surprise on Harry's birthday and have Arthur LaMars and us there. Don't know if that is all or not. Wish you could come and be there also.

Will bring this to a close as it is after 10:00 pm and bedtime. Aileen and Myron have been in bed for better than 2 hours and sound asleep. Harry took some chickens to Hamilton this evening and that explains their trip down. Will close and hope to hear from or see you soon. When you come up, are you coming by yourself or will you have another girl with you?

Lovingly, Mae

September 29, 1929
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Hello kiddie, how are you? I'm a whole lot better this morning. Received your card yesterday and I was sure glad you got through OK. I suppose Ed Wright didn't offer to take you to Mae's [Huston] for Mae said you came on the bus. Did you bid the Jeffers goodbye? I'll bet you kissed Grace. Ha, ha. I'd want to scrub my mouth if I did that. If I ever run against anybody that was stinking, it was her and Lath wasn't a half degree

behind her. I had Lath, Ev, Cliff, John, Glenn and Grace for supper. It wasn't much trouble to get supper. Didn't have anything hot but the coffee but still the performance had to be gone through with and I sure did feel burned and as soon as I got the last dish washed, I packed my duds and was on the way home. Grace and Lath knew I was about on my last pins but never once did they say "I'll dry the dishes for you." Cliff offered to dry them but of course I couldn't let him do it. Don't know if Lath had anything to eat since we left or not but we won't go back to see, will we? Grace and Glenn brought me home. Ev didn't have any money ready for me. It was \$31 he owes and I hope I don't have to wait five or six months for it like I did with Gus Kirker and Charley Williams. Ev said he would get it but he didn't say when. Be sure to tell me if Mae was ready for you.

I laid round all day yesterday with my cold but it is loosed up this morning and I feel quite pearl. I'll bet you was just wore out when you got back to Cincy. But no wonder, the way you worked. Mrs. McGann is a real darling. Ida came to me and whispered in my ear, "Tell Ev to never break up his home". I thought to myself "deliver your own messages, it makes no difference to me." Ain't that your sentiments as the old woman said? Freeman kept my yard mowed while I was gone and that cost me a dollar but I didn't begrudge it for I do hate to come home and have the grass all grown up. Now I couldn't rest til I got my system relieved of all this news and you will have to write and get a load off your back. Tell me if you have had any thrills similar to what we went through. I'm sure you will want to write to Grace. Her address is in Camden. Ha, ha. Well by the way, write real soon.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

October 13, 1929
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Received your letter yesterday and was sure glad to hear from you. I have at last got about straightened up with my cold. It was by far the worst cold I've had for many a day. I just laid around for several days and couldn't bear to do anything. I've never seen hide nor hair of any of the Jeffers since I left and that is about 3 weeks. Say, I think it is too bad they don't come round with a little cash when we were so faithful to them. I never heard how he expected to run his big thing. I can tell you it makes me pretty sore when I drop shovel and spake and go and help people when they are in distress and then as soon as they get straightened up, they just dismiss me and never make any move about paying me.

I'm just wondering if I'll ever get another job, but I've no heart to take it if they are not going to pay. You want to know about the wheat. I guess everybody is done sowing but Glenn [Huston]. He is still sowing, Mrs. Huston is still at Maes and no sign of her going home. I'd like Mae to help fix my dresses a little but of course I can't go while she is there. There is a bus running from Hamilton to Richmond through Fairhaven and Morning Sun but they will neither take on or let off passengers between the two places. So we are not any better off than if it didn't run. Don't know if they will ever do any better by us or not. Have not heard a scratch from Dorde since I saw you. Neither has Mae. The Browns still ride past here and never turn their face this way.

Well, I don't know of any other news, only Clarabelle Austin started to high school at Dixon and went 6 or 7 days and just quit. Ain't doing anything and just wanders around over here, like she didn't know what to do with herself. Minnie is all out of sorts with her and I don't think any of them have a very good time. Well, I will write to Dorde and let me hear from you real soon. Harrys are all right and Jean Evelyn [Steele] will say a dozen times a day "Gamma, I'm going to Fairhaven wis you". Write soon.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

October 28, 1929
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I started to write you yesterday then this morning wrote an insurance letter on the other side of the paper. Consequently, neither party got their letter. Last week every day Grandma and I went to cooking school and learned how to make so many good things. I partly overheard a conversation over the phone and from that, I think we will probably be by ourselves by November 1. Here is hoping so I will write you again and let you know if such is the case.

Are you still cooking for yourself? Are you still at the same rooming place? Have you a job this time that you like? I sure hope so. Now just as soon as we are to ourselves again, I want you to come up. I have so many things here that I know you could use as carrots, onions, radishes, parsnips, green and red tomatoes. I still have a nice lot of tomatoes and expect to make tomato mince meat this afternoon. I washed this morning and scrubbed the porch and kitchen. I am writing you while I am waiting for the children to go to sleep. We have our heating stove up and it sure feels fine.

Mama is out at Harrys now, don't know what she is doing. She wants to come down here just as soon as someone else leaves [Mrs. Huston]. Learned to make the best light bread muffins last week. Wish you were here so you could have some but you can get some just as soon as you come.

Aileen, Myron, and I went up to Mamma's week before last and spent the day. That afternoon, the McQuiston sisters at College Corner called on Mama so our visit was cut short but it was better than none at all. Glenn has his arm out of swing and in splints but has to be very careful with it as it is awful tender.

Love, Mae

November 2, 1929

Art H. Fleischman
Cincinnati, Ohio

My Dear Friend Martha,

I am in receipt of your letter of the last week and will say that I am glad to know you are working every day and I hope that you will soon have enough money saved up to support a husband in good style. When I get married, if ever I do, I shall expect my wife to give me \$20 a day to go to the racetrack every day. So she'll have to make pretty good money and save plenty too, Also, I really do hope this is not another \$10 a week job. In fact, I shall feel disappointed in you if I find out it is.

You didn't say in your letter. Well, you are O.K., except that you don't seem to learn from life, Anyhow when I see you, you can tell me all about it. Perhaps I can borrow some dough off of you too.

I was over to the track Monday and also Wednesday and lost both times. Would have gone over today too but it is too cold and rainy. So I guess I'll go over Monday instead. Gee, what a sloppy track it is!

Well, you have come to a poor place to look for moral backing, kid. Don't worry, you are a good girl and there is no need for you to feel bad about it. And we'll try to keep control. You help me and I'll help you. I don't really think it'll work but we'll see about it anyway.

I am going to call you about 8 p.m. Sunday. As you won't get this til Monday, you will be able to look back on Sunday and see how it worked. But really there isn't anything to worry about. I hope I find you in when I phone Sunday night, I suppose we can go to a movie or something. I'd rather not if it's a nice nite.

I hope we had a good time last night. I hope you save your money Steele for Xmas is coming and that means you will need it. I do hope you're got a nice place and that it will last for a while.

I do hope I got to see you last night and you'll feel better after we "talked it out" as you mentioned. It's not really anything, Steele, so why worry?

Cheer up kid. You're a long time dead. Besides, when you cry, your nose gets red! See you next Sunday again, I suppose.

Art

November 8, 1929

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I received your letter yesterday, but I sure have been on the jump for the last ten days. Dorothy [Steele] was up at Paxtons about ten days ago and the Wilson sister told her to ask me if they could have the Missionary meeting here this P.M. Of course, I said yes, but the leaves have not been burned and cleaned up and the house had to have a good going over and so on. This last Monday p.m., Mary Williams came to spend the afternoon and then that night, Pearl Mallox and her girls came to spend the evening. Uncle Will and Aunt Rhode came for dinner last Tuesday and then the "Do" this afternoon. So I'm about all in tonight, but I sure feel like I had a good heavy load off of my system. My cold is all gone and I'd never known I had one.

I was talking to Mae the other day and telling her how glad I was that the bus line between Hamilton and Richmond made four trips each way a day but there is something about the franchise that they cannot carry passengers to and from Hamilton but Fairhaven folks can make the round trip to Richmond and return for \$1.10. I went on to say that where they got the deal completed, that it would be so nice for you that you could come right home and get off right at your own door. I don't think that suited Mae, maybe she thought you couldn't go her way anymore, but you know how hard it is for you and me to get to and from Oxford, We just have to wait til somebody gets ready to take us and often times, I'd rather stay at home than bother the other fellow. Now when we get stranded at the other end of the line, we can hop on the bus and go by the way of Hamilton for about \$1.10 and not bother anybody.

There were 25 women and about a half dozen kids here this p.m. We had sandwiches and coffee for refreshments. They seemed to have a pretty good time. Wilburn Stewart's wife has been in the hospital for about two weeks. I'm not sure but I think it is Christ Hospital. People think it doubtful if she ever gets any better. If she even gets able to be brought home, they are going to take her and the new baby to Jim Wrights for the winter. Ella Van Ausdal is very bad in the hospital at Richmond. From what I hear, they must have taken all her insides out.

I'm sure glad you have struck such a good job and hope it will last a good long time. Goodness, I wonder if I'll ever get another job. I do hope somebody will take a notion to want me real soon. But say, I don't want them to call me if their pocket book is empty. That sort of a call sure gets on my nerves.

Mrs. Huston has at last moved back to Russells and Mae is sure tickled. Mae wants me to go down and help her with a quilt, but I don't know when I'll get off. Aunt Mary down at Uncle Jims died last Saturday night and was buried Tuesday. Death was certainly kind when it called her for she was so terribly afflicted. John Stewart's wife was here this pm and she sure does look distressed. I understand that they were awfully in debt. I guess I'll have to quit and go to bed. If I get a job, I'll let you know right off. I hope you get to keep your job a good long time. Write real soon and give me all the news.

Oceans of love, Mamma

November 9, 1929

Ansel S.

Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Martha,

I won't offer any excuses for not writing sooner but I am almost ashamed that I have not done it before now.

Thanks for sending the "shower stick". I did not know you had so much "horse sense". Don't be hurt by that. I mean it only as a compliment. You wrapped it so securely and carefully.

Today is Sunday for me. I wish I had another pass. I think of you quite often although you doubt it a great deal.

Well it's the same type of weather. It is fine and I hope you are the same. By that you may judge I've about run down.

Sincerely, Ansel

November 10, 1929

Georgia Steele Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Expect you will think something else is up as I have been so long answering your letter of October 23. Well I have just been head over heels this fall and am still busy. Last Sunday, Mary Barney and John's Dad and Mother were here for dinner. Then John's Mother stayed for supper and we all went to church in the evening. Walter and the girls came to church also then. Mother went home with them. John was up home this afternoon but I didn't go. I stayed home and rested. Tomorrow is Armistice Day but we are having school anyway

Mary and Barney are moving to their new farm most anytime now. I know Mary will be glad to go because the Old Lady she is with now is so overbearing.

We have a new kitchen Cabinet. We got it from Sears Roebuck and Co. We put it in the dining room where that small table was between the kitchen and sitting room doors. It won't be long now until I will be

moving my gas hot plate in the dining room and cook in there this winter. We have both grates open. One in the dining room and one in the sitting room. There must have been more at the Eaton Fair this year than usual as it took two days to see it all. The old Ford car surely couldn't have been as bad out of working order if it could make two trips to the Fair.

I think that it was a pretty good idea to let Jean wait until Xmas to get her socks. You certainly have bought that youngster your share.

I have some of my Xmas shopping done. I got Aileen and Myron each a pair of winter underwear, no sleeves but long legs. If she wants to cut the legs off at the knee, she can do so I don't care. I don't know what to get Mamma. If you have anything to suggest, let me know. You have seen her since I have and you might know of something she would like. I owe Mae a letter so maybe I had better scratch her a few lines while I have the thing out. Hope you are getting along OK. And write when you can.

How old is Jimmy Lindsay? How long does it take a drop of blood to circulate through the body?

Lovingly, Georgia

November 10, 1929

John Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

Hello Martha,

I haven't much news to write. Oh say, are you still angry at me? How are all of your boy friends in Cincinnati? Fine, I hope. How would you like a Christmas gift like Georgia is getting for May? O.K. I suppose. How is your boyfriend in Fairhaven? Did you see him when in Fairhaven? As I am about out of room, had better stop.

From John

November 10, 1929

Mae Steele Huston

Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

At last, we are by ourselves again. Glenn's mother went down to Russell's last Sabbath P.M. Aunt Mary Walter died last Friday evening and was buried Tuesday by Grismer Grimm Funeral Parlor at Hamilton. She died down at Aunt Addas's.

I talked with Mama yesterday and she said she had a letter from you and that you were on a private duty and day nurse. Are you boarding yourself? If you are boarding yourself, let me know and I will send some things down to you. I have carrots, onions parsnips, cabbage, and green tomatoes and also ripe tomatoes that I can send fresh from the garden. I am making rolls and bread now most of the time and we think it is fine. Every time I make a batch of bread, I think of you and how much you would enjoy some of them. Now if you will let me know when you expect to be there, I will try to have a box there for you.

[10 days later] Now again, I will try and add some more to your letter. I looked for your overshoes and only find the black cloth galoshes or high overshoes. Now if I understand you, you wanted your grey all-rubber overshoes. Am I right or not? I know you had them here but they must be in your trunk. Do you want me to send the black ones? If you do, please send a card back by return il and I will mail them right away. I will hurry as Glenn has come in with a load of corn and is ready for dinner.

Mama is here and she came last Sabbath. Everyone is all O.K. here and most awful busy. I was awful glad to get your letter and will wait for an answer from you. If you can come up Thanksgiving Day, come for we expect to be home. I want you here Xmas Day anyway.

Love, Mae

November 25, 1929

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

A week ago yesterday p.m., I went down to Maes [Huston] and then came home yesterday p.m. They have commenced to shred out at Scotts this morning and I want to be there when ours is done.

I hope the weather will be good this week for it is such a nuisance when the fodder gets covered with snow. Your letter was here waiting for me when I got back. You sure are lucky to have such a good job. Everybody is fat and sassy up this way and no prospect of a job in sight. I'll dry up and fly away if I don't get a job pretty soon.

I don't believe Ev will do anything til I drop him a notice and I sure hate to do that. Mae is counting on all of us eating Christmas with her this year. I hope there won't any of us be quarantined in this year.

I haven't heard from Dorde for about three weeks so don't know anything about her. I was totally surprised when Mae told me the other day that John's sister Mary was married. Dorde never told me anything about it but then she never tells me any news. My but she does act queer. Well everybody is well and I hope to see you Christmas. But I told Mae if anybody gave me a call, I'd have to hook on to it if it did hit Christmas. It is about mail time and I'll have to close. Write soon and I'll do the same.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 11, 1929
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest little girl,

I'll bet you think I'm a bird with mighty little sense to receive such a nice present from you and never let on a word about it. Well, it was this way. I've been out at Harrys for better than 2 weeks and your dear letter came while I was there and I never got home til this morning and here it was with a fine crisp \$5 bill in it. It was pure luck for me that Clara Belle didn't know what was on the inside. It first made me cry for I know you ought to have saved it for yourself. Many, many thanks my darling, maybe I can do something for you.

I went out to Harrys to help shred and it stormed and finally they thought it would be all O.K. last Saturday. So Harry bought a lot of fresh meat and we got up a fine dinner and fed over 20 people. Bob Stewart fooled around til it got to pouring rain again and they never shredded a single ear. So I said this morning that I might as well come home. It is mighty hard to tell when they will shred now.

You surely have a good job now. Mrs. Howard Bryant (Em Hays's sister) has been having a terrible time with inflammatory rheumatism. They live on a farm down between Oxford and Morning Sun. Well he came up to Harry's a week ago Saturday evening to see if I'd go down and take care of her and do the work and what would I go for. I said \$12.50 a week. He thought that was awful high. He said he had been to see Ev Jeffers about me and Ev had recommended me very highly. He said he would go home and see his wife and see what she thought about it and would call me on the phone but they never called.

One day last week, Mildred Weed called me and said she was going to be confined in about a week and she would like for me to come and take care of her. She has 6 or 7 kids now. I told her I never took cases of that kind but she declared I could do it if I wanted to. I told her Mabel Brown was good on that kind of cases but she said she couldn't afford a nurse like her. I had an awful time to get her to understand that I wouldn't take it. Now it is an awful pity of the poor thing, but I was not going to undertake it for I'd never get anything out of it. I imagine the county will have her take care of them.

Ev has never come across yet and I told Harry to go down and see if he wouldn't let us have its worth in corn. I think he would pay it if he had it but he won't have it. Glenn and Grace Jeffers are quarantined with scarlet fever and he will have to help them so he won't have anything for himself. Ev does have a hard time but some of the rest of us do two. Wednesday night of last week, Aunt Rhoda went to her as well as usual and sometime in the night, no one knew when she was taken with one of her bad spells and was awful bad when they found her. She is better again, but I do not think that we need be surprised if we would hear of her death anytime. Uncle Will didn't know there was anything wrong til morning.

Mrs. Austin is very sick with her heart again. I see Doctor Combs is going to see her right now. She can't lie down. Do you remember R.J. Brown, who lived just East of Morning Sun and later moved to College Corner? Well he was 87 years old and one day last week, he fell over the coal bucket and hurt himself so bad that he died the next day. His wife broke her hip several years ago and is hardly able to get around and I'm hoping I'll get a chance at taking care of her. Mrs. Brown goes on crutches so you see she is not in very good shape. Wouldn't it be great if I could get a job of taking care of her even at \$12.50 a week? Goodness, I do want a job so bad. Now again, I must thank you for your Christmas present. I only wish I had something as good to

give you. You really out to take a rest but I have been off so long I told Mae that if I could get a job I like, I ought not to shop for Christmas. I think she will be disappointed if you and I don't get to visit with her for a few days.

Thursday morning, it is just as gloomy and rainy this morning as usual. This is the night of the "Pig Roast" at Eaton and all the farmer men would rather miss their grandmother's funeral than miss that. I guess they do have oceans of fun. Harry is going.

Now if you and I can we will meet at Mae's house on Christmas. But if I should get a job offered that was good, I feel like I have to get hitched in for fear somebody else would get it. You see I didn't have any job since last September and didn't get paid for that. Now you write soon and let me know what your arrangements are. If I leave home, I'll drop you a card and let you know where I am. Now do take good care of yourself and write soon. I am going to wash this morning. Many, many thanks my dear for your present.

Oceans and oceans of love, my dearest.

From Mamma

December 17, 1929

Mae Steele Huston

Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Have thought I would get to write you but I didn't get to it. I have been busy sewing. Mamma expects to come down the last week and will be her for Christmas. Now of course I want you to come for Christmas. You can come any time before, after, or on the day just as you see fit.

You asked what each of us wanted now. I know we are not easy to please. If you could get any stocking. Myron got nothing less than a 4 and Aileen doesn't need more than a size 6. I got both a pair the other day and gave them each a doll. The rest of the things are necessities. Now don't get a lot of things. What do you want? Everyone is all O.K. Dorothy said she got Mamma a pair of scissors.

If you know any news, write some. We are going to have a Christmas tree. Youngsters are making play an old Santa.

Love, Mae

January 13, 1930

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I read your card and was glad you arrived all O.K. Mae wants to know if she will return for all the carrots that were forgotten? Everybody is well. We are washing this morning. Didn't get much done last week.

Aunt Jennie was here for dinner one day and Mae and Glenn went to Hamilton on different days so he was gone. We got the comforter finished and also the dresses for the little girls and one dress cut out for me. Nobody came yesterday. Mae and Glenn went to church. There has been lots of high water since you left. Haven't heard from Dorde since you left. Write soon and let us know how you're coming on. Sure hope you get work at a good place. Write soon.

Lots of love, Mamma

January 24, 1930

Ancel S.

Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Martha,

Surprised? Pleased? I don't doubt the first and I hope so for the second. I'm late but I've not forgotten you. I often think of you and promise myself I'm going to get at writing but have put it off from time to time.

I was a long time answering after I received the "wanka shout". But after I did and I received no reply, I thought you were angry with me until I received the dandy greeting and nice "kerchief". Thanks a lot for both and all the sentiment and kind thoughts and the gift.

I noticed this card was sent from Oxford, Ohio. How come? I hope you were not ill or none of your folks. Hope that you were only visiting for pleasure sake.

Well "Sister Sue", I may be coming up there again when Spring comes and when I do you may expect to see me. I hope we can have a better time next time.

Your buddy, Ancel

January 27, 1930
Art H. Fleischman
Mobile, Alabama

Friend, Steele [Martha],

Well, this is the best hotel in town, but that ain't saying much! This joint wouldn't rank so high in Fairhaven. Not a bath to be had! Fortunately, I had a swell joint in Montgomery. I was so comfy I had a notion to stick around awhile. But it wasn't much of a town, And Birmingham! Watch out! Don't mention that name. I might bite you. The darned shows were closed and it was go to church or leave town! So I left town. I left and went to Montgomery, the capital.

There are lots of reasons why people leave home. But offhand, I'd say Montgomery, Alabama was not one of them. Most of the people I met on the street were niggah mammies walking around with big bundles of washing balanced on their heads. The first ones I saw had bundles in their hands too. So I thought they used their heads because they didn't have enough hands to go round. But later on, I saw several high browns and dirty blacks just sauntering along as pretty as you please, hands in their coat pockets, and big bundles on the cranial stove as Doc Loeymiller would say.

Anyway to date, I've seen little to make me glad I left Cincy. This town is the berries. One swell building and a million shacks and as for the coons, wheee! Plenty! Looks like chitlin's day in dear old Fairhaven. I went to 2 movies. Just imagine! One is a real nice place and about half a dozen are like the 10 centers in Cincy, just storerooms. Apple-suss!

Well I can't get out of town til 4:20 Tuesday but I'll be there when the train leaves. I'll be ready as soon as I've had a good look at Mobile Bay. Biloxi, Mississippi is next. Then New Orleans before Saturday.

Now Steele, be a good girl and use the old noodles. I'm sure missing you so far. Don't forget to write me at New Orleans and tell me about this so-called Ridge Rest job you are on now. I do hope it is not one of those \$10 a week things, kid.

Let me hear from you at New Orleans, Steele and don't delay as I'll not stay there very long. Love me a little bit for Auld Lang Syne.

Sincerely, Art

January 30, 1930
Aileen Huston [Iglehart]
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Aunt Mary,

I received your pretty and birthday card and sure was tickled to get a letter addressed to me. I made me feel so big. Mother made my doll a dress for my birthday and it looks like a night gown. I am just getting over chicken pox; don't know where I got them. Myron hasn't had them.

Lovingly, Aileen

January 30, 1930
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Aileen was so tickled to get her card. I have finished your Christmas apron but want to put it in the wash next Monday then will send it to you. Mama left January 19 to go over to John Doners at College Corner. They had the gripe but she expected to go home today (Thursday).

My old biddies (chickens) are doing better and I got up to 28 eggs per day. Hope they will soon be doing better. I think Mama expects to come back here again. I made her a dress, the one we gave her also the one Georgia gave her. We still had more sewing to do. Want to make Aileen some bloomers and Myron suits, besides a comfort for the children's bed. I am planning on stepping out tomorrow evening. Am going to the Kings/Daughters Banquet at Oxford. Daddy will keep the youngsters and put them to bed.

Guess I don't know any news. Write when you can. Harry finished shredding fodder today. Helen Harrison moved last week. They don't live far from Milton.

Lovingly, Mae

January 31, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

Well, here I am at home again and sure glad to get here. I gave 7 days and went to Ano Dowers near Cottage Grove a week ago last Saturday morning. There is the Jr. and Mrs. and a 10 year old girl in the family. They were all sick with the grip. Mabel Brown was there 3 days. They all got better and I came home yesterday afternoon.

It was cold as blizie and I didn't get up til 8 this morning. Ain't that awful? Out there I'd lay, while laying was good. I had a very nice visit at Maes and we got a good lot of odd jobs done that she never could get done when alone, such as comforts and cushions. I talked to her this morning and they were all right. They were getting ready to go to Hamilton today.

Oh yes, I wrote a note to Ev this morning and now we will hold our breath and see what happens. All I ask, is just what belongs to me. Bob Austin got in a dog fight and died and I suppose from the way Minnie carries on, she will appear in morning weeds. She scolded poor old Mrs. Austin because she grieved over Ben and now she is making a terrible huss over that worthless cur. I guess he won't lift his leg and water my hedge grass. It is pretty near mail time so I'll close. Write and give all the news. I hope I get another job somewhere.

Lots of love, Mamma

February 5, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Just four years ago tonight that Papa and I spent our first night here in Fairhaven. A long time isn't it? Harrys have bought a new "Whipper" and they came along this morning on the way to College Corner and invited me to go along so I did. Dorothy, Evelyn and I called at Uncle Wills, while Harry went on downtown. Aunt Rhoda is not very good and has commenced to doctor with Doctor Bond. Goes 2 or 3 times a week. She thinks he is as good as peaches. He stayed about 2 hours and talked overall of Rhoda's sickness and how well him and Rinda liked "little Martha" (meaning you).

I could see he was thoroughly sick of John Bell. He stays with him and does the cooking and said he had not asked him to stay there next summer, that he didn't do a thing there only the cooking. I think Ev is about tired of all the Bells except Rinda.

You will be surprised when I tell you that Gladys Maddock was buried yesterday afternoon. She was 37 years old and had been married three times. Her first husband died and she was left with two children. She was divorced from her second husband and had been married to her last man less than a year. It was voiced around that she had a baby and died from blood poisoning and her little 7 year old girl was quarantined with scarlet fever. Her boy was about 11 or 12 years old. The funeral was at John Waddocks and she was buried at Camden. Poor Gladys, she sure had quite a career and gave her parents lots of worry. Ella Scouller is worse again. Many says she is worse than she has ever been. Doctor Combs was to see her this evening.

Evert Warren came to see me Monday afternoon to see if I would go to College Corer and take care of his mother, Mrs. Emma Warren. She is sick at her daughters, Mrs. Montgomery's but she was so homesick to go to her own home. But the Doctors decided she was not able to be moved to her own home and Tuesday morning, Evert phoned back to me that they would not be able to move her for a week and they would not need me til she got over to her own home. I don't know if I'll get to go or not. I sure hope I will.

Am mighty sorry that you are not getting as much work as you want, but maybe things will come our way yet. Mabel Brown came in this evening and told me that we are going to have some opposition. Mrs. Havenridge has decided that she would like to go out of nursing. I don't know how she would stand the test for the Bishops are so snappy.

All of Mae's family were here yesterday for dinner, even Hina and little Margaret Bell. Margaret had her eyes rolled around to one side so sassy as ever. I don't know what is the matter with Mae but about one day out of a month she is so languid and feels so bad that she can hardly move. Now she seemed all right yesterday but felt so bad today. I'm so afraid there is something serious working on her. You know that Glenn had 42 nice pigs and the chickens got out and animals killed 20. Don't that beat anything? The Richmond and Hamilton bus stopped for a week but have started up again. The Fairhaven people complained so feeling better now.

The word is being passed round that Sarah Brandenburg is going to have another kid. So far, I'm concerned and I wouldn't go there if I never got another job. Now I go to College Corner. I'll write you immediately and then you can write me. I am supposed to be home the rest of this week anyway. Mae got the new stairs up yesterday and they look beautiful. Now darling, take good care of yourself and write real soon. Have you called the "Minister" lately?

Oceans of love, Mamma

February 11, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Here I am at home yet I have not heard a word from Masons yet. Look like they thought they would do the work themselves and of course a person can't blame them if they can do it. But I sure wish I could get a job somewhere. Word was passed around last Sabbath morning that Nellie Shepherd had died the evening before at 8:30 pm in the hospital at Hamilton. Several years ago, she was operated on for appendicitis and the incision never healed up right and she had been sort of complaining for a year but had been very sick for the last week. She told George that there was no use to operate, there would just be that much more expenses. But he wanted her to have the benefit of the last chance that he could give her and the poor girl died in the operating room. She made all the arrangements for her funeral. The funeral services were held in their home in Oxford and the burial was at Fairhaven. For the benefit of the Fairhaven people who could not go to Oxford, the Fairhaven Presbyterian church was warmed this morning and they took the casket in the church to let the friends view the remains. I was there and I suppose there were about 50 people there. I would never have known that it was Nellie although that sort of smile that she always had.

As soon as I got home and by the time he got back, dinner was ready and I had them all for dinner. I just happened to be fixed so that I got a very decent meal. I had sausage and mashed potatoes, bread and butter, blackberry jam, pear butter, beets, fruit cake and coffee. They all seemed to have a good time.

If you run out of money, come home til things pick up. It sure won't always be this way.

Oceans and oceans of love, Mamma

February 17, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest little girl,

I just went over to the Post Office and received your letter. Last Friday morning before breakfast, the phone rang and it was McCrearys wanting me to go to College Corner to take care of Mrs. Jim McCreary, who had mastoid trouble. Of course, I couldn't say "yes" quick enough for I keep my duds packed all the time. We were soon on our way. She had been sick only a few days and had not been doing any good and kept getting worse all the time. At midnight Saturday night, Riley Miller came with his ambulance and they took her to Christ Hospital. They did not operate til yesterday afternoon and Ina McCreary called me a few minutes ago and said she had just about 1 chance out of four. She is 72 years old. I was there only 2 days but I sure had to step while I was there. I came home yesterday morning and have laid round ever since. I wasn't sick but was tired and thought I'd lay while laying was good. Don't a fellow's nerves just snap when they are so work brittle and can't get work.

Mae [Huston] is going to butcher this week and wants me to go down there but I'm to take all my nursing togs along so if anybody says "come", I can go. It is about mail time so I must close. Mrs. Warren is a little better but I do not know whether they expect to use me or not. Mrs. Heavenridge is wanting to go out nursing and I have to be Johnny on the spot or she will get ahead of me.

Oceans of love, Mamma

February 18, 1930
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along these days? We are getting along very well. I have some cold in my nose this week but am going to try to get right as soon as possible.

I had a letter from Mae [Huston] yesterday and she sent me several clippings and told me to send them on to you so will do it while it is fresh on my mind. It was an account of the death and funeral of Nettie Shepherd Simpson, Was surely sorry to hear of her death. It has been years since I had seen her. Don't believe I have seen her for at least nine or ten years, but never less, I had not forgotten her. Did you ever hear that Gladys Maddack was dead? She died some time ago, at least a month ago.

Mae said that they expected to butcher next week and she thought that Mamma would be with her again for a few days. Last Saturday, I had a few lines from Mamma and she was expected to go to College Corner to take care of Mrs. Emma Mann. Said that if she went she would drop me a card. But I haven't received any yet. Let me hear from you whenever you can find time to write. Is work picking up any? Hope you can find something to do. Take care of yourself and write

Most lovingly, Georgia

February 20, 1930
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

We butchered yesterday and am sending you a box. I canned your meat and want you to use the spare ribs first as I don't have them cooked enough or the way that they would keep. Anything I can do to help you, just say so. For I will do anything I can.

Love Mae

February 20, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I sent you a couple of dollars a few days ago and hope you have it before this. I am sending you 2 more dollars today and let me know if you want me to send you a check and for how much for if you don't have the necessities of life, you won't be able to work when you get a job.

I don't want any children to go hungry. We all have our times when we are not making so much so brave up, maybe there is something just round the corner for you. Times are hard and people won't hire till they just have to.

Oceans of love, Mamma

February 26, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Oxford, Ohio

My dear little girl,

We were so tickled that you struck a job. I'm hoping I'll get one soon. Be very careful that you don't get the flu. I am sending you 4, one-dollar bills, but Mae is sending you 50 cents that she says she owed you. Don't know how long I'll be here, but just send my letters here til you hear from me. The 50 cents is included in these bills. Nothing new that I know of. Mrs. McCreary is better but is still in the hospital. Be very careful you don't get sick. I'll write again soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

February 26, 1930
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

You asked about the pillow tops. Well, I wrote to two different companies but could never even get an answer from them. I answered another job ad that I think sounds good, I will try it if I can find time. There would also be work that you could do and would bring in something. I will send you some of the literature. I am also answering another ad. Will let you know the outcome.

I owe you 50 cents, which is the difference on the underwear. It is included in the money Mama is sending. Glad you got a job for we all want to make some money so bad. Wish you were here for dinner soon. Sauer kraut, backbone, and muffins is the menu.

Love, Mae

March 14, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
At Mae Steele's home
Oxford, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I have been with Mrs. R.J. Brown at College Corner the last week and a night before last. Riley Miller took her to Christ Hospital and Roy Wright and myself went with him to Cincinnati. We were gone about 3 hours, The Doctor said she might last a few days and she might pass away any minute. I came back to Maes [Huston] yesterday morning but expect to Fairhaven next Sabbath. Glenn and Mae went to Harry's [Steele] today. Everybody is pretty well. Hope you are not as tired as I am today. I am just laying around and resting.

Oceans of love, Mamma

March 18, 1930
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I am writing you just a line to say that Mama is out on another case near College Corner. Kattie Malone is also there. It is a maternity case. Mama said for you to send all mail here as she will have to get her things form here before she goes home.

Aileen and Myron both have colds. Glenn has a little one but I am O.K. How are you? I haven't heard from Georgia for a long time, a month or better. When did you hear last? Is business picking up for you any better?

Love, Mae

March 22, 1930
Art H. Fleschman
San Francisco

Friend, Steele [Martha],

How are you Martha? And what are you doing to amuse yourself? I do hope that work is lots better than it was at the time you last wrote me and that you are enjoying some nice weather and wearing some new spring clothes.

I got paid yesterday for a week's work here, real hard work too. That's not agreeing with my neuritis very well. I think I'll take just one more week of this job and then quit and try the papers. But I am glad to be doing something after 7 weeks of loafing.

I certainly had a good time once I got past Biloxi, Mississippi where there was a cold rain falling. But from there on, I have enjoyed all good weather, in San Antonio being hottest of all. But San Diego and Los Angeles also had nice weather. However, Frisco has them all beat fort this last week has been just like summer. I hope it keeps up.

I did not get a letter from you at New Orleans so I guess it was returned to you. Am having an awful time out here. I have to get up at 6:30 a.m. every day and believe me, that's some job for me. I do not think I care to do that for long at a time.

Not having much fun, as I don't know many people out here at all and all I do is go out to the beach and look at the Pacific. I came up from Los Angeles by boat on the "Yale" and it was some fine ride. I did not get seasick much. But it's just as well the ride ended when it did.

Well Marty, I'm going out and soak up some sunshine now. Thanks for the enclosure. You know I swore off, don't you. I told you I was going to do it. Be a good girl and write me a letter and tell me all the news.

Your friend, Arthur

April 30, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Last Saturday night, the water broke but the rest of the baby never wanted to come, til it made a pop at 3 o'clock this morning. The doctor would say "just let it take its course" and I have been about wild this week because I knew there was only trouble laid up for me. I could not convince John that it would just not come and would produce inflammation. Yesterday afternoon, his mother and sister came down and they were just with me and we told him if the Doctor was at the end of his string, that she must go to the hospital. So all arrangements were made for them to start at 8 o'clock this A.M. for Wheeling, West Virginia. The Doctor is upstairs attending to Georgia now. She has a fibrous growth that will have to be taken away as soon as she is able to go. I will write you every day and I'm afraid the fever will set in, now that it has come. There is sure a good chance for infection. When you write to me, don't write anything you would not be willing for John and Georgia to read. I couldn't get even a card out that they didn't read and I don't think that is fair. I'll write you again tomorrow. I wrote a letter to each one of you yesterday, but found they would want to read them so I burned them and sent a card.

Love, Mamma

May 21, 1930
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you this fine hot day? I am tired to pieces today. Moved the little chicks out yesterday, put out some plants, run the tractor for Glenn. Almost enough for the day, don't you think? I suppose you have your Dixon Alumni Banquet invitation for May 31. That is the date of the McGuffey Alumni.

Our old Ford is on the blink and we are almost afraid to take it out any more for fear we won't get any place. We are sorry to disappoint you about the Dixon Alumni but you know how things are. Harry was down here the other night and said he wanted to go to Dixon but Dorothy won't go. She said you and Harry could go. You can write me and I can call them now if you would want to go that way. I am sorry we won't be able to go. Mamma went home from Oxford Tuesday evening. Mrs. Johnson died. Don't know anything else.

Love, Mae

PS Well write more later. Come up when you can.

May 25, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

You wonder what has become of me but the next morning after you left Mae's, Miss Johnson at Oxford called up to see if I could come up "for a few days" and help take care of her mother. I went and was there 3 weeks and 1 day, when the old lady died. She had bowel trouble and we sure had a terrible time of it. Gangrene set in at last and the order was something terrible the last week she lived. I was just all in when I left there and Harry came for me the next evening. I have been as busy as a bee ever since.

My work got so far behind here at home that there is so much to do, that I don't know where to begin first. Harry had made the big part of my garden and it is coming on fine. I got a call yesterday from down below College Corner, but would not consider it at all. The jobs I've had this Spring have been so hard. They plum wore me out. Uncle Mathess still lives but is gradually going down. His side is paralyzed and he is gradually wearing out. He is sure a great care to them.

I have not heard from Jim Williams since I left there. I heard that El Thompson had come and stayed a few days with them. So I suppose Mary was satisfied. I sure don't envy El her job. My oh my but Mae has got

an awful lot of work on hand. Now that she has taken the job of going to Hamilton every week is enough to kill her and then her chickens and she is also trying to raise garden stuff to sell. But she thinks she will be perfectly happy if she can only get the Huston's off to Florida.

Are you getting any work these days? I don't know if the kids are going to any of the banquets this year or not. Have not heard from Georgia for any how 6 or 7 weeks. Have you? I must close and write her a few lines. Take good care of yourself and write real soon and do give all the news.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

June 10, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Arrived last night at 5 after 5. Changed cars at Dennison. Had a wait of 5 minutes. I hardly know what to say about Georgia. She is not confined to bed although she lies most of the time. I'm puzzled to know just what the trouble is. The Doctor was not here yesterday and I don't know if he is coming today. We all went to bed last night. There wasn't a move out of the ordinary all night. John's sister was here yesterday but went home last night. As I see it, you had better not come til we see how things are going to be. You might be needed worse later on. I sure hope somebody will come round today to see what the real situation is. There was a discharge Saturday night and that lump has gone down and it is not painful now. I'll write you a letter today ad give more details. Hope you are not on a hard job. I will write a letter today. Let us hear from you.

Lots of love, Mamma

June 12, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I intended to write you a letter today but did not want to write til she got up and got the latest. She came out to the breakfast table this morning to eat. The Doctor was here this morning and will call again this p.m. to see if everything is o.k. The Doctor claims she is coming on all right. She had the flu too. I'll send word of some kind tomorrow.

Oceans of love, Mamma

June 15, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Of course, you got my letter telling your of Georgia's mishap and that they did not go to Wheeling Friday a.m. Well, she seemed pretty fair from that til yesterday afternoon when she got to having pains. We thought it was because her bowels hadn't moved enough. John went to see the Doctor and he gave him some tablets to move her bowels and they did move, but still she had pains. She was restless all night and couldn't sleep. This morning, the Doctor came and was going to leave some more bowel tablets. He got up off the chair when Georgia had a pain and gave a scream and the Doctor said "maybe I had better examine your bowels" where lo and behold what do you supposed he found? Another baby, a girl this time. Now I'm just scared green. I don't know what might happen after all that corruption lying in there a week. She is asleep now but we had to give her two tablets to get her to go to sleep. Mrs. Thompson had been here for 2 days but she went home last night. But we sent for her and she came back today. Johns's folks think we should have another Doctor and I think so to. But John says this Doctor can do as much as any of them so I don't know what John will do. I'll write you again soon. Oh yes, when the Doctor came downstairs, I asked if he thought there was a tumor there and he said "we don't know anything we don't see."

Love, Mamma

June 17, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

We think Georgia is coming on better now, that the worst is over. Do you expect to come over this way this summer? Don't know when I'll go home. Mrs. Thompson thought maybe she would go today. I was mighty glad she was where could be here too. How long to your think your case might last? Of course, John is walking the straight and narrow path while us old ladies are here.

Love, Mamma

June 18, 1930

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I read your letter this a.m. and am thankful to say that she is coming on O.K. now. But I think it's about time, don't you. We have been seeing the Doctor twice a day and everything seems to be cleansed all right. She does not have any temperature. If she continues to improve, I think I shall start for home about a week from today. Don't think they will need me at all by that time. I do not think there will be any occasion for them to go to Wheeling. When I get home, be sure to come home for a few days anyhow.

Lots of love, Mamma

June 20, 1930

Mrs. Robert (Emma Steele)
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Received your letter and everything is coming on all right now. We'll try to sit up a little in the chair tomorrow. Appetite is very good and we have been using the d--- twice a day for several days. Don't see any reason for any disturbance now. How are you coming on with your patient by this time? Dorothy says Uncle Mathess remains about the same. Take good care of yourself and write soon.

Love, Mamma

June 26, 1930

Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I surely owe you a letter. You surely pleaded your case well when you wrote Mamma telling her to stay with us longer but it was like pouring water on a duck's back. Mamma made up her mind last week that she was going home yesterday (Wednesday) but there was an all-day sale here in Jewett that John wanted to go to so she decided to stay one day longer. So this morning, John took her to Dennison so that she could get a thru train to Richmond and not have to change from the time she got on until she got off at Richmond.

I came downstairs last Sunday and was in bed all that day in the parlor then beginning with Sunday dinner. I have been going out to the table to eat. Mamma said I looked so well and was coming along fine so she couldn't see any need of her staying. She said that John and I could get along all right now. With John's help, I got dinner and supper today. I try to keep off my feet all I can. The Doctor is coming back in a day or so to give me another examination to see if everything is O.K.

Mamma was awfully interested in her garden or at least she tried to make it an excuse to get back to Fairhaven. Would love to see you and Mae. There is oceans I would like to tell you but she really seemed more interested in her garden than she did in anyone by the name of Thompson. John's folks were awfully good to come in and help. John's mother was here four days and nights then Lucy was here a day and night. John took Mamma up to his Dad's Tuesday afternoon and she was there for supper. I didn't go as they thought I had better not ride in a machine yet. I didn't even go to Dennison this morning.

Mae wrote a letter also telling Mamma to stay with us at least two weeks long but guess she may as well saved her wind for something else. John says that we are going over home the last of July or the first of August, but I hardly know about it yet. If we should go, I would like for you to arrange to come back with us. Of course, we would go in the machine.

Well, I will stop for this evening and take care of myself the best I know how. Am glad to know that you have work now. Write when you can and take care of yourself. Thanks ever so much for writing Mamma and trying to persuade her to stay longer. Please destroy this letter to be on the safe side.

[Friday afternoon] The Doctor was here this afternoon and examined me again and says there is no growth. He says that I can go out riding now.

You had better plan to take your vacation in August and September and come over and see us. I haven't given my consent for a trip home but will let you here from us when we make our final decision. John is waiting to take this to the Post Office so I will stop for now. Write when you can.

Most lovingly, Georgia

June 27, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Arrived home last night about 6:30 all right. Georgia is coming along fine and I can truthfully say that I don't feel like I'm shirking my duty when I came home. There isn't anything special on over there. She slept and I can get them eats, just fine. I'm sure they will be coming this way in a month or so. Georgia is in fine spirits, so write real soon.

Lots of love, Mamma

August 28, 1930
L.G. Johnson
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Miss Martha Steele,

I have not heard from Pat. I see by the paper that Patsy is mixed up in the Bruck case. I did not know it was the same Patsy. Plunkett was returned last Monday from Detroit by Detective Carney. Hall will return about Saturday. It will be an interesting case.

Have you heard from your lawyer? Have you seen Miss Rees? I think Mr. Huston gave her an unjust deal. Miss Rees went home last Friday and gave Mr. Long your address. While one of the girls and I was eating water melon, I thought of you. Do you have melons up in the country?

As ever, L.G.

September 28, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

Dear Georgia and Martha,

How are you folks coming on these days? We have all been having an awful time with the summer colds that have been going around. The missionary meeting was to have met here at this house a week ago, but I felt so burned with the cold, that I didn't feel like cleaning up for them so I begged off and didn't have it.

We have been busy canning apples, plums, peaches, beans, and grapes. I am going down to Maes [Huston] this week and take my cabbage along and make the sour kraut and when we get the pumpkin cold packed, I think the fall canning will about be over. There is nothing new except that Presbytery will meet at Fairhaven a week from Tuesday. I heard that they were expecting 200 for dinner and supper. They had hired the women of the Methodist Church to furnish the eats. I'm wondering where the money is to come from.

Uncle Mathess remains about the same. They have a bad time with his face and eyes being sore. It will not be long til he has another birthday and be 87 years old. Is Martha's hair about long enough to do up? I hope so. The Hamilton Fair is this week and I'll take care of Mae's youngsters while she goes. Guess I'll go down there about Tuesday. I think we had frost last night. Write when you can.

Lot and lots of love, Mamma

October 9, 1930
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Guess it is about time that I am sending a few lines your way as I have had two letters and none to you. We are both all right. Have not heard or felt anything out of the ordinary with my appendix. John seems to complain of feeling better also. Last Saturday, we were in Steubenville and John got a bottle of Pierces Golden Medical Discovery and we are both taking it. Think it is helping us feel better. Am glad that all your worries with your tooth are over, only is too bad you had to lose it all together, The week after you left, I cleaned your room up, washing the curtains and other things in the room needing washing, This week I washed the curtains and bedding in our room.

We have the grate in the dining room open now, Have been making plum butter this week. A week ago today (Thursday), Dad, Mother, Walter and Lucy went to the Carrolton Fair. Ruth didn't care to go so she spent the day with me. Last Sunday afternoon we went up home for a while. Nancy and Elwood were there also Mary and Barny. Mrs. Pittenger the neighbor that was so sick when you was here died and was buried yesterday p.m. I went to the funeral with the folks. I called on Mrs. Harriman this p.m. It was the first time we had talked to one another since you left. Guess she isn't mad at me yet.

Oh yes on Monday after you left a truck came from Newcomerstown and moved Tiltens so they are gone, Another vacant house right here in plain sight. I wrote Mrs. Graham and asked her to come here Friday evening of this week. But she couldn't come so don't know whether she will get here this winter now or not.

Don't exactly know when John's Mother is coming down. Seems like there is so much work to be done up there it keeps them all busy. I wouldn't care if Mrs. Johnson did get mad. I wouldn't pay her for keeping my belonging if there was any way of getting out of it. Do hope that you will get a call on a good job in a very few days. Yes, I have had one letter from Mamma it came a few days after you left. Will send it to you with this letter. Yes, Mae wrote me that Mamma and the rest at the farm have been having colds.

Guess my canning is about over for this year. I have so many green tomatoes so am going to try to make some tomato mince meat. Am going to send you a box in the morning and you should get it sometime Saturday. You should be on the lookout for it. Please drop me a line when you get the box so I'll know it got there O.K.

Am glad you got to talk to Louise when you were in Dayton but was sorry to know that she was getting a divorce. Wonder what the trouble could have been? Will stop for tonight and send a package out in the a.m. with this letter. Hope this finds you all right and do hope that you get a job very soon.

Lots of love, Georgia

October 15, 1930
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I received an invitation to Mary Reese's shower Saturday pm. I suppose you have one too, I am planning on going so if you can go, please come up and go with me. If you are not on a case, it will give you a chance to get away.

Come Friday evening or not later than 11:30 am Saturday. Hope you can come. Bring your suitcase empty as I want to send some things back with you. The shower is to be at Hazel Byer's home The Byers, Clarissa Smith and Ethel Henning are hostesses.

Be sure to come and I will look for you at the bus station at Hamilton Friday pm. Any time before the 5:00 bus as I guess I had better leave for home by 5. Hoping to see you.

Much love, Mae

October 30, 1930
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you these days? I am coming along pretty good now. Last Thursday morning, a week from this am, about 8 o'clock just before John started to school, the tea kettle and I got into a mix up and I got burned from my knees to my ankles with hot water. It was all my own fault. I picked the tea kettle up and poured some water out of it then set it back on the hot plate or so I thought. It fell over on the table, the lid flew off, and out poured the water. I was in a hurry and set the tea kettle too near the edge. John was at the sink getting a drink and had his back to me. Guess he wondered what was going on. I got my stockings down and John plastered my

legs with soda mixed in lard. They did not blister very much. John fixed me up the best he could and by the time it was way past time for him to be starting school so he stopped at Mrs. Arbaughs and asked her to come up when she had time. So after a while, she came and fixed me up real good. Mrs. Harrison was in also. They even washed my breakfast dishes for me. I have been bandaging them with unguentine salve and gauze. They have been awfully sore but are much better now.

Last Saturday afternoon, the weather was real nice so John took me to Germano to the Dentist and I had that tooth in my upper jaw pulled. It was a wisdom tooth. Thought I might as well nurse a sore jaw while I had to stay in and nurse burns. Am awfully glad that the tooth is out now. The gum is healing nicely.

John's Dad bought a heatrola and had it set up yesterday. Ruth stopped in on her way to prayer meeting and told me about it. Edna is coming home this Friday evening and may bring her roommate with her.

Last evening, John and I got an invitation to a Halloween party up at Dean Bakers Saturday evening, November 1. If my burns are well enough, I think we will go. Mrs. Dean Baker was here at Nancy's shower. She sat on the davenport with the purpose dress and slippers. She had her two children with her.

In my last letter from Mamma, she said that Mae [Huston] and Dorothy [Steele] were at Mary Reese's shower. Suppose that Mae had to take that dirty thing with her. Am sorry that you could not have gone but am awful, awful glad to know that you have work again. Hope you have a lasting job. Do you think that nursing is picking up since you went back? In my spare time, I am making my Xmas things. Nothing very expensive but still it will be something.

We had more beets than I cared to can so we pulled them and put them in the cellar. If you could use them I could send you enough beets and carrots for a few meals. Let me know when you could best use them and I will send them. Seems like we couldn't sell beets so we put them in the cellar rather than see them freeze.

Mamma is away on a case again. Don't that beat you? Will stop for this time as I want to get my good black dress out and look it over and see if it is O.K. to wear. Haven't had it on since way last spring. How are you getting along with your dresses? I wrote to Mae yesterday, you today, and must get a few lines out to Mamma not later than tomorrow.

Take good care of yourself and hope that you can get steady work so you can meet all your bills on time. Have you thought to write Mr. Holcomb about that first payment of your insurance or whatever it was? Don't put it off too long. Write when you can.

Don't worry about my burns as they are coming on O.K. now. They about had me laid up for a few days. John is Secretary of the city water board now.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 30, 1930

John Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you getting along? Do you have anyone to fuss with over your way? I thought I would write you a few lines to get a little information. Have you even been on any cases of varicose veins? If so, what is the treatment and outcome of your experience? Would appreciate any information very much.

My mother's limbs are hurting quite a lot. Guess they have running sores now. If you have ever had any experience with that, tell us about it.

Be sure to vote for Al Smith on Tuesday!

From John

November 30, 1930

Georgia Steele Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

This is the last day of November and such a dreary day as it is. It have been raining off and on all day today. We are surely glad to get every drop of rain that falls. We surely had cold weather Wednesday night, Thursday and Friday. Last Wednesday pm, John had a Thanksgiving program at his school. I went to school with him Wed am and was thee all day.

On Thursday (Thanksgiving), we went up home and helped butcher three hogs for his Dad. Mother and I went over to Marys on Monday to help her and Barney butcher and was not to get home until today. So there wasn't anyone up home on Thanksgiving except Dad, Walter, Wayne John, Ruth, Lucy, and myself. We had chicken, mashed potatoes, etc for dinner.

Where were you and what were you doing Thanksgiving Day? It has been better than a month since I have heard from Mae or Mamma. I know that Mae is kept awfully busy but why doesn't Mamma write? The last I heard of her she was getting ready to go to Maes but I don't know where she is now.

I have been working on things for Christmas for a long time. Good think I started early or I never would have been ready by the time Xmas gets here. I made Ruth and Lucy each night gowns, Mother Thompson a cushion. Have made one center piece and am starting another one.

We got one hog from John's Dad several weeks ago and we expect to get another hog this week. This hog is from Uncle Oliver Thompson. The place where we were for Sunday dinner two years ago when you were here. If you will be at your room or where you could us it, I could fry some liver, a little side of sausage or two and send it to you in a box. I could have it marked perishable like the vegetables I sent were marked and you would get it in a very short time. I know the fresh meat would taste good and save you from buying for a few meals.

Was just awfully glad to know that you had your books all paid for and some saved for your insurance. Hope that you have been having work and will be able to pay off your insurance when it comes due. I got a notice form my insurance a few days ago. It is due December 26th and the amount of the premium is \$49.63 and the dividend reduction is \$6.18 so the net premium is \$43.45. All that I am going to pay is \$43.45.

How did the wedding come off? Wish I could see you and get the particulars. Now don't spend any money on us for Christmas. Times are too hard and just notify the rest of the fact and hold on to what money you have for emergencies. Are you expecting to go up to Maes for Xmas or can you tell so far ahead?

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 2, 1930
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

What in the world has become of you? I've been looking every day for a letter but still it don't come. I stayed a week at Maes [Huston] after you went away and about three days after you went away, Mae had a bad spell with her heart in the night and the next forenoon. She just acted like she could die easier than anything else. He took her to the Doctor after dinner and she laid around and got better. One great trouble with them is they want to take in all the "social functions" that come along and they can't do that and attend to their work too. I can tell you, they had better keep track of their work or the landlord will invite them to move on.

Aunt Addie Lou was buried yesterday afternoon. You remember she has been sick for a good many weeks. Ma. Huston is still over at Persons. I think there must have been a blowout down at Russells.

I was out at Harrys [Steele] Thanksgiving day. We had fried chicken and you can bet it was good too, Where were you? I have not landed any job yet but sure hope to land one soon. I keep my clothes ready so I can go at an hours warming. Are you still counting on that 2 weeks job for the old millionaire? Hope you can get the job.

Oh yes, Sam Steeles are looking for a new kid along about Christmas time. Don't you think they need one? He is not working and their neighbors say they do the big part of their eating up at Birdies, Uncle Matthew is still just lying there and it just about makes me sick when I look at him. Arthur Morten got beat at election time and the Browns were mad at everybody. He will have to get down and work now like the rest of us. Now Martha, do write soon and tell me all the news. I hope if we get a job it will be where they have a good fire and enough to eat. Now write real, real soon.

Lots of love, Mamma

December 11, 1930
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Will answer your letter this week so that it will be sure to reach you before you flap your wings and start for the South. Was glad to hear from you. John and I are both okay. You inquired how Mrs. Thompson was. Well, I should say not so good. We were up home last Sunday p.m. and Mother T. told me that her limb has broken out in another place up higher on her ankle. It runs enough to wet her bandage that she always keeps on it.

Ruth has been over at Reid Thompsons for over a week now. She went over to help butcher and then was going to stay several days longer and do the work so Etta could get some sewing done for the children. It seems like they have been so busy at home then going first to Marys and then to Reids that Mother T. hasn't been able to find time to come down here and rest up and keep off her limbs. Am afraid she is going to have to give up and go to bed if she doesn't do something very soon. Was glad to hear the details about Mary R's wedding and was glad you got in on it also.

I got a letter from Mamma last Saturday. Am going to answer it sometime this week. I intended sending you some meat but for some reason or other, Uncle Oliver hasn't butchered our hog yet. We expected it sometime last week but it hasn't come yet. Maybe he is going to wait until it turns cooler again, which will be O.K. with me.

About going to Florida, I can't see as there is anything to hinder you from going if you care to think you are about old enough to know what you want to do and can take care of yourself. You have been wanting a job like this and you have to go while you have the chance. Remember you are a stranger in a strange place down there so you will have to look out for those sharks that are ready to grab everything you have at the first chance they get. So don't give any of them a chance to get ahead of you.

Am glad to hear that you can pay your insurance next week. If you need help on it, let me know and I will send you some money at once. You want to be sure and get your business straightened up before you leave Cincinnati. Suppose you will give up your room at Miss Johnsons and take all things you won't need up to Maes.

I have decided to send you a little money this year instead of buying hose or anything else. If you need hose and if you think you need something else worse, spend it for that. In other words, use it for whatever you need. When money is scarce, one has to be careful how they spend it.

John and I were in Steubenville last Saturday. I didn't buy Mae's youngsters any toys for I thought other things should come first. I got Myron [Huston] a toboggan and got 8 yards of outing for Mae to use as she sees she needs it and we got Glenn [Huston] an everyday blue work shirt. I got Mamma a nice outing nightgown.

John and I are invited up home for Christmas dinner. Nancy and all the rest will be there also, twenty of us in all. Am sure we will have a good time.

When you start South, I have but one request to make and that is you be sure and take good care of yourself and write real often and let me know where to address you down there. Hope you have a nice time at Christmas wherever you are. Again, I say look out for number one and take care of yourself. I sent you a money order for one dollar.

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 11, 1930

John Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Georgia wants me to write you a few lines and give you some advice. I advise you to be careful if you want to be an old maid if you don't want to be one. Why this may be your chance to tie up. You didn't say whether this man was single, married or anything about him.

If you get to Florida, write and tell us all about your trip and the climate and scenery that you see. How are all your boy friends in town, O.K. I suppose. I think from your letter that you felt kind of forlorn because Mary R. has a man and you do not. How about it? I suppose you are ready to argue with me but we are too far away. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

From John

December 17, 1930

Mae Steele Huston

Dear Martha,

I will write a line to ask if you can come up Christmas. Mama was to have written you and answer your letter but she went down to stay with Charley William's children while he is in the hospital with Brights Disease. He is in pretty bad shape and has had convulsions. Mama first said she was going to have everyone there, then she went away and Harry said for everyone to come there.

I heard you were at Mary's wedding. I suppose she is very happy now. Mama told me the 9 million dollar woman died so that won't keep you away unless you have another case. Let me hear from you so I will know what to do with your Christmas. Hoping to hear from you or see you soon.

Love, Mae

December 28, 1930
Art H. Fleschman
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Steele [Martha],

Your answer did not get to Chicago in time, but I got it here today and while I am sorry you chance to go to Florida fell through, I am glad it did, you being you and by being the sort of man you describe, I see it would have been impossible for you to have gone with him. Of course, it's too bad to lose the work at a time when you need it most. But I'm sure it's better to lose it than to go through with such a man.

I hope by now you are working again and have forgotten the disagreeable experience. Don't it do any good to report such a thing to Mrs. Johnson. It seems to me someone ought to protect the nurses from insults like that.

I am not working. Got nothing in Chicago and 3 days here. Don't know yet what I will do. It is nice and sunny here, which is quite a relief after Cleveland and Chicago.

I don't mind you going out with Jordan but I think you ought to be sure he is a nice fellow before you trust him too far. You know I wouldn't want you to ever get into any trouble, dear. So you can't be too careful. I am not doing anything here, have to keep looking for work so have little time for amusement.

I don't know whether I'll be able to stay her or if I go, which way it will be. Can't tell that. Work this year seems to be rotten in every direction. Perhaps I'll be back in Cincy, but I heard the Commercial Tribune went out of business, which would mean 65 more jobs on the streets. I hope you enjoyed Xmas in Oxford and had a grand reunion and that you'll get a good break and 2 or 3 months of steady work to start the year right. Be a good girl and get yourself a few nice girl friends. And if you want to be sure I don't forget you, you'd best send me a nice little photo of yourself soon. I guess another letter will reach me here or they'll forward it.

With lots of good wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year and some loving too, I remain your friend.

Art

January 25, 1931
Art H. Fleschman
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Steele [Martha],

I was very glad to get your letter and very glad to know that you have been able to continue in a position you like so well and where you are so comfortable and satisfied. And for your sake, I hope the connection will continue for an indefinite period and that you will remain content. As you did not say otherwise, I suppose you want me to write you at that address and I shall send this letter there, hoping it will reach you all right that way.

Steele, there is simply no 2 ways about it. That was a lucky penny and I have got a hunch you are going to have a banner year in 1931 if you only hold on to it! So take good care of it and don't lose it or spend it accidently, although I can hardly imagine what one could spend a penny for these days. But you hold on to it as hard as you can. You must admit you have been getting good breaks since that cooper turned up for us.

Now Steele, I don't know what "116" was like above the first floor but you know darn well I told you I didn't like the odor in that place, And you also know I told you long ago that I didn't think Mrs. Johnson [the boss] was giving you any good breaks. And I am just as glad as you are that you are away from there and I feel confident you will never have any reason to be sorry you left. Really Marty, I think that's the best thing that has

happened since I gave you "our penny"! I think you are right about wanting your own room but remember what I have so often told you Steele, you have to be careful about the sort of fellow you let come in because once he got in, if he chose to get nasty in any way, you'd be compromised and unable to do anything about it. The world I have found usually want to believe the worst and innocent though you might be, no one would ever believe you had any but low motives in taking a fellow into your room. It's too bad the world is like that but it is so a girl has to be careful. If I could be certain all the fellows were like me, I would not have to keep preaching at you, honey. I don't like to preach. But I'd like less to have you get hurt. We have had some pleasant time together and I would lose lots of pleasant memories if anything bad happened to you, Steele. So just confine yourself to nice girls and to fellows you know are nice. And keep your room to yourself. I'm almost a little bit jealous of Gordon, but I'm sure he must be a nice sort or you wouldn't think so well of him. Perhaps he'll be back when business gets good again.

No job, Marty, just extra work, 3 days last week and 3 checks Saturday for a day each. Break even that way but nothing steady. And I have to stay here because other cities seem just as bad. So I am waiting for better conditions. I don't know when I can come to Cincinnati again. A letter from a Times-Star fellow said the Enquirer had bought the Conil-Tribune and 64 men lost their jobs and no one from outside will be admitted for at least 6 months to work. That is bad news indeed. You were lucky to get work but then you are always going to be lucky as long as you keep that penny. As for me, if I don't starve first, I am sure I'll get something sometime. I'm not worrying as long as I can break even. I can do that here, that's why I am staying.

The weather here has kids playing marbles and ball outside. I went without an overcoat last week. The mildest winter I ever saw. That is something to be thankful for, isn't it? Don't gain too much weight Steele as it's so much harder to get off than on and not nearly so pleasant. Gee honey, if you get as fat as Ida, well it just would not be my Steele, that's all. I like you enough the way you are so don't go to fattening up.

Santy was quite good to me after all, some cigars and haulsies from St. Louis and Washington. And we are strapped and unable to send any presents for the first time in ages. And I hope the last.

Don't send an old picture, Steele. Find a new one, have one made from downtown. Send a smiling one, one that will remind me of pleasant moments together at the Mariemont, in Dayton, at the circus, at a show, you know what I mean.

I can't send you one for 2 reasons. First, I haven't any and second I know you only want to show it to R.B. That's mean of you, Marty!

Poor little baby, wants some loving. And this paper loving is not a very satisfactory substitute for the real thing. However, if you close your eyes and imagine real hard, you'll feel my arms around you and you will remember my kisses and also you will hear me teasing for one thing or another, and maybe you'll feel a little better just to know I am not going to forget in a hurry, either. So here's a few kisses, honey ***** Just squeeze that lucky penny hard and you'll want for nothing. Write soon!

Art

March 30, 1931
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I will try and write you a few lines. I was completely worn out from my trip Monday but felt rested on Tuesday. That day I went to the Doctor at Hamilton but the trip didn't tire me so much that day. I feel that I am gaining although I don't attempt to stay up very long at a time. I have been having trouble with headaches, which the Doctor says is sinus trouble. It don't bother me all the time but at times mostly over my right eye and temple.

I would have liked to have gone to your room but I felt just too weak to do anything I didn't have to. We will try and come up at another time when all can at least walk straight. Doctor Warne said he expected me to be miserable for at least 10 days because the X-ray always does that. I am to take 2 more series yet. I am in the hopes it don't affect me so much next time. The next one starts on April 14.

Helen Harrison and Helen Rinhart have talked to each other than Hellen Rinhart to her mother Maud. Now this is how Maud found out I was sick. Dorothy [Steele] called up while I was gone Tuesday.

Rev. Martin was here yesterday. I am expecting quite a bit of company next week. Most all of our neighbors have been here sometime or other. Aileen [Huston] was sick last night and threw up but didn't have any fever. Guess she must of ate something that didn't agree.

You looked so tired the other day. I want you to get rested up so you will not get to the place where I am.

Mae

April 5, 1931
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Received your kind letter a few days ago and was sure glad to hear from you. Uncle Mathess died last Thursday morning at 7:30 and was buried yesterday afternoon at 2:30. It was his request that when he passed away that his funeral should be held down at the old home at Arthur Mortens and that the casket should be set right over the spot where Ardelle's was. It was an awful big funeral. Someone counted the machines and there was 75. He was buried at Camden beside Ardelle.

Mabel called me the morning he died and when I went up, she wanted to know if I would stay the week out to help her and I said I would. After the funeral, I changed my clothes and then went back up and got supper and washed the dishes and then came home and went to bed. I didn't get up til 9 a.m. Ain't that awful? Mabel was about frantic over her father's death but Aunt Annie and the rest of the family were very calm.

Aunt Rhoda's death is expected at any time. She has been unconscious for more than 24 hours. I didn't go back over for Belva is so domineering and not nice with the hired help so I made up my mind she could get somebody else. She would find out who she was dealing with. I was there 9 weeks and only got \$10 a week and I vowed if I ever got away, they would never get me back again. She just bosses Will to death but he is so afraid he will hurt her feelings so he never says a word. Homer has been home the last two days. Charlie Willias is doing very well now and is able to go to church again. Mae got 400 little chicks and they weigh a pound or better. Did she tell you that she got a new wooden house? Well, she did but I have not seen it. I am cleaning house whenever I get a chance. Do write soon my dear and tell me all the news.

Lots of love, Mamma

April 7, 1931
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Aunt Rhoda passed away April 6 at 11:05 am. The funeral will be tomorrow pm at 2 o'clock and Mae says for you to phone her if you will or will not come. They have a two seated machine and there will be plenty of room for you. Uncle Mathes was buried last Saturday pm. I must write a few lines to Georgia so good bye for the present.

Lots of love, Mamma

May 10, 1931
John Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

We received your letter and was surely glad to hear from you. We wondered and wondered why you had never written to us.

We went to the Doctor last night and he gave her treatment and ordered her to be quiet while the treatment lasts and said she should be in bed for at least two weeks.

Now this is a busy time and awfully hard to get anyone satisfactory to do the work. Georgia wondered if you did not have work if it would suit you to come over for a while. We won't ask you to do any hard or heavy work, just cook and look after Georgia. Now you can think this over and let us know how it suits you. I have the upstairs all cleaned and will finish the kitchen tomorrow.

Is there anything we can do for you physically, financially, or otherwise? If there is, let us know. Georgia thought maybe you could take your belongings up to Mae's and you would not have to pay rent. You

can come and stay as long as you wish. If you need any money, let us know and we will arrange that. Georgia had the same trouble as she had last summer. The Doctor as yet have discovered no particular cause.

Lots of love, John

July 22, 1931
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Will try to write you a few lines and mail it so you will get it this week. I finished writing what I had to say to Mamma and put both letters in the envelope and mailed it out Monday morning. Have written a letter to Mae and will mail it tomorrow.

I surely do hope that you have work of some kind by this time. We have had a good rain since you left and it is quite a bit cooler. Am glad it is cooler maybe you won't melt in the city. We were home all day Sunday. John has been helping Reid again but was up home this pm. I washed some Monday, ironed Tuesday. Did some mending today. He is going back to Reids tomorrow.

This evening we were sitting on the front porch and Mardelle Hinderman came along. She wanted to know if you had gone back to the city. Said she missed you. I stopped at Mrs. Arbaughs and delivered our message when I was on my way home from getting the mail. She was away visiting and went to Dover on Friday and did not get home until Sunday evening. Said she was sorry she missed bidding you good bye. I'm not saying anything to Mae about you going back to the city. Maybe you can drop her a line but if you want me to tell her, say so in your next letter and I will. I will send you a couple of clippings from the papers. It was in the Steubenville paper and also the Cadiz papers. The party was well advertised.

Mrs. Harriman has not been here since you left and I haven't been over there either. David's wife isn't back here yet.

I got your letter Tuesday evening and was glad to get it and know that you got there O.K. Whenever you want your shoes just whistle and I will send them to you. I found one of your handkerchiefs when we got home and will send it in this letter.

If you run short on money, let me know and I will trust you with a loan. Pick up the first job you can get and stick with it as long as you possibly can. Please do not let any more board bill run upon you. Go as sparing as you can and see if you can't get a little money ahead. Remember do not buy presents for anyone. Lay up all you can. I do hope you have a job by this time. Try and keep caught up on your sleep so you won't get so run down.

Lovingly, Georgia

July 26, 1931
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Georgia,

Received your most welcome letter yesterday and will answer right away as I have a little lull in the everyday routine. I will begin away back in events a month or so ago. I got my second bunch of chickens and they look pretty nice now and weigh better than a pound now. I want to get some more as soon as I can.

We were among the first to thresh so our wheat and oats were put in A number one shape. Glenn has had help since the plowing was done but there is no help now but Gordon. Gordon has grown up now. You wouldn't know him. He is a head taller than I am. Glenn is not sure about having his operation. Don't know what he will decide yet.

We are planning on letting Aileen and Myron go to kindergarten and think it will do them a lot of good. I am leader of the Oxford Township 4-H Poultry Club. Have 5 club members and have to give a demonstration August 4. Hope it all comes out good.

We all canned 26 quart of cherries, 15 points of cherry preserves, 4 and ½ quart of blackberries, and 51 glasses of blackberry jelly.

Grandma Huston had an operation for the removal of her appendix. She is here now and has been for several weeks. She can't be on her feet or lift much yet. Carl also had his appendix out 2 weeks ago. Glenn hasn't had any trouble for a while now so is just kind of putting it off.

I don't know anything about Otto Silvers or any of them for I seldom hear from anyone up that way. Lucille Rumby is teaching somewhere. Otto Silver's wife's name is Clarra. They live on the old Lybrook farm and work by the month.

Mamma has been out at Harrys now for around three weeks, only going home to cut the grass and keep things up there. They haven't had threshers there yet. We beat them to pieces about threshing. They haven't anything to say. I don't know very much about anything up there.

I had the Kings Daughters Picnic here July 6. There were 60 here. It was an evening affair. I will have to have the Executive Committee of the Farm Bureau here for an evening sometime in the next two weeks. I will be glad when I get this all off of my hands all before cold weather. I papered and painted the kitchen and it looks real nice. We have a lot of apples again this year. Only one tree is ripe now.

Are you real well again now? We will talk over the invitation and maybe we can find a way to get away for a few days. I surely would enjoy coming to see you. Are you planning on a trip this way this year? I would be glad to see and have you come. You know the latch string is always hanging out. Glenn expects to finish threshing in the ring this week.

Herbert Ries and Ethel Henning are to be married and will live where Arthur Boer lived and where Bert Brandenburg used to live across from Bert Ramsey. Russell McDivitt and Mary Haus are planning a big wedding at the Presbyterian Church in Fairhaven on August 4 or 6, not sure of the date.

Minnie Austin had her left breast removed, it is of a cancerous nature. I went to see her several times while she was at the hospital. Homer Irwin and his wife were at College Corner for a week. Milton and Velva Irwin had us up there one evening while they were there. Had a real nice time. I will bet Homer and Ione will make more of a go of things than Milton and Velva.

You asked me about sewing. I want to get down to it now. When I get started with patterns, I may send you a couple of dresses to do but will have to get some of this rush off. I will let you know what we decide on a trip. Would love to come but think you will understand the situation. You had better plan on making the trip this way. Let me hear what you think of this. I will have to write to Martha also this evening.

Love, Mae

August 10, 1931
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I started to answer your letter last Friday evening but got all mixed up on what I was saying so quit and went to bed. I sent your shoes out to you Saturday morning. Suppose you found the tomatoes. Were they fit to eat when you got them? The tomatoes have begun to ripen now and couldn't resist sending you two or three.

You can't imagine how glad I am to know that you have work and have had for two weeks. Hope the job lasts for a long time. What kind of work is it? Am so glad that you can manage to get along just now without keeping a room.

I sent our letters to Mamma on Monday after you left and have not heard from her yet. Will let you know as soon as I hear from her. Suppose she is so very, very busy helping "son Harry" she hadn't time to write letters to us. Have had one letter from Mae. Am going to send it to you for it has so much home news in it.

Last Friday, I went up home with John. When we get up there, Ruth and Edna were just ready to go after blackberries so I went with them. Then after dinner, Mother Edna and I went to Cadiz. It was my first trip driving to Cadiz without John. Got along O.K.

Mardelle Hinderman is sick with a cold or flu now. Edna LeMaster has been having quite a hard time lately. Something like a carbuncle on her upper lip. Had to keep a poultice on it for a while. Mary LeMaster was out after blackberries one morning. Stepped into a wasps nest and was stung six times

David's wife was back here for about a week and is gone again. I understand that David's mother in law has a baby three weeks younger than John David. Don't have the particulars yet. We have had several messes of corn on the ear. Sure is good, am glad you have plenty of eats. Anytime you are doing your own cooking, let me know and I will send out something.

We have been getting quite a lot of rain lately. It is much cooler today. Hope it is cooler where you are. While I think about it, did you leave a round box of salve here? I found a box up in your room on that bureau. I

also forgot to send you your long hair barrette. Will try to get it to you some time soon. Charles Arbaugh is here about his arithmetic this evening. It is now 10:30 pm and think it about time is going home.

Expect by the time you get through reading this and Mae's letter, you will be tired enough to quit so will stop for tonight and may think of more to write before I mail this. Sure enough, I thought of something else I started taking Lydea E. Pinkhaus regular four times a day and now my bowels are regular. My sides does not bother me now as much as it did. Am going to take another bottle as soon as I get it. Will stay for tonight and hope to hear from you again real soon. Hope you get your package O.K.

Do you remember that pink felt hat of yours with a white band around it? Could you use it? If so, I will send it to you. I came across it yesterday is how I came to think of it. Will send it if you can use it.

Love, Georgia

August 13, 1931
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

Dear Georgia,

How are you coming on these days? I hope you are good and strong again. We sure had a terribly hot, boiling summer. It seemed like the farmers never would get to the end of the wheat harvest and there was so many horses that died of overheating. Wheat was so cheap it don't amount to much after they did get it.

Birdie had an ad in the paper last week that she would exchange one bushel of peaches for 3 bushels of wheat but I don't think she will exchange very many bushels that way. Uncle Will sold his home last Saturday to Doc Williams. He will give possession the first of September and then he will go out to Williams. Annabelle Doty has been trying for several weeks to get rid of something she has. She has had an awful time this week. Doctor Gilmore hung around there for 3 days this week, giving her medicine to bring it away at 7 months for it couldn't be born in the usual way. He finally took her to Mercy Hospital the night before last but brought her back yesterday to wait 3 weeks and then they are going to try it again. She says she is going to die but she is very liberal. She told him he could marry again but he must take good care of their baby, Chester. Mary Harves and Bancy McDivitt had a big church wedding last week in the Presbyterian Church. She will make a heavy farmer's wife.

Love, Mamma

August 17, 1931
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I told you that I would let you know as soon as I heard from Mamma. Well, I got a letter from her last Saturday and will send it to you. Nary a word about wanting us to go see her. Well, she need not worry for as far as I know now, we will not be there. I feel sorry for Annabelle Doty. When you read her letter, you will understand why I said that. Hope she pulls through all right. Had a letter from Mae today. The 4-H club in all gave a demonstration at Hamilton Fairgrounds and Mae and her group won first prize which is a trip to the State Fair in Columbus Guess Mae is planning on going. She wants Glenn to go along. Mrs. Elliot is to take care of the children. Guess Mae and Glenn will not get to come to Jewett this year as the Fair is all the time she can spare away from home. Am glad she won in the demonstration and gets the free trip with all expenses paid to Columbus but would have liked for her to see where we live.

How are you getting along? Are you over your cold yet? Hope it has disappeared by this time. I do not cough or have any cold at all now.

I have been real nervous for the past few days but expect to get straightened up in a day or so. We went to Cadiz Saturday evening. I got up enough courage to have that blood taken for a blood test. Got along lots better than I expected. The Chair in Koepke's office that you sat in and got your bed bug bite was not there Saturday night. Don't know whether the bugs walked away with it or not.

Mrs. Harriman came up to our place this evening while I was sitting on the porch. She stopped right where our walk from the porch joins the side walk. I invited her up but she said "no thanks, you never come to my house" and then went on. She has only been here once since I was at her house. She must have expected to

find Mrs. Lightner on the porch but didn't so she sauntered back home and sat on her own porch. David's wife is not here now.

John's folks threshed last Friday. Had threshers for dinner and 7 o'clock supper then a club meeting that evening. Sure made things awfully rushed around where that day. Wayne is going to take his sheep to the State Fair at Columbus this year.

Most lovingly, Georgia

August 29, 1931
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I received your most welcome letter and was glad to hear from you. I did not know your address. I certainly thank you for all you sent me. The money certainly came in good time for I was wondering just how I could get my dress home. I bought a new dress readymade and paid \$3.95. I think I will like it as it is dark blue with a white dot in it. I have some chickens which are not quite big enough to sell on foot but still a lot of them dressed and have sold fried.

Who told you about my getting a free trip to the State Fair? Was it Mama or Georgia? Now if it was Mama, keep what I say to yourself. I am to meet Georgia and John at Columbus. Mama and Harry [Steele] all seemed to draw a real breath of relief when they found that we were not going to go to Jewett on account of the Columbus trip. I can't understand them at all. I wrote Georgia and asked her if they could meet us there in Columbus and she said sure but was sorry we couldn't come on over. We are to leave here next Wednesday and be in Columbus Wednesday night. We demonstrate at 10:00 am Thursday and again Friday if we are asked to do it over. Some feel that we will win out up there and that will mean a trip to Chicago or St. Louis. Hope we get that trip also with all the expenses paid.

What kind of work are you doing now? Do you like it? Many thanks for the socks and teddies you sent the children. They both were quite proud of them and say "thanks". Where are your half pint cans? If you have a chance to get them, please send them to me and I will fill them. I have been canning about everything there is. We have lots and lots of apples. Write and let me hear from you often. I will write again as soon as I get back from Columbus if I am not all in too much. Many thanks for what you sent me but feel that you should have kept it yourself.

I will get Myron a suit and Aileen a dress and pay the balance on my dress with what you sent.

With lots of love, Mae

September 3, 1931
Mae Steele Huston
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Martha,

We left home at 1:45 pm and arrive here around 6:30. Had a flat tire but was soon fixed and ready to go again. Just received your letter as were ready to leave home. Everyone was out in the machine ready to leave when the mail came. I certainly was more than taken off of my feet to get your good letter. I just feel sure I should not allow you to send me anything like that. I certainly thank you for it and will do my best to make it back to you. I got my dress and like it real well. Aileen and Myron were just fine when we left. They both said bye-bye and waved. We told them everything but they were living in the high hopes as they were going up to Elliotts this pm. They were happy as could be.

Jack and Jean are too dear youngsters and are going to do their best to win the next trip which will be to Chicago. I will let you know the outcome of this as soon as I have the time and find out.

Mama called up yesterday and seemed rather disappointed to find out I wasn't gone. She asked when I expected to go and then asked if we were going to meet Georgia and John in Columbus. She talked as if she knew all about it. I don't care if she knows but can't understand things at all. Georgia and John are not here yet. We will try and hope to see them tonight or early in the morning. I will tell you more later. Again, thanks ever so much for what you sent but please don't send any more for you can't do it.

Love, Mae

September 9, 1931

Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I only have a few minutes in which to write until the mailman comes so will make this short and sweet. We have tickets to the zoo for Saturday and wonder if you are so situated that you could come up there also. We are making plans on going but if anything unusual came up we wouldn't go. I will send you a ticket and will hope that we can meet you there at the same place we met before. Georgia and I have several things to tell you when I see you. Now use your judgment about coming. I have something here for you which I will bring when I come down.

Love, Mae

September 21, 1931
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Guess I have received two letters from you since you heard from me. Will start with your other letter and answer questions in both letters. I have really been busy the past three or four weeks. Maybe I am slow is the reason I never get through with my work. I am about through with my canning. Just a few odds and ends to can yet. Mardelle Hinderman is still at home but think she is leaving for Kent State Normal in a few weeks. She must have given up going to Cincinnati.

The Arbaughs are O.K. as far as I know. Have been so busy have not talked to Mrs. Arbaugh for some time. David Harriman's wife has not been here for more than a month. I don't know why. If you had been over here a week or two ago, you might have gotten a job nursing. David Harriman had the jaundice and was in bed for almost a week. Mrs. Harriman waited on him about like she would a baby by the way she talked. Eda LeMaster is about as usual but Mary has not been able to go to work regular. Last week, she did a day's work for a lady in two-half days. She was not able to do it all in one day. You wanted to know the results from my blood test. Thank goodness, it was O.K. so it wasn't my blood that was causing my troubles.

John, his mother and I went to the State Fair. We went to Columbus on Monday. On our way through New Comerstown, we stopped at Mrs. Titons about half an hour. She was just like always, just the same Mrs. Tilton. We did not go to the Fairgrounds at all on Monday. We got up early Tuesday a.m. and spent a day there. Also took in the night show. Wednesday am it rained so we spent a morning in Columbus shopping and in pm we were sight seeing. Thursday am we went to the Fair again. Saw Mae and Glenn [Huston]. Saw the children from Butler County give their demonstration. It was fine. Was with Mae until about 4:00 pm when we had to start home. Was glad to be with her that long.

They say Dorothy [Sheffer] is quite snobbish. I told Mae not to let Dorothy high hat her. Was glad that you got to see Mae at the Zoo. Did you know that she was going to be there? Who all was with her? You asked me if I was gaining. I can't see that I am but people say that I look heavier. One lady said I was getting fleshy. I can't imagine what I looked like before if I am fleshy now. I imagine I weigh about 120 pounds. Am so glad that you was able to get a case that lasted so long and do hope that you can get another good case in a short time. Kate and Nedra always ask about you when I see them but that isn't so very often.

John's sister Ruth has a tooth that has been hurting for several days. Yesterday morning, Wayne took her to the Dentist at Germano and he drilled the tooth out and told her to come back Tuesday evening. But it hurt her all Sunday pm, all night, and this morning it was all swelled up. This evening after school, Wayne took her to see the Dentist again. She stopped here a few minutes on the way and her face was swelling something awful. It reminded me of you and your swelled jaw about a year ago. One side of Ruth's face was swelled clear up to her eye. Believes she has swollen higher on her face than you were here. I know she suffered everything with it. John and I were at the Cadiz Fair last Friday.

See by the paper where Western Ohio had a slight earthquake last night. Said it was noticed in Cincinnati. Did you notice it where you was?

Genevieve Morgan Wisenborn has a little baby boy. Its name is Clay Norman Weisenborn. It weighed 7 pounds. Hope you get a job right soon again.

Lovingly, Georgia

November 5, 1931
 Georgia Steele Thompson
 Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Was glad to hear from you this evening. Had begun to wonder if I was never going to get you located. Am going to answer your letter at once so maybe it will reach you before you leave the Inn on a medical case. I do hope you will be able to get steady work.

Am glad that you are feeling O.K. Guess I cannot complain either. Have been feeling real well all fall. I cleaned all my lace curtains this fall and have the house cleaned up real good too. Next thing is to keep it that way.

We have the heatrola up and fire in it all the time. The first of the week, we opened the grate in the dining room. The two fires keep us good and warm.

Nancy did not get a school this fall. She is still living where she did last summer. The LeMaster girls are just fair. Edna was able to go over town last Saturday evening to the Halloween celebration but Mary did not feel able to go. Mrs. Harriman is just so. I hardly know whether it is safe to look up and speak to her or not when I see her out. Gee but she is queer. The Arbaughs are O.K. Mr. Arbaugh is our new town marshal now. He was elected at Tuesday's election. Guess Van is O.K. also. We have a family living here by us in Ramsover's house. Two single fellows and their mother. Their name is Dinger. The two boys work in the mine but are not working this week on account of a strike.

I did not suppose that you was still at Groh's so thought I would write Thelma a letter. I sent her a stamped and addressed envelope so she could answer my letter with no expenses to her. Did you get the envelope? You may as well use it some time when you are writing to me.

Did Mamma know you or did she need an introduction? John took me up home Monday morning (November 2) before he went to school and I helped Mother, Lucy, and Ruth pare enough apples to make 17 ½ gallons of apple butter. They are going to give us some. We have everything in the cellar for the winter now. Turnips, potatoes, pears, and about three bushel of apples. Don't think we shall starve. Are you getting plenty to eat? I don't have much to do nowadays, only keep the house in order, keep up fires, and get meals. Am doing a little fancy work in my spare time. Did I tell you that Genevieve Morgan Weisenborn has a baby boy? Born August 27 and its name is Cloy Norman. Anna Bell Doty has a baby girl. What do you think of that?

Your insurance was sent to Jewett, P.O. Box 95. Now if you want to you can just leave that address with the insurance company and save changing your address so much. Whenever any of your insurance papers come to us, we will take good care of them and notify you at once. Will you let me know when you intend to pay your insurance and I will send you \$5.00. The money is your Christmas but I will send it in time to help out on your insurance if it is needed for that. I do want you to keep your insurance going as you have paid on it this long. Please write to me and let me know if you will be able to pay the rest. You can count of \$5.00 and if you need more, I will try and help you. Now write to me soon and let me know about the insurance. Have you ever seen Miss Johnson since you went back to Cincy?

I know that money is scarce and hard to get hold of. Now don't you dare spend any money on anyone's Christmas. If you have a little ahead, lay it aside for future use. We are going to have to cut down this Xmas but will try to help you all we can. Guess this is all for tonight and write to me real, real soon.

Most lovingly, Georgia

November 29, 1931
 Georgia Steele Thompson
 Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your letter some time ago. Was so glad to hear from you. You did not say in your last letter whether you was out on a case or not but I just supposed that you was. How long do you expect to stay at that place? How is your cold? Hope that it is gone now that you have taken those shots.

Mary LeMasters went to the Martins Ferry Hospital last Monday pm, Nov. 23 and on Tuesday had her appendix removed. Edna is staying at home by herself while Mary is away. I am going to send her a card one of

these days so when I was getting my card I got one for you to send to her. Am sure she will be glad to hear from you. All you will have to do is address the envelope and sign your name.

John's folks butchered four hogs Thanksgiving Day. We brought a ribs, sausage and some liver home with us. We took some liver over to Edna. We also gathered some nuts and apples for Edna and Mary this fall as they were not able to get out and gather for themselves. Wish you were her to get some of the liver and sausage. We are going to get our hog butchered this coming week. Lucy went over to Marys today to help Mary put her meat away this week. John's mother's limb is giving quite a lot of trouble lately. It is pretty raw now. Kate Hellbrook could not find any work around Jewett so she and Nedra went to Kate's brothers in Kellogg, Idaho so they are many miles from us now.

Lovingly, Georgia

December 8, 1931
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your letter this evening. Was glad to hear from you and to know that you are still on the same case. Mary LeMasters came home from the hospital yesterday evening, December 7. She has to stay in bed for a week even though she is home. The Doctor said that she had a freak appendix that was three or four inches longer than normal.

We got a hog this fall from Uncle Charley Thompson. It was butchered yesterday. It weighed 346 pounds and sure was a large hog. Yesterday evening when John came from school, he and I went up to John's Dads and helped cut up the meat, grind sausage, and the like. We have 40 pounds of sausage. Wish you were here to get some. It's fine. There was 7 gallons of lard. John's Dad rendered the lard for us. We had mashed potatoes, onions liver and gravy for supper this evening.

Last Sunday, December 6, Mary, Barney, Nancy, Elwood John and I were up home for dinner, Mary is O.K. She and Barney ordered Old Kate out this fall so she purchased property here in Jewett and is living here in town now.

I have not heard from home very lately Have not heard from Mae more than two times since August. Don't think I have heard from Mama more than once all Fall. We are not going into Christmas shopping very extensively this year. Times are too hard and we must save while we have a little to save. If I were you, I wouldn't think about buying Xmas presents. Everyone will live just as long as if you had spent much on presents. You helped us out so much last Spring when we needed help. Don't think of getting even with me. Your help came just when we needed it most.

Are you going to be able to pay your insurance? If you are not going to have enough money, let me know at once and I will help you out for I do want you to keep your insurance after paying this long on it.

Be sure and let me know if you get the money order. It is early for Christmas but hope you will accept it as a Xmas present anyway. Thought maybe you might need it early to help out on your insurance. If you won't have enough to pay the insurance, let me know at once and I will forward more money.

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 18, 1931
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Hope this letter gets to you before you leave your present address. How are you anyway? John and I are both O.K. Had a letter from Mae [Huston] yesterday. She said they were going to have Aileen's tonsils removed tomorrow, December 19 at the hospital. I did not know that they gave her any trouble. She also said that Jean Steele had pneumonia and that Mamma was out at the farm taking care of her. It's a good thing the child has a grandma or I'm afraid it wouldn't get much care.

Ruth and Lucy were in here for a while yesterday evening. I think that all the Thompson connection will take Xmas dinner with Mary and Barney this year. Nancy and Elwood have bought a farm and moved on it last Tuesday.

How did you come out with your insurance? I have been so anxious to know if you got it paid. I decided that a handkerchief would do you more good than a birthday card so am sending you a hankie for your birthday.

Mary Lemasters is improving slowly. I have not washed my breakfast dishes yet and I want to get this letter in the post office so it will get on its way to Cincy this a.m. so will close and do hope that you will write to me real soon, Please let me know how you came out with your insurance. Also please let me know as soon as you get a new address. Must close for this time. I am taking a bottle of pure cod liver oil now. It is far from tasting good but feel that it is going to help my indigestion.

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 19, 1931
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I sure thought that I'd answer your letter immediately but every week there's more and more to do. But I hope we will soon be in a place where I can set down once in a while anyway. We have shredding done but have quite a bit of standing corn out yet. We bought the Glenn Ramsey property for \$1,325. The house has been vacant for several months. We have a little money ready to pay down on it and we are to get the balance from the Pull's bank in College Corner and give a note. There will not be any mortgage on the farm or town property either. But Pull's said he would like to have a note with each of your children and your father's and my name on it, "just to show good will." That was all right and we didn't blame him for that. We want to get the finance all fixed up by the first of the year and Harry said he didn't care about sending the special papers through the mail to you to get your name signed on it. He would try to go down and see you during the holidays and let you sign your name on it. Be sure and let us hear from you and let us know just where to find you for the days are so short and it is a long trip for him. I have the carpets all up and getting things in shape that we can just go the first opportunity that comes our way. Will you try to come home during the holidays or will you wait to come when we get down to the new place? It is sure a done day. It is mail time and I must close. Say I lost your address. Will you please send it to tell me where a letter can reach your first, whether it be at the hospital or over at your friend's. How much do you get a week? Write real soon

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 26, 1931
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Your welcomed letter was received and glad to hear from you. Everyone here is OK. And we are hoping everyone stays that way. We are planning on having Aileen's tonsils out during Christmas holidays at school. She has only missed one day and gets a big kick out of going and coming home on the bus.

I am planning on having a plain Christmas dinner here and want you to come for your holidays here. Mama expects to be here. Harry say they will come down if it is a fit day to bring Jean [Steele West] out. I suppose you know Jean has had pneumonia and out of school since November 1. She shouldn't go back to school at all for the rest of the year but I wouldn't be much surprised if they push her back again.

Faye and Marion Lybrook lost their baby boy Donald. He was 7 years old with pneumonia the same time Jean was sick. It was Donald's second attack, the first time left him with a weak heart. Aileen will be feeling better by Christmas since she will have one week to get better.

Let me know if you can come or what you are doing. Don't do a lot of buying for you know you can't and really should not do it. I haven't heard from Georgia for some time now but I am planning on getting her Christmas early. I was thoroughly ashamed of the way things were last year. I just couldn't get it ready and off. Now I don't want you to spend a lot on Christmas this year for you know you really can't. Be sure and come if you can. Let me know if you can come and when.

Most lovingly, Mae

December 27, 1931
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Oxford, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I'm wondering if you got back all right and if your job was still waiting for you? I sure hope so. Yesterday morning, Maude called here to see if I would go home and take care of Laura Hays who is sick. I had tried and tried to make Mae get Mrs. Huston to come and stay here while she went to the hospital, but she wouldn't give in to that. It sure made me mad when I had been soaking in all of the insults that everybody was able to hand out. Bill is going to have baked beans and hot rolls for dinner and I sure wish you had a chance at them too. I'm send you a clipping of Lulu McGary's death.

Bill and I washed yesterday and I ironed this morning. Bill is baking this morning and Mae made two dresses for Aileen yesterday and six more to make. I don't know when she will go to the hospital but I'll write and give particulars when I find out. Dear but this is a gloomy morning and I wish I could have taken that job for I would have had no kids to bother with. When you write, don't write anything that she couldn't read.

Lots of love my dear, from Mamma

December 29, 1931
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Oxford, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Mae [Huston] went to the hospital this morning. I have not spoken to Georgia since you went away. I went him to understand that we don't have to take all his impudence. When he comes home, I'm not going to ask about Mae for he won't tell me. If I did, you don't hear from me. You can take it for granted that she is all right. Write me right away for Glenn told Bill that he had put up 7 bad years with the Steeles and he knows what he is talking about.

Lots of love, Mamma

February 9, 1932
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Thelma Groh [of Newport, Kentucky],

I am writing you in an effort to locate my sister, Miss Martha Steele. Before Christmas, I had a letter from Martha. She said that she was going to spend Christmas with my sister Mae and on her return to Cincinnati after Christmas, she would write to me. I have been looking for a letter from her every day for some time but have not heard from her yet.

If you know where Martha is or know her address, would it be too much trouble for you to either tell Martha to write to me or else you please send me her address? I am so anxious to hear from her. I do hope that she is not sick and unable to write.

I will be most grateful if you will help me locate her. Enclosed you will find a stamped and addressed envelope. Again I say thank you.

Respectfully, Georgia

March 6, 1932
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I received your most welcome letter and was glad to hear from you. How are you? They youngsters are just fine. Aileen seems much stronger and better since she had her tonsils out. Last night, she lost 2 baby teeth, her first. The second is coming in. Myron is just all boy and O.K. I feel better most of the time but am not going up and down stairs much yet. The Doctor hasn't dismissed me yet. Some days I have lots of pep and maybe none the next day. I am taking Haliver Oil Capsules which are 3 times stronger than Cod Liver Oil.

I have baby chicks and Glenn has baby pigs all today. All are in the brooder house together. The chicks made life miserable for the pigs in daylight.

Have you had steady work this winter? I hope so. Do you board yourself where you are or eat out? I have some small cans of meat I canned and would be glad to send to you if you want then. Now just let me know if you can use them.

Have you heard from Mama since Christmas? I haven't heard from her or any of them up there since Mama went home. Guess they are not very much interested in anyone but themselves. I wish I could see you. I certainly am very much ashamed of the way things went Christmas but I can't see where I can help things myself. Wish I could see you as I could talk much better.

Did Georgia send you the clippings about Lorimer Charles killing the chicken thief in his chicken house? I have done a lot of sewing this spring and have a few things to finish up. Now be sure and let me know if you can use the canned meat. Be sure and let me hear from you and let me know what your address is. Will close as it is bed time.

Most lovingly, Mae

March 12, 1932
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I have been out at Harrys and just couldn't get settled down to write. Did you send me a letter the 1st of February? If you did, I failed to get it but your pretty birthday card said you sent me a letter too. How about it?

Well, the first question is, do you get any word from Mae? A word has never passed between us since I left there. Nobody will ever know how I've suffered over that quarrel that Glenn [Huston] started up. Maybe I didn't do right to leave there but so far as I know, I hadn't done anything to make him mad and you hadn't either. When he pitched into you and gave it to you and all the rest of the family too, I couldn't stand it a minute longer and then when they got to circulating that I was out ripping around at night when I was in bed with the room locked up so tight that I could hardly get my breath, it just made it more than I could stand. Do write and tell me if you know anything. They need not get too independent for it Mae gets down sick, you and I are the ones who will have to take care of her.

Austins have given up the grocery and post office and there is nothing in that store room now. The garage man's wife down below the post office has the post office now. Charley Reeve's wife had a stroke and they found her on the floor and she lived only a few hours. She was buried last Sabbath pm. Clare Belle Austin is expecting a baby in the early Spring and Vera Laird is looking for a baby any day. A machine run into Lou Foley's machine up on the Wyatt Road and his wife came near being killed. She was badly hurt about the head and back but she is coming on better now. It happened about a week ago.

Wasn't too bad about Mrs. Thompson dying. She was such a sweet woman. Georgia has been so stirred up because she couldn't get any word from you. It is mail time and I must close. Do write and let me know the latest. I haven't had a job since along in October. Dear oh dear, but times are hard and money is scarce. Do write me if only to let me know if you know anything of Mae. Do take good care of yourself and come and see Mamma.

Oceans of love, Mamma

March 16, 1932
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I can't do anything but think of you this afternoon so I guess I'll write you. Remember about Esther Ramsey and Reese McClenaham, who live together down hear the Hopewell Church. He is an old bachelor and she is an old maid, but they are no relations but they live together. They have lived that way forever so many years. Well a few weeks ago, she had a stroke and they had two trained nurses for a while, then they got down to one trained nurse. Last Monday morning, Mrs. Hamilton who was one of the nurses called e and wanted to know if I wanted a job and I said sure. She said Reese was footing the bill and he was coming up to see me about going there. He hasn't come yet but I sure hope he will so I write you this pm. If I did go, you would have your letter.

There is lots of sickness over the country but people just ain't got the money to hire if they can get out of it. Hoss is down your way. Mae still I don't hear anything about Mae. I do wonder if you hear anything. If you do, I wish you would let me know. Now I'll tell you what I think and I'll bet I'm not mistaken either. I'll bet he

forbid her having her folks down there Xmas day and she went ahead and done it anyway. He was just showing that he was the boss. Bill made the remark to me that he bet they would separate sometime. Now it looked to me like Glenn might have made that sort of a threat. Now he has said all sorts of ugly things about our family before me and I just said nothing. But when he was so mean at Xmas time, I just couldn't stand it a minute longer. I'll bet if she gets in poor health that you and I are the ones that will have to take care of her.

By the way, Ruth Stewart has an awful bad case of bladder and kidney troubles and the Doctor said she ought to go to bed and stay for 6 months. Jim Stewarts have taken the two children and her own mother has been staying up there. But she wants to take Ruth home with her. That is pretty hard on poor folks.

They are having a birthday party over at the Methodist Church tonight for Bob Evans. He is 89 years old. Be sure to tell me if you wrote to Georgia. She was bad off to hear from you. Now if I do get to take care of Esther Ramsey, I'll drop you a card. But when you write me, send it to Fairhaven for I can't miss getting it there.

Chester Hays hurt his leg several weeks ago playing ball. He just ripped around and wouldn't take care of it. Now he is down in bed and threatened with blood poison. They won't mind a thing their folks tell them. The Doctor is coming to see him every day. Well here it is early 5 pm and old Reese ain't come yet. I don't believe he is coming today but maybe he will come tomorrow. Now Martha, do please write me soon and tell me what you know about Mae. Do you think she is sorry there is a row on hand?

Oceans of love, Mamma

March 20, 1932
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your letter came yesterday and I was so glad to get it. I did not get to go to Ramseys. Mrs. Hamilton, the nurse who had been there, said Reese would come to see me but he didn't come. I feel quite sure that the Ramseys gave him to understand that he had to hire a trained nurse all the time and that cut me out. They are awful fussy from what I hear. I sure do wish I could get a job but money is so scare everywhere that people just can't hire if they can get through without it. How is it down your way? Do you get enough to keep yourself going?

Ruth Stewart is awful bad again. Her trouble is her kidneys and liver. They have taken her to her fathers and Jim Stewarts have the kids.

Now I want you to tell me this. Do you think Mae has a cancer? I can't help but feel that she will never have very good health again and say to tell me if Bill is still there. Now she will fare pretty good and will have something to eat and not get cold while he is around but he was not always treated us good so I wonder if he is there. I do wish you would tell me what to do. Do you think I should go down there and do their work? It is a thankless job when I do it for Mae is afraid to be friendly with me for fear it will offend him [Glenn Huston]. Now she wouldn't tell me anything about herself so that it don't make me feel like being around for nothing. They make up lies on me so what on earth can a person do with them? Mae seemed to be awful thick with all his women folks when I was there. I just get so blue and discouraged and I don't know what to do. I would love to do the right thing.

Life is just too short to quarrel and how can you please a person when they just refuse to be pleased. Now when you write me, tell me just all she did say about me for I sure have a right to know. They could always find some place to go at nights and I can tell you right here that I didn't relish being left alone with Bill. I didn't hardly suppose he would disturb me but we all know that he is not balanced. Now last year when they had Gordon there, he worked awful good but all he got was his board and when I was down there, I noticed they were sort of on the outs with him. They had it awful good with that old fellow from Darrtown and he worked for nearly nothing. Bill said he sued Glenn for that and then there was another old fellow Mae told me about and the kids got too smart with him and they didn't care much for Bill because he eats so much. I don't know what there grievance was with me. I done the best I know to do just right. A person don't know just what might happen. Martha, I must just admit to you that I couldn't make up to call and see if she had sent your uniforms. I feel terribly snubbed where they said I was out ripping around at night and they knew as well as I did that I was

home in bed. But they sure owe you and me an apology. You would be mad at me for not calling but you tell me if she sent the uniforms.

Herb Reese and Ethel are to be married in a day or so. They have to have the license five days before they can use it and they got the license several days ago so it is not far off. Snapes had a shower for her last night and there are a couple more showers on the freeze one at Dixon and one at Sugar Valley. I feel sorry that she had so little sense as to marry him. Vera Laird Booker had a baby boy this week. She expected to have it here at her fathers but she got so bad they had to take her to the Hamilton Hospital. They are all right now.

Love, Mamma

March 30, 1932
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I received your letter but just didn't get it answered. So many things have come up since then. On March 21 at 9:45 pm, a tornado came through here and took my metal brooder house weight 2 tons and 300 month-old baby chicks. The wind carried everything 50 feet then spilled out the brooder stove and chicks. Then it went on for 30 feet and dropped the floor. The house went in many pieces for half a mile. They talk now as if they will replace the house, but I am out my chickens. I have 20 left out of 300. They weight half a pound each and I guess I will have to start all over again now.

Mamma hasn't called me yet. I have been told she is out at Harrys most of the time. Mamma told me last winter the old organ we used to have was given to Arthur Hays but they didn't use it after they got it. Glenn saw Arthur and Nellie at a Farm Bureau meeting at Cincy last winter. He asked them about the organ and they said they didn't want it and he could have it. So the other day, Glenn and Bill went up after it. Shortly after they arrived at Hayes, Harry Steele came over and asked Glenn what he was doing. Glenn told him he was sent to get the organ. Harry's lips were quivering and was ready to explode. But Glenn kept cool and things went off fairly well. Harry disposed of the inside of the organ some time ago. The outside has been badly abused. There can be 3 small articles made out of it. I wrote and told Georgia and she said she wanted her share. I figure Harry has had the lion's share already. One piece for you, one for Georgia and myself. Now maybe you will hear about this from them up there. If you do, let me know what they have to say. Do you want me to have Bill make something out of it for you and me keep it till you want it. Please let me know for I don't know how much longer Bill will be here tinkering around. Be sure and let me know at an early date and tell me what they have to say. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Do you remember bringing 4 silk pillow tops up here? I found them the other day and have finished 2 of them and have 2 to finish. Do you want me to send them to you or what do you want me to do with them? I think they are real pretty.

Mamma hasn't called me yet. I think I will first wait. She would hardly talk last year when I did call. After "how are you" was over, she wouldn't attempt or help carry on the conversation. Before I knew it, she was gone. I think I will let them call. She is at Harry's most of the time. Let me hear from you soon as to the organ.

Most lovingly, Mae

April 2, 1932
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I had been looking for a letter from you and was rewarded today. I was oh so glad. You remember about a week ago there was such a terrible storm over the country, terrible in Hamiton and all over the country? It didn't hurt anything here or at Harrys but it hit Glenns [Huston] hard, tore the brooder house to atoms and lost all of her little chicks except 20. It didn't hurt the little pigs but tore part of the roof off the barn, blowed some of the windows in. It was about 10 pm at night. Bill is still there and he was in bed but the rest of them were still up. I have not had the nerve to call them up for fear Glenn would answer and he would give me a snap. I'm sure glad you got your uniforms. I'm mighty glad poor old Bill is there for he will cook and do the washing and I'll tell you that means a whole lot. I hope Mae will push the house cleaning on Bill. I cleaned all but the kitchen

and hall for her last year. Those old rooms are so big and you know later on your wore yourself out cleaning it. I think you and I had better lay low while Bill is there for without a doubt. We will get to do plenty when he is gone. Say I do feel sorry for him. You want to know if Mae begged me to stay? She didn't say a word one way or another. But I think she hated to see me go. No, she never said a word against you nor him either. But I think she was clear bluffed out by him. She had so much off of him that she has no way of knowing just what all he might do and she knew you hadn't done anything to make him mad.

The brooder house was not even paid for when it was blowed off. Glenn and Bill came up to Arthur Hayes to get that old organ of Mary Bells and Harry just happened over there when they were there so that is how we got the news. They are scraping up every old nice board that they can get a hold of and having Bill work it up into something in the furniture line. I never heard anything more from the Ramseys so they have made other arrangements. I am cleaning house and working in the gardens. The Reese wedding has not come off yet but the license was in the Register Herald two weeks ago. My advice to her is just take her good old time to it. Cecil Ramsey and Allie are divorced and he is in jail now for the second time for nonsupport for the kids. He will get good and used to boarding in the jail, won't he?

Mrs. Eddy got a fall a couple of weeks ago and she is awful bad today. The Doctor has been there twice today. Will Hays is down in bed now and they look for him to pass anytime. Harry and Minnie have a big time riding round now since they have got rid of the post office. He don't do anything but drive the school bus. Vera Laird Book has a baby boy a couple of weeks old. Just a year today since Thess died. Now if you hear of any special news about Mae, be sure to let me know and I'll do the same for you. Tell me this, do you think there is anything special on with Georgia? I'll close for now and mail this letter.

Oceans of love, Mamma

April 11, 1932
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Am wondering how you are by this time? Hope you are back on your feet again. Are you working now? I surely do hope so. John has only one more week of school after this week. We have part of our garden spaded and John put in a few rows of onions and lettuce one evening last week. David Harriman has over half of his garden spaded but has not planted anything yet. So far as I know David's wife has not been here since last November 11. Don't think he is over there very often either.

Mary LeMaster had her operation last November but has not been able to go out to work yet. You know that she cleans house for people. John and I finally consented to let Mr. Mikesell present our names in the Grange. They did not black ball us so we will be joining some of these times. Do not know just when they will have the degree work.

Mr. John Palmer died April 1st. He was 75 years old last November. Do you remember him? He is Earl's father. Am sure you met him. Elma sent us word as soon as she could after his death so we were at Palmers a week ago Saturday. They were always so good to me and they liked John so well also that we got a spray of flowers. We did not get to go to the funeral as it was on Monday and John had to teach.

Mrs. Palmer (John's wife) is very feeble, just able to set up and walk a little. Mr. Palmer had the flu and went out too soon and had a set back and died with pneumonia.

In regard to the letter that Mamma wrote to you and told you to send it on to me. Well Mae found out that Mamma wrote a letter to you and gave you orders to send it to me and now Mae wants me to send it to her. I declare that Mae has enough worries without knowing what is in that letter. I just can't send it to her and if you agree, I could tell Mae that you decided to destroy it and that you did not send it any farther.

Of course, I wouldn't want to tell her that and then have her ask you and you say that you sent it on to me. Of course you did send it and I still have it. I want to write to Mae nut wouldn't want to say that you did one thing with it and maybe you write and say something different. Write as soon as you possibly can and let me know if it is O.K. with you to tell her that you destroyed the letter. I just have to fix up some excuse not to send it to her.

Are you going to have enough money saved up to pay your insurance when it is due? My but I hope that you will have. I would surely hate to see you lose it now.

Have you heard from Mamma lately? I supposed she is out at the farm digging away. Suppose Mae told you the history of the old organ. Mae wrote and wanted to know what I thought about getting the remains of the old organ back and I said get it if you can. You know very well that if either of us girls would have given anything from the farm away, we would have been branded as thieves or disposing of stolen property. Harry [Steele] just makes me boil. Just the fact alone that Harry gave the remains of the old organ away is sufficient proof that he cared nothing for it at all. When Glenn went to Hays after it was given away, Mae and Glenn just hopped ahead of Harry. Harry and some more out there bear watching if you ask me. Glenn may have his faults but he is not the only one in this world with faults.

Let me know if you are going to be able to pay your insurance. I do hope so.
Most lovingly, Georgia

May 15, 1932
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Will make an effort to answer your letter this evening. How are you and do you have work now? I surely do hope so. Have been thinking I would get your letter answered then something else would come up and I just wouldn't get it done. John's school closed April 22nd. We were both busy getting papers graded, report cards fixed, and basket dinner ready as soon as school was all over with. John and I went after the house cleaning. John used paper cleaner while I washed the wood work. We have all of the upstairs cleaned and all of the downstairs except the kitchen and am putting the finishing touches on the dining room.

About a year ago this time, I was laying upstairs in bed but am jumping around real lively now. Am still taking cod liver oil but am going to stop as soon as the is bottle is gone, Am also taking some of Doctor Koepke's pills, one after each meal for gas in my bowels.

John's father had his sheep shorn. John helped shear four days last week. Last Wednesday, Lucy and Ruth told us to bring Edna and Mary LeMaster up when John went up to shear so we did. We had a great day. Was there for dinner and supper. Mary and Edna LeMaster went with Ruth after the cows. Mrs. Harriman and David are both living together here beside us. Did you read anything in the papers about the coal strike over here in Harrison County? The National Guards were called out to keep order. The strike isn't settled yet. Don't know how things are going to turn out. Isn't it terrible about what happened to the [Charles] Lindberg baby?

I answered Mae's [Huston] last letter and inquiry about the letter Mamma wrote. I will return the letter to you with this one I answered Mae regarding the letter as you instructed so you can make way with it when you get it.

You inquired about the children at Earl Palmers. Evelyn is O.K. but the baby met with quite a mishap early in January. Mabel put the baby in her high chair in the kitchen by the window then went to the wash house to do the week's washing. The baby tilted the high chair over on the stove and laid the side of her face on the top of the hot stove. Old Mrs. Palmer was there and rescued her but her face was severely burned, They had to keep it bandaged until Easter. It was so hard to heal.

My but I was glad to hear that you thought you could take care of your insurance. I do hope that you can. Let me know how you come out with it for I don't want you to lose it now.

About that letter. I was the one that let the cat out of the bag. I didn't realize that it was going to be as bad as it was or I'd never have mentioned it. The way I come to tell it, I wrote to Mae last winter and said that I had not heard from you for some time but that I had a letter from Mamma and she said that she wrote you a letter and told you to send it on to me. So I supposed I would be hearing from you before long. Then Mae kept at me about wanting to see that letter.

Don't believe there is much more to write this time so will close and get this in the mail. Let me hear from you real soon.

Lovingly, Georgia

June 29, 1932
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I am wondering if you ever reached Cincy after leaving here. You said you would write but we haven't seen anything. I don't even know your address but will send this to the Inn. I have had 2 opportunities to go to Cincy lately. I went both times but couldn't or didn't find you because I didn't have an address. I may be down again before long.

About a week after you left, Georgia and Joun came and surprised me. I did not know they were coming. It was all on account of that old banknote. I understand Harry [Steele] and Mamma came down to see you to get you to put your John Henry on it. They both came down here. Mamma was very, very stiff and cold. She didn't scarcely care to be friendly. I haven't seen or heard from them since all they wanted was my name and then I could go to hell for all they cared. Mama has had her phone disconnected but that doesn't mean anything for she would scarcely carry on a conversation a year ago. Of course, the other house [the Steeles] don't call and I won't call them.

Mamma is taking care of Mr. Evans since he fell and broke his leg. Poor Georgia well she went home with a sore spot. Will tell you when I get to see you. She didn't get a welcome up there at all. But she didn't feel like much anyway. Have you had any word of anything lately? Georgia said their time was limited so didn't know your address or where they should go to see you. I have been waiting to hear from you.

Velma Stewart and James Jackson are to be married. Nellie Somers was married a short time ago.

I have been having the summer Grippe but manage to keep going most of the time. How do you like the place you are? Georgia is anxious to hear from you.

I just want a chance to talk to Harry by himself. The youngsters are OK. Myron had a birthday yesterday. It was 6 years ago to the day since Papa died.

Lovingly, Mae

July 15, 1932
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I had just about given up hopes of ever hearing from you again when John came from the P.O. with your letter. You can't imagine how glad I am to know that you have work and are so well pleased with your place and work. Sincerely hope that you can stay a long time.

John and I are both as usual. John has been helping his father with his harvesting. Ruth told John yesterday to tell me to come up home with him this morning but I had not cleaned my home up yet this week so stayed home to do that then. I also had mending to do.

The LeMaster girls are both pretty well for them. Yes, the Harrimans are as usual. David is still with his Mother. David's wife has not been here as yet this summer.

In April, when I wrote to you, I told you about Dorothy Palmer getting burned on the face. She is getting along O.K. now. Of course, there is a terrible mark on her face yet but she is so sweet and just real lively. But there is a more sad situation there now than ever before. Mabel, that is Evelyn's and Dorothy's mother is in her grave. Poor Earl I feel so sorry for him. Mabel took sick on Wednesday, July 6th. They had two doctors out to see her and one pronounced it appendicitis. As time went on, she got worse and Saturday night, she was taken to the hospital and they operated Sunday morning. After the operation, she came to and seemed real bright and was talked to Earl and wanted to know how long it would be until she could go home. The Doctor told Earl she would be all right and for him to go to the Doctor's house and get some rest. He went but in a few hours was called back to the hospital. She died about 4:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Her heart went bad. Mabel was so fleshy that an operation was hard on her. She weighed 247 pounds. Mabel also had "adhesions" whatever that is.

Mabel's sister Eleanor (the girl that went home with me one Xmas) called me on the phone Sunday evening and told me that Mrs. Earl Palmer was dead. I could hardly believe it, but John and I went over on Monday evening and found it to be true.

Evelyn is nine years old and Dorothy (the baby) was one year old last April. Mabel was still nursing the baby on account of it getting so badly burned. Earl is left there now with his mother and the two children. I do not know what Early will do now. It just seems terrible that such sorrow should come to him.

Have you heard from Mamma lately? From the sound of your letter, I don't believe that you have. I was almost sure that you would have gotten a letter from her sometime the first of June. I will explain why I thought so.

In May, I got a very short letter from Mamma and it said "please sign this note and return to me immediately." In her letter was also a letter from John Pults threatening to sell Mamma out unless all the heirs signed the [bank] note. Well, I supposed that [bank] note had been paid off long ago. It worried me like everything to get such a letter carrying such threats. Well, John and I talked the matter over and tried to figure out why it was so necessary that all the children sign and I finally persuade John to get ready and we would make a little trip over to Fairhaven to see if we could get a little inside information on business affairs. We got Mamma's letter on Friday and we started home on the following Monday morning. We went without an invitation and left without an invitation to ever return again.

John and I tried as best we could to get Mamma to see that if we children wanted the farm improved to let us spend our own money doing it. I told her that we all knew how hard she had worked and that it was not right for us girls to stand back and see her spend her last cent on improving that farm and further to still have notes hanging over her head. When we were home in May was the first time since Papa's death that I have stood right up before Harry and Mamma and spoke my mind. Mamma just does as Harry says and he will willingly see his mother spend her last cent on the farm when she has that note hanging against her unpaid [note]. I told them that it was not right and that I did not intend to stand for it. Furthermore, I said that I did not consider it fair to ask us girls to sign notes when we knew nothing about business affairs on the farm. She gave me to understand that I was not going to know how business was going therefore I did not sign the note. I have been wanting to tell you all about it before this but did not know your address. Mamma, Harry, John and I went to College Corner to the bank. Pults said he would file suit if all four children did not sign but changed his mind before we left the bank.

Pults tried to puff Harry up and tell us that Harry was doing fine and getting ahead while others were going the opposite and before we left the bank, we found out that Harry has \$200 borrowed from the bank. I feel sorry for the others if they are worse off than Harry. Mamma tried to make us think that you and Mae are just fine with it, but I noticed that neither of you have heard from her since we were there in May.

I had a letter from Mae a few days ago and at that time she had not seen or heard from any of them since John and I were there. John and I got to Mamma's house on Monday evening and went to Mae's house on Wednesday about noon and were there until Sunday evening. On Friday evening, while we were at Mae's Milton and Velva gave a little party in honor of Uncle Will's 77th birthday. Mamma went with Harry, Dorothy, and Jean. Mae, Glenn, the children, John and I went in our car. Had a very nice evening but Dorothy and I did not have much to say to one another.

Harry came down to Fairhaven while we were there and invited us out to the Farm. Mamma said that the last time we were there, she promised herself that she would never go there with the whole crowd again. I told her that she could get ready and go out with John for I was not going. She said no so John went out one afternoon by his lonesome. As you and Mae both have your names on that note, I bet if I were you, I would make it my business to know whether Mamma's money goes to improve the farm or to pay off that darned old note. I'm sure it's Harry's fault, it is still hanging over Mamma's head today and it's time someone was looking into things. Whenever you ask her about how the note is being paid, demand a civil answer. Don't take "Oh, I don't know" for an answer. It is high time that we girls are looking out for her. We told her that she was not living good enough and she took it as an awful insult. We are trying to help her but she can't see it that way. She kept harping that I owed \$500. But if I do, why didn't she tell me about it 6 years ago not wait until now.

More than likely, you have had enough on that subject so will turn to some other subject. The next time I send a package to Mae, I will put your Kodak in and send it along. I have not taken any pictures for a long time. Guess I got disgusted with the last film as almost all the pictures were no good at all. This is rather a long letter but you know it costs more to send a letter and I might as well get my money's worth. Please try and not make it so long the next time. I don't want you to misunderstand me but I am willing to help my mother whenever I can but not as long as H.K.S. [Harry K. Steele] is running her business for her. He is just running it into the ground.

The last time I heard from Mae, she said that Forest and Ida have agreed to disagree and live apart. Did you know about it? Do you see Mary Rees often?

Guess I had better close for this time and please don't make it so long the next time before you write.

With Love, Georgia

July 24, 1932

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

Well, well, well. It sure seems like a long time since 2 am that night. It really seems like an age for I've gone through so much since then. Just at what time I was taking a sort of cold on my head and I was lying round not doing any more than was necessary. The Monday evening after I saw you, it was a little too early to go to bed and I felt too bum to do anything. So I went in the bedroom and threw myself down on the bed and was sort of dozing when there was a knock on the door. I gathered myself up, went to the door, and behold you, there stood Georgia. John was still out in the machine. Well, they came in and hadn't been in the house half an hour and they commenced on me for not having "that note paid off and a roll of bills in the bank," which John kept telling me over and over again.

Well, they were both bull mad and finally went to bed, only to get up in the morning and go at it again, only 10 times harder. I went to the phone and told Harry to come down, which he did and they wouldn't talk with any sense at all. I finally told him we would just go over to College Corner [bank] and talk to John Pults, which we did. Well, John and Pults had it up one side and down the other and John wouldn't do anything or allow Georgia to do anything so it was fixed up with my own name and yours and Harry's and Mae's name on it Pults called me out and told me to tell them to go back where they belong and for them to stay there, that this country didn't need anybody like them in it. I didn't tell them what he said, but he was sure mad at them. Well, we got through at the bank and went back home. They still clawed the rag and stayed in Fairhaven til the next morning. By this time, I just laid down only when I had to get up to get them something to eat. Of all the nasty, dirty things he threw at me. He was just as nasty to me as Glenn was to you Christmas night and all over nothing to begin on. He said you girls had never been taught thrift and that was the reason some of you don't have anything. He said, "now how much do you suppose Georgia had when she was married." I said "I don't know" and he said "only one hundred and fifty dollars." I said "I don't think that is any fault of mine, she made it and she spent it. She didn't give it to the family. He said it was nobody's fault but mine for I never taught thrift to them. Georgia chimed in and said "no, I never knew how to save til I married John". And then they bounced in on you and Mae, that you didn't have anything and it was just my fault that I'd never learned you how to save. That Martha had paid \$75 for a coal and that she couldn't even get enough to pay insurance and that you had asked me for the money and I wouldn't help you. Well, honestly, I said I didn't have any and he sassed back and said I had an awful good "forgotten".

Now Martha, you know I always tried to visit around and help you if I could and if you asked me I honestly didn't have it. I can't believe that you will say that I didn't try to help you if I could. Then he went on to say that he had to furnish the money for your insurance and I said I bet she paid it back and he said "yes, she worked it out" and said "well that was just the same as the money so you needn't kick." He said "how long is it since you and Martha got to be so thick with Mae you didn't seem to be so thick at Christmas." Oh I can't tell you all he said, but Harry said he just ought to have been arrested. If he ever tried it again that was what would happen.

Well, they finally went to Oxford and by this time, it was Thursday. The next evening, we were invited down to Uncle Wills in the evening as it was his 77th birthday. I felt so bad I didn't want to go, but Harry just made me. Well, we all went down there again but we didn't mix. Harry and I started home first and we have never seen any of them since. Harry drove home through Fairhaven and I got out there. It was about one o'clock at night. I went to bed and thought I'll stay in bed now as long as I want to. At 7:30 the next morning, here come someone pounding on the door and I laid still and yet they kept pounding. Finally, I had to pull out and behold, it was Charlie Williams come to see if I'd go right home with him, that Roff Evans had fell of the ladder and broke his hip. He even wanted me to go before I had breakfast, but I begged off for an hour and a half. He

came back for me and I stayed 7 weeks. The old gentleman got better and they dismissed Combs and I at the same time.

Well, when I got to Williams, I had the Doctor examine one and he said I had sinus trouble. For about 10 days, I could hardly cut it. But I finally got better and feel pretty fair now. For the first 4 weeks, Mr. Evans was hard to take care of, but it was not so hard after that. I helped Harrys with the threshing last week and called up and asked Mae if they had threshed, that I would help her if she wanted me to. She said, "all right" and I said for her to call when she got ready. But she didn't so I suppose she is still mad. I've not heard from her. I've not hear from Jerrett either. Now Martha, I want you to tell me in your next letter without fail, if they wrote and gave me thunder about the note.

Say, did you know that Forest and Ida have separated. She went down and stayed at Marys awhile, but is back at her Dad's now. She told Ona Beckett when he was out threshing.

Clara Belle has a boy 8 months old. They call him Freddie. Now Martha, I've tried so hard to do you all the right thing. I said I never got her all the clothes she needed and he said "and she even went to the harvest field and shocked wheat." I said her father paid her in money and she knows it too. He was just as nasty to me as Glenn [Huston] was to you. Do write me real soon. I think if anything happens that Williams need help again. I think I'll get to go back. Do write, please do and be sure and burn this.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

September 24, 1932
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

What in the world is the matter? It is now ten weeks since I heard from you. I wrote you a long time ago but got nothing. I wonder if you are sick or give up your job or too busy or what. Do let me hear from you.

Martha Silvers was working in a TB Hospital at Dayton and contracted the disease and has been laid off for a year but is better now. Now you just must write me. Harry hurt his hand in the corn binder most terribly about 2 weeks ago. He cut an artery and for days and days he bled something awful.

Old Mrs. Kidd got sick and sort of crazy and out of fix in general. There is nobody to take care of her so the Presbyterians got after me to take her for a week and they'd pay the bill. When the time was up, they took her to the Poor House.

I had an awful time. She insisted on getting in bed with her duds and shoes on and dragging the bed covers, pillows and cushions out on the floor and putting her old head on the pillows and her feet with her shoes on with my good cushions and so on.

John Taylor was buried yesterday and Carl Van W. died some weeks ago. I will not write more til I see if I can hear from you. Now do please write for I'm anxious.

Oceans and oceans of love, Mamma

October 9, 1932
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My Dearest Martha,

I received your letter and I'm so sorry that you have been feeling so bad. Now I'm not sure that you ought to keep on at that job for it will be a dear one to you in the end if you lose your health. You just can't afford to do that. If you are not better by this time, I think you had better look for a change. When you started out, I understood that you worked from six to six. Did they change it and make you work longer?

My dear girl, I thank you so much for the present you sent me but you should have kept it for you might need it. Now if you do, why let me know and I'll do my best to help out. You wanted to know what I got for taking care of Mrs. Kidd? Why it was \$10,00 a week. She is in the poor house now. The church paid me.

It just makes me sick the way Maes [Huston] and Georgia [Thompson] act. If Harry [Steele] and I had been crooked and mean, and not doing the straight thing, it would be different. But we have done the best we know how to do. John is not one whit believed. Glenn [Huston], you, and I sure know what he is.

I have not seen or talked on the phone to Mae since the day Karl Van Dyke was buried. I spoke to her that day. Mae and Glenn was at the funeral by themselves and Harry and I were alone. Ora Becket had gone

down with us but Dorothy and Jean [Steele West] stayed at home. When we left Helens, Mae said to me "come and ride to Fairhaven with us." I didn't want to do it but I did. Glenn never grunted at me in any shape or form all the time I was in their machine, not even said "how do you do?"

Do tell me this when you write. Is John teaching school this year? He didn't have a school when they were here last May and another thing, did they go down to your place to see you when they were here the last time? Don't forget to tell me.

Charley Williams came to see me and asked if you wanted him to send voting papers to you. I told him that you had been in Cincinnati for ten years and that you voted down there. Now don't fail to go to the polls and help the Republicans out for they will need every vote they can get. We know the Republicans are far from being perfect but we know they are better than the Democrats. We don't want the free saloons again.

Will Hayes was buried last Friday afternoon. He had been bedfast for months and months. I don't know what Laura will do now. Ida Reese is staying at her Dad's all the time. Hers and Forests divorce business comes off in November. Someone offered their sympathy to Forest and he said "you need not sympathize with me. I'm better off now than I've even been since I married her for all she would do was to lay around in bed." I expect he told the truth.

I must tell you that Bernice Morten didn't get to stay down at Christ Hospital. They claimed it was because one leg was shorter than the other but some folks thought maybe she didn't pass the exam or something of that kind. She wasn't gone ten days. She is going to Miami now and goes on the bus night and morning.

Tell me if you ever hear anything of Mary Reese? Forest goes to church at Sugar Valley and all the rest of the Reeses go to Fairhaven so they won't have to look at him.

Ora Becket and Frank Steele had a big falling out and now Ora has to move and no place to move to. There is a stranger coming there. I don't know how Mae feels but she is much fleshier than I ever saw her. Now Martha, do tell me a about yourself and if you are not better by this time, you had better give up your job before you get down. It won't pay to get run down like Martha Silvers did. I haven't any job in sight but sometimes something pops up when I'm least expecting it. Can't you arrange to come up and spend Xmas with me? If you can, I'll promise you won't go to bed without your supper.

Lots of love, Mamma

October 30, 1932
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My darling Martha,

I'm just so heartsick that I can hardly stand it and now I'll proceed to explain. About 3 weeks ago, Mr. Sacre at College Corner got after me to go over there and take care of his wife who at that time was in Christ Hospital. He said she would be home in a day or so and for me to be ready. I've hung around some all this time waiting on them but they never showed up. I got your letter yesterday about 4 pm and was so tickled that I was home and I walked out to Harrys right away to tell them about it. They were just as tickled as I was. I came back home last night. I went to church today and laid round the rest of the time and at 7 o'clock went to bed. I'd been in bed a couple of hours and here come a knock on the door and it was Maud wanting me to come to the phone, that Sacre wanted to talk to me. Here he brought his old woman home today and wanted me bright and early in the morning. I didn't know what in the dickens to tell him for I wanted to see you so bad but I finally told him I'd go. I was so afraid you would think I shouldn't go but you know I just had to go after saying I would. I'll write you when I get there and maybe I won't have to stay very long and you can come then. Don't think hard of me.

And now I must tell you about the Fairhaven Post Office. They are not going to have a post office here anymore and my address from this time on will be College Corner, RR 2. I must tell you about the walnuts this year. The trees were just loaded out at Harrys and I hauled more than a bushel for you and me. I have them spread out on the floor upstairs at home. I will tell you they are just great. Have you got a locker so I can give you a 25 pounds sack full when we get a chance to get them to you? Now you make your plans as to where you will put them. Did I understand that you had to get some things out of your trunk up at Maes? I just can't understand Mae. When she gets anything of mine, she just won't return them. Now she got my apple butter kettle and more than a year ago and I can't get them home. The quilting frames are the same and the bed pan,

I've tried and tried to get it and all I can get is the promise. If you get up there, just hold your own. I sometimes need the bed pan out on my own business. It's pretty near 10 o'clock and I'll go to bed again and see if I can stay there til morning. I'm all stirred up and can't think but maybe I'll write you in the morning.

Ella Scouller is awful bad again and doubtful about her getting up. However, his wife passed through College Corner last week. He will sure get my vote.

[next morning] I'm up and got the fires started and will not clean up and get ready to start. I want the work but I had my head set to entertain you.

Oceans and oceans of love, Mamma

November 1, 1932
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I am at Mr. Sacres at College Corner. Mrs. Sacre is resting fairly comfortable but is far from being well. Don't know how long I'll be here. I'm hoping to hear from you some. Do take good care of yourself and maybe we can be together at Fairhaven at Christmas. Hope it works and be like it was last year.

Lots of love, Mamma

November 10, 1932
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I received your big surprise letter today. When the post office called me, I couldn't imagine who the sender could be and what news it was bearing. I just feel that I really shouldn't accept it for I haven't much to offer for it. I told Aileen what you said and she was tickled to pieces and said "I wish I could write so Aunt Martha and Santy could understand." She said she would give Santy a big hug and a kiss and Aunt Martha too.

I haven't heard a word from anyone since you were here. Friday is Armistice Day so we won't go to Hamilton until Saturday am. I got my washing and ironing done for this week and will do some cleaning the rest of the week.

Now if at any time you want anything that is in my power to do or get for you, don't fail to just say so. I say many, many thanks for what you have done this Fall for us. Now if you can possibly get off for a weekend or such, a matter just came up. It will be a change or if around Christmas come just let me know when so I will be sure to be here. Now don't send anymore Christmas for you have many times done your share. I can't mail this until Saturday so will wait to get the shoes and let you know about them.

[Monday morning] We all went to Hamilton Saturday. The children and I shopped for shoes. I found a dandy pair of shoes for Aileen, nice black leather very dressy looking shoes. The shoes are Simplex Shoes for children. The store was having a special sale so I got the shoes for \$2.26. The shoes were \$3.00 before. Then I got Aileen a nice pair of goulashes or rubber overshoes and she was more than tickled about them.

Because of the sale, I got the overshoes for \$1.00. Using \$3.26, I got Myron a pair of goulashes as near like Aileens as I could but his has a warmer lining than Aileens. I paid \$1.00 for Myrons overshoes and it goes without saying that he was so tickled with them that the smile went from ear to ear. Overall, I used \$4.26 of the money. I will use the balance towards a pair of shoes for Myron. I don't know when the youngsters have been so pleased with anything as they have been over their shoes.

Yesterday morning the ground was covered with snow and the youngsters were glad of such a wonderful chance of trying out their new overshoes.

This evening, Glenn is in Cincy down at Music Hall to the Milk Muting. Things must be terrible since the strike is on. The strike is not only in Cincy but Hamilton and Oxford. Our milk man told me this am that he doubted very much if he reached his destination with his milk this day. We were getting little enough out of it anyway. Emerson Elliot and Glenn Dennyson and Glenn Huston all went together this evening. There is talk of putting Cincy under the State Militia. This is the main topic around here now.

Have you heard from Mama or do you know any more about the bank note than you did when you were here? If you hear anything from her or any of them as to when the note is due or anything at all, will you please let me know. Georgia hasn't heard from her since Georgia was home. Poor girl feels as though she hasn't

anybody. The first chance I get or first rainy day that comes, I will try and go to Eaton and see what I can see. Glenn will finish shredding tomorrow. I will surely be glad to have that job completed.

Again, I say many thanks for what you sent and the children join in saying thanks. Whenever you can, just come up. If you hear anything, please let me know right away.

Most lovingly, Mae

November 20, 1932
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

We arrived home safe and sound a little before dark and it rained real hard on us all the way home. We stopped in Hamilton long enough to buy a pair of arctics for me but did not stop at Maes [Huston]. You will never know how much we enjoyed our visit with you. It was a rare treat and something we don't see up this way. I can't be thankful enough that you have such a good job and you don't have to be out in the cold and wet dragging around. Now, don't think you don't have any nasty jobs, for I know you do. But you are sure of your pay!

Did Fern get her job landed? She was sure wanting it bad. We talked about what a good dinner you had and it was such a surprise for we never dreamed of eating at your house. Jean Lybrook is coming along fine now. The evening we came from seeing you, they thought she was going to have pneumonia, but she is better now. Ella Scouler was buried yesterday afternoon at Fairhaven cemetery. There is a lot of snow on the ground now and it is so cold and disagreeable.

I won't know how to entertain you when you come up for I haven't got a lot of pretty things like you have. Did you get your radio fixed up in working order? It will be so much company for you and it was just all right for you to get it, for you made the money yourself. It is nobody's business but your own. Will you have to pay for electricity or will they give that to you?

[Next morning] Jake Hitzman dropped dead in his home at Hamilton yesterday pm. Jean Lybrook is lots worse again and it is doubtful if she gets better.

Oceans of love, Mamma

November 20, 1932
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

What in the world has become of you? I have been watching and waiting and waiting and watching for a letter from you but it never comes. Are you still working at the Branch Hospital in Price Hill? Have you been sick or what is wrong? I do wish that you would let me hear from you more often. When I don't hear from you for a long time, I don't know whether to think that you have moved your location or not. I like to know that I am sending your letter to the correct address when I write you.

How are you? We are both O.K. Next Thursday is Thanksgiving and I expect we will be up home helping John's father butcher a hog. We are going to buy our porkers from John's father. Have you heard from Mae lately? Mae is the only one I ever hear from over here anymore.

How did the elections suit you this year? Have you been up to Mae's lately? I don't know much news but do wish that you would write me a few lines real soon.

John and I joined Grange in Jewett last spring They have elected new officers for the year and John is the new "Master". He was installed last week.

Love, Georgia

November 27, 1932
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Must say I am ashamed for not answering your special letter sooner but hope you will understand why when I get this written. I wanted to tell you what I got Myron also I got him a \$3.25 pair of brown Oxford shoes for \$1.66. The same place, I got Aileens. The shoes are good leather. He is quite proud of them. I have some

money left and expect to get Myron a pair of pants or suit with it. Mrs. Elliott gave me a wool remnant left from one of her girl's dresses and I can get a dress for Aileen.

Last night to my surprise, Mama and Harry came down between 8:30 and 9:00 pm and stayed until 10:30. Of course, you know what for. I didn't find out anything. Did you? I never mentioned what [College Corner banker] Pultz had told me and I haven't been to Eaton so I know nothing.

Mam had an awful fall the day before Thanksgiving. She fell face down on her right arm. She has very little use of this arm and it is badly swollen. Beside this, she fell on her face. Her eyes and a way down in her cheeks are a dark red very near black. Her nose was swollen but not discolored. Her eyes were swollen and had watery sometimes just under the skin. I asked if she had been to a doctor and she said "no". He would only make fun of her, she said, and take her dollar. I said go to another Doctor that will take care of his business. Neither one would take off their coats. Mamma couldn't get through talking about what a nice place you have there.

She just wouldn't talk about Georgia at all. I asked if she had heard from her lately and she said no and started in again to tell me what a nice place you have.

Ella Schoullar died about 2 weeks ago. Jake Heistsman was buried last Saturday. Will Hays about 6 weeks ago. Dorothy Ramsey and Sam Harris are seeing each other quite often. Glenn, Aileen and Myron went hunting Thanksgiving Day and had a wonderful time. Glen got one rabbit and we had it for supper last night.

Now whenever you can run up, must come. Let me know what time is most convenient in the holiday season but please don't bring more things for I can't keep up with you. I am going to give Mama that crinkly lavender bed spread for Christmas and also send the stockings you left for her.

Most lovingly, Mae

December 16, 1932
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear little girl,

I've been wondering why you didn't write to me and I'll bet you have wondered why I didn't write. So I'll now proceed with my tale of woe. After three days after we were down to see you, I was out in the yard at Harry's [Steele] and I stepped on a little piece of baling wire and it tripped me so that I fell right flat on my face. My right hand was under me and it doubled together. I didn't break any bones, but it just sprained the hand so that I couldn't do a thing with my right hand. It is now beginning to feel pretty good again. My nose was mashed flat and I sure wondered if it would always stay that way. One eye was swelled shut and I could see some out of the other eye. I had no place for my specks to see. I sure felt like I would never by any account again. But it is about 4 weeks now and I feel pretty decent again if it wasn't so furious cold. I had to stay at Harry's for I could not handle the fuel for it hurt my hand so bad. Oh, ain't this weather something dreadful? It is way down to zero and below every morning and everything is frozen and a great deep snow is in the barn again.

I just can't be thankful enough that you have such a warm, cozy place to be and a good job in the bargain. Most don't understand me that I think it is such a rare pleasure to get to serve those sick people, but as that is your choice of work, I'm so thankful that you can get it, for there are so many who want to work and myself among the rest. There is so much flu and sickness over the country, but people ain't got the money to hire if they can't get along without it.

Harry and I went down to get Mae [Huston] to sign the note, which she did and although my face was so black and swollen, she never called up to see how I was coming. We were down there about 2 hours but Glenn [Huston] never spoke to me in any shape or form. My goodness but it was cold down there in their house. I expect they miss Bill getting wood for them. They have two boy roomers staying there so I'll bet bed clothes are scare enough. The boys sleep in the parlor.

Now my dearest, don't think that I do not want you to come, but as dreadfully severe as the weather is, I just can't help but think that you ought not to come up on Christmas and expose yourself, when you would get to stay such a short time. Being in where it is so nice and warm, you can't imagine how horrible cold it is and there is so much sickness too. Now don't you think it would be better to stay in and take care of yourself and then come when the weather gets better.

Martha, I can't get away to get you anything for Christmas and neither you nor I nor any of the rest have any spare money for Christmas. So I'm going to send you some odd pieces of old jewelry and you take it downtown and sell it for whatever you can get and then get you something you want. It is no good to me and there is no reason why you shouldn't do it. Don't open the pack before anyone or tell them anything about it. Be sure and write me when you get it and tell me if it will be any good to you. Now Martha, don't think it is because I don't want to see you. I'm not going anyplace. Please write right away when you get the box.

Your love, Mamma

December 12, 1932
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Was surely glad to hear from you. Had almost decided that you had passed out of existence. How are you standing this cold spell? Did it run you in off of the sleeping porch or not? We have been sleeping with our windows up and last Friday night the wind came in my window real strong with the results that I have the stiff neck ever since Saturday morning. It has been real cold here the past few days. It snowed Saturday all day and the ground has been covered ever since. John put the chains on the car to go to school this am. Am surely glad to know that you are at the same place and like it so well.

You inquired about the neighbors. It would take quite a bit of space and time to go into all the detail but last Monday evening, December 5, we had quite an exciting time for a little while here on our street. Harry Arbaugh got mad at Mrs. Arbaugh and when he gets made he doesn't have any sense at all. He put handcuffs on Mrs. Arbaugh and was going to beat up on her when neighbors interfered and called the sheriff at Cadiz. The sheriff came down but guess all he did was to give Harry a good talking to.

Then on Thursday afternoon, I made a short trip over town and on my way home I stopped in at Mrs. Harriman's. After I had been there a short time, she brought up the subject about Mr. and Mrs. Arbaugh and their troubles then she started in on John and me. She said the time Mrs. Arbaugh had to spend the night with Mrs. Harriman because Harry Arbaugh shut her out that she came over here and said something to John and me about Arbaughs and that we looked at her as though it was her and David fighting. She just went on at a great rate. I tried to explain that we did not have anything to say because we did not know that Arbaughs had any trouble but still she kept raving. I stood it just as long as I could and picked up my package and walked out. As I went out she said something about not being offended. If she and I ever talk again, she will come to my house for I'm not going in her house again unless things change a lot.

Is St. Elizabeth Hospital in Cincinnati or Covington, Kentucky? The reason I ask is that there is a girl here in town wanting to enter the hospital for training. Her mother said that her daughter had made application at St. Elizabeth Hospital some time ago but had ever heard from them. This girl as I understand wanted to enter training the first of the year. Her name is Irene Prather. She graduated from high school here in Jewett last spring. Her father worked in the deep mines but was hurt and never recovered sufficiently to be able to go back to work. There are four children in the family and another on the way. They do not have much but are nice people. They were formerly from Kentucky and Mr. Prather used to teach school in Kentucky.

When I mentioned that I had a sister nursing in Cincinnati, they wanted to know if I would ask you what her chances for entering the hospital might be. If you could give any information about entering St. Elizabeth or any other hospital, I will tell them and am sure that they would appreciate it. Please give this matter attention as soon as you can and find time for I know they are anxious to know what prospects are. I am not sure whether they moved to Jewett since you were here or not. They live in the big square house over in the bottom. You can plainly see it from our back door.

John and I were invited to Marys for dinner yesterday with my stiff neck and the cold weather, we did not go. We also wanted to go to Steubenville last Saturday but it was too snowy and bad for us to venture out. Thanks lots for the birthday card. When John came in with the mail last Monday, he had a pint of ice cream so we celebrated eating ice cream. It is about time for John to be getting home from school so I will close for this time and see about supper. For one thing, I am having boiled cabbage and it is cooking now.

Mae sent me a clipping about Nellie Somers getting married. She asked that I sent it on to you. If you get over this way and want to call us on the telephone, you can call George Busby. We get our milk from him and they just had a phone put in this fall. They will be glad to deliver your message.

Lovingly, Georgia

December 18, 1932
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Tomorrow is your birthday and I haven't a card here and haven't any pep to make any baking to send you. We wish you many happy returns of the day, even though I have to write it. I think I told you about Glenn's [Huston] foot being hurt on a rusty nail. Well it is coming on very nicely.

About 2 weeks ago, Aileen had a hoarse cough that I couldn't reach, last Sunday and Monday, she just wanted to sleep so we called the Doctor out. It was a Bronchial Cold and she was in bed 5 days and missed a whole week of school, School closed Friday for this year. Myron was on duty at school every day. Well, we moved Aileen out on the bed and I stayed with her. After a time, I began to take cold, not much but I got so weak. The Doctor made 2 trips for Aileen and one of those trips was to see both of us. Then he made one trip to see me and see Glenn and Myron. My heart caused most of my trouble. Glenn and Myron both had a fever and slept during the day. The Doctor had given Glenn a preventative but it didn't entirely keep him free. He does no more than necessary. At present, the davenport and bed both take prominent positions in our living room. The family all slept here.

School being out, the students are gone. I expect it will be the last of the week before we are all straightened out again. Today we were to have gone up to Helen's for dinner, but that had to be abandoned for the present. Uncle Will and Milton [Irwin] have each had their turn at being in bed during the same time we were. Helen's brother-in-law was there today so she sent us 2 quarts of vegetable soup and 1 point of jello. I suppose that will be one trip for the holiday week. I have to go to Hamilton sometime this week to complete Xmas plans around here. I have heard nothing at all from Preble County since I wrote you. Yes, we made a discovery and it is this at the Rexall Drug Store in Oxford if we ever can get there. It has the Haliver Oil Capsules, the same ones we got before Park Davis for \$1.13. Now I don't know if he would make a reduction on 5 or more boxes but will find out as early as I can.

Aileen says to ask you if you are coming with Shorty this year? I hope we will be straightened up by that time. If you can come, we will be very glad to have you.

[Tuesday morning] Everyone here is reporting feeling much better. We still are trying to take care of ourselves, Tonight everyone here is moving upstairs and again and hope everyone will feel better for it.

I will mail the stockings you left for Mama with my present. My present is a lavender and white crinkly bed spread. I will put our name on it. If you can come for the last of the week, it will be O.K. as everyone seems on the mend. Hope to get a line from you when you can.

We are planning on going to Hamilton Friday a.m. Will leave the youngsters at Grandmas and I will shop and Glenn will deliver.

Lovingly, Mae

January 5, 1933
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I received your box this noon and was very much surprised to receive the nice things you sent. Many thanks for them. Aileen and Myron were both tickled with what you sent them. Myron held some up against him and said "just my size." Now the medicine, I thank you very much until better paid. My cough seemed to leave all at once. I felt worse than heck for over a week after you were here. I would wash dishes then lay down awhile, then work and then lay down again. I was just so weak. But all at once, I began to feel better and would really accomplish a few things.

Last Monday, I cleaned up the sitting room. It took me all day but I accomplished the job. Aileen and Myron helped, they had all their toys down from upstairs and they marched them upstairs willingly. They were tickled to pieces to get back to school again.

I just finished yours and Georgia's Christmas presents today. I got Georgia's started across the state. I was sorry it was so late but I wrote her and told her it would be so. I got some new ticking and have the down and soft feathers from a dozen ducks in the pillows and it makes it real nice and soft yet not too soft and filled. Then I kept the elephant on and it is done. If I can find a box big enough, I will send it on tomorrow.

If I understand the medicine you sent up, it is for a cough. My cough seems to be gone but I put it in a safe place. Am I right about the medicine? Many thanks for it. I was talking to Milton Irwin yesterday and he had the flu the same time I did here. Now he is back in bed and has a temperature. Doctor Holly put him to bed last week. He says he feels weak and has no appetite. Velva has a sore ear and is having a hard time with it. She has erysipilus. Uncle Will is okay. We were down to Grandpas for New Year's dinner.

I did so much want to talk to you when you came back the other night but I guess some others didn't want us to talk or were afraid for us to talk. When do you suppose you will have time off again? Will you be up then? I am in the hopes that we can go to Eaton at an early date but never can tell much about when.

I forgot to say last night that Aunt Celia is down at Grandpas now and she is asking me if I supposed there would be a chance of her getting a job where you ar. She has worked part-time by the Hamilton Hospitals. Of course, these jobs are only of short duration. Now don't do anything that would affect yourself any. She may write you so you will know better what to say. Her name is Celia Ward. She is Aunt Eula's baby sister. There are a lot of things I would like to ask you but will wait until I see you. Did you learn anything concerning our affairs while up there?

Helen Harrison told me today that Alpha Taylor Grimm was wanting Mama to go to Taylors across the street from her to stay awhile. Don't know if she went or not. I hate to call Mama so much but suppose I will have to in order to find out.

Our boys are back at work again. We have a new boy to help me now. Guess I had better close and go to bed for morning will only come too soon. Come up whenever you can. Many thanks.

[a few days later] Martha, here I find your letter and not mailed yet. It makes me thoroughly ashamed but will mail it. I have been so busy I hardly know what to do first. Glenn hurt his foot on a rusty nail. He is under Doctor care. The Doctor gave him tetanus serum and has dressed it twice. His foot is way too big for his shoe.

Maid Parks says Mama hasn't been home since the election and that only for a few minutes. Jean told Mack that Mama was pulling Jean's wagon filled with corn out to the hogs and slipped and fell. Said she wouldn't go to the Doctor. No doubt she won't go to Fairhaven as long as her face is discolored. Do you know anything about it? If you can come up any time during the holidays or for Christmas, just come but please don't bring a lot this time for I can't keep up with you.

I had misplaced your address so that is the reason this letter hasn't been mailed. Write when you can.

Love, Mae

January 6, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear little girl,

I've just been looking for a letter from you ever since you went back and begun to think the "buggers" sure did get you. I hope you didn't get sick after your trip, but think maybe you were just busy and didn't get at it. I was going to write you yesterday but just as I was ready to eat breakfast, here comes Ida Collins wanting me to come over that Mary Taylor was awful sick. I eat and then stayed all day over there. She really did feel miserable but she had taken physic and they were trying to get that to operate, which it didn't do til afternoon. Then she felt O.K The Doctor was there 3 times yesterday and I think once would have been plenty. I couldn't see at all that she was so near death's door.

John Wilson is to be buried this afternoon at 2 p.m. The services will be here at Fairhaven in our church. Laura is going back to Tennessee with her sisters, now that John is gone. I sort of look for Uncle Will to come over to the funeral this afternoon. I've been canning sausage and pork chops this week.

Have you heard from Mae [Huston] since you went back? Now if you hear anything about her and the operation, be sure to let me know right off. Let me know if you think I should offer my services down there as I don't feel like I should just rush in at breakneck speed.

Of yes, I want to tell you that Miss Hilda is working someplace in New York and when she came home for Xmas, she came by airplane as far as Cincinnati. Of course, it cost more but she said she didn't begrudge that when she got to stay with her folks a little longer. Ha, ha. She went back the same way.

Well, it is mail time so I must close. Do write me real soon and let me know how you are. Of yes, Clara Wright ate dinner and spent the day here one day this week. Do write.

Oceans of love, Mamma

January 13, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

The day my letter left here, your letter came and I could hardly keep from writing you right off but there was a little news I wanted to get to tell you and I never got it til this evening so I'll write you now. Jim and Velma Stewart's baby arrived last Saturday night and its name is Mary Lou Jackson. I knew it for a fact that they fooled around an awful long time after her school was out They had showers for her over at West Alexandria. That is where she was teaching way early last Spring. Her school was out and still they didn't get married. There along in August, they had a shower for her and still it went on awhile. Finally, they got it over. Well Aunt Annise told me this evening that Jim Stewart and his wife went over to Jacksons about four times before they could bring him to time. Young Jim concluded he didn't want to marry her and the old Jacksons had to take the matter in hand. Well, they decided that house and both families live under the same roof. But Velma is dreadfully dissatisfied. I'll bet the whole capoodle are awfully dissatisfied. Mary Williams will have something nearer home to wag her head and tongue over now.

Jim Caruthers was buried this afternoon. He had been in failing health a long time and finally ended up with pneumonia. I do wonder if you have had any word from Mae. She should have written you right away when you sent her the cough medicine. I am so anxious for her to write you for that is the only way I have to get any news from her. Maybe they will see the time when they will be glad to see you and me come. I thought she looked awful bad the night you went back home. Be sure to tell me all about it when you write.

Uncle Will was at John Wilson's funeral last Saturday afternoon and he said Milton was sick in bed with the flu and Velma had Eresy Pel on her ear and was just up and down They still had five or six acres of corn not husked and nobody to do anything but himself. I don't know if he thought I should go home with him and help him out or not. But I thought her mother was the one to appear on the scene and help them out for she stayed there all last winter when there wasn't anything to do. It is a shame that he has to work that way now when he is 77 or 78 years old. Julia Pierson is awful poorly again. Has obstruction of the bowels. Mr. Fergusons are just bored to death over the Jackson-Stewart trouble.

It was so pleasant out of doors this afternoon that I cleaned the yard. The fresh air done me good and I feel like the bed would feel good tonight. I wish you were here to snuggle in with me. John Wilson has one son and he lives in Richmond. The son was born the same day Harry was and he is married and has 3 children. He has lost his job and is worried nearly to death. Too bad, isn't it? Now Martha, do let me hear from you real soon and tell me all about Mae. Do write real soon and take good care of yourself.

Oceans of love, Mamma

January 18, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Suppose that you are over your Christmas vacation by this time. Mae [Huston] wrote me that you went up to her place, Mr. Steele took you to Fairhaven then when you went back it was 9:15 when you got to Maes. Mr. Steele took me on to Hamiton. How did you find things at Fairhaven? Did you get a chance to lay eyes on the farm? Did you see Dorothy [Steele]? Write and tell me all about your little visit.

Is there much flu and other sickness down your way? So far as I know there is no scarlet fever in Jewett but plenty of it over the surrounding Jewett. Some schools are closed.

Last evening at supper, John asked me if I wrote you to let you know that we received your package OK. I said I thought I did but he did not think so. The more I thought about it, I decided that John was right so I am writing this morning. We got your package. John says to say thank you for his handkerchief and I surely thank you for my new purse and handkerchief. I have some old lard that I am trying to make into soap this morning.

[Next morning] I got my soap made. Don't know how good it will be. It is the first time I ever tried to make soap.

Love, Georgia

January 27, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

What awful, gloomy weather we are having this week. It is so awfully dark in the day time that I just can't see to do anything right and the time is sure a drag. I have been trying to make enough dust caps to do me a year. I have five done and three more to finish. I cleaned the yard and it sure looks fine now. The Austins are pounding and cutting up and generally getting ready to start an IGA grocery store in their store room next Monday. I don't know what sort of an out they will make of it.

Ora Beckett fizzled out at Frank Steele's farm and he is going to make a sale of his implements and then he will move in to the Cooper house up here by the school house. He will work out by the day, just wherever he can get a job.

Mr. Ferguson's mother died last week up at Springfield. She was 92 years old and spent the last two summers here in Fairhaven. She was a mighty sweet old lady. One day last week, Mary Scouler made all the preparations to go to Hamilton and stay awhile. Mr. Fergusons were going to take her. She got all ready even to putting on her hat and cloak and the last thing for her to do was to come over to her mailbox here in front of our house. When she got over here in front of the Taylor and Macks, her game leg tripped and she fell head long and struck her head on the cement. It cut a deep gash right above her left eye and it took four stitches to sew up. Maude and I patched her up as best we could and Mr. Ferguson took her to the Camden Doctor and then on to Hamilton and there left her. I have not heard any more about her. It broke her glasses at the nose piece. One half of her glasses are in tiny bits of pieces so that would cost money too.

[Next morning] I went up to Aunt Annies last night and they were telling me that Herb Rese is the proud father of son, Herbert number 2. I can't think of the second name. It is sure to be hoped that he will have eyes and not be as blind as his father. They also said that Forests and Ida's trial will come off soon and you know that at one time, they took a boy to raise and he run off from them. Ida has this boy up at Reeses now and it is supposed that she is going to have him for one of her witnesses.

Reese McClellahan down here by Hopewell Church died last week. It is about a year since that Ramsey woman that he lived with died and he was worth \$30,000 or \$40,000.

Have you heard any more from Mae? I have not. I just get so nervous about her, that I just don't know what to do. I am so afraid she will die and leave those youngsters and I just can't see how I can help them, do you? I know it is as cold as Greenland down there and I just can't thrive in cold storage.

Laura Hays is to arrive in Tennessee today. I'm glad it ain't me.

Oceans of love, Mamma

January 30, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

It has been so long since I've heard from you. I have been here in College Corner for the last three weeks taking care of Frank Campbell's mother. The case is a hard one but I'm getting \$15.00 per week so I want to stick to the job. Last Friday and Saturday, she came near dying but is a little better now. Mrs. John Hamilton is a trained nurse from Christ Hospital takes care of her at night and I take care of her in the day time.

I had charge of her 2 weeks by myself but she got so bad, I had to have help. She is awful cranky. Now don't worry about me, I am coming all right since Mrs. Hamilton came.

Clara Wright came to College Corner last fall to keep house for the Poster while his wife and kids went to Florida for the winter. Just now, Clara is seriously ill with heart trouble and lung trouble at Doctor Porter's house. They do not expect her to live. One of her daughters had to give up her school to come and take care of her.

Your insurance came to me this morning and I took it out of the outside envelope because it was so bulky. Mae [Steele Huston] had another tooth pulled yesterday but I guess she is as well as usual. I would be so glad if you could get time to drop me a line and tell me how you are coming. Direct my letters to College Corner in care of Mrs. Lena Campbell.

Oceans of love, Mamma

February 7, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My darling little girl,

I can't thank you enough for the nice present you sent me. I was never dreaming of you sending anything like that. Yesterday I went out to the mail box and George Goodwin is our mail carrier and he lives in College Corner. He left a slip of paper in the box saying there was a registered letter of me and to call for it. All I knew to do was to just wait til this morning and see him then. I couldn't figure out how anybody would be sending me a registered letter. When I opened it, out popped two crisp new dollar bills so quick that they nearly fell on the floor. Now many many thanks my dear but you ought to have kept them for something might turn up that you need them. I am very cautious how I spend money these days.

There is just as much sickness as there ever was, but money is so scare that folks just can't hire help if they can get around it. If everybody was getting a good fat pension like Mr. Evans gets (\$80 per month), nurses would be siting fine and foxy.

Aunt Annie gets \$40 a month. By the way, she is not a bit well this winter. She has heart trouble. They had Doctor Haley out to see her two nights last week. She has been in bed. I was going up to see her today but it just rained so hard all day that I just didn't go.

I am going to cut the news out from the newspaper as there was a story about Andrew McClanahan (a mail carrier) and Mrs. Ramsey. After McClanahan's death, his lawyer found an estate worth \$50,000. Rev. Ferguson gave him quite a round in the pulpit last Sabbath morning. He talked on how the love of money got him into trouble and then you know too that him and that Esther Ramsey woman lived together like man and wife. Of course, the preacher didn't say anything about that. But we all Kew what he was thinking about.

The new grocery man and his wife are just newly married. But it is not an IGA store so it won't amount to much. They serenaded them last week. They just live there in that storeroom. A chain store might do something in this town but these little one house stores can't do anything.

Mrs. Forest Campbell took care of little Herbert Lorin and his mother when he was born. I reckon she got to see his feet. You remember that Mrs. Reese told that Ida and Mary were so glad they got to lay Essie Stewart out for they had always wanted to see her feet. It is a pity she couldn't give a kick while they were looking.

Mrs. Ferguson stopped out last Sabbath with a new cloak on that was a twin sister to your new cloak. It looked awful nice.

[next morning] My but it is snowy and nasty this morning. This will give you a chance to use your turisal. Harry and I often laugh about your turisal and wish we had one. Old Miss February is putting on great airs this morning and trying to show what she can do. I have not heard a word about Mae since I hear from you in your other letter.

Margaret Hays has been confined to her bed for months and months taking the rest cure. She has some sort of goiter. Dorothy Ramsy is working there.

Oceans of love, Mamma

March 6, 1933
Mae Steele Huston

Dear Martha,

I haven't heard from you for so long I wonder if you are still in the picture on the map? I planned several times to write and each time I didn't. We thought a little of going to the Meeting of the Co-op held down at Cincy but I couldn't give you any definite information before the date and as the time arrived it found us at home. Glenn had baby pigs to take care of them. I thought I would go down with him. Of course, all that is over with now.

What do you think of the condition of the country? It seems to me that things are going from bad to worse. The radio says all banks in Cincy are closed today and they are talking of closing the stock yards. Indianapolis and Buffalo closed today.

Do you have several patients by the name of Baxter? That is the colored family that lived on this place when we moved here. All of the children are in a TB hospital in Price Hills. Mrs. Baxter called at Mrs. Elliotts not long ago and was telling her.

[Next few days] We have the good fortune of having a radio that Atwater has given to us. We enjoy it a lot. You remember that we wanted to go to Eaton. Sometime ago, we found a day that we could go so we went. We didn't find a thing that [the College Corner banker] Pults spoke about. We found just the papers that we all knew about. We told Landis the story and he said Pults was a great big bluff and said unless we knew where the "will" was that no change could be made. We told him we just wanted to find out about things.

The other day Mamma called up and just wanted to talk. No news in particular on anything. She wanted me to call Harry [Steele] up sometimes. But I think they can call me first. What do you say? She wanted to know if I wanted her to help me make soap. I am not able to even do that.

It seems like I will never get over the effects of the flu at Xmas time. Some days I am almost past going but so far I manage to get dressed. The Doctor ordered me to have a chest X-ray. We had that taken Wednesday. We won't hear from it until Saturday. I see so much to do but just can't do it. I am just so weak. I sleep well at night then some days I am laying down most of the time. I have felt myself going down now for the last 2 or 3 weeks. Come up when you have a chance. Maybe you can tell me something to help straight me out.

Love, Mae

March 15, 1933

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My darling little girl,

Your letter was received a week later because I was out at Harrys [Steele] so I did not get it when it came in. My dear child, you must not be sending me money for if you should get sick, you would need every penny yourself. You have your insurance to pay and lots of other things on your own that you would need to save for yourself. I am so thankful you have such a good job and such a good place to stay. You are so much better than you would be here at home, hammering around and making a nickel. You must keep what you have.

Now let me tell you about Margaret Bell and then I'll pass onto to Mae's case. Last Saturday evening, Margaret who has heart trouble and her man went across the street to eat supper with a neighbor. They had just sat down and she dropped dead. Heart trouble was the cause. She will be buried this pm. They lived in Oxford and had no kids. They both worked at the Western.

Now about Mae. I don't know but little since you were home but I think they have been getting along poor enough. Mrs. Huston came up last Saturday evening and she told me the farm work was fearfully way behind. The Doctor told Mae to do nothing but eat and sleep. Mrs. Huston said Mae didn't eat worth anything and had slept until she couldn't sleep any more. Her bed is upstairs so she walks downstairs but Glenn carries her upstairs.

They went to Cincinnati yesterday to meet a specialist and are to go back every afternoon this week to take electrical treatment. While we were talking last night after they got home, a terrible storm came on and we never got to finish our conversation. I said to Mrs. Huston that it looked mighty like it was going to fall to her and me to keep the house going and she said it sure looked that way. I think she is like some of the rest of us, she has helped out more than she ever got credit for. She said she worked all day Sabbath getting things in shape so the kids could go to school Monday. While I was at Harrys, we killed a beef cow, butchered three hogs

and got the soap made. I wish you could see the nice lot of canned meats that I had to bring home with me last night. Harry and I decided I would get my things ready and I would go to Maes and see what shape she is in.

Mrs. Huston said she knew right now that she could never keep the work going all the time and I told her I would be willing to trade off with her and it wouldn't make it so hard on either one of us. She said she thought that herself. Now don' you dare leave your job to come up there. Harry and I are going down today or tomorrow and I will write you from there and give particulars.

Oceans of love, Mamma

March 16, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Where am I, you say? Well here I am right at my own home and feel like the day after the fair. Harry came down and got me and we went down there. Mrs. Huston had represented that they were in such narrow straits and that she was so terribly fatigued and that she couldn't stand hard work anymore. So I took my duds along expecting to stay if they were as hard up as represented. Well we got there and when we opened the door, there sat Mae, Glenn, and the old lady at the supper table. The kids were in bed and it was between 8:30 and 9 o'clock. Mae and Mrs. Huston were friendly enough but they never spoke to me at all and didn't speak to Harry til Harry said "hello, Glenn" and put out his hand to shake with him. Mae took us in the sitting room and talked to us. Mae didn't ask me to lay off my wraps til I'd been there a half hour. The other two stayed out in the kitchen about an hour, never saying a word to us. They finally dragged in. He sort of thawed out a little so that with a great effort, he could talk.

They had been to Cincy yesterday pm and she was some better than the day before. Now if you get up there the last of the week and they are expecting you, you write and give me our experience while there. Tell me what you think is the matter with her. She wouldn't tell me a word. She has complained to you because I wouldn't go down and help out. Now I offered my services last night and she said "oh no, they don't need any help at all." They were coming on fine. I'd have given a nickel if Mae has known the day before what Mrs. Huston told me on the phone.

Now the next time you hear of me being down there, you may just set it down in your head that they sent for me for that is what will have to happen. I can stand it just as long as they can. Of course, Mae is just at his mercy but he is not going to make a football out of me just because he does her.

Harry and I made up last night that we would never tell a living soul what happened except you. They invited us down Sabbath pm to see you but after what happened last night, we are not going. Now they won't want you to call Harrys up but you call up anyway just that everybody down there will know what you are not on the outs with us. I'll be here at home so you can't talk to me. I had heard him be mean to you time after time and I just kept my mouth shut. But when he jumped all over you a year ago, I vowed I'd not stand it a minute longer. He thinks now that he is on top but I don't for I've got a good place to stay right here and you have a good place at Rice Hill.

Now whatever you do, when you get up there, don't fail to talk to Harrys a minute for they want to make themselves feel that you are not on good terms with Harry and I. I'd rather be an old maid throughout eternity than to be tied up to him. When Mae was married, he wouldn't have anybody at the wedding but the Hustons. I wonder if she has got her boots full by this time.

Ida Reese divorce suit was put off. Don't know when they are expecting it now. I don't hear a word about Jim Jacksons, only they are all living together and that she is so dissatisfied.

Lots of love, Mamma

March 21, 1933
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Say I have been so worried about you wondering if you got back safe. I was afraid maybe the bus didn't run or something. It is a shame that they put you off that way. I expect you are wondering about me too. I slept well Sunday night and all night last night. This am, I have a headache and don't feel very peppy. I feel so

stuffed. Yesterday, I took 2 egg nogs, 2 malted milk, and 2 glasses of plain milk. All total, one and one-half quart of milk. Then I had toast, oats, celery, spinach and 2 potatoes mixed in. My face feels like a full moon.

From the radio, the river is awful high and Cincy is badly flooded. How is your cold? Are you still so hoarse? I haven't had any telephone calls from Preble County since you left.

Guess I don't know anything new. I am laying down while I am writing this and it looks so scribbly. Write and let me know how you got back the other night.

Love, Mae

March 25, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your dear letter came this morning but oh to my dismay, you didn't tell me what her [Mae Huston] trouble was or what you were suspicious of. I said to myself it is one of two things and Martha ain't got the heart to tell me or else they have made her promise sound and sure that she won't tell me what it is. Now it is just this. I'm her mother and I've a perfect right to know. It will eventually leak out so why keep it such a secret? They can use me for something and we can talk then.

Now she did make it out to tell me a year ago that she was going to have a "slight operation" but it would amount to very little. But if allowed to run on, it might run into a cancer. Now I can't help but believe it must either be a cancer or tuberculosis. That is worrying her now. Why keep it such a profound secret from her own people? I'll bet every hide and hair of the Hustons know just what the trouble is. Now I found out later that the very day that she had the "slight operation" that there was "Grandma and Aunt Jeannie and Aunt Eula and all the rest of the tribe there at the hospital" and knew everything that was going on and where was I? I was at home bidding around doing the work and Glenn stayed til after night and then wouldn't tell me a word when he did come. Now you didn't say what she said about Harry and I being there the other night. Now be sure and tell me what she said about me staying down and you told me before that she thought I should come down and help. I told her whenever she wanted help to let me know. Now what has she to say about that?

Now without a doubt, those old Doctors have been having X-rays, and examinations and so on and they have some idea what it is. Now I'm sure you will tell me what you think anyway. Now you tell me that she goes back to the City next Monday and when we were there, she said in 30 days, she would have to take those daily visits over again. Now I know what made you so tired. You exert every nerve in you to get up there through the rain and I'll bet you were soaked for that was the night of the flood and then you worked and worried with her all the time you were there and it was just more than you could stand.

Now it is just this. You must not do your own work and then run after them and do theirs too. She has such a bad heart that I think we might not be surprised if she would drop off most anytime. I really can't believe that she gets the attention that she needs every day and I would be so glad to do anything I could for her. Now don't forget to tell me if she ever says anything about me coming down to take care of her. Now I haven't any job and you have one and if you let your job go, no telling if you would ever get another one.

Does she ever say anything about being afraid that she will not get well? Don't fail to tell me what he says about me. I promise you faithfully that I'll not get you in trouble and that will give me a chance to know what to expect.

Merle Havenridge's little 7 year old girl (she is in Jean Evelyn's class) is very low with infection of the lungs. Mrs. Heavenridge is terribly distressed about her. Madame Runnr says old Hap Parks will be married soon to a widow with 3 boys. He really does go with her for he has kept her over here in the shop at night. Forest and Ida's trial comes of fifth of April. The date was set once before but was postponed.

[Monday a.m.] I wonder how Mae is this morning. It looks like it might storm. Those trips to Cincinnati can't help but be tiresome to her This is the day you will see her. Now Martha, do please answer the questions I have asked you and do take good care of yourself for I don't know what I'd do if it wasn't for you.

Oceans of love, Mamma

March 28, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Will answer your letter this evening. How are you? We are both all right. Did you see Mae yesterday when she was in the city to see the Doctor? How do you think Mae is now? Do you think that Mae is in a serious condition? Wish I was close enough that I could go to see her occasionally. Is Mrs. Huston still with them doing the work? Do Aileen and Myron go to school every day? Should think it would be almost more than Mae could do to get them ready for school. Do not suppose that Mae will feel very much like writing letters until she is much better so I would be glad if you would keep me informed as to how Mae is. John has three more weeks of school after this week. Hope this finds you O.K. and hope you can find time to write me.

Most lovingly, Georgia

March 31, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Received your letter yesterday and was glad she was not any worse. We could not expect her to be so awfully much better in that length of time. Dorothy called up Mae and they did not say much one way or another. Then Tuesdays, she called up again and Mae and him had gone to see the doctor at Hamilton and Mrs. Huston said that it had been a long time since she had been at Cincinnati and there was not anything for her to do at home, only sit around by herself so she thought she might as well go with them.

She said she went in with them at the Doctor's office but did not go into the consultation room and when she asked them what the Doctor said, they would say "oh, he didn't say much." Now that sort of answer makes a person feel like if they were good enough to do their work free, they might give them a little satisfaction about what he said. Mrs. Huston's services will eventually wear out for everybody else's wears out. I would like to do something for Mae but if she just won't allow me, why then I can't do it at all. I wonder if Mae would get down real bad, if she would want Mamma to help.

Forest and Ida's trial starts next Monday. There are so many people who are crazy to hear it but for my part, I'm got enough troubles of my own that their troubles don't interest me. All I have to say is I hope he holds his own with her.

Valeta Heavenridge has what they call quick TB. The Doctor said she might live six months and she might go quick. I wonder if Glenn still peddles in Hamilton on Fridays like he did when she was able to help. I shouldn't think they would have very much to take. Are Thompsons coming over as soon as his school is out and I wonder if they are getting up anything new?

Nellie Lybrook is in poor health. She has heart trouble. Ethel is going to school at Muskingum. Maxine Stewart has a kid. When do you think you will get up to Mae's again? Don't try to do so much when you go for you get so more out and it takes so long for you to get over the effects of the trip. Does she ever worry about what will become of the children? It has come the time of the year when he should be plowing.

Well, this is old Miss April's birthday. It only seems like yesterday since had had a birthday. Does Mrs. Huston try to get Aileen to dry dishes or do anything for her? When it comes around handy and seemingly like it was accidental that you said it, you can tell Mae that I will clean her house for her if she wants me to do it. I have got the upstairs and the front part of my house cleaned and in another week mine will be done. If I do say it, it looks real nice and clean. Does Mae worry about her chickens and garden? It has come the time of year when this sort of stuff must be coming on.

You should see Jean Evelyn [Steele] two pet lambs that she is raising by hand. Ora Becket wanted to buy them and Jean Evelyn raised such a row that everybody was glad to drop the subject. They are a month old and she takes care of them.

Love, Mamma

April 11, 1933
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I received your letter Saturday and am now trying to answer it. I feel as though I am coming along O.K. now. Glenn and I went down to the Doctor yesterday. He said I was looking much better and wanted to know

what I weigh. I now weigh 105 pounds. I have lost 10 or 11 pounds since around the middle of December. I lost 4 pounds in the last month. We had dandelions for supper and they were sure fine. The children gathered them here in the yard.

Aileen and Myron both started back to school today after their 10 day vacation. I will tell you at another time what I did last week. Last Saturday, Glenn and his mother were going to Hamilton and the children wanted to go so I said let's go. Well just before they got started, who should come to spend the day but Mama. Harry was going to Hamilton and she came this far with him. The first time in over a year that I have had a chance to talk to her. She was in fine spirit and enjoyed the day very much. She brought a can of canned beef and had it for dinner and we sure enjoyed it.

She said Jean [Steele West] has been out of school off and on with tonsilitis and was out at that time. I wonder why they don't have her tonsils out. She would be ever so much better off. Yesterday they took her to the Doctor with an ear ache. Haven't heard anything this am yet.

Myrl Heavenridge is very low as he is living with pneumonia and his little girl is very bad with TB . She is about the age of Aileen or a little older. Mary Jo is coming home from school with Aileen tonight and she is tickled pink. Virgil is on federal jury duty and Helen went with him. They brought me some Easter flowers this morning.

I will be in Cincy on the 14th and 15th. Glenn will bring me both times then again on the 17th and 18th. Could you arrange to come home with us on Saturday and spend Easter here? You won't need to answer this until you see me. I haven't heard from Georgia for a long time. I will try and write her as soon as I can. Velma Stewart married Jim Jackson last August and they have a girl 4 months old. There seems to be a question as to who the father is. I will see you the last of the week.

Love, Mae

April 20, 1933
Mrs. Georgia Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Thought I would get your letter answered several days ago. How are you? We are both O.K. No, we are not expecting any excitement around here this spring. How is Mae by this time? Is she still making trips to the city for treatment? Have not heard from her for some time but expect she doesn't feel like writing letters. We have not as yet decided on any trip of any kind this summer. Do you think that we should make a special effort to make Mae a visit? Expect we will have to hand out at Mae's if we do go over West. If we go, I would like to see you while there. How long a vacation will you get and just when will you take your vacation? When you write, please let me know Mae's condition. Her condition will probably be considered when we decide on our trip this summer.

John's school closes this Friday. They are having a basket dinner at his school this Friday night. The Community Club meeting is to be held at the home of John's father. John and I are invited. John and I were up here last Sunday afternoon. Everyone there is as usual. The Saturday night a meeting is to be held to organize a Juvenile Grange. I am to be the Juvenile Matron.

Mary and Edna LeMaster are as usual. They told me that they received a Christmas card from you. Mrs. Harriman has not been in our house since last October. Guess she got a funny spell on. I have not been in her house since the first week of last December. I am not shedding any tears over her. We will clean house next week. We do not have any garden planted yet.

My but I am so glad that you have a nice place to work. Surely is wonderful to think you have been at that place almost a year. Suppose you will go back there after your vacation. When you write, let me know when you plan to take your vacation and maybe we can plan something. Do you think you can come over this summer? Would be glad to have you if you can come but not to work this time. Ha ha. Well let me hear from you real soon again as I am anxious to hear how Mae is and also let me know what you are planning for the summer.

With love, Georgia

May 17, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear, dear Martha,

As you remember, Mae's [Huston] phone got out of fix Sabbath and I tried over and over and over again to get through but never did til Tuesday noon. Well, he answered and I asked if Martha [Steele] was there and he bellowed out "no" and I asked where she was and he said, "Cincinnati". I asked when she went and he says "yesterday" and with that he slammed down the phone. Harry and I are just crazy to know if they got anybody to stay with Mae and if so, who it was and if they got somebody who would do it for nothing or if they are just going to let her be there and die alone, Did he pick a fuss out of you before you got away? Also, did Mae cry when you left her? I know she will just miss you something terrible. I'll bet anything that if they do get anybody to look after her, they won't stay over a week. Their situation is something desperate but you and I have done just all we could.

I could never have the nerve to stay there some Saturday while Harry went to Hamilton, Harry met Glenn in a Sears and Roebuck store last Saturday and Harry said "it was something horrible. The way he talked about you and me". Among other things, he said was that Doctor Murmus gave us and me one good setting down over the way we done and that he had talked to 50 or 100 persons about the way we took care of Mae and that every one of them said that we were wrong.

All the consolation that I get is that she Mae made her own choice so we can't be blamed for that. Tell me if the kids got mean with you again. My notion is that as soon as it gets a little warmer that Billy and her man will move on and he will be just as mad at them as he is at everybody else who helps them. Did you ever get to have a talk with Mrs. D and Mrs. E.? If so, what stand did they take? I came home yesterday noon and Freeman is going to help me make a garden and clean up the yard today. I will have him for dinner. That doing at Dixon comes off next Saturday. Harry's are not going,

Well, Billy has come so I'll have to look after him. How do you feel by this time, just tired to death, I know. Just too bad you never get any rest. Say did he find out that Mae signed that note and did you take your trunk with you? I will be so thankful if you can spare a little time to write to me. Do take care of yourself and rest. Be sure to tell me how Mae acted and what he done, when you left.

Oceans of love, Mamma

May 25, 1933

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

We have not heard a word from Mae [Huston] since you left. No use to call for me as I wouldn't know what to believe. Write and tell us if you got back on time. Have you heard from Dorde and when are they coming? Evelyn has been writing to you all week. She says she thinks Aunt Martha is more "so-she-ble" (sociable) than Aunt Georgia. Hope to hear from you real soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

May 25, 1933

Jean Steele [West]
Fairhaven, Ohio

Dear Aunt Martha,

How are you? Did you get home alright? We have some little turkeys. Did you go to bed as soon as you got off duty Sunday night? I like you very much. Daddy is going to get a new nipple for the lamb. I moved the York pig yesterday. We haven't heard from Aunt Mae since you went home. Mother washed yesterday. I wish you could stay for five weeks. Jack is my good dog. He wears a blue ribbon around his neck. Daddy has one field of corn planted. The lamb is getting along alright. One of our lambs died. I can write good.

Your friend, Jean

May 28, 1933

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Harry stopped to see Mae [Huston] yesterday p.m. on his way home from Hamilton and that woman had her out in the front yard on the day bed and she was wanting to take her in the house. So Harry carried her in by himself and laid her in bed. He could not see that she had improved any.

Mae told Harry that they were going to keep that woman another week and I can't help feeling that the old woman is going to pretend to wait on her then but we know that wrist was not broken for she just has one little rag over it now. Broken bones do not heal that quick. You remember how Mae told you and I over and over not to leave her there alone with her. I am just worried to death over the situation but what can we do? He [Glenn] would let her die before he would let any of Mae's friends wait on her. Ida Reese wrote to Mae and wanted the job of nursing her but somebody (I don't know who) answered the letter and told her they had made other arrangements. Mae cried 2 or 3 times in the 15 minutes that Harry was there and said she had quit making any arrangements and she knew she would lie there a year anyway.

Harry had bought some strawberries and told Mae that he would give her a box, if she could eat them. She said yes, she could eat them but Glenn was going to get some and for him not to leave any. So before Harry got away, here come Glenn and the old lady and both kids. Harry asked Glenn if he got any strawberries for Mae and he said "no, the Doctor didn't allow her to have them." I stepped to the phone to call Doctor Munns and asked him if he allowed Mrs. Glenn Huston to eat strawberries and he says "oh yes, she can eat the juice but I'd rather she would not eat the seeds." We had some of the berries for dinner today and they were so nice and juicy. What ought to be done with anybody who can make up stories so joyfully!

Bill's man has gone to the hospital at Dayton to have some sort of operation. Harry didn't learn how long he would be gone. Billy is still at Maes. Mae told Harry that she had not had any company. She said everybody was too busy to visit. Her friends have been refused admittance so long that they have given up trying to see her. Harry said she had laid out in the hot sun so much that her face and chest were terribly freckled. Say tell me this, did he threaten what he would do to me if I went there again? She told Harry she guessed they would not clean house. Do write soon and tell me what you know. Write soon my darling.

From Mamma

June 2, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Will attempt to answer your letter this morning. I am sending Mae a letter so will take both the post office at the same time.

How are you feeling by this time? Are you getting rested any? I got a letter from Mae and Glenn [Huston] yesterday. Mae wrote part of the letter and Glenn part of it, From their letters, I think Mae has gone through a very critical condition. They said that when Mae was at her worst, Mamma went and set up wither all one night then Mrs. Huston and Glenn took turns. The Doctor said not to leave her alone for one minute. Was Mamma at Mae's when you was there? Or did she arrive after you left?

John and I have about decided to go to Mae's around the 13th or 14th of June. It is surely a hard time to leave for any length of time. We have all the house cleaning done and just about all the garden planted. But of course, it needs attention once in a while. Also about the time we leave, cherries will begin to ripen. I have some left over from last year so we will have to make the old fruit do. Excuse all the blots and mistakes as I am in a hurry to get Mae's letter written and over to the post office. Let me hear from you soon and hope to see you when we get to Mae's.

Most lovingly, Georgia

June 14, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

What do you know? I don't know any more than I did when I last saw you. I don't know if Harry stopped there Saturday or not for I have not seen him. Are Georgia's [Thompson] coming this week? You know he said he was going to tell them not to come after I got home. After I had time to think the matter over, I was just sick for that party was against her from the beginning to finish. I think you will agree with me on that.

Harry Marshall and Musie Stewart were married last week and Sam Harris and Dorothy Ramsey also. Neal Ramsey and Bessie Dybon will be the next. Bessie has 4 children. Hope you were not sick after the strenuous day you experienced on Saturday. Do drop a line and let me know all about it. As soon as I see Harry, I'll write you about it. If Georgia comes, let me know how long they will remain.

Oceans of love, Mamma

June 15, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

We have just arrived in Oxford and on our way to Mae's [Huston]. Would you please write us a letter and let us know what your plans are for the next week or ten days? Could you arrange to come up to Mae's or will we come to Cincy to see you? Let us know when you have time off from work. Write to us in care of Glenn Huston so far as I know now, our headquarters will be there. Let us hear from you soon. We had a long drive today.

Lovingly, Georgia and John

June 16, 1933
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Since Georgia is going to see you today, I will try and write you a few lines and send along. Georgia can tell you about me. The Doctor came Monday and said I could return some of his visits. My bowels still cause me quite a bit of trouble. The Doctor hasn't found the reason yet but thinks the reason is inside.

I was telling Georgia about the last time you were here so Georgia made mention of it at the supper table and it sure got his goat. Ask Georgia

We had a girl from the Children's Home here now. Thus far, this has provided more satisfaction than the others. Will be glad when we won't have to have anyone.

Let me hear from you and I will write and let you know how things are coming on.

Love, Mae

June 18, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
At Harry Steeles
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I came to Harrys a couple of days ago to help with the cherries. Harry came home from Hamilton yesterday and stopped at Maes to give her some buttermilk. About the last time he talked to her in about a month and she asked him if he wouldn't bring her some buttermilk. He told her sometimes the weather was so hot, they had to put so much water in the cream that it didn't make good buttermilk. But when it was good, he would be glad to bring her some.

This week, it was just fine so he took her some yesterday when he got there. It was about 3 pm. The old cat and Aileen had not got back from Hamilton yet and John [Thompson] came to the door. The balance of the house was asleep. John said he would go and waken Dorde. They waited and waited for her to come and John went back the second time and still she didn't come. He was just about ready to leave when here she come and she would hardly speak to him. Never asked a word about any of his family or me. They said Mae was asleep (maybe she was and maybe she wasn't). I have no doubt that Mae would ever see or hear of the buttermilk. The old woman went to Hamilton to stay til next Saturday and then it is the intention for Georgia and John to start back to Jewett. They have an 18 year old girl staying there now.

Harry did not see Mae. She was supposed to be asleep. Don't know where she hailed from. Harry asked if she was in bed all the time and John said "yes, only when she walked to the kitchen to get her meals." Don't that jar you? Well Harry finally started on toward Oxford and he had tire trouble. He stopped in front of a house and the man came out and they got to talking. Finally, the man found out that Harry was a brother of Maes and he said why "it is the talk all over the neighborhood down here that Mae has cancer of the lung."

Now I wonder if there is anything to that. I never heard that mentioned before, did you? Oh Mae, I just wonder if I will ever see her again. What oh what crime have I ever committed to deserve such treatment as this. Dorothy [Steele] called up to hear from her the other day and the old woman said that Glenn gave her a bath. Yesterday between 6 and 7 o'clock in the evening, Dorothy called Glenns to see if Harry had been there and asked how Mae was and he said "oh just fine, she has a real nurse now" and she said "you talk like she didn't have one before" and he said "I didn't say that, did I"? She said "no, but you insinuated that" and he just him-hawed. John told Harry that he just hated to see Georgia start out and make the trip alone. He don't hate to see you and me make the trip alone and pay our car fare in the bargain if we pay it ourselves.

Now if you see the Thompsons, you just tell them how he has treated you and me. I just hope they will get their eyes opened this week. They got to Maes Thursday evening and then Friday evening, Joohn and Glenn went to the Farm Bureau meeting at Oxford. If he gets to taking Georgia out in society, it won't take long to get Georgia's nose out of joint. Poor Mae, how will it end? It is just awful. I have not one bit of hope that she will ever be any better than she is now. How she would love to have you and me go to see her. I just an hardly stand it. Now don't let on to Thompsons that I wrote you and if you see them, tell me what they said. When I got home and got to thinking all over what Doctor Minns said, you could see that he was right against Mae from beginning to finish and when he is that way, he has no business trying to Doctor her. Do write me soon and if you write me this week, send it to Camden in care of Harry Steele.

Oceans of love, Mamma

July 3, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Here we are back in Jewett again. We left Mae's [Huston] last Friday morning. I hated to leave her but thought perhaps it was time for us to move on. John and I were both about eaten up with chiggers in fact we are both still scratching.

Glenn informed his daughter [Aileen] that she did not have to do what Aunt Georgia told her to do. That made me boil. To my notion, he is far too independent to be as poor as he is. John took me up to Oxford and I picked out 7 dresses and took them out to Mae so she could see different styles and material. Mae tried some of them on and decided to make a voile her choice. The dress cost \$1.95. Mae seemed to be very much pleased with it. Glenn was in the field when we went after the dresses and did not come around until after the dresses were displayed and returned to the store. When we left, Glenn did not know anything about Mae having a new dress. If you ever go there, don't say anything about the new dress, only to Mae. The dress has short puff sleeves. Guess that will be enough about the dress for this time.

When you was up on Sunday, we talked about a marker for Papa's grave. Well on Monday, John and I went to Hamilton and ordered the Marker. They promised to have it all ready and placed in the cemetery by Thursday evening. We directed them to Fairhaven and this is the way it is worded on the Marker: Robert T. Steele, 1852-1926. Father.

After we left the cemetery, we drove down to Fairhaven and stopped at Aunt Annie Brown's. Who should be visiting there but Mamie Fetta. It was the first time I had seen her in six or seven years. She looked like always. Of course, she inquired about you and Mae. We made a short call at Mack Parks.

The chiggers are biting so hard I guess I had better close and give them a dose of lineament. There is lots more I could say but I am itching so that I just must stop. Let me hear from you real soon.

Most lovingly, Georgia

July 6, 1933
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Georgia and John,

Received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you. We were afraid you were in the storm Friday. We had the hardest that had come this way since a year ago last March when we lost the border house. You couldn't possibly see the road. The storm came straight from the North. It took some shingles off the barn, blew down an apple tree here in the yard, broke off a cherry tree, and blew a lot of limbs of trees off. Hamilton

was pretty badly torn up in places. Some places there wasn't a bit of wind and near here too. Oxford didn't have any wind.

Of course, you can hear most anything to do for the chiggers. Mr. Dingfelder said Sulphur was the best he knew for those animals. Everyone except myself still are scratching.

The little chickens are coming along pretty nice. There are still 14 in the first bunch. The hen at the barn hatches out 2 or 3 a day and now the number is 18 or 19. The threshers will be here about the last of next week or the first of the next. I am not worrying much about it but will be glad when it is over with. The wheat seems to be turning out pretty good.

I was weighted last night and weighed 100 pounds counting my clothes. I don't think that was so bad considering my health. I am feeling much better than I did but my pep doesn't last long. Yesterday morning, I thought I might do most any kind of work but didn't try it for I certainly don't want any set back. I have been loafing too long now but won't start in for a while yet.

Aileen and Myron both say "thanks" for the socks you got them. They were both tickled to get them. They said they were sorry that they peeped in the paper.

[Monday morning] I talked to Martha and she surely is pleased with the grave marker at Fairhaven. She was so glad to have you tell her all about it. I am only sorry that I can't help pay for it. Martha said she was O.K. and asked all about me and was awful glad to hear from you.

Mrs. Dennison asked Aileen and Myron down to her house to the King's daughter's picnic and they had the time of their life. I hated to miss it. I want to thank you for the surprise you gave me and will pay the dues as soon as I can see any of them.

Cora's sister is coming up when we have threshers then I expect Mrs. Dennison to be here too.

I went to the Doctor that Friday night and didn't have to go again until this Thursday evening. I don't like that trip at all but so far, the two trips to the Doctors is all that I have been away. I feel stronger but don't feel like my old self yet. My voice hasn't changed much yet.

Mrs. Dennison was here the other day. Virgil and Helen came for a little while last evening but they wouldn't come in because for some reason or other, they had been talking to Minns and he said not for a week or so yet. Can you imagine that? I couldn't help but feel provoked. Guess I don't know any other news, Write when you can.

Lots of love, Mae

July 9, 1933

Mrs. Robert [Emma] Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I am hot and it looks like rain. Last Thursday evening, John Kirker went to the field with his team and worked til 11 o'clock and went to the house and complained of being sick. By 1 o'clock, he was dead. It was heart trouble. Mirian had gone to Richmond that forenoon but he was dead when she got back. He was buried form the Presbyterian church and it was such a large funeral. Several of the threshing rings quit work so they could attend. He was such a friendly man and will be missed. He would have been surprised if he could have known how many busy people stopped their work to see him laid away. I just nearly blowed up.

This morning at Sabbath school, I went in and sat down and in just a few minutes Mary Williams came in and proceeded to tell me how Mae [Huston] was. She said two weeks ago today, Helen Van D. called the Doctor up to see if they could see Mae and he said no but Harrisons went anyway and stopped down at the barn. Now I wouldn't ask but she left the impression that Glenn was down there. Well she said they could see Mae walking back and forth past the door. He asked Glenn if that was Mae and he said yes, so she got out and went up to the door but didn't go in. Now tell me if you understood that they were there that pm. Georgia told me at Harrys that they called up but the Doctor said for them not to go. Now tell me if they did go.

Mary Williams is such a newsy old rip. I wouldn't ask her a thing and she was trying to make herself think I didn't know anything. I just ached to tell her to shut up. She also said the Doctor told her to sit up 3 hours in the forenoon and 3 hours in the afternoon. Well I didn't believe that but I kept my mouth shut. The old woman was not at Maes this last week but I don't know if she is coming back or not. Glenn is just as mad at

Georgia now as he is at the rest of us, don't you think? Be sure to answer this question. When do you think you will get up again?

We are going to thresh this week. If we have showers, there will be blackberries this year and I sure do want to get some. I do like them so much. How do you stand this hot weather? I'll wager you fairly melt. Do you think you will get to go to Chicago? If you had some nice person to go with, I do wish you could go. But don't go alone. You might get sick. Sometime when you can get a chance, send Evelyn a post card or letter. It would tickle her to death.

Oceans of love, Mamma

July 11, 1933
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I never dreamed that it would be this long before I would be able to get busy and write you. I wrote a letter on the installment plan to Georgia but hope to get yours off today.

I received the Haliver Oil Capsules yesterday but felt ashamed to accept. Aileen and Myron both say thanks for the BVDs. I kept them back for Myron's birthday. I thank you very much for the Capsules and BVDs for the children.

I suppose Georgia told you that she cleaned my house. I didn't have her do the upstairs because we don't use it very much. There is just the one room upstairs. The house is ever so much better. She worked awful hard here and John did too.

I talked to Mama Monday and she was telling me that John Kirker had a heart attack last week and lived only a couple of hours. Had worked in the field all morning and came in at noon feeling so badly that Jack called Sam and Vira Ewing to come at once, They called the doctor but he was gone before the doctor came. Miriam had gone to Richmond for the day. Jack and Miriam are left alone now. Just a little over six years since Marge died.

We are expecting to have threshers in a day or so. We are planning for the day after tomorrow. We have our dinner planned and everything coming along pretty good. Cora knows how to cook pretty well so are planning easy things. I was out in the backyard not long ago and found a lot of my good pint jars just emptied and thrown out. Cora and I picked up a bunch and she cleaned them. Guess that dirty Billy threw them out. She was the most extravagant and yet the poorest excuse of a thing for a cook. The old woman wasn't any better while I was not able to oversee. I haven't any more love for her than you have.

When I talked to Ida that day, I didn't recognize her until we were almost through talking, but thought she asked questions as though she knew me. I was glad to talk to her but of course we have more personal things to talk of.

I have gained weight until I now weigh a little better than 100 pounds now. All together I lost between 25 and 30 pounds and I am now up to 100+. My bowels are better now than they have been for a long time. Rife the nurse that followed you undid what you did and barely got them back to where you left them. I had what Doctor calls colitis, The long stringy rubbery mucous in the intestine is about all gone. The bowels move in the morning of their own accord but an enema is necessary in the evening.

I am still taking lime, vitamins, Mazola oil, Haliver capsules, heart capsules, white pills, the 7 drops and around 2 quart of milk besides the three meals. Oh yes and three egg yolks a day. I am supposed to sleep both in the morning and afternoon so of course I don't sleep quite so soundly at night. I eat most everything that the rest of the family does. I feel stronger but it don't last so long. I have only been up to the Doctor twice.

Georgia felt real well pleased with the grave marker at Fairhaven cemetery for Papa. They had the truck man bring it up to the house and show me what Georgia said it looked ever so much better there on the lot at Fairhaven than it did here. Said they secured and scrubbed and polished the gravestone.

Virgil and Helen came down the other evening and brought some flowers. They wouldn't come in because Doctor Munns had said they should wait a week or two yet. I wouldn't ever get any company if it depended on him to say so.

Mrs. Dennison has scarcely missed a week but what she comes. I am so glad to see her too. She made a dress for Aileen and a waist for Myron. It is almost mail time so I most close. Many thanks for what you sent me.

Most lovingly, Mae

July 11, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

Dear Georgia,

Did you get home O.K.? We had a big rain storm that p.m. you left here. I wondered if it caught you. Last Thursday Gus Kirker worked in the field with his team but H.A.M. went to the house sick. By 1 p.m., he was dead. It was heart trouble. Miriam had gone to Richmond that morning but he was dead when she got home, Funeral was yesterday a.m. held at the Presbyterian Church. It was a large funeral.

Have not had any special word from down below, only he was away for threshing last week. They are going to thresh this week. Mrs. Huston was not there last week. Don't know if she is coming back. The Doctor was over to see Aunt Annie this morning, She has heart troubles. Herbert Lairds and Edna Collins both have new baby girls. Our threshing ring begins this week. If you get any special news from down below, let me know. Write soon.

Love, Mamma

July 12, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I was surely surprised yesterday evening when I got your letter, a letter from Mae, and a card from Mamma. Guess I might as well send the card and letter on to you then I won't have to rewrite anything. The surprise that Mae spoke of that I gave her was one dollar and ten cents. She gave me her packet book with a dollar bill and some change in it and told me to take it as part payment on her dress, Before I left, I told her I was putting her packet book away in one corner of the top drawer of the bureau in her room. I told her to take what was in it and pay her dues to the Kings Daughters or whatever she felt that she wanted to use the money for. I did not tell her that I left what she had in her purse and put \$1.10 in besides. I expect she investigated soon after I was gone. I paid all of her dress myself. It was \$1.95. Her dues to the Kings Daughters are \$1.10. She had not paid them for this year and of course did not have money for anything like that. I guess the Kings Daughters have been very good to Mae during her sick spells. I thought I would give a little money to her this time instead of the children, When you write, you need not mention anything about the money that I gave Mae at all. I guess there is not anything else in her letter that you would not understand. Unless it was where she said the children were sorry they peeped. I put their socks that I got them in the poke with the underwear that you gave them but before the day of Myron's birthday. John and I were away and the children had to get into it. I found it out and on top of that, Aileen told me that her Dad said she did not have to mind Aunt Georgia. I wouldn't give it to them at all. I told Mae she could give the things to them when she thought the youngsters needed them.

My honest opinion is the reason that Glenn [Huston] is so out with you is because you did too good a job nursing and put Mae on her road to recovery instead of the road down. It pleases Mae so much for you to call on Saturday. Mae never mentions to Glenn anything about you calling. If he knew you called at that time purposely to talk to Mae, he might get the "big idea" that it was too hard on her to talk over the phone and tell Central not to ring her phone. I say let her talk. She has to have a little enjoyment once in a while. Glenn doesn't realize what a help it is when you are keeping Mae in Haliver Oil Tablets. They are the best and he seems to want her to take them, but they are like everything else they cost money and that is one thing in this world that he does not have.

Thanks so much for the money order. The morning that we came home we stopped at the farm. I told Mamma to stop in and look at the grave marker. She said "Oh yes, I will be glad to." I believe she is beginning to realize that she and Harry are not setting the world on fire very fast after all.

John and I are invited over to Mary's a week from Sunday for dinner. Nancy and Elwood are going to be there too. Wish you were here to go along. John and I want to go over to Marys in a few days to get some currents. They told us we could have some,

David Harriman's wife and baby were here visiting old lady Harriman when we came home and is still here. Last Saturday evening, Dave and the baby got in a mix up in the kitchen. I was sitting on the front porch and heard it all The baby got to crying and he would bellow out "shut up" at every breath nearly. He whipped it twice trying to make it shut up. In between breaths I could hear the youngster say "I want to go to Mamma." Dave and the old lady kept telling if it wasn't going to go to its Mamma. I never heard a sound out of the young Mrs. I expect she was afraid to open her mouth. I was so mad I could have shot both of them. I bet that child cried and screamed around for an hour, All Dave would do was yell "shut up" to it. Dave is another fellow that doesn't have the brains of a rabbit around children. Mrs. Harriman never comes over and I never go there. Mary and Edna LeMaster are just about as usual. Guess I have written all I can think of for this time. Thought I should let you know that I got your letter when it had a money order in it. Write as often as you can.

Most lovingly, Georgia

August 2, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dearest little girl,

You must not think I have forgotten you, for I never do that. But it has been horribly hot and dry and so awful much to do that I just didn't get to it. Many, many thanks for the bill but you just must not make so many presents for they are just too hard to give away. Again I say thank you.

We threshed and had 509 bushels. It was so hot and dry, it didn't turn out good. The showers came just in time to save the corn. But it will not be a full crop.

One afternoon last week, Uncle Will and Homer and his wife and baby called here. Homers came from Chicago on Monday and went back on Thursday. They took Uncle Will with them so he could go to the fair. Homer's wife is such a nice woman, just as common as any of us. The 16 month old baby is a real darling. Homer asked all about you and seemed greatly interested in your affairs. His wife is not so big feeling as Belva and I thought much nicer.

There is quite a sensation in Fairhaven. Clare Belle's man has sued for divorce and sent her back to Minnies. It is claimed she got too thick with the cashier of the bank of Camden. I never saw him but I can figure out what sort of a fool he was to pick up with such a thing as her. Clara Belle's man sued for the kid and there will be a big fight over it, for Harry and Minnie are simply crazy over it. They call it Freddie. Freddie and his mother are both putting up at Minnies for the present.

I called Mae [Huston] just now and thought her voice sounded a little better than usual. She said she felt better today than she did yesterday. Said she just didn't have any pep yesterday at all. Says Cora is still there and they are looking Aileen's dresses over and letting out the hem. I have not been there since the afternoon we went down and got you. I'm just afraid to go. We just took too good care of her. It is just what makes him [Glenn Huston] so furious now. Last Saturday, Glenn called up Harrys to find out if there was a rendering plant at Camden. He had a dead cow. She had eaten buckeyes. Now don't that jar you? I didn't say anything to Mae about it for it would just make her feel so bad. She said that they hadn't canned anything except a few cherries that Georgia put up for her.

A week ago Saturday, Harry stopped at Maes and he said when he went that Mae was sitting at the dinner table and he didn't seem mad at Harry but he just jawed at Mae because she had ventured to go to the thresher meeting the evening before. Said the old scamp kept her in tears all the time. I just wonder how he manages to keep Cora paid up. Maybe he don't for all we know.

[Thursday am] We had an awful big rain last night. It will help the corn and potatoes like everything. I never heard what the Kirkers will do. Mirian and Francis Jackson will both teach at College Corner. Mae says you have been having stomach troubles. Tell me all about it. Is that something new for you? I am going down to the blackberry patch this morning. I have five cans up. Do write soon and I'll not be so long answering. Thank you my dear for your present. Write real soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

August 4, 1933

Georgia Steele Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Will answer your letter this afternoon. I received your letter a week ago yesterday but never got myself settled long enough to answer you. I sent Mae [Huston] and Mamma a letter at the same time that I wrote to you but have not heard from neither one of them. I can't hardly imagine why. I sent Mae a self-addressed and stamped envelope in her letter so I would be sure to hear from her.

Since I wrote you the last time, John was laid up with a carbuncle above his left eye. It pained him quite a lot. Had to take some pills the Doctor gave him in order to get any rest for several days. It is improving very nicely now. He does not wear a bandage over it now but there is a large scab on it.

Last Thursday a week ago, John and I were in Steubenville and made a call at Earl Palmers, And last Sunday, we spent the day with Elma Williamson and family. We had corn on the cob for dinner that day. On Tuesday of this week, we were to the funeral of a man who lived in Cadiz and was buried at West Middletown, Pennsylvania. John drove our car and took some of the friends and I got to go along. It was quite a trip there and home again.

As I said before, I wrote to Mae and Mamma the same day I wrote you. I tried to be careful not to get the wrong letter in the wrong envelope. Next time I hear from you, I would like to know if you got the letter that was intended for you. It doesn't make so much different about the other two but I had somethings in your letter that I did not care for the other two to see. Please let me know if your letter was O.K. Thanks many times for the money order. I just wonder if Mamma has stopped in to see the marker yet. Suppose that you will talk on the phone to Mae tomorrow. Let me know how she is. Guess this will be all for this time and hope to hear from you again real soon.

Lovingly, Georgia

August 8, 1933

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I came home from Harrys [Steele] this morning and dear me the yard and garden had just piled up something awful. I wanted some blackberries so bad and I put up eight cans. I brought some sweet pears home too and they are for pear butter. I forgot to tell you in the other letter that Jean Evelyn [Steele] got your letter all right and of course she opened and read it first. I think it was the first letter she ever got in the mail and she was sure proud of it.

I forgot whether I told you in the other letter that Clara Bell and her old man have separated and last week's paper said he had sued for divorce and custody of the child. I'll bet there will be a big row in the camp. Old Hap Parks brought his brother in law to town with him and he got to fooling around Rachel Beckett and got her fixed up and has skipped the country. Now that is the report that is being passed. I don't know if it is true or not. If it is true, I sure feel sorry for poor Bess. What do you think?

Harry met Mae coming out of the 10 cent store last Saturday. The whole family was in town, hired girl too. It was about 2 pm. We know she hadn't had any dinner and he said she sure looked tired to death. He says she is so worked about her voice but he tried to comfort her that when she got stronger that her voice would too. Poor girl, what will ever become of her. I sure dread next winter on her account. I wish it was in my power to give her what health I have for she sure does need it so bad. She called me at Harrys last Saturday morning after Harry had been gone about a half hour and wanted me to come down and spend the day but of course it was too late. Maybe I can go sometime again.

Cramer Charles, Willard Hays, Frank Campbells, and Orval Bishops went to Chicago and stayed a week and got home the last of the week. Now Orval is very seriously ill with typhoid fever. Uncle Will just stayed a week at Homers and came home just tired to death. Do you think you will get to Chicago? If you do go, you must be careful not to get hurt. Be sure to have good steady company. If anyone deserves the trip, it is surely you. Clara Marshal does not stay here in town since Harry was married. I really feel sorry for her for we know she would not feel good at Flovas with her pack of young ones.

The neighbor's darned chickens are about to eat me up this morning. I could just murder them. Now be sure and go to the World's Fair and don't get hurt.

Oceans of love, Mamma

August 24, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I will start with a few events of last week. A week ago this last Monday, Edna Thompson and a girlfriend started for the world's fair. They were gone one week and left with about \$50.00. Do not know whether she saw all she cared to see in the one week time or whether her money was all gone. I spent Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of last week up home. John was going up every day to work so I went along. I helped Ruth and Lucy get ready for threshers. They had threshers Thursday for supper and Friday for dinner.

On Monday of this week, I washed in the forenoon and went to Scio in the pm and had two back teeth pulled. I have had a sore jaw ever since. The hardest work I have to do now is try to eat. The Dentist told me I would have a sore jaw for about a month. One tooth had roots so near the jaw bone and they pulled so hard. My throat hurts every time I swallow but suppose it will get better eventually.

On Wednesday of this week, the Grange had a picnic at the Cadiz Fairgrounds. About 80 were present. There was so much to eat but I did not enjoy it very much on account of my sore jaw. This evening John is over at the Grange Hall drilling the 3rd and 4th degree team. I am not on the team but thought I would go over and watch. I have such a bad odor in my mouth since I had my teeth pulled, I decided I had better stay at home until I have better breadth. I am using an antiseptic mouth wash. I put up 4 quarts of plums today and also made about 6 quarts of plum butter.

David Harriman's wife and son are still across the road from us. Mrs. Harriman and I do not visit back and forth at all. I have not been in her house since last December and she never returned my call and I don't care either. I told John today that David was not a kind and loving father for all I ever hear him say to his son is "shut up" or "do you want me to whip you?" He is nothing but a brute and dumb one at that.

Last week, I was on our back porch and Mrs. Harriman (Dave's mother) was throwing a fit and I heard her tell Dave's wife that she was nothing but a liar. That poor girl must have a dog's life there.

Most lovingly, Georgia

August 30, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I never got my last letter mailed so will add to it. John and I went to New Comerstown and spent the day with Mr. and Mrs. Tilton. They inquired about you first thing. They were expecting to see you with us that day and seemed disappointed that you were not along.

I just came from over town a short time ago and I got a letter from Mae [Huston]. From her report of herself, I believe she is improving. Said she would like to do her own work and have the family alone by first of October. I think she had better hang on to care so long as she possibly can for doing all the work there alone is no small task. Old lady Huston is not back there yet I guess she is very anxious to get out there. The youngsters were in Hamilton with Glenn last Saturday and the old lady had them stuffed full of "don't tell Mother and Cora this and that". Mae has kept her away pretty good. Better than I expected. Mae says that she cannot come until her folks can come and be treated as they should be.

Most lovingly, Georgia

August 27, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I am back home again. I found Mae [Huston] so much better than I dared hope for. She has a good color and has picked up in flesh so much better than I thought she would. As Mary Reese said about Ida, "She was more like her charming self." I think she stirs round more than she should but we can't blame her for that. When

I got there, the girl and Mae were scrubbing the kids and getting ready to go to Hamilton. But they got Aileen ready about too soon with her clean dress on and what did she do but get the arrica bottle down and spilt about a half cup full down the front of her dress. Mae and Glenn [Huston] got into an argument. She told him that with the training he gave them last winter, they wouldn't obey anybody now. He says "well, they never did mind you." He just took advantage of her so much when she was down and out. She don't seem to have a speck of respect for him now.

The old woman is wanting back again right now and Mae is fighting it with all her might. Mae said she told him if she ever did come back, that she was going to tell the kids not to do what the old woman told them to do, for that was the way they treated her folks. It is just a dirty shame that Mae has to be aggravated to death with her. They have an old man 65 years old working for them now, They give him his board plus \$1.00 per week for his services. They pay Leona \$3.00 per week. I just can't see how they scape up money enough to keep them going. Her and the kids were going to Hamilton and from there on to the Scribe's Picnic at Venice. I know they would be gone til dark. It is sure awful that Mae has got herself tied into such as specimen as he is.

This is the day of the homecoming at Hopewell Church. Mae was just crazy to go to that but Harry and I both discouraged it. We told her that the days were so hot and it was so far that it would just wear her clear out. I was not sure that we had her convinced that she was not able for the trip. Mae said the Doctor wanted her to have another operation after a while. She is not in favor of it and I'm not either but I did not tell her so, I don't know just what for as she is a little better.

Mae was crazy to know what we talked about the afternoon we all went up to the Doctor's office. I told her that you were trying to make some arrangements by which someone, such as Ida Reese, to be with her, to wait on her, and to keep her company. That didn't suit her and then I said you thought maybe the Doctor could suggest some Sanitarium or something of the kind that she could go to get away from the worries and perplexities of home for a while. But the more you tried to plan something better, the more the Doctor vetoed it. Glenn made up a lie that I told the Doctor that Mae was so mean and self-willed at home that I couldn't do a thing with her. Now you children all know that I never said anything of the kind. I think Glenn was awful mad because we went to the Doctor. You had said never to tell Mae that we were at the Doctor but I had to admit it when Glenn had told her a lot of stuff about us. Be careful what you write to Mae for he might open the letter before she gets hold of it. Do write soon and tell me all the news. I saw Rachel B. yesterday and she looked O.K. to me.

Lots of love, Mamma

September 6, 1933
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I certainly want to thank you for the nice box you sent me. The Haliver Oil seems to have pep in it for me. Are you taking them too? The malted milk tablets are fine. That is the first time since last April that I had tasted Malted Milk. It tasted so sweet then but this is good. My taster is better now.

I had quite a surprise. You would never believe who called on me. I was so glad to see her. It was Mary Reese Ewing, She was on her way to the Stout Reunion at College Corner. She was alone except for Bubbles. You know who Bubbles is, no doubt. Yesterday, Aunt Jennie Huston came and I certainly was glad to see her, She brought me some lovely gladioli's flowers. They are so pretty. She has new teeth which bother her quite a bit yet. I had been wanting to see her for some time. I don't know who will come today.

Mama was down here 2 weeks ago Saturday and I enjoyed her so much. It was the first time I had seen her since she left here last May while I was sick. After she had been here, I began sleeping at nights. She acted as a good tonic. Glenn's mother has been almost spoiling her pants wanting to come up. But I can't see having her come here and trying to run the ranch while my folks take slams and bangs. I will give in only when he gives in first now.

I haven't been going much yet, have been uptown a few times and stayed in the machine except when we went to the Doctor's office, I weighed 105 pounds the last time I was at the office. I go up and down but hope to reach 115 before cold weather. Doctor Munn's said he wouldn't given 5 cents for my chances when he first saw me and thought I had done real well but expects me to weigh 140 pounds before he dismisses me.

Mary Reese Ewing told me that one of your girlfriends died. Who was it and what was wrong with her? The questions I was going to ask me Mama answered. What was the conversion you had with Doctor Munns the day you were up there? Did Mama tell Munns that "she could never do anything with me, I had just had my way." If I had my way, I never knew it. Did you? Munns told Glenn things that were supposed to have been said and Glenn told me. Then I asked Mamma things and she told me different. All this has died down now but I want some comeback if it should come up again.

George Simpson married a Carrie Smith from College Corner last week. The Hopewell Reunion was the last of August and I wanted ever so much to go. I asked Munns what he thought about me going and of course he thought I should not go. Maybe I can go next year. The program at Hopewell was good. Mr. Rife preaches and Reverend Grey from Jamestown had charge of Sabbath School. Margaret Williams called me and told me about it. She said they were coming down sometime soon. I talked with Velva yesterday. No particular news except that she and Milton had had a week's vacation and went to Detroit and Chicago. Took in the World's Fair.

Cora and I went over Aileen's clothes and have 15 dresses all ready for school. We also looked at Myron's suits and he has 12 outfits for school. I got them some new socks and everything is ready with the exception of the shoes. We will have to go and get them next week.

Every now and then, the telephone is the cause of controversy here. Glenn thinks we could do without it and I think we can't. If I can just hold it until I get some of these chickens big enough to sell, it will be OK. He doesn't know that we have been talking every Saturday and I won't tell him either.

I feel ever so much better than I did. My bowels act wonderful 2 and 3 times a day and need a cathartic. The Doctor said I didn't need the medicine for my lungs now when I don't cough. I am still taking a tonic, heart capsule, Haliver Oil, Mazola, lime and last but not least three egg yolks and milk every day. Some days I take sun baths also. I am fairly tan now.

The co-ops are planning an outing at the Zoo this year, same as always on September 23. Don't know plans here yet but will send you tickets if you can use them. I will let you know whatever the plans are here but maybe you could go anyway. Let me know.

Clara Belle Austin is home at Minnis with her baby and her husband has applied for a divorce because she has too many men visitors.

Again I say many thanks for the Haliver Oil and the Horlicks tablets. The tablets are fine and I like them very much.

Guess I had better ring off for this time and see what everyone is doing.

I have some baby chicks and they are doing nicely. Will get some more in a few days.

Most lovingly, Mae

September 18, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Your dear letter came this morning and I was sure glad to get it. I'll be Johnny on the spot next Saturday. When the cat is absent, the mice will play so we will have a joyful time while Dad is absent on vacation. If that is the sort of operation that is wanted, we will just turn the scales and have him altered. We will begin at the right place and let him see how it feels to be cut up. If that is her main trouble now, I feel like she might get better if she had a chance to take care of herself.

Say, is Dorde mad at me again? I have not heard from her since about the middle of July. I thought they went off in a pretty good humor but if she ain't mad, it is a wonder she don't write. Harry is going to get me a couple of bushel of tomatoes tonight. I'll be putting them up tomorrow.

Dear me, I'm just afraid you will get sick with no rest and no vacation. Now Martha, you must take good care of yourself so you won't get sick. With Mae sick and then you get sick, I would sure bust. I'll see you next Saturday.

Oceans of love, Mamma

September 21, 1933
Mae Steele Huston

Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I guess I don't know anything new to tell you this time. I don't think anyone from here will be going to the zoo Saturday but that won't make any difference. Glenn [Huston] will take the eggs to Hamilton anyway and has several other things to look after also which will give us all day Saturday to ourselves. Mamma is out at Harrys so it will be easy for her to get down here also. I haven't heard from Georgia for some time now but suppose they are as well as usual.

I had a bushel of tomatoes given to me yesterday and I got 17 quarts out of them besides having some to eat. That makes 40 quarts of tomatoes now that I have canned this year. Velva and Helen each canned 1 dozen quart of tomatoes for me. There isn't much to can. I will can some beans if there are any.

Now I am looking for both you and Mamma to be my dinner guests this coming Saturday, September 23. Now please come real early so we will have a long time to talk by ourselves. Aileen and Myron are both in school and like it. Hoping to see your Saturday.

Your loving sister, Mae

September 24, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your letter received several days ago was surely glad to hear from you. How are you felling by this time and did you get to take your trip up to Maes? Did Glenn go to that picnic? It was not a very nice day here last Saturday as it rained off and on all day. I wonder whether they would go or not. Hope that your plans for the day were not spoiled by the old man not going to the picnic. How did you find Mae? In her last letter to me, she said that she hoped to be able to do her own work and be to themselves by the first of October. That would mean letting the hired girl go. Do you think that she will be able for anything like that? How does she seem to like Cora by this time? Is she getting much canning done and how are the little chickens that she bought? There are so many questions I would like to ask. Will you please tell me all the news when you write.

Last Friday, John and I spent the day at the Cadiz Fair. It was such a nice day. Next Sunday, Nancy and Elwood are coming over to spend the day and I have just finished a letter to Mary asking her and Barney to come also.

David's wife and son were here about two months and then she and the youngster went back to her home but they are back again. Calamity Jane and I do not go back and forth any more. The LeMaster girls are as usual.

Thanks for the money order. I am sending you a copy of the gravestone receipt and you can use it as your receipt. It shows that you paid \$20 and I paid \$20 for the gravestone marker. It may come in handy at some future time in settling up business affairs at home. I have a copy just like the one I am sending you. It ought to be that much in your favor some time. Be sure and put that copy away with your valuables for safe keeping.

John says to tell you he has a boil on his butt and wants to know what you would recommend to get rid of boils.

Lovingly, Georgia

September 26, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Did you get home all O.K.? We did. Joe Ewing and wife called here yesterday p.m. to see if I would go out to their house and stay, while the Mrs. went to Chris Hospital to have an operation for a tumor. Of course, I said yes. I will go tomorrow. Have no idea how long I'll be gone, Am so thankful you and I made our visit together last Saturday. When you write me, just send it to College Corner and I'll get it O.K. Hope you get rested up good. We had a big rain this afternoon. Write soon and take good care of yourself.

Oceans of love, Mamma

October 28, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I met an old acquaintance, one of my old school teachers of high school days. It happened this way. Yesterday, the Eastern Ohio Teachers Associating of which John is a member had a meeting at Zanesville, Ohio. It is 16 miles west of New Concord. John went to the meeting and I went along. We got there about 10:30 in the morning. John registered and we attended a meeting then after dinner, we were sauntering around and went into the building where the teachers register and just ahead of me I saw a man and said to John that he looked like Mr. Holcomb. I followed behind him around to the registration desk where he stopped to register. He wrote his name Earnest A. Holcomb on a card. After he had finished, I asked him if he didn't teach in Preble County several years ago. He said he did but that he did not know me. I had to laugh and after a little he said your name is Steele. I said yes and he called me Georgia. He was very pleasant and wanted to know if I had heard or knew anything in particular from any of our class. He was able to name most of those in my class. He remembered you and wanted to know how my sister Martha was and what you were doing. Of course, I told him. He is teaching school near Newark. His daughter is with him now conducting rival meetings. He said that Mrs. Holcomb is still teaching in Twin Township in Preble County. This morning I got to thinking about it and it seemed more like a dream than real. He looked very natural. It has been twelve years since I had seen him last.

It was between 70 and 75 miles from Jewett to Zanesville, making something like a ride of 140 miles. Today I am not worth much and am rather tired so we did not go to Cadiz this evening. John went to the post office this evening and also to the Grocery store but is home now at ten minutes til eight.

Have you heard from Mae lately? Does she still have a telephone? I am sure wondering how she is feeling by this time. Does she still have a hired girl? I have a very good winter coat that I have not worn for two winters and I just wondered if Mae could use it. Do you know what condition her old winter coat is in? If you think that she would wear it I would be glad for her to use it. Would it be better to send it to you or Mamma and let one of you deliver it to her in person or do you think it would be safe to send it direct to her? It is a blue coat with a fur collar and cuff. It is a good warm coat in good condition.

We have been having a fire in our grate in the dining room for some time. We started a fire in the living room stove today.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 30, 1933

Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you coming along? Somehow I can't help but think of you since I talked to you. Do you have a better position or has something come up that I don't know about? Now if you want me to keep any of your things, just send them up and I will take good care of them. If you are out of a place to go, come up until you feel like you want to start out again. I talked to Mama and she is going home today. Said she was well and all right.

Was up to see Doctor Mirnns last night and he said my lungs were perfectly clear and I was O.K. with exception of my heart and weight. He gave me more capsules and I feel like a different person this A.M. Cora got too smart in several ways so I canned her. I have a widow lady come in 3 days per week. I like this plan better.

Will have to close for it is mail time. Let me hear from you right away. We will have shredders about Wednesday or Thursday.

Love, Mae

October 31, 1933

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Three Maples, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Here I am safe at home again. I left Mrs. Ewing in good shape. All she can do now is take care of herself. A lot of Loll Harves junk is to be sold next Thursday. The United Presbyterians are to have the dinner

and I promised to help. Mae [Huston] says you have a something on. I wonder what it is. Maybe coming home? I'll have the dishrag boiled good. I'll write a letter soon and you do the same.

Lots of love, Mamma

November 6, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
At Harry Steele home
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear little girl,

You just don't know how bad I felt when I found you were feeling so burnt. Now you pack up your things and come straight home to Fairhaven and take a good rest. You can rest and rest there and you won't be paying out any money for eats and fire and that will save you money. Now you don't need another job right now for you must have rest and you must come to Fairhaven to get it. I'm not surprised that you are worn out for you have been on the jump so long. Now you write me right off and let me know when to look for you. Harry said he would meet you, but he would rather it would not be on Friday or Saturday for he is always head over heels on those two days. I'm going to be here a few days to help get the turnips and pumpkins put away for winter before it gets so cold. So you send me an immediate answer and send it to Camden in case of Harry Steele. Now don't stay down there and spend all your money. Come home and save it and let me hear from you right off. Hope to hear from you right off.

Oceans of love, Mamma

November 14, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
At Harry Steele home
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I have been up a stump to know what to do with your insurance letter that came a week ago. I thought sure you would be home but your letter yesterday didn't sound that way. I had to open it because it was so big and bulky and it had already been to Cincinnati and then to College Corner and now there was no place to put an address so I just had to open it.

Harry wants to go to Cincinnati next Thursday and not later than Friday to sell some hogs and he will have to see you and would you care to put your name on that bank note again? I think I'll not go with him for I've had such an awful cold in my head for the last month and I'm afraid I'll get another dose of sinus trouble in my head again. If all is well, Dorothy [Steele] will go with him. Now if you will please be around the Inn, it will be a great help for the days are so short and it is so far to go.

I've not seen Mae since you were up but she talks good on the phone and I think is a lot better. Now you had better come home and rest before you take on another job. Now I feel pretty sure that they will go Thursday but if not, it will be the next day. Goodness but this is a bad morning. The scarlet fever is so bad in the Fairhaven schools but Jean Evelyn [Steele] is all right this morning. Harry says he will try to see you sometime between 9 and 12 a.m.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 6, 1933
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your nice birthday card yesterday. Many thanks for it. Yesterday evening I started to answer your card and just as I addressed the envelope we got callers so had to stop. I realize I should have written to you some time ago but I just kept neglecting it from day to day and after a while I began to wonder if a letter addressed to you at the Anna Louise Inn would find you there. So I thought maybe I had better wait until I heard from you again. Am glad that you are feeling better and able to be working again.

We have both been pretty good so far this fall. Hope we can continue to keep well. Have you heard from Mae lately? Hope that she is not overworking herself. Next time you talk to her on the phone, tell her that she should not spend her time, strength, or money trying to buy Christmas presents for the rest of us. She will be

doing well to make a happy Christmas for herself and the children. I owe her a letter now and had better get it answered soon.

We have butchered one hog already and are going to get another hog in a few days. After we butchered our other hog, I took a piece of liver over to Mary and Edna LeMaster. There were glad to get it then on Thanksgiving morning here came Mary with a nice mince meat pie. It was very nice. So John and I had mince pie for dinner Thanksgiving Day.

In Mae's last letter, she said that Mamma had been out working for someone again. Have you heard from her lately? I have not. I was rather sorry to hear that you had left the Branch Hospital but you should know what is best for you. If the work was too hard, the best thing to do was get away from it, I suppose. Well, I will close for tonight and hope this letter finds you much rested and feeling better. Be sure to write to me again real soon. Thanks again for the nice card.

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 7, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear little girl,

It was so long that I did not hear from you after the check came, which was about 2 weeks, that I got scared that something had happened to you. I wouldn't have thought so much about it if I hadn't had your check. I'm afraid your job is too much for you when you are already so tired. I'm writing to Mae this A.M. to see if they will come up Christmas. Hope they will for she seems anxious to come up. She is going to the dentist to see about having all her teeth taken out. I hate to see her have them all pulled for fear she will never get anymore.

I went to Eaton with Harry yesterday and got a new hat. Paid \$1.50 and it was pretty decent looking, I thought. Let me know as soon as you can if you will eat Xmas dinner at Fairhaven. Hope you can. It won't be an elaborate spread but we can be together anyway. Be sure to let me know right off if you get this letter O.K. Now be sure but don't think you have to bring everybody a present because times are too hard. Write soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 16, 1933
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Have been thinking of writing several times but getting at it is another thing. Edith didn't come this am but suppose it was too cold. She has missed before for that reason then too her Aunt is or was there from Indianapolis and will be going back soon. There is sickness and another aunt has cancer of the throat so expect all these things have their bearing. Edith is good help, the best I have had. I don't care that we are not washing today on account of some of the children's things. My but it got cold just all at once. Did you get the letter I forwarded to you? Also the one Mama sent? Do you suppose you will be off during the holiday week for any or part of the time? I hope so if you can I want you to come up. Mamma is planning on a Christmas dinner this year and wants everyone to come.

I went to the dentist the other day and he pulled one tooth and said there will be more to come out. But one was all that I could stand at a time. It made me sick at the time as it was. The tooth was abscessed and also had a growth on it. I will get another out this week. It hadn't bothered me very much since it has been out. Glenn had one pulled and took cold in it then the trouble spread up to his ear and bothered him for two weeks.

Myron had 4 lower teeth pulled and the two new ones have straightened up wonderfully. Aileen just lost one and she made a big fuss over it. Myron was real brave.

Mrs. Elliot came down last night for a while. I haven't done any Christmas shopping yet but guess I will have to make most everything.

I was up at Doctor Tom Munns office and he took that pesser out and I feel ever so much better in every day now. Tom told me about my teeth to get them out and also told me to get a certain kind of cod liver oil. I like his manner better than the old man. I got up to weighing 106 and ½ then went down to 96 and am now 98 and ½ pounds. My appetite is better now than it was. Didn't have any for a while. Now if I can just get through

this winter, I will feel fine. Please don't do any buying for anyone unless it is the children. Don't spend your money.

When I was down at Hamilton the other day, I saw Daisy and believe me she aired off old woman Huston. She hates her like a snake and said she would never speak to her again. Carl and Daisy bought Aileen and Myron each an outfit to wear of some kind for Christmas. They want us to take them up there and fit them so will try to do that this week.

Aileen has her coat and it fits fine and it goes without saying that she is very proud of it. Myron's coat looks wonderful also and he asked Louise to be sure and put 2 sets of pockets in his coat. Louise said both coats were wonderful pieces of material and each worked up nice.

Arthur Morton's youngest girl had scarlet fever 6 weeks and 2 months ago. Now the oldest one has it. It seems to be up around there dotted around since school started. Martha Silver is in pretty bad shape. She has had several hemorrhoids.

Love, Mae

December 15, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

It is now a week since I sent your check and am wondering if you got it. If you did, could you please send me a card? Say, the Campbelltown folks [for Dorothy Steele] begged for Christmas day for their dinner and I had not received any reply from you and Mae [Huston] as to whether you could come or not so my dinner was laid over til Tuesday, the day after Xmas. Now when you come be sure to be prepared to stay awhile so you can rest up. Now if you just can't be here at that time, be sure to be prepared to stay awhile when you do come. I'm afraid you are working too hard. Those picture of Price Hill came and they are fine. I'll keep them for you. Don't spend your hard-earned money on presents this year. Mae said "he" [Glenn Huston] would come for Xmas.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 29, 1933
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest little girl,

How are you this morning? Mae said you talked to her and you had a cold that was something awful and was afraid it might get the best of you and get into pneumonia. You send a card and let me know how you are. I'm afraid you will worry around down there and take a bed in the hospital. Mae said you just felt awful when she talked to you.

Harry and Mae's all got her but Maes didn't get here until after one o'clock. You know how someone always blows around about Harry always being late? I could hardly keep from telling him about it but I held my peace. The day passed off without a jar. Mae sure was tickled to death to be here and seemed to enjoy every minute of it. It being late when they arrived and going home a little after four, made the day short but it was better than nothing at all.

Mae's face was awfully bright but she is terribly thin. It just made me heart sick. Now you know she is trying to get her teeth out. I can't imagine how she will look then. When will she ever get more to replace them? The first one the dentist pulled, she just fainted and they didn't know what was going to happen. The dentist said he did not know what he was up against. She says she is taking so much medicine. I tried to get her to lie down and rest when she was here but no-sir-ee, there was no lay in her. Last Saturday morning, she took the kids and went to church in the morning. They all went to an entertainment in the evening and she was also at Hamilton last Saturday. Harry just now dropped in and he thought things went off fine last week. He laughed and said he thought Glenn was pretty glad to be taken back into the fold. Ha, ha. When it came time to go home, I divided up what was left from dinner so it would not be any trouble for supper.

Do you remember what full stomachs we went to bed on two years ago this Christmas? Your presents helped set the occasion so much. I said your fruits and candy were a present for all from you. After dinner, I brought out your box and the kids nearly raised the roof. Mae was so pleased over her skirt. I told her she ought

to wear it around the house to keep warm. Harry seemed very discouraged over Mae. I think it is terrible she drives the car for she might take a spell with her heart. No telling what would happen.

Mae realized you were all worn out last spring. I know taking care of her just started things for you and you need to come to Fairhaven to rest. Don't go back to the Inn. You would not be paying out any money.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 31, 1933

Margaret W.

College Corner, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I am going to write you a letter on the last night of the old year. After today we will be writing 1934. It hardly seems possible that the Christmas season is over. We had so much warm weather this fall that it hardly seemed time for Christmas. We received your Christmas greetings and we appreciate having you remember us. The thought of your cards were the prettiest of all the cards we received this Christmas time. I didn't know until I saw our address that you were in Norwood, Ohio.

Mae [Huston] sent such a nice Christmas greeting. I talked to her on the phone every once in a while and we are so glad she is better. I was so glad Aileen and Myron got home from school while we were there the day we were down to see Mae. They are such nice looking children. They have a good time with Helen Harrison's little girl, Mary Jo.

Your mother was at Sabbath School and Church today but I didn't get to talk to her.

The Christmas dinner was held at the church Friday evening. It was a cold night but not as cold as Wednesday night when it was 10 degrees below zero. Now we have another sudden change and it is so warm and raining. I hope there won't be any more of the very cold weather like we had this week.

I got a musical powdered box for Christmas so you can imagine me powdering my nose to the music. It is a lovely box and really the music is very pretty. Bessie and her husband gave it to me. I had noticed them advertised in the paper a few weeks ago and thought it would be nice to have one but I never thought I would be getting one. Bessie said her husband was at Jackson's for Christmas dinner and came here in the afternoon.

Faye Lybrook's mother has been sick and Faye is staying with her. She is getting better. Frank Campbell's mother is sick and Mable Brown is caring for her. She had a very bad cold and I think it is pneumonia.

Sincerely, Margaret

January 28, 1934

Georgia Steele Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Was surely glad to get your letter and to hear from you. I had been wondering for several weeks whether you was still at the same address. Your box of candy was just fine. We appreciate candy more than we would have at Christmas time as John had to buy so much for the school, we had pounds of it and then none now until yours came. Suppose that you worked Christmas Day?

Have had one letter from Mamma since Christmas. Mamma said that Maes and the folks at the farm took dinner with her the day after Christmas. Mae sent me a Xmas card but did not write any news. Have not heard from her since. Am wondering why she doesn't write? We sent them a little Xmas box but she has not acknowledged getting it yet. Mamma says Mae is getting her teeth out. Can't stand to have but one pulled at a time.

How are you feeling now? Do you feel stronger than you did awhile back? Now Martha, don't work until your last ounce of energy is gone. We want to arrange to come and spend some of your vacation with us this summer. We have a new gas range to cook with and it surely is nice.

We are both O.K. with the exception of me. Last Monday evening, I came in the backdoor and when I stepped on the linoleum, my right angle turned and I went through some awkward maneuvers and finally landed against the kitchen cabinet. Have not gotten entirely straightened out yet. What would you suggest that I do with that pesky ankle? I have threatened to bandage it but don't know whether that would be the proper thing to do. It always turns when I least expect it to.

John says to tell you that he is going to get a kit of fish before long and that you can have some if you come over. We got two hogs this fall and are going to get about a quarter of beef in February. No danger of anyone getting meat hungry around this house.

We are having a real blizzard here tonight. The wind is so strong and blowing snow every direction. We did not get out to Church at all today. It rained this morning and is snowy this evening,

I am Matron of the Jewett Juvenile Grange again for this year and John is Master for another year. I am also an officer in the Harrison County Pomona Grange for this year. I was installed last Friday evening. We get quite a lot of enjoyment from the Grange.

Ruth, Lucy, and Wayne were down to Church this am and stopped a few minutes on their way home, They are O.K. Mary LeMaster was laid up for about three weeks with intestinal flu but is able to work again. Edna is O.K. Nancy spent last Friday with me. Elwood went to a sale at Scio and Nancy came with him as far as Jewett and stopped here. Nancy is starting a Flower Garden quilt and wanted to get the pattern from me. She also used the sewing machine. We had a busy but pleasant day together.

Guess this is all the news I have for this time and hope this letter finds you O.K. Be sure to plan a visit to Jewett this spring or summer or earlier if it suits you better.

Thanks again for the nice box of candy. The mumps are thick around this part of the country. Do you think I ever had them? I don't think that I did but John thought maybe you would know for sure.

Lovingly, Georgia

February 19, 1934
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I should have written you long ago but the old story of always being busy then tired so lay down and sleep for a couple of hours. I feel much refreshed after I have slept awhile. I now weigh 101.5 pounds. Last Fall I got down to 95 pounds but am on the upward way now. Two weeks ago, I weighed 100 even.

Doctor Tom Munns said I should have my bad teeth out. All were good with no cavities on outward appearances. Doctor Mobauch will only pull one a week and started to the ones he considered abscessed. I now have 9 left to pull which takes them all three to pull. That leaves me 7 in front below. I think I will have him leave them for the present and just get my upper ones out and ready for a plate.

The last one taken out was an impacted tooth that didn't come through in front. It was very severe and had to be cut out and was full sized with $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long. The dentist said there was no reason for me to have a setback if he took only one a week. I am feeling better now than I did when he started. I expect to go up again this week and get another out.

Aileen [Huston] has been having conjunctivitis in her eyes, not bad but makes her look bad. She is better now. Neither Aileen or Myron have missed a day in school this year. Aileen is in best class at school. Myron has a wonderful memory but don't always remember his right words so I am helping him. I imagine he plays too much.

Now I want to know about you. How are you? Are you still at Helveys? It has been so long since I have heard from you that I am afraid you are sick. Please let me know how you are and if you have work. Would you like me to send you some things? I talked to Mamma this morning. She is O.K. Mrs. Campbell is fair. The nurse Miss Taylor is there. C. O. Munns is the physician. Mrs. Campbell has a bad heart but is very hard to care for. Frank is there a lot of the time. Mamma said to tell you to be sure and send her a card or some word as to yourself.

Harry [Steele] stopped awhile Saturday pm. All are O.K. there. I had a letter from Georgia and all are well.

You remember that I told you I wrote Ida and Mary letters the same I sent your Christmas card. Well the other day, I found those letters in Glenn's overcoat unmailed. I was just sick but will send the old and a new letter to them as soon as I get them written. I am very sorry because you could have had Ida's address a long time ago.

Reverend Clifford Jeffers is father of a second child. It is a boy. Clara Wright is sick and started to over worry. She is now living in Clyde Bess' house in Morning Sun. She has been quite serious. I was talking to

Mrs. Meredith the other evening and she asked about you. I want to go up there once of these days. She has some things she wants to show me and I really enjoy talking to her. Mr. Ault, Louise's father, is quite sick.

I want to thank you just ever so many times for the things you sent the children and I for Christmas. I have some things to tell you. The silk skirt you sent me was lovely, just too pretty to wear.

Most lovingly, Mae

May 29, 1934

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Did you get back home O.K.? We did. Dear me, I've been terrible busy since I got home. Cleaning house, making garden, and mowing the yard. The Alumni met at Morning Sun this year and Mae and him [Glenn Huston] brought the kids up to Harrys [Steele] and I stayed with the kids while they all went. Guess they all had a good time. Mae seemed to feel good.

Marie Snape's baby has been in the Children's Hospital at Cincinnati for the last 10 days. It has throat and ear trouble and a little of everything the matter with it. Last week, they thought that it would die but I heard later that it was a little better. The Hays were about crazy over it. They took Mrs. Anderson to Mercy Hospital yesterday to be operated on today. She has a tumor. Poor thing, she has had so much trouble with that. Rachel Becket graduated from Dixon High on Thursday evening and married a fellow in Richmond the following Saturday. She believes in pushing business, don't she. Nothing like getting all her troubles over and being through with it. John Snediker had his arm about torn off in the services and he is in Mercy Hospital. Well, I will close and do hope to hear from you real soon.

Oceans of love, Mamma

June 17, 1934

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

It is almost two weeks since dear Uncle Will left us. Wasn't it dreadful, dreadful? Maybe no one told you but the field work had been left for him to do. He would take the four horses to the field and work them all spring and you know how dreadfully hot it has been and him at 79 years ole was just driven to desperation. Mrs. Harper told me herself that "some of them would have to get busy and do the work themselves". Who could she have meant by "them"? It would be nobody but Milton and Belva. I never got to see him very often by himself but when I did see him, he would always tell me that the folks go so much. Belva made her bags that it didn't make any difference what she was doing that any time she found he was going someplace she would drop everything and go along. Now he has been sick enough to death having her along.

If they were so afraid something would happen, why did they let him stay out in the field in the hot sun til he was tired to death. They said he was always up an hour or more before anybody else in the morning and had his horses all ready to go to the fields before breakfast.

Mrs. Harper complained they didn't have any garden. Well, whose fault was it? It sure was not Uncle Wills. When he went to the field that left 4 at the house. What was to hinder them from taking care of the garden. The evening before Homers started back to Chicago, they all came up to Harrys a little while. Of course, the Harpers were all along as usual so we had no chance to pass a few words with Homer alone. Mae was just prostrated after it was all over. I don't know whether it was her heart or not but Harry said she looked as bad as she did last Spring. She insisted that I go down to her house but I felt so bad myself and also had infection in my thumb and I didn't want to get so far away from Doctor Coombs.

I was working in the garden and run something under my thumb nail and it festered and finally got infection in it and caused me trouble the first week. But Combs lanced it and gave me medicine and it is a whole lot better now. Harry felt so bad because we couldn't take you up home that night after the funeral. But he was expecting a little colt that night and sure enough it did come that very night. It was way past due and Doctor Clito thought it was dead. The one she had last year came dead but this was come all right. When do you think you will get your vacation? Now do make your plans to get some rest this time.

Mae got 300 little chicks this week. Mrs. Heavenridge is seriously sick with ulcers of the stomach. She has been at Hamilton Hospital for observation but brought in the ambulance to Arthur Hays yesterday afternoon. The Heavenridge kids are having a great time among themselves. I have a nice garden coming on and it takes quite a bit of work but we will have something good later on.

Oceans of love, Mamma

June 27, 1934
Mary Simpson
Camden, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Steele [Emma],

I am so anxious to find a room to rent in Fairhaven and I wondered if you would care to rent one? My furniture is all scattered around in different homes. If I had a room where I could have part of it, I could spent part of my time there. Martha and George are both getting new furniture so thought they won't use their old things any more. I am at Roberts at present but would be glad to hear from you very soon as I am anxious to get a room. I sympathize with you in regard to your brother. It is very comforting to know that God reads our hearts and he alone can judge our actions. He "knoweth we are dust" and is merciful and just in his dealings. Please let me know. I get \$5 a month for my house. Of course, I could not pay any great amount but you would always get your money.

Mary

July 1, 1934
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Camden, Ohio

My dear Martha,

This letter has been to Cincinnati trying to find you but did not find you so I will write a little more and start it again. It is sure too bad about Georgia. Did you know she was complaining? I didn't. Now I don't feel like you should go to take care of her when she gets home for you are so rundown now you can hardly go and you well remember that you were just prostrated last summer when you got away from Mae. If you get sick, they cannot help care for you.

I was so disappointed you didn't get up home today. They had a large crowd this morning. Ed Harves preached this am and Mr. Bailey preached tonight. Maes are supposed to be up tonight. I was so sorry that your old lady would not give you up to come today. When do you think you will be up to stay awhile? Now don't just work on til you drop in your tracks. Let me know what you think of Georgia. Sam Ewing is seriously ill with high blood pressure, heart trouble, and sinus trouble. You know any one of those things can kill a person.

Oceans of love, Mamma

July 2, 1934
Georgia Steele Thompson
Wheeling, West Virginia

Dear Mae [Huston],

Thought I would write you a few lines this am to let you know how I am spending my vacation. Guess I have never before spent a vacation in the hospital so you see I am taking a change. I came down here a week ago. I seemed to have a small tumor and the Doctor told me he would remove my appendix at the same time. I have gotten along fine. I have a private room and John has been with me most of the time. His sister Edna has been bothered with her side for some time so decided to have her appendix removed. I asked to be straightened up before school starts in September.

John's Aunt Lucy Thompson was rushed here to the hospital yesterday in the ambulance. I do not know what is wrong with her but guess she is in a serious condition. It seems such a strange coincidence that the other two should come after I had been here just one week. Expect I will go home Friday or Saturday if nothing happens.

We have written Martha two letters recently and they both came back to us unclaimed. Do you know where she is now?

I have written to Mama and told her to call and tell you about this. Do you know if she received the letter and is she at home or out at the farm?

Georgia

July 4, 1934
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Was sorry that I wasn't here when you called last night. Mamma told me you tried to call me. I am sending Georgia's letter to you. I hope Georgia comes along all right in every way. I only wished I could do for her as she did for me. I certainly was glad to have her here when she came. Do you suppose she could use any of my good night gowns? I have some nice ones that I used last spring and have put away again. Tell me what you think for she is welcome to use them. If you hear or know anything more, please let me know.

I was so sorry you didn't get up to see Mr. and Mrs. Bailey. The church was full. He preached a wonderful sermon. There was a number of preachers present. Mr. Rife was there.

They expect to have threshers up at Harrys the last of this week. Don't know when we will have them.

Love, Mae

August 6, 1934
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Your arrived at last and was glad to hear from you. We had begun to wonder what on earth had happened to you for we had not heard from you for so long. We sent you two letters and they both came back to us so I did not write any more until I knew definitely what your address was.

Am sorry to hear that you have been having so much trouble with your stomach. John and I both are real well just now. I am pretty well straightened up from my operation. It was six weeks ago today since I was operated on. Gained back my strength much quicker than imagined that I would.

No, No, a thousand times No, I never said a word to anyone over home about my trouble last spring. Neither Manna nor Mae know about it so far as I know and so please don't you mention it either. No need to bring that up to them for its's something that could not be helped and they couldn't do anything now to change things.

Are you going to take a vacation this summer and where are you going? Do you think you will take in the World's Fair? Do not expect that we will get there and don't think we will go over home either. About all the outing we will get will be a day or so among some of our friends down near Steubenville.

Back to the subject of being in the Hospital, I was there two weeks and got along just fine all the time. After I had been there a week, John's sister Edna came to the hospital and was operated on for appendicitis and the same day that Edna came to the hospital, Aunt Lucy Thompson was taken to the hospital in the ambulance. She had a kidney stone and pus in the kidney. She was in a very serious condition when she went to the hospital but is home now and improving slowly.

John and I washed this morning and want to go to the dentist this afternoon Expect I had better ring off for this time so we can get started. Do you want to come over here this summer? We will be home most of the time and there will not be any extra work to do so you could rest. We would be glad to have you. We won't have any cows to milk or anything like that.

Lovingly, Georgia

August 12, 1934
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

It sure seemed an awful long time since I've seen or heard from you. I've thought every week that you would be up but still you don't come. When you feel so bad and it is so hot, why don't you come and rest up. The heat has sure been terrible. It injured the corn crop terrible.

I would have written sooner but I'd had to have my glasses changed and it took him so long to get them ready. You know it takes a while to get used to them. I got them from Doctor Hays at Richmond and they cost me \$19.00. Well old lady Huston has parked at Mae's again. Been there 3 or 4 weeks. Don't know how long

she will be there. It will soon be a year since Glenn [Huston] gave you and I that jolly old ride up to Oxford that Saturday evening and Harry came to get us. By the way, Harry asked Glenn how his mother's farm was coming along and he said they sold it a year ago. Harry said he bet it was sold at a Sheriff's sale for bankruptcy.

One night this week, there was a terrible storm and it blowed Mae's sitting room window in. It took a lot of roof off their farm. It sure beats anything how the storm catches them so often. I've not heard from Georgia for some time but the last I heard she was doing very well,

Alice Moss has got to using crutches now, One leg is all drawn up and she can't get it straight. Evelyn is taking music lessons from Mr. Ward but she can hardly get away from her 6 kittens long enough to do any practicing. I have such a nice lot of Irish taters, sweet taters, tomatoes and cabbage. It would be a good time for you to sample them.

Now come right along before something else comes along and takes your attention. Now Martha do come home and take a rest. You make enough that you don't have to work every day. I do wish I had a steady job for this winter like I did last winter. Write real soon and let me know how you are coming.

Oceans of love, Mamma

October 20, 1934
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I have been out at Harry's [Steele] all week. Dorothy had all her upper teeth pulled a week ago, eleven of them, and she was laid up over it. I came home this morning when he went to Hamilton and here your letter was. I was most tickled to death to know that you have such a good job. Thank goodness your voice is not so bad that a fellow will hang himself to get rid of you. Now don't fail to tell me who she said that too. Was it Clara Ramsey? I won't have any peace til I find out. Glens are going to shred next Monday and Mae is awful anxious for me to go down and help her get dinner. I am giving her pretty near a bushel of sweet potatoes. I gave Harry the same and then had all I could use myself. I had about 4 bushel and they are so good. Wish you could fill up on them.

They are going to take Alice Moss to Hamilton the first of the week and break her leg and set it over to see if they can get her so she can walk. It is doubled up pretty near double now. Ain't that awful?

Chester Hays has moved so I don't know what his address is now. Harvey Bell got married last week. She was a stranger to us. Don't even know where she came from. Now just let that Cincy girl root for herself. If you take care of yourself, you are doing extra fine.

Oceans of love, Mamma

October 30, 1934
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your two letters and was glad to know that you are located at such a good place. That takes a good part of the worry off of your being so far away.

The weather has been wonderful here until last Friday and Saturday. A wind started bowing and nearly blew everything away. A shutter blew a window in for us. The window by the telephone. We now have our heating stove up and it feels pretty good. The wind isn't so bad now but it is much colder.

Last Monday and Tuesday, we had corn shredders for dinner. Mamma was down and helped me. The weather was delightful.

Yesterday, we went to Sunday School and Church then came home for dinner and in the afternoon, we went to West Alexandria. Mrs. Kelly was at Mary's in Dayton and Mister died a couple of years ago.

We then went to Gratis to see Mable. She has Margaret's baby. Margaret's death was caused by a fibrous, cancerous tumor. The baby looks the picture of health now. His name is Jay Dee.

We went home and stopped at Mama's a few minutes. Mande Parks was there. Mama seemed to be pretty good. We have all gotten over our colds pretty good. Is your cold entirely gone? I was so glad you had the canned goods with you. I only wished you had more with you. Did it last until you got your job? Do you still like the place so well?

I have my work pretty well under way an everything all straightened around now.

Mama felt bad about you going to Chicago because she felt you wouldn't have any work and not much chance of getting one. She felt there would be a great big slump as soon as the fair is over.

I am anxious to know who told you what Velva said. At any rate, you are doing better than her sister did. I will close and get this down to the mailbox. Aileen wrote you a letter and I will put it in if I can find it. Write when you can for I am interested in how you are coming along.

Dorothy has all her teeth out now and expects to get new ones next February. I don't think she is always as nice to Mama as she should be.

Lovingly, Mae

October 30, 1934

Aileen Huston

Oxford, Ohio

Dear Aunt Martha,

How are you? How was the weather been up there? I like school very well. My teacher's name is Miss Nesbit. My 4 student teachers are Miss Nogle, Miss Rawfus, Miss Blazie, and Miss Wannamaker. We are going to have a Halloween party at school. Myron's teacher's name is Miss Visser. He likes her and so do I. I like Miss Nesbit too. How do you like it up there?

Your loving niece, Aileen

November 1, 1934

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I was glad to hear that you have such nice people to be with. Under no consideration have any dealings with that woman from Cincinnati. Don't let that family that you are with think for a minute that you are in the same class with them. Just freeze her out and then she will let you alone.

I went down and helped Mae [Huston] with her shredding. We had 8 men for dinner and the next day we had 9 for dinner. They finished that day. Now she has that job over and her house all cleaned up and her canning done. I don't see any reason why she can't come along.

Dorothy [Steele] has had all her teeth pulled since you went away. Mosbaugh at Oxford pulled them. She won't get new teeth for 4 months. Frank Fisher was taken to the Cincinnati Hospital yesterday. I understand he had bladder troubles but I never got the particulars. It is now going on 2 weeks since Alice Moss went to the hospital but I can't hear a word in any shape or form about her. It seems like the Moss tribe is mad at everybody and people don't hear much news from them. It seems that Doctor Coombs kept telling them last winter that if she didn't keep rubbing and banding that knee, it would get stiff and they would have to break it and put it in a cast. She just cut up jack last winter when they would have her to follow the Doctor's orders and would tell them it hurt so she had her own way and it turned out just the way he said it would.

Harris Bell is not so good. He drinks so bad now. I have not heard from Georgia for a long time. When I wrote her I sent your address. Mae got her new blue dress finished and it looks very nice. I didn't bring any fleas home with me. I think it is too cold for them to hop, skip, and jump now.

I have not received any notice from the Bank yet but it will be on hand just any time now. Of course, I'll have to forward it to you. I will now tell you thank you for your kindness and wish you could see my wood house. I have 2 and ½ tons of coal and a big lot with kindling and a lot of wood. Your landlady must be in an awful bad fix when you have to use so much of that kind of medicine. Do you have all the care of the new baby? Be sure to tell me. I see Maude every day. Their well is dry and they get water here. All of Glenn's [Huston] took a driver over to West Alexandria last Sabbath pm to call on Mr. and Mrs. Kelly. When they got over there, they were told that Mr. Kelly had been dead for 2 years and Mrs. Kelly was living in Dayton with her daughter. They came home past Gratis and called on Mable Bookwalter and also saw Margaret's baby.

Oceans of love, Mamma

November 17, 1934

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

Oxford, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I stopped off at Maes [Huston] while Harry went to Hamilton this morning. Mae and Harry have signed the bank note and I'm sending it on to you to sign. Will you please fix it and return it immediately so John Pults [of the College Corner Bank] will not get mad at me? I am going home tonight. Mae and I washed this morning. Will you attend to this business real soon? Thanks ever so much.

Oceans of love, Mamma

November 24, 1934
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I sent a short letter with all our names on the note to you last Saturday and I never got it back. Martha, did you not get it or why did not send it back? It has gone on so long and John Pults [of the College Corner Bank] gets so furious that I am heart sick over it. Now I am sending this to you registered so you must let me hear from you some way or other. My letter that I sent a week ago never come back to me so you surely got it. Do let me hear from you just as soon as the mail can get it there.

Love, Mamma

December 16, 1934
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Both of those bank notes finally got back to me. One of the went to College Corner and the other one was burned. Where in the dickens do you suppose that first one was all that time? I was just wild over it? I had decided that you had changed places and been too busy to write me or else you were sick and just couldn't write. I sure thank you that it came out all right.

How is your sick lady coming along? Do you think she is improving? Do you feel like you would be there the rest of the winter? We have had such a terrible lot of cold weather and I expect you have had it colder yet. Frank Fisher was buried two weeks ago tomorrow. Lyda thinks she will try to live alone but she is so near blind that her folks think she just can't do it.

Christmas is coming and I just have one thing to say, Martha, and that is don't you dare trying to send presents to all the connections. You just can't do it. By the time you keep your own affairs going, you have your hands full. If nobody else asks Maes to dinner, I'll have her bring her family here to Fairhaven. I know she will want to take the children someplace. They were here last year. She looks a lot better now than when you last saw her.

Esko (Clara Belle's man) is married again and Clara Belle is going with an old man, old enough to be her father. They were at a public dance at Camden a few weeks ago and they were so drunk that they couldn't hardly stand up. The manager made them get off the floor. Erna Steel is attending Business College in Hamilton. The youngest brother is financing it. I'm so glad he could help.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 19, 1934
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Am writing to you today with the greatest hope that you receive this letter. I had a letter from Mamma sometime in October and she gave me your address. But part of the time I did not feel so good and somehow never wrote to you. I thought surely I would get some word from you then I would answer but I never heard from you.

Had a letter from Mamma yesterday and she said so far as she knew you was at the same address so I am taking a chance and hope that you get this O.K. Sometimes I feel pretty good and then again I don't feel so good. So far as I know, it is my nerves. I believe I am gaining weight slowly. John is real well teaching school every day. He is having a cake walk at his school on Friday evening of this week. Nancy has a baby girl born October 14th named Vivian Marie Adams. She is real nice. David Harriman's wife is across the road from me

now. They are expecting an increase, at least it looks an awful lot like it. Mrs. Harriman never comes over and has not been in my house for more than two years. I never go over there, We speak when we meet but that is all. Katy Hellbrook and Nedra are here from Atlanta, Georgia on a week's visit.

All of the Thompson's from A to Z are going to take Christmas dinner with Mary and Barney this year. Hae you anything special in store for a pleasant Christmas? I surely hope so.

Mamma did not say much about Christmas in her letter yesterday, She told me that you were talking to Mae over the phone about two weeks ago and that Mae could hear you as well as if you were in the room with her.

Do you see Homer or his wife very often? When you write if you have time, give a few particulars about Homers. Do they live in the residential part of the city or is it an apartment? Oh yes, do you live and have all your belongings right in the house with the family you work for or how is that part arranged?

In my letter yesterday, Mamma said that Frank Fisher died about two weeks ago. The folks we once knew are going fast, aren't they?

How long a visit did you make with Mamma before you left for Chicago? How did she look? I am sending her a good warm nightgown for Christmas. I got Mae a nice pair of hose, Glenn socks, Myron sport stockings, and Aileen material for a print dress.

Expect you will get tired reading but if you can read it on the installment plan. I am going to get my money's worth when I put my three cent stamp on the envelope. Somehow or other, I feel like blowing off just now. What would you like to have for Christmas?

Please Martha, let me hear from you real soon. After I eat a bit of dinner, I am going over town to help decorate a Christmas tree at the Grange Hall. And I want to mail your letter on my way over.

I believe you have a birthday today. Wishing you many happy returns of the day. I will close for this time with the sincere hope that you are all right and that I will hear from you very, very soon. Hope you get this O.K. and always keep my posted on your correct address.

Your sister, Georgia

December 27, 1934
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I must tell you right at first that your lovely Christmas box arrived here in Fairhaven. George Goodwin is our mailman and he drove around here to the side door and tooted his horn and he said "well you sure got a big Christmas box from Chicago." Of course I opened it right off and sorted the things out. Harry killed the old gobbler for Christmas and had Mae [Huston] and her family there and also Coony. He came down and got me in the forenoon. I didn't show your box til after dinner and nobody knew it was there til after dinner was over. Harry called the kids in from their coasting and I handed the presents out to them, Everybody was tickled to death over their presents. Mae was so pleased. She got pretty tired and had to lie down awhile. The telephone line was out of order so I don't know how she felt yesterday. The little folks were so pleased with their New Testament Bibles. I wrote their names in each one. I felt bad because you couldn't be there too and get a good feast of turkey but I expect you had a good dinner too.

I am sending a clipping of Marcus Ramsey's wedding. All of his folks was there but Annie and Ina. Harry and I said we bet they couldn't scare up any duds to wear. Mark Keller is the name of Martha Ramsey's man. By the way, Martha has a kid. Marcus don't amount to a darn. Did you get to go to Homer's for dinner? I hope you did for it would make a little change for you. I do hope I'll get a job soon. I am going to embroider some little poseys on those towels and have them to spread around. I'm sending you a little box for New Years.

Marne Fella is up at Aunt Annies for a week. Mabel is just bored to death. She just can't bear her. Helen Campbell has a kid. Hilda was home for Xmas. She sure thinks she is some pumpkin.

Oceans of love, Mamma

January 25, 1935
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

I wonder where you are and if you are still on the same job. You know I haven't had a letter from you since before Xmas and I can't help but wonder what you are doing and if you are well or sick. If your lady is still so sick, her changes must be slim. So far as I know, our family are all as usual. Coony has been at Harry's ever since Xmas. Glenn [Huston] didn't want to pay him any wages through the winter and Harry needed help on good days and would pay him for it so he is here. I think Harry and Coony are both very well satisfied.

Jean Evelyn [Steele West] had the chicken pox since Xmas. She was out of school 3 days. Nellie Hyas has just got home from Fort Hamilton Hospital. She had her appendix and a lot of her other inside paraphernalia taken out. She had been complaining all fall and finally landed in the hospital. She is doing all right now. Alice Bishop was buried a couple of weeks ago. Madame Harpers sister died in Des Moines, Iowa's 2 or 3 weeks ago, and Maud and daughter Belva went to the funeral. Of course, they would have to go on the train but cold weather and finances wouldn't keep rich people like them at home. Have you seen Homers lately and what is the news from them? What became of that woman from Cincy that went to Chicago about the time you did? Did she decide to let you alone? Mary Harves got a boy baby at Hamilton Hospital last week. Its name is Russel Fisher.

Last week, Ina McCreary was expecting the missionary meeting to meet at her house. The weather was horrible cold and she went outside to wash her windows and got very high on a ladder and fell off it and broke her leg and tore the ligaments lose in her ankle. She was just terribly hurt. They took her to her mother's at College Corner. I have been telling you off and on about Alice Moss. She has just got home from the Richmond Hospital and now they have her leg in a cast clear up to her body. You can't get much news from there. People don't bother them much. Tell me if you ever got the package I sent to you at Xmas.

I feel some times like I just can't stand it as I want a letter from you so bad. Forest Campbell had a big sale last week and sold everything. He is going to leave this part of the country and go to the far west. His sale amounts to \$6.60 dollars but of course the landlord would get some of it. Martha's don't you think you could take a little time and write me all about yourself and how the world is treating you and if your lady is getting any better and where you think she will be through with you? I do want to hear from you so bad. We have had so much severe cold and the papers say Chicago is a lot worse.

Lovingly, Mamma

January 27, 1935
Geogia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I so often wonder how you are and how you are getting along. I am wondering that very thing this afternoon. I wrote you a letter on December 19th, 1934. Did you get that letter?

Mamma wrote me a letter last October 21st and gave me your address then I had a letter from her after Christmas and she said so far as she knew, your address was the same as it was last October. Can't you please find a minute to drop me a card if nothing more. I would so like to hear from you.

John is teaching school every day. I feel pretty good sometimes and at times I don't feel so good. The Doctor says it is adhesions that bother me. It makes me so nervous. Just now John is playing his violin. I will have to get a bite of supper ready before long.

We hear on the radio that it gets pretty cold in Chicago. We are having a very cold spell here also. The thermometer is at zero and below quite often these mornings.

I am glad that you went to Chicago if that is what you felt you wanted to do. Please don't think that I thought it was such a terrible thing to go to Chicago that you are afraid to write. You should know what you want to do by this time and I am glad you found work as soon as you did. Tell me how Homer's are.

Now please Martha, write me a letter or a few lines on a card to let me know how you are and how you are getting along. I am going to look for an answer real soon and please don't disappoint me.

Most lovingly, Georgia

February 5, 1935
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest little girl,

Just nine years this evening since Papa and I came to Fairhaven for good. My, oh my, it seems like ten times that long. I can just see ourselves yet, eating supper off the end of the sewing machine. Well, I got your dear letter yesterday and it was so good and newsy. Now I fully realize what a horrible time you have to get a line written so I really can't expect you to write often, just so I know that you are well.

I know good and well what a killing business that ruling means but the patient never thinks of that. That wanting to kill herself would sure get on your nerves, that would just be desperate. It will be remarkable if she is ever very pleasant to live with again.

Your birthday card was just a beauty and thank you oh so much for the money but you should have kept that for there is your insurance and a lot of things you must have that no one knows about but yourself. Again I say thank you, I am going to get something extra with that. I'll tell you what when I spend it.

Just while it is on my system, I must tell you that Mae [Huston] finally got her white curtains for the sitting room. You remember who stole the money she had hid for then and then what a bad spell she had when she found it gone. When I think what you and I went through to help her out, we must sure have the life of nine cats. When you write to me, don't say anything that I couldn't show her the letter if she happened to be here, just write it on a separate piece of paper and then I can burn it.

Now don't ever let on that I told you but Glenn owed Coony \$49 when he left there to go to Harrys. Glenn is just crazy for Coony to go back to their house and work again and Coony declares he won't go. It looks now like he was just going to stay at Harrys. They seem to suit each other very well. I'll bet Glenn will get mad at the rest of us when he finds out he really won't go. They are going to widen the pike from Oxford down past Glenns and Glenn wants to put Cooney and a team on the road and get big wages. I'll bet he will fool around, neglect the farm, and the next scene will be their moving off the farm. Mae missed Coony so much he was so good about getting wood and water for her. He done lots and lots of things for her.

You asked about Alice, well everybody said that she has had too much gentleman company. They don't mix with anybody around here. You remember their youngest boy married Charlie Benson's girl and they live in Camden. The second boy goes with Shirley Pottenger's girl and that girl goes out to Mosses twice a week and cleans up the house for them and anything they want done. Shirley must be simple to allow it.

Nellie Hays is home from the hospital. She is around the house some but not able to work. I have not seen her since she got home. Do you have to take care of the little baby? I don't see how you could when she is so sick.

I was so amused at George Goodwin yesterday when he came driving around to the sitting room door and tooted the horn and out I went to see what he wanted. He proceeded to tell me he had blood running all down his finger. I said, "oh what is the matter" and he said "I just tore my finger on Anderson's old mailbox".

Mrs. Ault is seriously sick. She has cancer in her rectum. I think I told you that Jim Jacksons bought Charlie Hays' house in College Corner. They will still come to church at Fairhaven. Velma was at church Saturday and dear me, she sure is big. Janie kept the new baby at home with her. Janie has poor health. I don't know just what they call it but she passes into unconsciousness.

Clara Wright is getting better. Helen didn't teach this year. She took care of her mother. I don't know where their money is coming from now but this time last year, the public was keeping them. I have not heard from Georgia for some time. She don't say much when she does write. It is snowing here this evening. I don't hear a word in any shape or form about the Reese girls. Jim Beckett sold his upper place to a stranger. Jake Heitzman's farm was also sold to a stranger. Well, my dearest, it is bed time and I'll close. You just don't know how much better I feel since I got your newsy letter. Now whenever the time comes that you are through with that place, why come home and take a good rest. Thank you again for your present.

Lovingly, Mamma

August 20, 1935
Georgia Steele Thompson
College Corner, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Received your letter from Iowa just a day or two before John and I left to come to Fairhaven. Was surely surprised to find that you are way out there. Hope you get along O.K. and find your work pleasant. John and I left Jewett for Fairhaven last Wednesday. We arrived about 7:30 o'clock in the evening. I surely had a great

surprise when I got here for Home, Ione, and little John were here for supper. Mae's and Harry's were also there for supper that evening. Sure wish you could have been here also.

Homer and Ione were starting back to Chicago next morning. John and I went to Maes last Saturday am and Mae, the youngsters, and Mrs. Huston went to the Cincinnati Zoo with us. They had free tickets. We spent Saturday night at Maes and Sunday afternoon we went over to Sarah Brandenburgs. Then Monday pm, we went over to see Birdie Steel. She is working away as usual. We were out to the farm one evening last week. Am afraid we won't be able to get way out to Des Moines this time. Am sorry we did not get to see you before you left. We are starting back to Jewett next Monday.

With love, Georgia

August 29, 1935
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

We went home from Fairhaven on Wednesday, August 14th. When we arrived in Fairhaven, Homer, Ione, and little John were sitting on Mamma's porch. Harrys and Maes were all there also. John and I just happened in just in time to get in on the affair. Just a streak of good luck for once in our lives. I was glad to see Homer and to get acquainted with Ione and little John. On Thursday, Mamma, John and I went to Camden to call on Mary Killough. Then Friday pm we went to call on Milton's. Mamma wouldn't go out there unless she stopped at Jim Jacksons. After that, we all went to Helen Harrison's.

On Saturday, Mae wanted John and I to go to Cincy to the zoo with her. Glenn was hauling gravel and couldn't go so Mae, the children, John and I plus old lady Huston went to Cincy in our car. We stayed at Maes Saturday night and Sunday pm. All of us went over to call on Sarah Brandenburg. The old lady had Glenn take her to Hamilton Sunday morning. We called on Birdie Steel then we went back to Fairhaven Monday evening.

Guess we didn't do anything important Tuesday then on Wednesday, Mamma, John, and I went to the Greenville Fair. We hunted Miss Brock and found her at home this time. We went out to her house about 4:00 pm and had quite a visit with her. She insisted on giving us our suppers so took us sightseeing over Greenville in her car and took us to a restaurant for supper. Miss Brock paid the entire bill. After we ate our suppers, we drove back to her house, got in our car, and went to see Genevieve. It was just dark when we got to her house. Genevieve lives a short distance west of Greenville. Our time at her house was short as it was getting late and they were not near through with their evening work. Mamma seemed to enjoy the day.

Then Thursday, we had supper at the farm. I went but it was much against my will. On Friday afternoon, John and I went down to Mae's and spent Friday night wither and came back to Fairhaven on Saturday. Sunday was homecoming at Hopewell Church. Mamma, John and I went. Mae got to go also. Clifford Jeffers preaches the sermon. Monday morning, we started for Jewett again. Surely wish you could have been there to have gone with us. It was my first visit for two years and it's no telling what might happen by another year. We must arrange to visit together for sure by another year.

Am so glad you have found some work that will give you a chance to regain your strength. Mamma looked real well and seemed to be feeling real well also.

Most lovingly, Georgia

September 15, 1935
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

It is sure a shame that I have not written before but Dorde and John was here 2 weeks and I have been so awful busy. How are you and how do you like your place by this time? When do you think you will get home? Everybody is well and awful busy. We are going to fill the silo this week.

The baby [Helen Steele] is coming along fine and she is sure a darling. Mr. Ferguson has just told the congregation that he will not stay for less than \$12.00 and I think they have decided to let him go. He has bought 5 acres of land over at Muskingum with a modern house and everything in it. So they might as well let him go. Everybody is as well as usual but awfully rushed. We have so much canning to do. Now Martha do write as soon as you can and tell me all the news.

Oceans of love, Mamma

October 20, 1935
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest little girl,

I am sure ashamed I have been so long about writing but I have sure been busy this summer and fall. The old holy roller man kept the old tent up 2 weeks and had it set right out to the side walk. I'm afraid he will do the same trick again next year for he is back again for another year.

I guess the rest told you about Homers and all of my children but you ate supper here one evening. The old test was up then. They all seemed to enjoy themselves but I missed you. Little John is sure a dear little fellow as is also his daddy. I like Jon two. Little John sent Harry's baby the sweetest plate, cup and saucer. They are green.

By the way, the baby [Helen Steele] is six months old today and my but she is pretty and sweet. She is so good. She never cries unless something awful hurts her feelings. Harry and Dorothy and Jean Evelyn [Steele] went to Richmond last night and left the baby with me. She went to sleep in about 15 minutes and never woke til they came back and then woke up laughing. It was a shame the way Georgia treated the baby and Jean Evelyn last summer. Harry went with the Thompsons out there for supper and Georgia just looked at the little folks as sour as sour could be and they would look up at her as much as to say, "what makes you so mad?".

I guess Mr. Ferguson didn't want to go as bad as they thought they did for things were patched up and everybody is as happy as a kitten on a rug. My sweet potatoes turned out real good and I gave Mae a bushel the other afternoon when she was up. She wants me to go down and help her. I told her I would go after the Holly evening for it was necessary that I be home at that time. I think Holly evening is a luxury that the world could get along very well without.

Helen Orr is in very poor health. They say that she has an inward cancer. I do know this, that she is cared for poorly.

I have not heard from Flora since dear Uncle Will went away. With sickness and one thing and another, I have not written to my own like I would like to have done and was so sorry to hear of Mrs. Perring's daughter being in such awful trouble. You want to know if I see much of Miss Marshall? I don't see her much but she raises chickens by the hundreds and turns them out in the alley and they get in on Minnie and me and keep us raising cain all the time. Em Wilson got in poor health so her and Martha have come back to Fairhaven to live with Laura. Be sure to tell me how Mrs. Berring's daughter is and if she is at your place.

Georgia hadn't been home for 2 years and I thought she would be glad to see everybody but she was sulky as usual. By the sway, Vesta Collins finally got married. She married a widower over at Camden, whose wife had been dead only 3 months. They were married by the Justice of the Peace and had a boy 12 years old. I suppose she thinks her troubles are all at an end now. Mae has not been so good here lately, but I think she does too much for her own good. He has not had a steady hand since Coony left there last Christmas to go to Harrys. Coony is still at Harrys but Harry did not coax him away from Glenn [Huston].

Helen Wright married Bob Paxton and Laura Wright is home from Egypt to stay a year. Willard Mosses are about to be left all alone. The oldest and the youngest boys were married this summer and the middle boy will marry Shirley Pottenger's girl soon and will live in Anderson's house back of me. The Arden sons moved up to Aggie Brown's house. Old Humpy bought that. Two of the boys married Camden girls that I didn't know. Allice Moss is better and sure hobbles around some ow. Three weeks ago, Joe Marshal's house burnt to the ground. A bad chimney flue was the cause. Joe is staying at Arthur Hays. People say Joe's about broke up. He is 83 years old.

I must tell you about last Sabbath afternoon. I came home from church and there was a knock at the door and when I opened it there stood Mary Reese. She came in and talked awhile. There was another knock and here was Ida and after a while another knock and here was Art and after a while another knock and here stood Mrs. Reese. Mary and Art were just up for the day and Ida is going to school at Miami University trying to get to school again. They took your address so you will be hearing from them.

What about yourself? How do you like it by this time? Do tell me all about it. Is it so hard with you as what you have been having? Have you any idea when you will be home? I know you are a long distance from

home but I wondered what you had in your system. Do try and write soon and tell me all about your place. I only wish you could see our baby. She is such a darling.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 15, 1935
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Was so glad to get your letter. You was so prompt with your answer so am going to see if I can't do better. Was so glad to know that you have been so free of colds this winter. Believe I have had one real cold but am over that now. I am still bothered with bronchial trouble. I have been bothered with bronchial trouble for a year now. I started to cough last December and have been coughing more or less ever since. Last summer I went to the clinic at Wheeling, West Virginia and they said that my trouble was caused from my sinus. So I proceed to take treatments for them. After I had taken treatment for about two months they said that my sinus was clear and that no more treatment was necessary but I continued to cough. This fall our doctor gave me drops to put in my nose but still I coughed so yesterday we decided to try "Nacor". It is a patent medicine so highly recommended over the radio. Do you know anything about it? I do not like to take medicine unless prescribed by a doctor but it seems like I can't find a doctor who can give medicine that gives the desired effect.

Lucy is the only girl at home this winter. Ruth is doing housework in Scio. Both girls are O.K. John's father has not been very well this fall. He is bothered quite a lot with kidney trouble. Mary and Edna LeMaster are about as usual. Am so glad that they keep your place well heated. To be good and warm amounts to a whole lot in cold weather. Has anyone told you about Aunt Annie Brown's death? Guess she had several strokes before her death.

I wrote a letter to Homer and Ione just after I wrote your other letter but have not had any reply from them yet. I don't think it is what I want for Christmas but what would you like for Christmas.

I made Aileen a pair of pillow slips and embroidered her initial on them. I also made a pair of pillow slips for Myron and have a crocheted edge on the end of each. I made a princess slip for Mae. I made it out of a very good grade of muslin. I am going to make Mamma a dust cap and apron. I understand she has made herself three new every day dresses so she should have a new apron. I think that when will appreciate that about as much as anything that I could make her.

John is having a Christmas entertainment and cake walk at his school Friday evening of this week. I will make a cake for the cake walk. The Thompson children were all planning on going home for Christmas but as I said John's Dad is not very well so it may be postponed so we don't know exactly what we will do, may be at home alone.

In a letter from Mamma a few days ago, she said that Mae was counting on having her and Harrys at her house for Xmas but she told me that they should all go to her house in Fairhaven.

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 26, 1935
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I have been trying for months to get down to writing you a letter. If in my mind, I could write, it would have been written. I want to thank you for myself as well as for the rest of the family for the nice Christmas you sent us. You will never know how much appreciated the hot water bottle and fixtures were as my old one scarcely could hold in long enough for business. Ever so many thanks. The underwear also was a very welcome present. I had tried my best but had been unable to get any. Just the right weight and all. I will get a suit to match it at J.C. Pennys Store. Georgia sent me a new petticoat. Mama gave me material for a wash dress. Harry's gave us a bucket of honey. Aileen gave me a handkerchief and Myron a pencil. Oh and I want to thank you for the other things you sent as they all come in handy and are quite useful.

We spent Christmas Day at Mama's. The day's temperature hung around zero. Everything was covered with snow and around 11:30 a.m. it got dark and a real blizzard broke forth. We could scarcely see the barn from the house here at home. This did not last so long but continued to return at intervals. We arrived at Mamas

O.K. We started home after having a difficult time in getting Harry's machine started. We got down where you turn off of Hamilton and Richmond Pike along Sam Paxton's woods when the snow was getting deeper and drifted then $\frac{3}{4}$ of the road had been covered. We found ourselves storm stayed. The drifts were too deep. A machine came along the other road and in the course of time, 6 men and big horse helped us out. Needless to say, we were thankful. Today we have hung around the fire pretty close.

Helen Louise Steele (the baby) is growing now. She is a very friendly little mite. Has light brown hair (straight). She is beginning to want to sit alone but can't always stay straight as her feet get light and fly up. Jean and Aileen are both growing up. Aileen is very disgusted with anyone talking about Santy as though she was little. She and Myron both went with me to get their presents and helped pick them out, then wanted me to put them in their stockings, which I did. They decorated a tree and have helped with everything this year.

Mama had everything ready and seemed to enjoy everything. Duck, chicken dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberries, cherries, jello, mince pie, cake, butter beans, pickles, and all the things that go to make a good dinner were there. My how everyone did eat. Wish you could have been there.

We expect to butcher hogs next week and I will be glad when that is all over with. I almost say I don't care for canned meat but nevertheless I will can as much as I can. Expect to kill two cales or baby beef.

Now about yourself, do you like Des Moines as well as Cincy? How about the weather? It is cold here now. Are your right on the grounds where the Hospital is located? Write and tell me about yourself. I have a hard time to get settle down to writing but will try and write more often than before. My feet have been frosted and have been troubling me a lot. Sometimes I feel I can hardly hobble around. Nothing seems to do any good.

I have some sewing I want to get done during this vacation and hope to get started on it tomorrow. I will close for tonight and hope to hear from you soon.

I was sorry that our package didn't get started sooner but know you must have it by now. I am sorry I couldn't send more things.

Most lovingly, Mae

January 19, 1936
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Am wondering if it is as snowy where you are as it is here with us today. It was snowing this morning when we got up and it has been snowing all day,. The wind has been blowing all day and drifting the snow awful. We went to Sunday School and Church this morning but are not going to venture out to Church this evening. This is surely an old-fashioned blustery winter.

How are you? Hope that you have been able to escape any bad cold so far. John and I have been doing pretty well also, no colds to speak of so far if we can only continue.

I have not had any word from Mae [Huston] since before Christmas so I wrote her a letter this afternoon. Also have you had any recent word from her? Have had one letter from Mamma since Christmas but guess I will write to her also. Seems like I get so interested in doing crocheting or working with quilt patches that I often neglect my letter-writing. I don't always wait for my turn or try not to when it comes to writing to you, Mae, and Mamma.

I have some water on the stove getting hot so I can make mush for supper this evening and then have fried mush and meat for breakfast in the morning. Hope that we don't get snow-bound so that the bread man can't get around. We will have to get up early in the morning so that John can have time to walk to school in case he thinks it too bad to take the car out. John's school is about two miles from home.

Do you ever hear from Homer and Ione? I wrote them a letter before Christmas and sent them a Christmas card but never received a reply from either one of them. Do you suppose that they got my letter?

[Friday afternoon] Will make an effort to get this letter to the Post Office this evening. On last Sunday evening about 7 o'clock, Wood Thompson brought Elizabeth in here to our place and wanted to know if Elizabeth could stay with us over night. Of course, we said O.K. The reason she wanted to stay was the weather, The roads out there way were almost impassible and she was afraid she could not get to Jewett at all if she waited until Monday morning. Elizabeth teaches the primary room of the Jewett school. She stayed with us Monday night also. There was no school in Jewett yesterday or today on account of the cold weather.

Last Friday, Leomoyne Thompson (Elizabeth's youngest brother) went home from school sick. The Doctor was call and on Monday, he was no better so he was taken to the hospital at Wheeling, West Virginia and he was operated on shortly after he arrived there. His appendix had burst and partinitis had set in. I just looked for that word in the dictionary but did not find it. He has had two blood transfusions and is to have another tomorrow (Saturday) if his condition permits. It is still doubtful whether he recovers or not. His mother went to the hospital with him Monday and is still there. You remember it was their home you went with us one Sunday for dinner. I have not had any word from him today.

Did you get a package from us about December 19 or about that time? Just wondered if it reached you O.K. Guess I have told all the news that I can think of so guess I will get busy and bake a couple of pies. Guess I will make grape pie this time. I made Drop Ginger cookies last week and still have enough for over Saturday and Sunday so won't make any cake before next week. Hope this finds you O.K and hope to hear from you real soon.

Most lovingly, Georgia

January 31, 1936
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Just a few lines in great haste. A couple of weeks ago, Mary Orr called me to see if I would go to College Corner to take care of Rev. Ed Paxton's brother and sister, who were all sick. They had a trained nurse from Cincy but the case did not appeal to me at that time and I didn't go. But they all got better and they got after me again this morning and I said I'd go. I am ready to go at 4 pm.

Yesterday I got a letter from Flora and she said to send it to you and also said you had gotten a fall. I have been so worried about you and not had a bit of news from you since before Xmas. How are you and what is the matter? Do let me hear a little for you soon.

Ethel Lybrook and Frazier are to be married Saturday night.

Lots of love, Mamma

March 2, 1936
Ida M. Leonard
Woodward, Iowa

My dear little rag muffler [Martha],

So sorry I did not get to tell you goodbye. Dorothy came early and I thought I should go and get those awful heavy grips. We went and Perry helped me. I do not know what I would have done. My check was cheap, cheap, cheap and I never thought anything could be so small.

Have never been able to have a fire in the furnace as water was frozen from outside. I do not think we realized the cold winter we had coming from steam heat to no heat.

I made light rolls and pecan pie yesterday and went to church. Was at one of the neighbors for dinner.

Ida

March 9, 1936
Ida M. Leonard
Woodward, Iowa

My dear little old Steele [Martha],

Do you think I had forgotten you? Not so, my dear, and before I do one thing, I am going to say tonight to you, I had just had my breakfast of toast, coffee, and an orange. Since I came home, I have had eggs until I fear sometimes I may crow or cackle. They have tasted so good and are only 20 cents a dozen, not so bad for a poor woman. And Steele it is awful the way I have slept at night. The girls or my friends here thought I looked awful bad when I came home. But it was just my nerves that needed sleep. It was not from overwork. I can truthfully say that.

Thanks for the 50 cents, you are honest anyway, If you do not register with some but no kidding Steele, you and I bet if offence if we did get called once in a while. How are all the "fossils"? Please keep this letter to yourself and sum it up. Heavens, I would get a calling if anyone gets a hold of it. I do hope it was not Hughers

new uniform. You know Phipps tore one for her too, I have gone through a bunch of stuff and bummed up until my heart aches. But it had to be done, things that are of no interest to anyone but myself.

When are you going to have enough cash to come up and see me? I know I will be here for a while. I am told people want to see my house but no one personally has come to see me yet. Be good and don't see away with any of the drinks. Did you get your coat? Heaps of love honey and just keep things to yourself and take time to write me all the gossip.

Ida

April 7, 1936
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

It has been oh so long since I have had any word from you and I do wish you could get time to write a letter, if only to let us know if you were well. Harry's [Steele] have all had a round of the grip and last week, Erma came up and helped them out and it sure did help a lot. Glenn [Huston] pretty near had pneumonia last week but is better now. Mae is pretty well. She had 4 teeth pulled last week and they all came out inside of a half hour and she did not feel so prostrated either. You know, that is a near record for her. Her work was done in Hamilton. I'm hoping this new dentist understand her case better than some of the rest of them did.

And now I must tell you about Minnie Austin. She took a heavy cold and it went into pneumonia and in less than a week she was dead. Clarabelle was supposed to be taking care of her but my opinion is that there wasn't much done for her. She was buried last Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Geroge Ramsy and all his family were at the funeral. Francis Wiza (you know that was what George's kids called the baby) was there too in the best of health. After the funeral, Francis Ramsey and a girl from Hamilton started for Richmond to make a call on Rachel Beckett, but up the Richmond Pike just in front of the Tregerson place, these girls met another car and they crashed right into each other and killed Francis Wiza. Her funeral was here at the Methodist Church yesterday at 2 pm. It was one of the largest funerals every held in that church. About 10 days ago, we thought Mack Parks would just die with pneumonia but he is coming on pretty well now. If he will just have the patience to take care of himself. Now Martha, couldn't you managed to write me a little and let me know if you are well. I do get so anxious to know how you are. Mary Reese has a kid but I forgot just what the denomination is. Helen Orr died a couple of weeks ago. She had been sick a long time.

Oceans of love, Mamma

April 12, 1936
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Thought that I would write a few letters this afternoon. I did not buy any Easter cards to mail but think a letter will fill the bill O.K. How are you anyway? Have been looking for a letter from you for quite some time. Hope that you have not been sick. Well, warm weather is almost here again and John and I have gotten through the severe winter with very few colds and no other sickness to mention. We seemed to winter pretty good this winter. Of course, you had a severe winter also. The radio kept us well posted about weather conditions all over the country.

I have heard from Mamma quite often this winter but not very often from Mae [Huston]. Guess Mae has held her own pretty well this winter as far as her health is concerned.

Suppose Mamma wrote you about the death of Helen Orr, Minnie Austin, Rose Gard, and Frances Ramsey. Mack Parks had pneumonia but is getting along O.K. now. Glenn Huston was threatened with pneumonia but is improving.

Do you hear from Homer Irwin very often? I wrote them a letter last winter then sent them a Christmas card but never heard from them. Do you know whether they have moved to a new address or not? Did you run across someone in Des Moines that knew Mamma and Grandma?

John's school will close this Friday, the 17th. We will soon be busy making garden and cleaning house. Are you planning on a trip to Ohio this summer. Hope that we can arrange to see each other somehow. We have not made any arrangements for a vacation at all as yet.

How many eggs have you eaten today? John had two for breakfast and I had one, Then for dinner, we had pork ribs, potatoes, tomatoes, honey, peach preserves, bread, butter, jello, and cake. I had one hardboiled egg also. John said he would have more eggs for supper. It is now 5:30 p.m. about time to be getting supper on the table and guess we will go to Church this evening. I do hope that you can find time to write to me and hope this finds you well. Will close for this time.

Most lovingly, Georgia

May 10, 1936
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

Many, many thanks for the pretty presents you sent yesterday. Of course, I have not had the chance to give the children's presents to them yet but I know they will be so pleased and to the baby [Helen Steele]. She is such a sweet darling and so pleasant with everybody. She is fair and light-haired and does not look like Jean Evelyn [Steele]. Many thanks for my present too.

Be sure and tell me why you left the Retreat. Did they get smart with you or did you get tired of them? I suppose you left Lottie there. You remember Mrs. Ida Mason (Jim Henry's daughter)? Well, she died last week.

Mae is still trying to get her teeth out, but gets along so slow. They have such long roots. Mae told me that you left two kodaks at her house and I wanted to ask you if you would care to loan one of them to me long enough to take the baby's picture? I'll promise to take good care of it. We have never had any of her pictures taken and I'm so afraid something might happen to the little darling.

Don't forget to tell me when you write. When are you coming home? Be sure and tell me when you write. Now do write real soon and give me all the news and what you expect to do next. We are all awful busy trying to make the garden.

Oceans of love, Mamma

May 18, 1936
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

What in the world has ever become of you? Seems like an age since I heard from you. How are you anyway? John and I are about as usual. John's school has been closed for about a month now. We started cleaning the next week after school closed and got all of the upstairs cleaned then we each got colds and a touch of sore throat. We did not get much done for about two weeks then we started on the down stairs. We papered the dining room and front room and still have the living room to paper. It would be done by this time but John started shearing sheep and couldn't be here to help me. When we get that room papered, we have our kitchen to clean then we are through.

I have cold packed 16 pints of rhubarb already this spring. It won't be many days now before we can have onions, lettuce and radishes fresh out of the garden.

Mamma wrote me a letter and sent me your new address. Are you on a nursing job now? Please write and tell about yourself. I want to write to Mamma and Mae this evening also.

Are you planning on a trip home this summer or not? Wish we could arrange to see each other this summer. We have not planned any trip at all so far. Do not know what we will do.

The county school that John taught last winter is closed. There will not be any school there at all this winter, The pupils will be hauled to some other school. They are beginning to centralize quite a lot over here in the last few years. John does not know yet where he will be teaching next year.

Martha, please write me a few lines as soon as you can and tell me how you are and how you pulled through the cold winter. Also tell me what you plan to do this summer. Do you hear from Hamer and Ione very often? I wrote them a letter and sent them a Christmas card but I never heard from them at all. Will close for this time, trusting that I may hear from you very, very soon.

Most lovingly, Georgia

July 23, 1936
Georgia Steele Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

What in the world has ever become of you? I think every day that I will get some word from you but it never seems to come. How are you and are you working now? Mamma sent me this address last May and I have written you several times. Did you get any of my letters?

It has been so long since I heard from you that I hardly know what to do. If you get this letter, won't you please answer it and tell me how you are and what you are doing and also tell me if you are going home to Fairhaven this summer.

I have not heard from Mae since last February and have not heard from Mamma since May 11th. Am mailing this Special Delivery in the hope that you will be sure to get it and answer. Will write more next time when I know for sure that you are getting my mail. Please write.

Lovingly, Georgia

August 6, 1936

Aileen Huston

Oxford, Ohio

Dear Aunt Georgia and Uncle John [Thompson],

Hello there. Well if it is not Aunt Georgia and Uncle John I am writing to. Here it is August and no signs of rain. But there are signs of hot weather. I joined the 4-H flower club. But my flowers are not growing. 4-H clubs of Butler County are to go to Camp Campbell Gard. I am going to Camp the 10th and coming home the 15th. I do not want to go very badly but I am going.

Well, how are you? Everyone here is just fine, including Helen Louise [Steele]. Are you coming over here this summer? We may come over to your house but we are not sure. We are going to the Zoo Saturday 8, 1936. We just found out Grandpa Huston passed away this morning. I am writing to you so I want a letter from you. Please write soon both of you. I am sending my letter with mother's.

Love, Aileen

August 12, 1936

Georgia Steele Thompson

Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Guess I can answer your letter just as easy now as any time. John went over town to the Grange Hall this evening to practice the first degree work. The regular officers are putting the first degree on at the next meeting and John is treasurer of the Grange. I did not go over for fear I would be called on to fill a vacancy for someone and I did not want to do that. I am in the third degree team and that is enough for me.

Was surely glad to get your letter and most awful glad to know you are O.K. Am glad that you have work and like it. Do you think it will be a lasting job? I don't know much about it but just wondered if the baths were more popular in hot than cold weather.

We have had some very hot weather out here and dry too for a while but we are not suffering from dry weather like they are in some places. I will send you a clipping from our Steubenville paper that came today. It is a College Corner Item concerning a water shortage there.

Guess if you are not coming to Ohio this summer that we will not go to Fairhaven either. Guess everybody over there has forgotten what my address is as I have not heard from anyone since the first of May. Would love to see you but there are too many miles between us. If I am living and well by another summer, we surely can get together some way.

We are about 100 miles from Cleveland and we thought that we might go to the Great Lakes Exposition for a day or two but will not be staying more than that. Since you left Chicago, I am not so anxious to go there. I wrote to Homer and Ione twice but they never answered my letter. John's school begins on Tuesday, September 8, just three weeks after this week.

I am sending you a few pictures. They were not taken recently but will be new to you. I will put dates on the backs of them. The pictures of Mae and the children and I were taken at the Cincinnati Zoo last August when we were home. I hear John putting the car in the garage so he will be here in a few minutes. It is now 5

minutes past ten o'clock and we will be going to bed before long now. John is going home to work tomorrow and guess I will go with him.

Kate and Nedra Helbruck from Atlanta are to arrive in Jewett this Saturday. Remember you met them over at Mary and Edna LeMasters.

We will have to get out early in the morning so I guess I had better ring off for tonight. Please don't be so long writing the next time. I will try to write more often also.

Most lovingly, Georgia

August 20, 1936
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Georgia and John [Thompson],

How are you both? I hope both can say fine. It seems that someone is on the blink some way or other here, At present, Myron is recovering from having his tonsils out. Tuesday, we took him to the Hospital and had the operation. He hasn't acted a bit like Aileen did, He has been a pretty sick boy. We brought him home Wednesday am and up the present time, he still sleeps most of the time. His throat is awful sore yet. He eats very little but the Doctor says some react just this way and others scarcely know it. He didn't know the reason for it.

I got my teeth out last Spring and at first all seemed to go very well. The first time I had 4 out and the second 5 out, then 1 or part of 1, just a root. These gave me a lot of trouble and had to have treatments and finally had it lanced. Then at last it came time to get new ones and have had a set made but couldn't wear the upper at all so will have to have new ones and can't get them until next week.

Aileen joined the 4-H and had a trip of 1 week over at Camp Campbell Gard. It was grand for her. She was one of the babies there. She was worn out when she got home but a couple days rest straightened her up again.

Mama is O.K. but pretty tired. She has been doing most of the work at Harrys recently. The Doctor told Dorothy to go to bed until further orders, Another Doctor was to give her an examination and then as results came in, he would prescribe something. The baby [Helen Steele] walks when she can hold to things but not without holding something. Jean [Steele West] is OK.

Lydia Fisher is sick at Hazel Whitesells and they fear she won't be up again. Marie Hays Snape had pneumonia last April and is still in bed. They say she don't care much to get up. Bessie Fisher has been sick and isn't able to help herself scarcely any. They think it is T.B.

Will Ramsey died a couple of weeks ago. He has been in a hospital at Dayton, Grandpa Huston died a couple of weeks ago He was 89 years old,

Do you hear from Martha? I don't and Mama doesn't very often. Are or can you come over this way this summer? We have talked and talked about a trip over your way but I don't know. It couldn't be before the first week in September if then. There are 3 and maybe 4 weeks before schools starts. Myron will have to rest up a couple of weeks before he can do much.

The Homecoming at Hopewell Church is the last Sabbath in August. L. Grey is going to preach. He is fine. When does John [Thompson] school start? Did the closing of the 300 one-room schools in Ohio affect John?

I have been busy all summer and haven't canned much either. If you are or can come this way, we will be glad to have you. Just let us know. It is all right and we can arrange things. Will it suit you if we come the first week in September? Then the children will have a week to rest up before school starts.

Let me hear from you as soon as possible. We had a grand rain last night, the first in a long time as good and wet as that was.

Most lovingly, Mae

August 29, 1936
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Georgia and John [Thompson],

Received your letter and glad to hear from you. We are planning on coming your way if we possibly can. Glenn [Huston] had his machine overhauled last winter and the mechanic didn't do his work right so had to do it over. He was to have it done last night. Glenn was up there and the machine is all torn up yet. Glenn went up first thing this morning and said he wouldn't be home until he came with the machine. Monday we have to go to Eaton after my upper teeth. I will wash Monday am and will try and iron Monday after we get home. If everything else is O.K., we will start Tuesday am early but should we not get started then, we will start Wednesday early. If there anything you want us to bring or do for you over here before we come? I will let you hear of any further happening. Myron is coming along O.K. now.

Most lovingly, Mae

September 10, 1936
Aileen Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Aunt Georgia and Uncle John [Thompson],

We got back at 8:00 pm. I got up at 7:00 this morning. I was not very tired last night. The lunch was swell. We had a fine place to eat. It was down by the river or creek. Trees on both sides of us. We ate supper north of Eaton. I am sending a line to Edna and Mary too.

Love, Aileen

September 10, 1936
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Georgia and John,

We arrived home at 8:00 pm. We came 330 miles and made an average of 21+ miles per gallon of gas. Most of it was Blue Sonoco gas. We came through to Piqua and then down to 40 and then to 127 down to Collisville and across home,

When we came here, Russ and Ellen were here but soon left. Uncle Will took good care of everything outside. Will Walters (alias J.A. Adams and wife from Florida) spent last Saturday and Sunday here and was here overnight and are coming again.

There have been others here also but all her time was not taken up as the drawers in the spare bedroom look as though a cyclone had hit it. Don't know why as we have had no explanation as yet. The roof leak wasn't near as bad as represented. Of course, none of us like a leak but Mr. Crawford has told Glenn time after time to get them fixed up. Glenn says he feels more like work this am than for months.

Aileen and Myron are up early and are not making explanations. Tippie and Myron are out and as happy as can be. Our yard is greener now than it has been all spring and summer.

We certainly thank you for the nice dinner you put up for us. We had all we wanted for the noon meal and got some bread and had plenty for our evening meal. We ate on 127 just as it was getting dark. Myron and Aileen surely liked the milk. Glenn surely waded into the peach pie and I ate tomatoes and then some more. We all say thanks. We all enjoyed just every minute of the time from the time we left home until we were back again.

Aileen is sending a note to Edna and Mary. Edna was out on the porch and waved to us when we left. I talked to Mama this am and she said Marie Hays was able to ride over to her fathers for supper the other evening. Mama said Helen Louise [Steele] was walking everywhere. I don't have any other news except they filled the silo yesterday. Let me hear from you. I hope you are not all worn out from our visit.

Love, Mae

September 18, 1936
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I am going to try and write a letter that I have been thinking of writing for over a week. Have you heard from Mae [Steele Huston] recently? Well if you have not, you probably do not know that Mae, Glenn, Aileen, and Myron were over here for a week's visit. That hardly seems possible, does it?

Well they arrived in Jewett on Wednesday evening about 5:00 o'clock and started home on Wednesday morning, September 9th. They all seemed to stand the trip over here OK. Mae has her new teeth both upper and lowers. The lowers seemed to work pretty well but she could not stand to wear the uppers very long at a time. Of course, it will take some time to get completely reconciled to both uppers and lowers. Mae had her eyes tested and a new pair made altogether. The new glasses have legs to go back to her ears. I am so glad that she is getting away from those old nose glasses.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the visit from start to finish. Mae's heart still bothers her but says she is lots better than she was a year or two ago. I gave Mae your new address so hope that she writes to you soon.

Mae says that Mamma spends most of her time out at the farm. Says that Dorothy has not been so very good this summer but that she does not know the trouble. Guess I will send you a few of Mae's letters. They have some home news of interest to you. When you read the letter Mae wrote after they got back home, you may not understand everything so will explain a little. Old lady Huston was out at Maes when they came over here.

Mrs. Huston wanted to stay alone while they were away (or supposedly alone) but Mae said no, so guess there was a man there most of the time. Guess she had all kinds of company up there and even had them staying overnight without consulting Mae about it. Believe me, I got my boots full of her last summer She had to stick in and go to the Zoo with us one day and I didn't like that. Myron had his tonsils removed about two weeks before they came over here.

Well, I'm glad that Mae got to come over here for once anyway. Wish you could have been here with us. Guess this will be all for this time and I think that some of Mae's letters will be quite newsy to you. Martha, please write as often as you can.

Most lovingly, Georgia

October 4, 1936
Jean Evelyn Steele [West]
Camden, Ohio

Dear Aunt Martha,

How are you? I am O.K. What have you been doing that you didn't get to answer my letter? How do you like it in Des Moines, Iowa by now? I expect you like it all right, don't you? Every day I have to ask Mother if I got a letter from you. And every time she has said no. So I thought I would write and find out what the trouble was. When are you going to come home? I wish you would come home right now. Because I am dying to see you. I think Helen Louise, my sister, is wanting to see you too. Helen Louise did not walk alone until the last day of August. And now she is walking to make up for lost time. And she doesn't get her clothes so dirty since she started walking.

My school started August 31, 1936 and I have been going ever since. I like my teachers very much. His name is Mr. Hollinger from Hollansburg, Ohio. Helen Louise didn't feel very good last Thursday and Friday. I don't know exactly what is wrong with her. But I think she ate too much meat at dinner last Friday. Grandma, Mother, Daddy and the rest of us are all O.K. Well, I guess I had better close and write soon this time.

Mother said to tell you that she thought you wasn't any good in writing. Come home and visit us some of these days soon.

With love, your niece Jean

October 11, 1936
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

The summer has come and gone and I'm certainly glad to see it cool off a little. It was so dreadfully cold last winter and I thought I never could get thawed out. But I sure found out that I could. I think I never saw it so hot and dry as it was this summer. Dorothy [Steele] was sick or rather her strength left her. She was complaining all summer but as soon as it cooled off, she got about all O.K. again.

Helen [Steele] came along all right but was about 16 months old before she walked alone. I was mighty glad when she did walk for you could take her by the hand and lead instead of carry her. She tries to talk quite a bit now and instead of just saying one word, she puts 2 or 3 words together. When it is Thursday, she will say

“what is that?” She can just run like a quail now and matches every chance to get on a chair and from on top of the table. The other day she got on top of the sewing machines and fell off. She thought she was killed but it soon was over and ready to try it again.

Harry [Steele] stepped on a rusty nail a couple of weeks ago and he had to take serum for lockjaw and now he sure had a time for the first week and then it eased up a little. But his leg still hurts him. He stepped on it 3 weeks ago today.

Marcus Ramsy and his sister Martha both had new kids about a month ago. That was Martha’s second youngster. They will keep Ina stepping on the gas to keep up with them.

Mae [Huston] has her new teeth and also new glasses I have not heard very much about the spectacles but she has had an awful time with her new teeth. She got them from a man in Eaton and has had to make several trips to have them worked on. I’m mighty thankful she ain’t got any more to pull. Maybe she will have better health now.

Are you still working in the Retreat or is it for some other concern? Do you have night work? A person can get along so much better when they can go to bed and get their rest. When do you think you will get to come home. It seems a long time since you were home. I have some dandy sweet potatoes. Wish you could have some. Did you get Jean Evelyn’s [Steele West] letter she sent the other day? Joe Scott was buried several weeks ago. He died in Michigan. Sarah said that Howard and his wife went to see him and Joe would not speak to them.

Mae and her kids stayed up in Michigan several weeks with him before he died. Now my darling, I do hope you can find time to write to me soon and let me know how you are coming along. I’m so afraid you will make a move and forget to give me your address.

Oceans and oceans of love, Mamma

November 21, 1935
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Have been thinking about you ever so much recently. How are you anyway? Hope you are just fine. John and I are just about as usual, only the last two days I have been having some cold in my head. I had quite a lot of old grease and fryings with which I have been making soap. I did all the work on the back porch yesterday and the day before. It was pretty cold as a result I have some cold now. Grange met tonight and John went but I did not go because I thought if I stayed in it would be best for me.

I hunted for the last letter I received from you and it was dated August 10th. It is terrible but I don’t believe I have written to you since August either.

Mrs. John Palmer died November 10th. Another of my best friends gone. Earl is left alone now with Evelyn (12 years old) and Dorothy (4 years old). I baked two dozen cupcakes and took them the evening before the funeral. The funeral was on Tuesday and John could not go so Walter and Lucy were kind enough to take me.

One time this fall, Mae wrote me a letter and Aileen and Myron each wrote to me so now when I write to Mae I also write to them. They always answer my letters when their mother writes. They seem to enjoy it quite a lot. In one of Mae’s letters, she said Mamma was getting some papering and painting done in the kitchen and in the rooms at each end of the kitchen. Mamma seems to be in pretty good health.

I have been wanting to write to Homer and Ione if I can find their address. I have the address on Rosemont Avenue but believe they have moved since they lived there. Is that right? Ione seemed very easy to get acquainted with and I was so glad to get to see Homer again.

How do you like your work by this time? Hope you have gained wight and are rested after your strenuous work in Chicago. How do you like Des Moines and the climate out in Iowa? Hope it doesn’t get so cold that you freeze yourself this winter.

Guess John and I will be up some Thanksgiving Day. They are planning on butchering on Thanksgiving so it will mean work but am sure we will enjoy ourselves just the same. We are getting two hogs again this year.

John and I called on Mr. and Mrs. Ross Wilson at Cadiz last fall. Guess it was in September. Mrs. Wilson got all right. It was in the evening when we called and both children were in bed so did not get to see

either of them. We enjoyed the visit with them very much. I never knew until that evening that Will Wilson's children were cousins of Jim Orr's children (Paul and Frank).

Did you hear that Joe Marshall's house burned down not long ago. Guess he was in debt pretty deep. Lewis Foley is his guardian. At the present time, Joe is staying with Arthur Hays. Too bad he is so alone in the world at his age and lost most all he had.

Can't think of any more to write this evening and will try to write sooner next time. Hope you can find time to write to me very soon.

Most lovingly, Georgia

November 23, 1936
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My Dearest Martha,

I have looked, longed, and longed for that promised letter but it never came. If I just knew that you were well, it would not be so hard to not hear from you. We had an awful time out at Harry's this summer. You know Dorothy [Steele] had the scarlet fever and in a few weeks, had the baby [Helen Steele]. Last spring, she had the flu and then the extreme hot weather came on and she just wilted down and had to be in bed for several weeks. When the weather got cooler again, she began to improve and she is a whole lot better now. But she still is not well.

Along in August, Harry stepped on a rusty nail and had to take a tetanus serum for lock jaw and believe me, he was sure sick for several days. He had to go with a cane for a long time. Jean Evelyn [Steele West] and the baby [Helen] and I jagged along and kept going. Well here last week, the baby took the measles. About two weeks ago, all of Harrys and I went to Richmond shopping and the baby had the thrill of her life. She was into everything. We decided she got her measles off the sock counter. My but she is nice and sweet. I do wish you could see her.

A week ago, Mae [Huston] was washing and what did she do but catch her fingers in the wringer. She was just finished hanging up the clothes but Glenn's old red handkerchief got to clinging to the roller and wouldn't come off. That was what caused the trouble.

The youngsters went to school and he went shredding and she got in the machine and came up to see if I would go down. Paul Hays had been here for more than a week, putting in electric lights and everything was torn up and dirty. But I went home with her and stayed til last night. I had to come home then for there was a little more work for him to do and he wanted to go to Denver, Colorado to spend Thanksgiving with his girl. My new lights are in and working gloriously. We had them put in out at Harrys but they are not finished yet.

While I think of it, I must tell you that Will Gard at Hamilton died a couple of weeks ago. I feel so sorry for his father Dick Gard. I must tell you that I brought out your little radio stand and there is plenty of room here between the chair that sits by the window and the kitchen door for it. So Paul put in an electric plug for it and the next thing is to get the radio. But you can just bet your boots I am going to have one.

Did you know that Ida Henry Mason died last spring? Mary Beth Wilson died a few weeks ago. She was teaching at West Alexandria and the children all went out of school at noon. When they came in, Mary Beth was lying on the floor unconscious and was taken to Reid Hospital in Richmond. She lived about a week. She had a clot on the brain.

Bessie Fisher has been in failing health for several months. She has sinus trouble for one thing and lots of folks think she has T.B. [tuberculosis]. She is in bed most of the time. One thing she is not careful to obey the orders of the Doctor. That don't give the Doctor's orders a chance to do what they are supposed to do. From what I've heard, I'm not quite sure her mind is as clear as it should be.

Maybe Mae [Huston] told you and if she has just don't mention it when you write her. When Glenns [Huston] went to the East, his mother stayed home to keep house. Russell and Ellen were up 3 or 4 times that week. The Florida tribe was there overnight and invited back for dinner but "wifey" was not. When they got home that evening, Russell and Ellen was there. I bet they all had one good time rummaging around. Now don't mention it so that Glenn will get wind that I told you. He treated me very respectable when I was there.

Harry Austin is sailing around with the ladies. You would not think he had been so lately bereft. Now Martha, won't you let me know right away if you will be home for Christmas? It has been so long since you have had a vacation and you sure need a rest. Do come. Are you still in the same place?

Robert Frank Hays has gone to Florences in Iowa to spend the winter. He got so headstrong that she couldn't manage him by herself. I feel so sorry for her. They went away a week ago yesterday. Joe Marshall went to live with Arthur Hays after his house was burned and they have a dickens of a time with him. He is 83 years old. Now my darling, do write me and tell me just when to expect you for of course you will come.

Oceans and oceans of love, Mamma

December 7, 1936
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

With nothing else special to do this evening, guess I will write a few lines to you. How are you anyway? John and I are both real well just now. We have both had colds but are pretty good now. How have you been this fall?

We had a hog butchered the week before Thanksgiving. I cold packed 19 quarts of pork. We ate all of the backbone. We had backbones and dressing Thanksgiving for dinner.

It won't be long until Christmas will be here. What would you like for Christmas anyway?

Had a letter from Mamma last week. She says that she is having her house in town wired for electricity so she can have lights and a radio. Was glad to know that she was finally getting electric lights for that house is so dark. Mamma also said that Mae [Huston] caught two of her fingers in the wringer. Mamma went down and stayed with her for a while after Mae got her fingers hurt. Seems like Mae's teeth do not fit her so very well yet. They seem to give her quite a lot of trouble.

John only has two weeks of school after this week until his Christmas vacation begins. John gets eleven days for Christmas vacation.

Edna LeMaster was here awhile this morning and she was telling me that she and Mary are going to sell their property and move. They have a pretty hard time to make ends meet. They have not fully decided just what they will do yet. I hate to see them leave our side of town.

Guess I don't know a lot of news, just thought I would write and ask you how you are and let you know that we are well and on the go every day. Surely hope to hear from you very soon.

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 13, 1936
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My Dearest Martha,

I sent you a postal card the next day after I received your dear letter telling me about your radio. I was out at Harrys and had no chance to write only a card so you would not forward your radio to me. Many, many thanks dear for your kindness. I am just tickled to death with my radio and lights.

And now I must tell you about Janice Jackson. How before she fell in their back porch and bugged herself all up. A couple of days after she fell off the step ladder and broke her arm in two places. One place was up in the socket in her shoulder. She is in Fort Hamilton Hospital and the report was that she would have to remain 6 weeks anyhow. For a couple of years, she has been having spells and would pass into unconsciousness.

I have not heard any more news about Mary Reese. I am expecting Harry and Maes to eat dinner with me Christmas Day. Wish you could be here too. I am going to send you a little Christmas package this week and please do not open it til Christmas morning. Please let me know if you get it O.K. Mae wants me to go down and help her can a quarter of beef between now and Xmas. They are going to have a community Xmas tree out here in front of the Methodist Church Xmas week. I'm not a bit puffed up over it for if there is snow, the kids will be so mean. The baby [Helen Steele] got over the measles all right. She calls me "gaga". Mae says she feels a little better than she did a week ago.

[Monday morning] I got up at 5:30 this morning and washed and so on. I must get your letter on its way. I saw Mack out there and he said to tell you thanks for the Xmas gift.

Now Martha, don't try to send a big box like you did last year because it just takes too much financing. Now just don't do it. In a few days, I'll send you a little box but don't open it till Xmas morning. Now dear do write soon and let me know how you are coming.

Oceans and oceans of love, Mamma

December 22, 1936
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I have been having a pretty bad cold. I get stopped up in my bronchial tubes but I got some medicine from the Doctor that relieves my wheezing spells. John told me to ask if people around Des Moines are bothered with asthma or bronchial trouble. I would also like to know is the air dry or moist like it is in Ohio.

I want to let you know that your package arrived safe and sound and I thank you a lot for the contents. I was hoping that someone would give me a new table cover. I washed today and washed the table cloth I had been using and put the cover that you sent me on the table so it is in use already. Thanks for the rose water.

I got Mamma and Mae [Huston] each a warm outing nightgown for Christmas. Then I bought an outing and sent to Aileen and Myron. I thought Mae could make night clothes out of it for them. In regard to Mae, when they were over here the first of September a day or two before they left for home, Mae's ankles got to swelling and Mae said that they hurt her. A few weeks ago, I had a letter from Mae and she said that her ankles were swelling again and just staying that way. Said that she was going to the Doctor to see what was causing it. What would you say was causing it? Would you think that the trip over here was too much for her? I surely hope not. Mae has new false teeth both upper and lower. But they seem to be giving her lots of trouble. Mae got new glasses this fall and they have legs that go back of her ears. Am so glad that she got rid of those glasses pinching her nose.

I am glad that Mama has electric lights at last. Now she won't have to carry lamps around this winter.

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 25, 1936
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

If I don't get to write you often, one thing is sure I will write you an account of Christmas Day the best I can. We went up to Harrys [Steele] and had a very nice time but missed you and Georgia. Mamma has been there for a week or longer. She was helping to put away the meat. Harry butchered 3 hogs on Monday. Mama put her meat away. The day was quite different from a year ago. It wasn't very cold. Everyone seems to be feeling fine. If you were to come home now, I wonder if you would know your two young nieces and nephew? They are all growing so fast. Jean [Steele West] is in the sixth grade, Aileen [Huston] in the fifth grade. Both are taking music lessons, Jean on the piano and Aileen on the violin at school. Myron's grade can't take until next year. Myron is a different boy since he had his tonsils out. He likes school and is doing well in school today.

Old Santa was exceptionally good to us this year. Mrs. Elliot gave Aileen a lovely desk. Jean Elliott gave the children 17 children's books and 50 cents apiece. Harrys gave the children each summer pajamas. Georgia gave them material for pajamas and gave me a pink nightie and Glenn a tie. Mama made a comforter for us. It looks good and warm. Aileen and Myron had quite a busy time weaving pocket books for Christmas. They made you and Georgia and the grandmas and me besides one for Aileen. Then I had the zipper to put in. Everything you sent us was very much appreciated and we certainly thank you for it. There will be no excuse for anybody having dirty ears or a dirty face around here.

We echo many thanks for the soap, wash clothes and towels. Everyone says thanks for the candy, nuts, etc. I have to just watch the rest eat candy but I don't mind. I don't even crave it. I had all my teeth out and expect to get my upper impression taken next Tuesday. The lower ones are fine. I use honey and Karo for sugar. Many thanks for the honey. It is lovely Harry gave me honey also for Christmas. We thank you for everything

but feel that you shouldn't buy so much for us as we all know it takes a lot to live when you live out as you do. Next week I hope to have more time and to get a box of homemade cookies off to you.

Write and tell me about yourself. I hope you plan your work and time as you can come home next summer. Georgia and John are planning on coming home next summer and Georgia wants to see you. We enjoyed a wonderful trip and time when we went over to Georgia. John took us to Wheeling, West Virginia then up to Philadelphia. Then up to Mingo Junction and Steubenville and home. A grand trip over 100 miles and say was I sick when we got home. I went straight to bed. Guess I wasn't used to so many hills and all the rolling that there was in the hills. I was O.K. next morning. Aileen tells me that I should call a halt as she alone has a big letter.

Ida Rees is teaching near Cincinnati at Kings Mills. She came and stayed a week with me last summer and I enjoyed having her very much.

My heart is what is troubling me but it is straightened up again. I was also acid and he gave me lime. I am much better of that now. I rest every day and every afternoon and am feeling much better.

Love, Mae

December 25, 1936
Aileen Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Aunt Martha,

I want to thank you for all of the lovely articles you sent to us. I am taking violin lessons at school and like it. I am going to get a Christmas present which will be getting in the orchestra at school. It will mean to practice and practice.

Some of the things I got are as follows: pen and ever-sharp to match, some paper, colored pens, Kleenex hankies, a lovely desk was given to Myron and I. Myron was given a globe. Mother and I give the family some light for the Christmas tree. A present was given me by Mother which was a ski suit. I had the ski pants before Christmas but the ski coat was a very nice Christmas present. Santa was very nice to us this year. As I have told you, did Santa leave a lot of things at your house or was he late in getting the things at your house?

There was a community tree at Oxford. The last day of school we were given tickets which we got a nice box of candy. We saw Helen Louise [Steele] in her pink snow suit and it is simply beautiful. I am very sorry that we did not get your package off sooner. But the articles were not ready, but it is off now.

Your loving niece, Aileen

January 2, 1937
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Your nice, big box arrived safe and sound and oh I do thank you for it, but it was just too much for you to send. I just wish you could have seen the baby [Helen Steele] strutting around and smoothing it down. It was so soft and fluffy and it was just the right size for her too. It was such a beautiful pink and it suited her complexion fine. I will thank you for Harry for he never gets to sit down long enough to write to anybody and Dorothy is so poky about writing. But again, I say many, many thanks and I will thank you again for the nice things you sent to all. The girls were so tickled over their caps, Glens came up and we all ate dinner at Harrys. After dinner, Mae [Huston] and Dorothy [Steele] examined the dresses and uniforms that you sent and divided them according to the way they fit. You know they could wear them in summer when it is warm.

Mae [Huston] is to get her new lower teeth next Tuesday at Eaton and do so hope they will fit her this time. I had a letter from Georgia before Xmas. She said they were O.K. and wanted your address. It was nice and warm here Xmas day. Was it warm at your place?

Janice Jackson is not doing much good. It is three weeks since it happened and they found it was not knitting and they would have to break it over again. Harry Austin goes to see his girl over at Liberty 4 nights a week so you see he has a bad case on. The woman is not divorced from her man yet so you see they have a hard case on their hands.

Well again, I will thank you for your nice package and I will say Thank You for all. Please let me know if you got the box I sent to you. If you didn't get it, I must look about it for it was insured. Did the gloves fit?

Oceans of love, Mamma

January 6, 1937
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Here it is another year started and it is high time that I am getting a letter written to you. How are you after the holiday season? I enjoyed the vacation with John home from school but before it was quite over, I had an attack of bronchial asthma as the Doctors call it.

The whole Thompson family from A to Z took Christmas dinner with Nancy then John and I were shopping in Wheeling, West Virginia on Tuesday after Christmas. On New Year's Eve, John and I were invited out for supper at Mr. and Mrs. Lee Mikesells. Remember it was Mikesells who gave you that bottle onion. On New Years Day, John's father, Lucy, Edna, Wayne, and Mrs. and Mrs. Pittenger took dinner here with us than that evening, John and I took supper with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Arbaugh. Don't believe that you ever met the Arbaughs. On Saturday and Sunday, I was laid up but feel much better at the present time.

My but I think that you must have made a mistake and sent all your Christmas to John and I. The package arrived O.K. We surely thank you for everything in the package. You sent us so many nice things both for my birthday and Christmas that it makes my Christmas to you look pretty small. Everything that you sent was surely appreciated. John said that the honey surely hit the spot with him and it really is good. We hope that you had a nice Christmas.

Had a letter from Mamma yesterday. She said that she and Mae's [Huston] were out at the farm for Christmas. Mamma seemed to be thanking me for a new pair of scissors but I did not send her any. I told John that she must have gotten the scissors mixed with my package and that they probably came from you. I sent Mamma a nice outing nightgown and some candy. Mamma said that Janie Jackson had a fall but did not say what bones were broken but said it happened about three weeks ago and that she had X-rays taken and that it was not knitting and would probably have to break it over again. Maybe you know more about the accident than I do.

Guess this is about all for this time but thought it was high time I was letting you know that we got your big package O.K. And thank you many, many times for everything in the package. Now Martha, write to me real soon and I will try to do the same.

Most lovingly, Georgia and John

February 3, 1937
Mae Steele Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Have been trying quite a while to write you but will try and get a few lines off today. Three weeks ago, Myron [Huston] had a pain in his side which developed into appendicitis and in less than one hour from the time of the Doctor calling at home, he was in the hospital and was soon taken to the operating room and then back again. He was drowsy for the balance of the day and next day also but never had a gas pain. He began begging for food and they surprised him with a tray of soup and tea. He was in the Hospital one week and is home and coming on fine. He can eat most everything now, I don't know just how soon we will start him back to school.

Mama came down and took care of things here. She is still here. Yesterday we butchered a hog and we are still putting away meat. I wish you were here to have some of the fresh meat. I am having trouble keeping Myron busy so will have him write you a few lines.

Lots of love, Mae

February 3, 1937
Myron Huston
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Aunt Martha,

I am getting along fine. Mother has got me a building set and now I want Mother to get me some more and I will have to close my letter.

With love, Myron

February 9, 1937
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dearest Martha,

When I went to Maes 3 weeks ago, I was just dying to write you. Then Myron got sick and I had to go. Well they finally got him home from the hospital and then they killed 3 hogs and bought a quarter of beef and that had to be tended to. Well I just worked like a trooper but just as soon as one job would get out of the way, another would pop up and I could have worked on to doomsday and it wouldn't all been done. So far as Glenn [Huston] is concerned, you and Harry and I could just work our fool heads off and there would be no thanks from him.

Last Saturday evening, Mabel Brown called up and wanted to know if I'd come home and take care of Em Wilson. She is very sick with pneumonia up at Lalina Hays and I said I was tired and I would stay until they could get somebody else,, Well Glenn brought me home Sabbath morning but by that time Mabel's fertile brain had got busy and she decided that she would take care of Em and that I should stay at her house and take care of her teacher who was staying there.

Well I stayed all night at Mabels Sabbath night and come home the next morning at daylight. When I got started home she said for me to be sure and come back last night. Well at dark last night it began to rain and it just poured. I just put myself to bed and had been there a couple of hours when here come Mabel to see if I'd go to her house and stay with the teacher til morning. But as I'd been in bed, she took the hint and I stayed home. Now I'm going to see that I stay here at home.

Now I heard Mabel talking to Martha Wilson that trained nurses were such a nuisance but all the time she was just putting in a good word for herself so she would get the job. Em is very low with pneumonia and also has a terrible bad heart. So we can't tell just what will happen.

Judge Pierce died yesterday afternoon. He was only sick a few hours and I don't know when the funeral will be. The body is over at Riley Miller's morgue. While I was at Maes, there was some sort of a bustification over here and Harry Austins and Clarebelle and her gang moved down to Mrs. Austins and Harry is staying over here by himself. The Fisher heirs are making it good and hot for Harry Austin They are trying to take the property away from Harry.

Mae [Huston] is not a bit good. She is so awful weak. It is her heart. She has to lie down a part of every day and you know how the work piles up if the cook stops. He is so stout that he ain't got any mercy on the person that don't feel good. I'll write you again and I'll start this out today for you should have had it long ago. Now dear, do write soon and tell me how you are coming.

Love, Mamma

April 5, 1937
Flora Irwin
Marissa, Illinois

Dear Aunt Emma [Steele],

Maybe you will think me impatient, writing again. I am not that but am very eager to know whether you think you may be able to get us some information about our relatives farther back. I particularly want to know some of the things I am sure you can tell me such as the names of your grandparents on both sides of the house.

I had another letter from Mrs. Brophy March 27. She says that a brother of my great-grandmother was the grandfather of Miss Alice Ninbigher of Monmouth. I have not had time to write her but think surely she has not known this unless Mrs. B told her when she wrote her recently.

Then I wanted your father's full name. Did I ask you in my other letter whether he was married once before he married Grandma? Please give her full name too.

Did you know Geroage and Jim Gordon, the year you were in Bloomington? Someone, Miss Nellie Gordon, was asking for me at the Eleanor Association in Chicago recently. I think it must be she.

We are having so much rain this spring that my garden never gets dry enough to plant anything. I have done a little house cleaning but it goes so slow. Have to do just part of it at a time.

Mrs. Brophy says Morton Gordon is buried in the Fairhaven cemetery. She would like to know whether his wife Hester Hughes Gordon is also.

Flora

April 25, 1937

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

College Corner, Ohio

My darling Martha,

I had been out at Harrys all week and came home last night. I felt sort of lazy this morning and didn't get to Church. I took a nap of a couple of hours and was commencing to think about dinner when there was a knock on the door and who should it be but Mrs. Reese and Mary's baby. There was something extra going on at the church so they came over here. The baby is more than a year old and is a beautiful child and is so pleasant.

Mrs. Reese told me the Doctor had told then that Mary would never be any better than she is now and she also told me to tell you to write to Mary and Nancy would be so pleased. You know all of Mary's letters are read by someone else before she gets them so you know you would have to be careful what your wrote or they wouldn't get it to her. Her address is Long View in Cincinnati.

Ida and Mary's husband was over at the church too, Ida came over but Art didn't. I am so sorry for all of them. Mrs. Reese said she wrote to you a long time ago but you never answered it. I told her I would tell you and maybe you would answer it yet. You will answer it, won't you?

Well Mrs. Harper died a couple of weeks ago. Harry and Dorothy [Steele] went to the funeral. They took the body to Iowa to bury it. Son-in-law McNight took the body on the train to Iowa and the rest of them except Milton went in an auto to Iowa. I suppose there will be a new chapter now, They are having an awful time with Robert Frank Hays now. He has lost his mind. He torments her so when she is at home. They shopped around and got Mrs. Heavenridge to take her and she only stayed 2 or 3 days and wouldn't stay any longer. They got a place for her at Camden and she wouldn't stay there so she is back home again.

They are too stingy to pay anybody and Ava wouldn't allow them to go to their house when they were supposed to be all right. So of course, they won't be allowed to go there now. It is just a shame. Mae wants to get a lot of papering done this Spring and the landlord said he would have it done but he just keeps putting her off. I will try to help her in 2 or 3 weeks. She is not a bit peppy. Well Harry Austin is at last married. I have not met her yet. I forgot to tell you that Ava Hays came to see me about taking care of them but I was too smart for her and wouldn't go. They are so stingy they wouldn't pay enough to make it interesting for anybody.

When you write, be sure and tell me when you are coming home so I can make my arrangements to that effect. Now be sure and tell me. Ha, Ha! I wonder if Mrs. Huston and Georgia have their arrangements made to go to the Zoo and visit at Maes together this summer like they did last summer. Mrs. Huston got so mad she made Glenn take her to Hamilton before breakfast. Now my dear do write soon and also to Mrs. Reese and give me all the news. Bye-bye.

Oceans of love, Mamma

September 26, 1937

Flora Irwin

Marissa, Illinois

Dear Aunt Emma,

It was such a shock to me to hear of Mae's [Huston] passing. You have my deepest sympathy. I wanted to write when the girl's letters came but it has been impossible til now.

Aunt Maggie does write some though she can't see what she writes. It is quite readable with a little looking over from me except when she runs the lines or words together. She often scribbles off note and I copy it for her. Then I read to hear in the evening, Sabbath afternoons and sometimes at other times.

Lately we have been having a lot of small repairs and some painting done and that takes a lot of looking after.

I suppose you heard that Doctor Mason has married again? His wife is a lovely young woman from Bloomington, Indiana whom I know. She has been teaching Latin in the Lafayette High School for some years. I do think they will be very happy for they seem well suited for each other.

Do write and tell me how you have been and how the Pinkertons are and how Mrs. Hays and Martha are. How are the other Hays such as Mrs. Frank and her husband. I saw by the Presbyterian Church that Florence's husband has gone to a new congregation.

Robert has bought a home in the edge of Indianapolis and quite a ways north. Alma says it is lovely. They expect to move in October.

How are Harry and his family? Aunt Maggie sends her sympathy too in your loss.

With my love, Flora

November 28, 1937

H. Shively

Valley Junction, Iowa

Dear [Martha] Steele,

I had a letter from another Steele not long ago and I always ask about you. She sent your address and am glad to hear you are back home. How come you never come back to see me? I looked for you all summer. Was you too busy or too slow to get started? I don't suppose you even answered this letter but I would like to hear from you.

Leonard don't write so often either, The folks from Retreat come out and things are about the same there.

Joseph and Bernice were home for Thanksgiving. They went back Friday morning. At Denison, Iowa, Joseph had pneumonia and was home for several weeks in Augst and September. His wife is a registered nurse or else he would have had to go to the hospital. He is getting along just fine now. We are planning on going up there for Xmas.

I have 46 nice pullets but don't get many eggs. I guess they are not old enough. I have a cow and calf and have all the milk I can spare. My brother is here with us for the winter. He helps me do the feeding and chores.

I sure miss Joseph at home too as he is company for us. But I am kept real busy doing some outside sewing and sewing for Bernice. But it makes me awful nervous. I am getting awful fat. I gained 20 pounds or more. I sleep real good and don't take a thing either. Do you ever intend to come back to Iowa? Looks like you write once in a while.

We are getting along pretty well. Harry works about 5 days a week. It is better in the winter time. I haven't seen Leonard since you were here. I think she got it nice in Boone. I often think of you. Harry got a Chevrolet car last summer and will meet you any time. The old car fell apart and wasn't worth fixing. I canned over 300 quarts and had lots of vegetables in the cellar so I am a real farmer. All I need now is a couple of pigs and will get them in the Spring.

Shively

December 4, 1937

Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele

College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Just a few minutes ago, Harry Austin came to the door and said there was a telephone call for me. The operator said it was a call from Cincinnati and I was dead sure it was from you, but it turned out to be from Ida. They wanted to take Mary out to Arts for a week and they wanted me to go down and stay with the housekeeper and Rose while Ida would be at school. I said I'd go but I sure am scared to death. Ida said Hut would come tomorrow evening after his work was done so you can just see what sort of a mess I'm in. The Reeses have been awfully nice to our family at one time and another and you see I just couldn't say no. I only promised to stay one week so maybe I can stick it out that long. Why don't you write me and tell me how you like your place by this time.

Bob Hays died and poor Frank wants to move to Fairhaven but can't get any rooms. Everybody is as well as usual. I'm so upset I can't write much but will write when I get back.

Oceans of love, Mamma

February 28, 1938
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Harry [Steele],

How are all of you? We are both as usual. Suppose that Mamma is at your home so will say that I was glad to get Mamma's letter to know how she is and also to know where Martha [Steele] is. Have been looking for a letter from Martha ever since she left but have not heard from her yet so cannot forward any mail to her. A letter came this evening for the Insurance Company. I am sending it on to you trusting that you will forward it on to her.

I do not know what condition her insurance is in although I feel that Martha has been having a very difficult time to meet the premiums. One might say why she is working and should be able to pay but on the other hand when we know the kind of wages she receives and must pay room rent, eat, clothe herself and pay Doctor bills on those wages. I say she has done nobly to keep going as long as she has. Martha could not have afforded to stay in Cadiz as long as she did had she not received free treatments from the Osteopath for whom she was working.

I feel that Martha is better physically than she has been for months although she did not look so good when she went home. Martha is really not able for hard work but wherever she works, the employer requires every ounce of energy that she has.

After one has been out in the world and knows that one must pay out on all sides, I hope the suggestion that I am about to make will meet with your approval. I feel that it is not at all unreasonable that Martha receive enough money from the farm each year to pay her insurance. I am afraid that if she is not aided in this matter very soon that she will lose her insurance all together.

Maretha does not have any idea that I am writing this and feel that she will see herself lose the policy rather than ask for help. When Martha was over here, I tried to do turns for her and help her in any ways possible as she has done for me. Martha has a heart as big as all outdoors and does for others when she has the money to do so. If Mae [Huston] were here, I know she would verify my statements. Please don't get the impression that I am asking for money for myself for I am not.

I sincerely hope that you will receive the contents of this letter in the spirit in which it is written for they are all facts. I feel that if she were approached in the proper manner before it is too late, the matter could be cleared up. Would you please let me know what you think of this.

As ever, Georgia

March 7, 1938
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Harry [Steele],

Here I am again. How are all of you? Have been looking for a letter from either you or Martha but thus far have not received a word. I cannot understand why I have not heard from Martha for she promised to write when she got home.

Well last Monday evening February 28, I received a letter for Martha from the Insurance and this evening another letter came. Your guess is as good as mine as to what the letter contains. But my guess is that it is very urgent and needs immediate attention.

My understanding is that Martha's Insurance is due in June and December but this is neither June or December so that is what makes me feel that it is becoming an urgent matter when letters are coming so often at this time.

I can't write to Martha because I have no idea what her address is. I feel that you should get in contact with her personally within the next few days as there have been several days' time lost since this letter left Columbus as it went to Cadiz where Martha roomed then to Jewett, then to you, and on to Martha in Cincy.

I still feel that Martha is deserving of help if help on her insurance is needed. I am not asking help for Martha as a financial gain for myself. If anyone is interested in having her Insurance policy saved, I feel that now is the time to do it.

Trusting that you will see Martha very soon and deliver her letter.
I am, Georgia

March 9, 1938
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Harry [Steele],

Expect you think that you have heard enough from me to last for the next five or ten years but last evening another letter came from the Insurance Company. It is very evident to me that this is a very pressing and urgent matter. Wish the whole thing could be straightened out satisfactorily.

It is my opinion that Martha is so depressed about it that she doesn't care if the Insurance Company knows her address or not.

In haste, Georgia

April 7, 1938
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
At Harry Steeles
Fairhaven, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I'm sending you \$5.00 and you must be sure and answer this letter so I'll know if you received it O.K. Have you had any luck getting a job yet? Be sure to let me know all about it. Everybody is as usual. It is pretty cold here.

Love, Mamma

June 11, 1938
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I thought sure I would hear from you before this. Why don't you write and let me know which way the wind is blowing and if you have a job yet. Now you must let me know. We got back O.K. and the baby [Helen Steele] never slept a wink coming home. But Jean [Steele West] was sound asleep when we got to Hamilton.

Have you seen Ida since you went back? Say, Herbs are expecting a new arrival so Waddle says "don't tell her where you got your information." She says it shows plain but she is still stepping out in society. I've been awful busy this week cleaning house and trimming the hedge. Now Martha do write and let me know if you are having any luck about finding a job. I'm afraid you won't find one.

Arthus have got moved to town. Now do write right off and let me know how you are coming.

Love, Mamma

June 11, 1938
Martha Steele
Unknown address

Dear Mamma,

I took a course of Swedish massage at the Kelberg Institute in Chicago. I done massage work at the Retreat in Des Moines, Iowa for nine months. I also worked at the Class Health System in Des Moines for nine months. I can use a typewriter also. I have had two years nurses training. I am 38 years old and weight 110 pounds.

Sincerely, Martha

September 4, 1938
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My Dear Martha,

What in the wide, wide world has become of you? I've been thinking so long that you would write but still you don't. I've been awful busy. You know Jean Evelyn [Steele] had such bad tonsils so they took her to Mercy Hospital and had them removed, They had a hard time to get them out and worked on them for more than an hour. She is coming on O.K. now and will start to school tomorrow.

Well the man would not rent the farm to Glenn any longer so he has to move. He is trying to either buy or rent a farm but has not succeeded so far. Crawford is going to let the farm stand idle til he sells it. I can't help but wonder what will ever become of those poor children [Aileen and Myron Huston].

Arthur Brandenburg who used to live by us jumped off of a road truck and broke both legs and had other injuries. He died and was buried this afternoon. He left a wife and 4 children.

I suppose you know that Arts have left the place where they were. There was a big cattle sale there and Harrys all went. Ida wrote me a postal and invited me down to stay several days with her but I thought I had seen all I wanted to see down there. She is too intimate with that man to suit me. Art didn't know where he would move when Harry was talking to him.

Now Martha, you must write me and let me now where you are and what you are doing. You are surely not busy every minute so do write and let me know all about it. As Carl Van Dyke said, "I get so anxious" when you put off writing so long. Oh yes, Charlotte Morris McDivitt is pretty near dead. She has two cancers. She leaves two girls.

Well, I must close for this time and do please write soon and let me know how you are coming along.

Lots and lots of love, Mamma

September 25, 1938
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

You promised me faithfully that you would write us if the answer was yes or no. Now won't you? We want so bad to know. Everybody is as usual. They never heard any more from John Fisher and he didn't give his address and the parents are just crazy and they started to Florida this morning on the hunt for him. Marion can neither eat or sleep and is about frantic. Now do please send us a card right off.

Lots of love, Mamma

November 24, 1938
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Where oh where are you? If you will think back, it is weeks and weeks since I've heard from you. If anyone here would want you right quick, we wouldn't have any ideas where to find you. Now write, do write won't you? Well another Thanksgiving day has come and gone. I was invited to Frank Hays for dinner today. She has been sick with rheumatism for the last 3 or 4 weeks. El Thompson has been living with her off and on ever since she moved to Fairhaven. Well about 3 weeks ago, she got sick in the night and El had to go for Maud and I. Well Maud is sick at the time but Frank got it in her head that if she could keep us hanging around that we wouldn't charge and if they got someone else they would charge. I finally told them I couldn't stay and after a lot of palavering around, they got Mary Simpson so she has both Mary and El now. She is still in bed and I guess will be there for a while. It is not anything serious but it will first take time.

I am sorry to tell you that poor Charlotte McDivitt died last week. She has been suffering for months and months with cancers. People said she was just eaten up with them. She leaves two girls just about the age of Mae's children. Art finally got a place down 3 or 4 miles from Cincinnati. Do you know anything about it? Mary and the baby have gone down there. Ida moved her piano and some more stuff from her Dads down to her new shack 2 or 3 weeks ago. Now you must not hook up with her again for you can never do any good for yourself when you are with her.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 12, 1938
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

How are you coming along these cold days? I hope you are O.K. Harrys have all been having an awful time with colds, sore throat and things of that kind for a couple of weeks. Just now, Jean Evelyn [Steele] has an

awful sore throat and the Doctor said if she wasn't better in a couple of weeks that she should have her tonsils removed. She has been out of school for several days.

The scarlet fever is bad here in Preble County again, but it is to be hoped that it won't catch us again. Many, many thanks for the nice warm nightgown and nuts and candy you sent Xmas. The gown is so nice and warm. Mrs. Huston said they didn't buy any candy for the children this Xmas and that Aileen tried to make some homemade candy but didn't have any luck so I took all the candy and eats you and Georgia sent here and gave it to the children to take home with them. You know they always had so much Xmas candy when their dear mother [Mae Huston] was here.

Ona Becket has sued for divorce. He has been so dreadfully nasty with all his family. What everybody is hoping that the lass will take good care of him. The whole outfit of them is hanging out in Richmond.

I had a letter from Ida and she said Art's housekeeper had left and they were on the lookout for a new woman. It is just too bad that Art has to be so worried. He is such a nice man. How is your back coming along? What is the cause of it hurting you so much? Did you lift people too much? It is just the easiest thing in the world to overlift when you are working with sick folks.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 29, 1938
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Received your short letter and was so sorry you couldn't be home for Xmas. We invited Glenn Hueston up for the day but I guess they didn't want to come here for they made arrangements to go to Mrs. Hueston's niece a week or more before hand. So there wasn't anybody at Harrys but myself. We had a very quiet day. Don't bother about Xmas presents. I have a little bundle for you but as you are coming home in a few days, I'll give it to you then. It will be mighty nice if you can do your traveling home in daytime for the roads are covered with snow and ice and traveling is so dangerous. Now do be careful. Now again I say do watch your steps for it is so slippery. Drop a card and tell us when and where to meet you.

Oceans of love, Mamma

January 1, 1939
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

It is Sunday evening and John and I have just gotten home from church. We were at church this morning and again this evening. It is a pretty good start of the New Year. How are you anyway?

The Thompson family had their Christmas dinner on December 24th instead of Sunday. They wanted it on Saturday in order that they might be able to attend church Christmas day. Everybody was there, 22 in all. Of course, you did not know that Nancy has another daughter born September 17, 1938. Her name is Evelyn. Edna got a diamond from her boyfriend for Christmas. His name is John Harrison from near Scio. They will probably be married in the spring. John's folks gave us a lace tablecloth and a clothes basket for Christmas.

On Friday afternoon before Christmas, John and I were in Cadiz and we came across Mrs. Birney. She inquired about you. Mrs. Birney looks like always. Old Rankin sent me a calendar a few days ago. He seems to have me on his mailing list yet. I never went back to him after you left. Rev. Ross Wilson, the Presbyterian preacher at Cadiz, had a nervous breakdown and was away most of the summer trying to regain his health and came back this fall and tried to preach but was not able so he resigned and now they are looking for a new preacher. The Cadiz people seemed to think lots of Rev. Wilson.

Doctor Keopke died December 18th. He took sick on Thursday and was taken to the hospital at Wheeling and died on Sunday morning. Have not doctored with him much lately but was sorry to hear of his death.

John's father, Walter, Lucy, Ruth, Mry, Barney, John and I took dinner on Friday with John's brother Reid and his family.

You cannot imagine how glad I was to get your letter on Saturday. And to know that you were all right and had work. Had been wondering so much how you were getting along but did not know your address so

could not write. Am so thankful that you have work and hope that you will be strong enough to continue there. That is really better than what you had in Cadiz, at least from the financial viewpoint.

I did not know what to get Aileen and Myron [Huston] so I wrote Aileen and hinted around and she answered and said that she had plenty of dresses but would like to have a bicycle or if I couldn't get that, she would like to have some silk knee length hose. Needless to say, I had no intention of buying a bicycle so I got Aileen two pair of silk hose knee length with elastic in the top and I also got Myron two pair of knee length stockings. Of course, they were not silk. Aileen said she wore size 10 hose. I was glad for the suggestion for it is so hard to buy for growing children when you seldom see them. Glenn wrote a letter also. Says the children are growing and Aileen is getting so tall.

May I give you a suggestion. Please don't go into extensive buying for you have had such a struggle the past year so salt your extra cash down for future emergencies if and when they arrive. For yourself, I could not ask for anything better than to get a long letter from you once a month or something like that.

I wonder where Mae's children and Mamma spent Christmas Day? Where did you eat your dinner? John does not have to go back to school until Tuesday.

Lovingly, Georgia

January 5, 1939
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I've been looking for you every day and hoping you would come while the weather is not so bitter cold. It is threatening bad weather and I do wonder what your arrangements are. No, please write and let me know. If we had known what your arrangements were and also where to send, we would have sent you some Xmas gifts. I was the only one at Harrys on Xmas day. We invited Glenn Huston's all up for dinner but the old lady said they were all invited down to her nieces, way down below Hamilton and she wanted to go there. We thought that they thought we would put ours off til some other time but we didn't.

Are you taking care of sick folks at the home where you are? You say you are working at night? If you are, I hope you get more pay. Mrs. George Cooper died over near Germantown last Saturday morning. They did not bury her til Wednesday afternoon of this week. They said George would not give up to burying her til he just had to. That was a long time. Marie Serape is looking for a new baby most anytime now. They are living up at Howard Scotts and Scotts moved to Camden.

Do you ever see Ida Reese? Four or five weeks ago, I met Ida, Mary, Rosa and the mother in the 10 cent store at Richmond. If you will believe it, Ida would hardly speak alone talk. When Xmas time came, she sent a Xmas card addressed to you and I but I didn't return a card or anything else. I don't know what she is mad about. Is she mad at you? I'm sure done with her now. This time last year, I couldn't turn round without seeing her. Now do write and tell me what your arrangements are. This would be nice weather for you to come. Do let me hear from you right away so I will know what your plans are.

Oceans of love, Mamma

January 29, 1939
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
Fairhaven, Ohio

My dear Martha,

I have been watching and waiting for that letter your promised, but it never came. I hope you got back O.K. And now I must tell you all about a terrible shock I had when the Methodists came out of their church. I was sitting by the window and who should be stepping up on the porch but Ida Reese and Rosa. I just nearly gasped for breath. I opened the door and Ida said "We cannot talk about it before her but she is all off again." I asked if she meant Mary and she said yes, and said she had been in the asylum for 2 weeks. She wasn't here over 10 minutes at the outside and she wanted to do all the talking but tried to choke me off from asking any questions, She said Art was staying down there all by himself. But I never found out where Rosa was staying. Rose smiled and told me she had a doggy. She talked sort of in riddles and if I got it right they took Mrs. Reese down to be at Arts with Mary. Ida said she wanted her mother to get a belly full of Mary. I just felt Ida didn't want to tell me about it, that it would have been better to not call her at all. She said he wanted to hurry on up to

her mother's for Herb was to stop there over his way home from church. She wanted to know if you had a job and if you liked it. But I can't remember if she asked me where your job was. Maybe she knew where you was working don't know about it. Martha, when you can spare it, I think you had better pay her off and stay rid of her. I think she is just about as crazy as Mary is. I think it would do you and I good to give her a rest.

I sent Aileen and Myron a postal card telling them you left a Xmas package here for them. So last Saturday night after I had gone to bed, there was a big knock on the door and here it was Glenn Hueston and the kids come after the package They were just tickled to death over the package. Aileen had a new red hat and it was very becoming. Mrs. Hueston is not back yet and when I asked when she would be back, Glenn hummed and hawed around and I believe there is a n----- in the wood pile for he wouldn't say that she was coming back. He hasn't got a place to go yet but is hoping that he will get to stay where he is. Marie Snape is back home and Nellie is staying out there taking care of her.

It is raining here last night and today. But I will be glad when the severe weather is over. Well, I guess this is all I have to say for this time and Martha, I do wish you would write and tell what your think of Ida and her activities.

Lots of love, Mamma

January 29, 1939
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you these cold winter days? John and I are both pretty good. It keeps me busy trying to keep the both of us from getting bad colds. In November, I had a cold and couldn't seem to get rid of it and finally decided to try hot mustard foot baths at night just before retiring. I found the mustard foot bath gave excellent results so at the first sniffle that is about the first thing we do.

Teachers Institute was at Cadiz yesterday (Saturday). John went so I went along. It was a very interesting meeting. I got weighed in the George McFadden store and weighed 130 pounds with my coat on. Think I have gained some weight this fall.

Last summer, I went to Steubenville and got a foundation garment at a place where they sell surgical garments. It only cost \$3.50 and has given wonderful results. It gives far better results than the costly Charis Garments that I had been buying.

Had a letter from Mamma last week. She said that you were home for a few days not long ago. Have you seen Aileen and Myron lately? Reverend Ross Wilson in Cadiz had to give up preaching on account of his health. Ross was away all summer trying to regain his health and tried to preach again this fall but was not able so resigned and will move as soon as the Coaggregation decides on a new preacher. Mrs. Wilson's health is so poor that they have to have help with the housework all the time.

Mamma says that Marie Hays has a new son. Guess I do not have any news in particular so will close and hope to get a newsy letter from you real soon. Hope this letter finds you O.K. Please write soon.

Lovingly, Georgia

October 18, 1940
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

It has been a long time since you went to the World's Fair and if I remember right, you promised to write me when you got home but it never got here. Oh Martha, why don't you write me once in a while and tell me how you are coming along. It is so lonesome since Mae [Huston] has been called away. But she is at rest and has been saved the worries that have come in these troubled days. With war staring us in the face, it seems more than a person can stand.

Our friends are passing on and it seems like there is not much to live for. How did you find things at Georgias? Were they glad to see you and how was the baby? Is it a friendly child or is it backwards?

Tom Lyons died in New York one week before last and the body was brought back to Richmond for burial. Martha Wilton took me along to Richmond with her after the body arrived and I thought it was fine of her to stop and bother with me. He died of an inward cancer. Did Georgia ask anything about Harry and I or is

she mad at us? I wrote her several months ago but she never answered. What is Ida's address? She sent a postal to me awhile back but did not give a return address. Does she call herself Campbell or Reese?

Ella Thompson died and her funeral is at the College Corner funeral home. I went with Rev. Roy and his wife. Don't you think you could take a little time off and write me?

Lovingly, Mamma

October 20, 1940
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Suppose that you arrived in Cincy O.K. last July. How are you since I last saw you? Suppose that you are working every day. How are you getting along with your apartment? O.K. I hope. Do you have anyone in the apartment with you?

We have been very busy this fall by time I take care of Lois and did the canning, I thought I was very busy.

Lois was one year old o September 17th. She had twelve teeth when she was a year old. She now can walk around holding onto things and take a few steps alone. She just says Daddy and Mamma and bye, bye. She waves her hand good now.

Nancy, Elwood, Vivian and Evelyn also Wayne and Ruth took dinner here on Sunday nearest her birthday. I made a cake and put one candle on for Loius and two candles for Evelyn.

I have not written many letters for a long time and have not received any letters either. Have you seen or heard from Glenn, Aileen, or Myson since you were here? I have not heard from them since you were here. Have you seen or heard from Mamma since I saw you? I have not.

Do you know if Harry [Steele] is still attending Sunday baseball games? Will close for tonight and trust that you will write in the near future.

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 16, 1940
Mrs. Robert (Emma) Steele
College Corner, Ohio

My dear Martha,

Well, here it is Xmas time again. Will your be able to get up for Xmas? I suppose you will have some idea by this time what they will let you do. Did you get rid of your cold? I sure hope you did. Everybody is as usual here.

Saturday afternoon Glenn and the children and Mrs. Huston and Aunt Addie came up and spent the afternoon. I think it is just too bad that Mrs. Huston and her folks won't allow the children and him to come up here without them coming too. I never get to talk to the children without Mrs. Huston knowing every word that is said. Glenns are going to move to a farm south of Liberty, Indiana between now and the first of March. It will be a great wonder if some of them don't get sick. They never do have enough fuel to keep the house warm.

There is one thing sure. He can't torment Mae [Huston] any more [since she died]. Did you ever hear what happened to Art? I didn't. Now Martha, you find out what and where they will let you off and try and get up to Oxford in time so you won't have to stay with Mrs. Merideth overnight. She has so much sickness with her men folks that I don't like to put her to extra trouble. I don't know if I have the right address for you but you answer right away so I will know whether to send any more mail to that address or not Now be sure to write so I will know where to send your mail. I hope to hear from you real soon. Esther Laird got home from Egypt less than a week ago.

Oceans of love, Mamma

December 20, 1940
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

It is almost Christmas again and I am still looking for a letter from you. How are you anyway? We are all about as usual and able to be on the go every day. Lois had some cold and ear ache last week but is much

better now. John is having a Christmas program and cake walk at his school this evening. John's sister Mary has had pneumonia but is able to be up now. Lucy has been over there doing the house work.

Have you seen or heard from anyone at home lately? I have not had a letter from Mamma since last May. I wonder if she is sick and not able to write. Had a letter from Glenn and Aileen [Huston] a few weeks ago. They said that they had rented a farm near Liberty, Indiana and would move soon but would send us their new address as soon as they moved. We have not heard since so can't say if they have moved yet or not. Did you know they were going to move?

We are having a little Christmas tree for Lois this year. So far as I know now, we will be here at home Christmas. Wish you could be here with us. We are sending you one dollar for your Christmas. You will know better what you need than I.

Love, Georgia

November 29, 1941
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Will try to get a letter mailed to you this evening. I will start from the time I left you in Eaton. I sent a telegram to John then went up to King and Young's office. If you recall, we went to King and Young's office on Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday night at Fairhaven, Harry [Steele] said that he did not see a lawyer that afternoon. Well, that was not true for while you and I were in King's office, Harry went to John Dye's office and filed suit for partition of the farm. We should have been notified of this while we were still over there but instead the Sheriff of Harrison County brought the Summons to me yesterday p.m.(Friday). Suppose that you have your summons by this time.

This morning (Saturday), John and I saw a lawyer in Cadiz and had several things cleared up in our minds. I am having John write in this letter and tell you what the lawyer in Cadiz told me to do. I made it clear to King and Young that you wanted to be informed on what was going on as well as I. I gave them your address as well as my own.

How did you and Harry get along going home from Eaton and how did you get along with the lady of the house [Dorothy Steele] when you got home? I'll bet they could wring my neck. Did you get moved Friday? I surely hope so. Did you get any money out of Harry and did you get your job back? My but I hope that you did. Were you able to take care of those things for me? The box with the comfort, the old trunk upstairs, the stand and box of dishes? My but that seems like a lot to ask you to care for, for me. Oh yes, the feather tick also. Maybe I can help you keep informed of proceedings that will be of some help to you. I hope so. I told the lawyer what Glenn [Huston] said about transferring the half [of the farm] in Papa's name to Mamma's name and he said no, don't do anything like that.

Did you call Nellie Hays on the phone before you left? I hope you did. I never thought about that until I was miles and miles away from there. Was sorry to have let it slip my mind. But who could think straight among so many crooks? Wish I could step in and talk to you face to face. I have written to Flora Lyons and sent out all 18 cards, The back of my neck has been sore even since I came back. Must be a cold that settled there. John butchered his hog last Friday and Ruth had most of it put away when I got back. I finished it yesterday.

In case you want to write to King and Young, their address is Law Offices, Statler Building, Eaton, Ohio. I will stop for this time and let John write so we can get this mailed to you this evening. Hope all works out well for you in Cincinnati. Write soon.

Love, Georgia

November 29, 1941
John Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Georgia wants me to explain what we found out from our lawyer. Harry will be the administrator of the property in town [Fairhaven] and will settle it up. It will take almost all of it and the chattels to do that I am thinking, but we cannot do anything about it, only let him go ahead and he will have to do it accordingly to the law.

Now about the farm. Harry has filed suit for the partition of the farm. Appraisers will be appointed by the Probate Court and if they appraise it too low, we can, you or Georgia can, file exception to it. That is the only thing to worry about. You send the summons you received from the Sheriff to King and Young right away and tell them to keep you posted as to what is going on. Georgia is sending her summons back the first of the week. Now the thing for you to do is stay away from Harry and his lawyers and don't sign any papers or let him try and scare you.

If they try to work on you, you go and see King and Young or write us. We will keep in touch with them and can see our lawyer here at Cadiz anytime. Our lawyer said that not much would be done for about a month. Harry is going to find out that he cannot do as he pleases unless you and Georgia side with him, which you won't do. So send your summons to Young and King and just lay low and don't talk too much.

Write us right away and tell what you know and we will do the say. Harry will have to pay as much as anyone else if he gets the farm.

From John

December 2, 1941

Flora Lyons
Marissa, Illinois

My dear Georgia,

Your letter was a shock. The end always comes as a shock even when it is expected. You all do have my love and sympathy.

I have been so sorry not to keep in closer touch with your mother. But it has not seemed possible. I do hope that you, Martha, Harry, and I have a chance to get acquainted sometime.

My aunt is in bed and will be for several days. She had an attack of indigestion over a week ago and is having to give her stomach complete rest. She is over 88 now and demands more and more of me as times goes on and is not always reasonable about it.

I shall not be able to write Martha and Harry separate letters. So will you please sent this on to them? I shall be thinking Christmas greetings for you all though I may find it impossible to write any.

Much love to you all, Flora

December 3, 1941

Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Here it is Wednesday evening and I have not heard from you yet. Am so anxious to hear from you. Did Harry [Steele] take you, your things, and mine to Cincinnati last Friday? If he wouldn't take my things, please let me know. I just wondered if he might refuse to take my things along to Cincy when he took you and your things.

Did Harry advance any money to you so that you could pay your bills and keep you going until you get on your feet again? How about your job? I can't help but wonder so much about it.

You want to be sure to put in a bill for nursing. Thank you cards you bought in Eaton for 75 cents each for all the toilet paper and face tissues that you paid for. I don't exactly recall how much it was, but not less than \$1.00. John says that you have 4 months in which to put in your bill.

The first of this week I sent my summons back to King and Young [law firm]. I did not sign my name on anything. Did Harry tell you anything after he got rid of me and did you see or hear anything more of Glenn Huston?

When I sent the summons to King and Young we asked them some questions. When we hear from them I will let you know what they say. We do not think that it will be necessary for you to make a trip to Eaton until we hear a little more,

I washed the sheets that I brought back with me when I washed Monday, I also washed the stand covers. I will send the one that goes on your stand one of these days. I believe it is the large one with sweet peas on it. Did my marble top stand and your mirror get moved O.K.?

Please take a minute's time and write to me and answer my questions. I am so anxious to know how things turned out for you.

Be sure to let me know if Harry gave you enough money. I would hate awfully for you to lose anything now.

Guess this is all for tonight. Will be waiting for an answer within a very few days.

Most lovingly, Georgia

December 6, 1941
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Was glad to know that you got moved the day after I left. Am sorry you didn't get your old job back but hope you will before long. Am glad you have a job that will bring in a little until you can do better.

In your letter you said you loaded your things in the trailer. How about my marble top stand, the box with the comforter in it and the old trunk upstairs? Also my feather tick and dishes? Did you get to take them to Cincy with you? I wondered if he might get contrary and not want to take them. Be sure to let me know if my things had to be left in Fairhaven. I want to know so I can get them away from the house some other way.

Did you get a letter from King and Young? I received one yesterday and they said they would look after things for us.

If you can find that money order and it is made out to John, expect he will have to be the one to cash it. I didn't think of that when I was talking to you at home. If you will send it over, he will cash it and we can have the use of the money.

We are sending you a money order this morning for \$65.00. Please write in your next letter stating you got it.

We are going to hold Harry Steele level if we can and I think we can. Don't tell Ida Reese or anyone anything that they can carry back to Harry.

Lots of love, Georgia

December 14, 1941
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

It won't be so very long before the Christmas holiday season will be with us. John has not decided for certain but he is thinking about going to Preble County for a few days during the holidays. We feel that it might be to our interest for him to go over and talk to someone about the value of the farm land and also inquire about some things at the Court House. If he goes, he will go alone as he could get out and scout around faster and easier than if he had Lois and I along. He is not expecting to visit at the farm.

It came out in the Register Herald newspaper where Harry K. Steele was appointed executor of Emma Steele's estate. His bond was fixed at \$6,000. The executor has to give bond for double the appraised value. We figure the house in town and its contents and the stock on the farm were appraised at \$3,000. Of course, Mamma's share would be half of \$3,000 or \$1,500. The other \$1,500 would belong to Papa's estate. The appraisers were Jim Beckett, Carl Kline, and Levi Shoemaker. Harry completed ignored our suggestions as to appraisers. Of course, Harry could get Beckett and Kline to do as he wished them to do.

If the farm is appraised too low, do you still want to go in with me and file papers of exception in which case we might have to buy the farm? Please let us know immediately as they might be doing something most any day. Did you hear anything that would be of interest after I left? If so, be sure to let us know before many days. If John goes to Eaton, it will probably be on Monday, December 29th.

When you write me, be sure to tell me if you were able to take my marble top stand, old trunk, the box with comforter, feather tick, and dishes and anything else that was mine to Cincinnati with you.

Do you have your old job back yet? I surely hope so. It is about time to say Happy Birthday to you so here it is. You must be sure to write to me. Answer this letter as soon as you can and answer the question.

Lots of love, Georgia

December 24, 1941
Georgia Steele Thompson
Jewett, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Here it is Christmas eve and almost time to put Lois to bed. But before I do that guess I will write you a few lines. We decorated a little tree for Lois and will put a few toys under it for her to find in the morning. We are invited up to John's father's for dinner for Christmas. Mary and Barney are invited but am not sure they will go. Nancy and her family are going to Edna's for dinner.

Am sorry you are feeling so worn out. I know I wasn't much good for two or three weeks after I got home. But of course, I didn't have to keep on the go all day like you have to,

Martha, as uncertain as the weather is, we feel that John had better go alone this time to Eaton. He will go on the train and by bus. It would be nice to be with you all day Monday but John has decided to leave Jewett on Monday morning and go to Eaton, spend the night there, then Tuesday morning, see our lawyer and go to the courthouse and then try to find someone to take him down around Fairhaven and see what he can find out about the value of land. He will start for your house and try to get there some time Tuesday evening, December 30th. You be sure to hand around your place so John won't miss seeing you. We took it from your letter that you work in the day time.

I am hoping that you and John can have a little visit next Tuesday evening and he will tell you what he finds out. Then next summer, we will plan to come to your house in the car and have a real visit.

I sincerely hope you succeed in getting your job back at the Co. home, It's a shame the way things turned out for you. Will close for tonight and get this in the mail so you will be sure to get it. If you have to leave your place Tuesday evening, be sure to leave word with someone so John will know what to do and where to go. John thought perhaps he could make better connections if he traveled on a weekday instead of on Sunday.

Lovingly, Georgia

April 18, 1942

John Dye
Eaton, Ohio

Dear Harry [Steele],

Regarding the farm, the plat shows 91 acres West of the road and 84 and ½ East of the road. The appraiser set the price of the land at \$11,681.66 and as you know you have a right to elect to take it at the appraised value. Then if the girls [Georgia Steele Thompson and Martha Steele] didn't file an election, it would go to you but if either one of them elected to take at the appraised value, of course it couldn't be given to more than one and would have to be sold. You can let me know whether or not you want to file and elect to take it at the above price. I can notify your sisters.

Yours truly, John

February 11, 1943

June ?

Middlesboro, Kentucky

Dear Bob [West],

I had you a letter almost written a few minutes ago but I got ink all over the bottom of one page. Say, I can't understand why you should be sorry about your other letter. I can't remember anything you wrote that would've made me mad and I can't find the letter since we moved. So think nothing else about it. The only reason I've stopped almost is because we've been getting ready to move for the last few months, I haven't started in school yet but I probably will next week.

How's the weather up there now? We have a big snow on now. And it's a complete surprise because the last three days have been fair as spring days.

Isn't Helen [LaMar] the younger of your two grown sisters? I can't remember the other one's name right now but I remember Mabel's the young one and Helen goes with Bill doesn't she?

We had quite a group of boys that left for the army yesterday. The band gave them quite a sendoff too. The school turned out early. Listen Bob, the ones who stay home and grow the food our soldiers eat and sort of keep the home fires burning are doing their part in this war. Don't you go forgetting that. There are just plenty of soldiers who appreciate these things too.

I suppose you've been wondering where we live. It's 3 blocks off Cumberland, which is our Main Street. We have a five room house and Myrtle, my big sister, rides the bus or goes with the school teachers, There's a crowd of them so they all go in one car. Sorry I was long answering.

As ever, June

May 9, 1943
Lawrence West
USS Stanley
San Francisco, California

Dear Bob,

Hello, how are you, Les, and all the family? I got your letter and your gift, and thank you a million. Tell me are you banking any? You should have a nice little start by the time I come home. Yes, I know I could have had too but I chose love and happiness and gee but I'm glad I did. Maybe you too will know and have it someday. It's worth more than anything in the world Bob if you get the right one and as good a wife as I did.

So much for that. You asked me what I thought about your Berkshire sow. Well I told you she had the makings of a good sow and I think you need no other advice when she had ten pigs and has still got them. You have the makings of a real farmer, kid, and an eye for good stock.

I am impressed that your calf is so big already. You most certainly are taking good care of him and I wish you the best luck with it, Bob.

I know you have an 18th birthday coming up soon and must stop calling you kid. You are a man, a real man. Maybe you will catch me in height but it looks like you will in weight. I stay at 175 pounds all the time now. But if I was home, I guess you know I weighed 186 pounds when joining up [the military].

Well kid, look after my sugar and if need be, whip the hell out of any guy that looks at her twice because that's what I'd do if I were home. Ha ha.

Take care of yourself and write soon.

Your brother, Lawrence

November 4, 1943
Minnetta West Matthis
Connersville, Indiana

Dear Bob,

As Gertrude is going to Martha's this weekend, I expect we had better come over a week from Sunday or November 14. Dick seems better. I was supposed to take him back to the doctor yesterday, but the doctor is sick so I still have my money. Be seeing you until then.

Love, Minnetta

October 25, 1944
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Jean,

Forgot your birthday? Not a chance! For you're so nice, you betcha that after all, just how in heck could anyone forget. Many Happy Returns!

Bob

December 31, 1944
Mrs. Georgia Thompson
Carrollton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you these days? We are all pretty well. How is the weather in Cincinnati? It has been plenty of snow and sure has been cold. John was home for four days because the school busses could not get through the snow drift and get the children to school. Then we had the regular Christmas vacation so he has been home a lot lately.

Did you get my package and letters? One of our neighbors crocheted a scarf for Lois for Christmas. Another neighbor gave her a tracing book. This afternoon we went to Ralph Williamson's. Elma gave Lois a

stainless steel bracelet with “Lois” printed on it. It is so nice. We got her a “blackboard” and several stories. She is learning to write her letters and numbers now.

The roads have been so very bad for the past three weeks that we have not been anyplace, only at home. What did you do Christmas Day? We were at home but had a good dinner. Wish you could have been with us. Wish you could see our new house. It is so much warmer than the one in Jewett. We have a gas heating stove in our bathroom and it sure is nice. We don't have to run down to the back end of the lot anymore and we sure appreciate the bathroom these cold days.

John wants to know if you go up and ride down Mt. Hope Avenue hill every day.

Lois insists on writing Aunt Martha a letter so am sending you a sample of her writing. When do you think you will ever get a chance to come over to see us.

Hope this letter finds you O.K. and I am much better than usual. Please write me a long letter and let me know how you are.

Most lovingly, Georgia

January 15, 1945
Georgia Steele Thompson
Carrollton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Here I am again, How are you? Are you well and working or are you sick and not able to write? I can't help but wonder why you don't write. I thought maybe you would not be working on Christmas or New Years and that you would write me a few lines. Did you get the letter that had the one dollar bill in it? And did you get the package? I would love to know.

I am getting along fine now and hope to continue. John and Lois are O.K. Lois lost her first tooth last Sunday, it was a lower front tooth. The new tooth is coming through already. The other front tooth beside the one that came out is loose. Lois wanted me to tell you about it. Lois had been helping me dry the dishes and now wants to wash them so I am letting her wash. She does real well and thinks it is fun, She did a real good job today heling me do the weeks cleaning upstairs. Oh yes, she even makes her own bed.

I have a letter from Chester Hays this week. I think he is in New Caledonia and is O.K.

Lois got a nice blackboard for Christmas. Also chalk and eraser. She writes her numbers real good now. She wants to send a sample of her numbers to you.

Do you ever hear from Aileen or Myron? I do not. Myron will be eighteen years old in June. I wonder if the Army will get him. Are the two boys that belong to Glenn's second wife older or younger than Myron? I never saw them, did you?

Are you still working at the same place you were working when we were there in June? Now mind, I am going to expect an answer from this letter very soon.

Have you been able to keep warm the past few weeks? Sure has been cold. The ground has been covered with snow for the past six weeks.

Most lovingly, Georgia

January 21, 1945
Bob West
U.S. Naval Training Center
Great Lakes, Illinois

Dear Kids (brothers and sisters),

You done a swell job the night I left. Thanks a lot. I am glad you did. Navy life is pretty tough. I know what Lawrence went through now. We really done exercises this afternoon. I guess I will learn how to swim. Write again and thanks for the card.

Bob

July 22, 1945
Lawrence West
USS Watts
San Francisco, California

Dear Bob,

Hello, how goes it by now? Have you joined the ranks of deep sea sailors yet? I presume you have had your share of feeding the sharks and are now an old salt.

Do you hit port often and where, if you can write it? I don't hit port often myself, and I still haven't gotten any of my mail so don't know anything about you either. I have been keeping my eyes open just in case you might be around. It could be but I doubt it.

We are operating with the Third Fleet Carrier Taskforce, and took part in the raid on Tokyo July 10th. I can't tell you anymore at present but maybe you already know more. I missed Okinawa but the other boys were there. That was before I caught back up with them. I'm glad I wasn't there because from what the fellows told me, it was really rugged there.

Have you any excitement yourself, Bob? Are you getting your mail regular and do you write home often? I hope so for it is impossible for me to write regular.

I do not know if you are getting my letters

I don't know how the folks are making out Bob. I haven't heard but maybe you have.

Back again after some slight interruptions only I guess this is maybe two or three days since I started this letter. I really don't know what day this is but it really doesn't matter anyway. It must be 24th or 25th.

I do not know if you are getting my letters or not. I hope so. I expect to hear from you soon. If you get anywhere around the islands, where you think I might be, just put my address on the letters as usual. Then write on it where it can be plainly seen Japan Islands. That way, I will get it sooner. If you ever run across D.D. 567, maybe you can signal over so I know you are around.

How much do you weigh now, Bob? Probably getting fat as a pig, I betcha. You should be making a little money on the side now, on that merchant ship. How about it, got any overtime yet?

Sure, I get a lot of overtime 24 hours a day some days, not kidding either.

Well, sailor, write when you can and let me know how you are getting along. By the way, what do you think about sea duty. Like it better than in port? I'll be seeing you around so keep your eyes open.

Your big brother, Larry

September 27, 1945
Lawrence West
Marshall Islands

Dear Bob,

Hello sailor, how are you by now, besides being ready to go home. Yeah me too, been ready for three years now.

I got 20 letters yesterday, 10 from Trudie, one from you, and one or two from all the other kids.

Me doing okay, just waiting now, have my points and my papers are all ready and my bag packed, but my relief hasn't showed up nor any transportation either. We missed your ship coming down here and I had hoped I got to see you again.

I am supposed to get off here next week, but I bet I don't. I hope to go home for Xmas, though, and I hope you can get there too. I think Pop can get you out if he tried. It might take a little time but that's better than 18 more months.

We were in that storm along with about a dozen other storms during our 72 days at sea. We had some pretty bad ones a couple of times.

We are down here for repair now and there is some talk of the ship going back to the East Coast. Sure will fuck me up if they do. Then Gertie will have to get home the best way she can. Am getting mail okay, but none of them at home are getting any of my letters.

Love, Lawrence

November 7, 1945
Walter West
Pea Ridge Farm
Liberty, Indiana

Dear Son (Bob West),

Now every little thing [is covered] by snow. Hope you don't have to stay there much longer. Gets old just staying in one place that way. Well, we finally got the picken started. Done little over 6 acres yesterday and

just about the same today. Little more than another day in Thacker's field and we have 25 out be ready to start on our own. Lawrence [West] been helping us shovel and we were giving him work out. Ha ha. Got ten loads yesterday and 10 today. Not so bad for beginners. Well looks like rain here last night but didn't rain any.

We also load for hogs every day now. They are doing fine. Some of them go close to 200 now. Pretty hard on horses. Shovel all the corn and have to have to hurry to get back. But maybe we get by some way. Not going buy anymore now anyway. Well, old man kinda tired tonight. I guess he is not the only one either. Ha ha.

Did I tell you didn't do any good with fall pigs. Just little more good. Did I tell you we had buzzed 10 or 12 cord of wood before we started picken the wheat? The wheat looks pretty good now. We got house full now. Galmor Franks still can't find any place or any jobs either. Boy oh boy if things haven't getting in some shape, I wonder what things coming to. Guess no one let run this striking thing they still at it. That's the reason you not getting fresh supplies.

I guess you wanted to know how Grandma was. She seems to be doing fair now. Les [West] and her are still over there and that's where she stays. I got our hands full. We leave her alone in day time but every Saturday night when Les goes to town, we go over and stay til 11 o'clock with her. I don't think she should stay alone but nothing I can do about it.

Well I run out of anything to tell you now so will ring off for this time. Be good boy and God bless you son. Good night. Lots of love.

Your old Dad

November 7, 1945
Laverne West
Pea Ridge Farm
Liberty, Indiana

My Dear Bobbie,

Yes, we got some turnips but not too many anyway after your big brother gets done with them. I will tell him to eat some for you. Maybe we can send you some. I sent some to Bud and he said they were no good when they got there. We been having a hand, Mr. Thacker part-time. They really should eat over there. It is his corn but they eat here part-time. I might get out of practice. Eleanor and Frank [Rapson] have gone to Mabel [Kalsbeek]. Lawrence and Gert [West] have gone to bed. Jean, Pat, and Kate are here eating candy. Dad is playing with the radio. It has been looking like rain for two days and has been warm too but has not rained yet. I hope the men get that food done before it rains. Ralph, Neta, and Martha are here this afternoon. Martha had not seen Bud so we went over there after three on Sunday. But Bill did not find anyone at home. Hert and Ruby are moving to New Castle and they had to help.

Did you get your letter yet we wrote on Sunday? Frank got a Model Ford and him and Howard are making it over. Eleanor said they shut the carburetor clear off and run to town and back that way. I guess it must have been using gas. Martha said they are going to get tires for your car by December. They have not been over much lately. Lawrence says he is going to raise chickens, 1,000 of them. Will be busy with that.

We are not getting any eggs now. The kids have been buying some to eat for breakfast at 50 cents a dozen. I don't think they would taste very good, do you? Dad is almost all in tonight. Those boys are about to get him down. Will not get me down as I am just down to start with. Are you moving this way or are you going the other way? Jean says Herb Graff is back in the States now. They are looking for Paul Poe any time and Woodrow has to go to Europe on Friday. Loren Sturgeon left Sunday. I think he is going to the Pacific. Well, that is enough. Be a good boy and write often.

Love, Mother

November 15, 1945
Helen West LaMar
Camden, Ohio

Dear Bob,

I haven't heard from you for quite some time. I wonder whose fault it is, yours or ours? Maybe you are on the move. I suppose we will find out when we get home or at least I hope they are hearing from you.

As usual, we shucked corn today. I hope we can get almost all of it done up at the other place by Thanksgiving. If we had't had bad weather, we would have been done by now. I wonder how the folks are getting along with the picking. It hasn't been fit weather to run one so don't suppose they have so much done.

The wheat sure is coming along fine in spite of being sown late. I guess everything always turns out for the best even though sometimes it doesn't look that way at the time.

Nancy fell against the stove last Saturday and burnt two of her fingers. The scab came off of one of them tonight and it sure looks raw. It doesn't seem to be bothering her much. I've had her to the doctor and he didn't seemed to be very much alarmed about it. He gave us some salve to put on it and that is all.

Well Thanksgiving will soon be here. I suppose you will have turkey with all the trimmings. I don't suppose we will even know it is a holiday unless it's so we can't work. Last year we were shucking corn and I expect we will be again.

Bill [LaMar] still has his sixteen little pigs. They are doing nicely. He should be able to keep them all now.

Well guess I have run out of any news. So write when you can.

Love, Helen

November 29, 1945
Minnetta West Williams
Connersville, Indiana

Dear Bob,

Hello Bob, how are you today? We are fine, so far we have escaped the flu. There were 138 out of the 8th Street School with it so you can imagine how lucky we really are. The kids got their grade cards this week. Marilyn got 5 A's and 3 B's. Dick got 2 A's, 5 B's and 2 C's, which isn't bad at all. His C's were in art and writing. His A's are in arithmetic and reading

I have more news which isn't mine to tell but I'm going to tell you anyway then you forget who told you. Yet, it's happened again. Mae [Mabel] and Howard [Kalsbeeck] are hunting for a little sister for Billy. My guess is about April. You know Mae doesn't tell anybody anything. She told me Sunday and I just had to pass it on. Now I dare you write and tell me your already knew it.

Let's see what else do I know. It is pure gossip but I don't think Gertie [West] is going to settle down and make Bud much of a farm wife. She isn't anxious for children either it seems. Oh well, I guess it's their problem.

Now after you've read all this rubbish, maybe you can tell me some news about Bob. What are you doing now? Is your mailing coming through any better? Have any of your Christmas boxes come through yet? Do you need anything I can send you?

People's work is coming along better but they're not going to get under full production until the 1st of January. He [Ralph] is doing some lathe work for the Porcelain Steel while they are waiting to get tooled up for the ambulance door job. Well, I smell beef and noodles so I'd better stop and check them or we'll have burnt noodles for dinner. So long until next time.

Love from Sis, Minnetta

December 1, 1945
Helen West LaMar
Camden, Ohio

Dear Bob,

Well, how is everything today? Same as usual. Thought I would be hearing from you today. I usually do on Saturday.

We are having a little sunshine just now. Don't suppose it will last long. We have been having a lot of rainy, snowy weather. Can't say that I especially like it.

Bill is shucking corn. He will get through in another week providing I help him. He is almost done up at Aldies and just has a little here at home. I don't know whether Dad and the boys have picked anymore or not. It sure has been a hard season for a picker.

Bet you know I haven't been feeling well for some time. The other day, I went to an osteopathic doctor. He says when Nancy was born, my pelvic bone was put out of place and that is what is causing my back to hurt

so bad and causing me to be so nervous. It makes my back bone crooked in three places. I hope he knows what he is talking about. I want to get to feeling better pretty soon.

Love, Helen

December 5, 1945
Laverne West
Pea Ridge Farm
Liberty, Indiana

My Dear Bob,

Well, I be dog gone if I think much of that fellow that carries the mail. He has not brought us a letter for 2 weeks and your ma, pa, and sisters are about to get angry or worse. We have had a hard time. For two days, they really have got to pick corn this week and none last week. It just rained and rained, I guess they will get done some day. They really go places when they do.

Where are you anyhow that you don't write and do you get any letters from us and why not. I guess Bill Kalsbeek has the whooping cough or at least they think he has. I went up and kept him Monday while Mabel Kalsbeek and Gert West done the washings all Monday morning. Eleanor and Frank Rapson have moved to Connersville, Frank has a job in a factory over there. I guess Frank don't like it very well as he is an inspector in the Enamel Factory over there.

I think your oldest sister Betty is going to have a birthday next Sunday. Also your red-headed sister Ruth and Jane and Marilyn had one last Monday. I don't know if we are going to have much Xmas or not. We drawed names and I got Marilyn. I think I will get her a sweater or something. Everyone is supposed to spend \$3.00 and not get anything for anyone else, Only I suppose the family here at home will do as usual and if not, some kids are going to be disappointed,

Ruth is bursting her buttons getting ready. She got enough for the whole family. Bill must be about done shucking corn. They were here Thanksgiving and only had about a week more to do. I think they are trying to beat Dad. Well Lawrence got a new cow. He went to sale at Brad Conners and got a Jersey cow. They got a gallon of cream this week so far more than I have but I have to churn every day. We like butter too well. He is pretty proud of her. He is going to milk the little cow we got at Brownsville, the one with the white bull. She is dry right now, Well be a good boy and I do hope we will hear from you soon or maybe see you,

Love, Mother

December 5, 1945
Walter West
Pea Ridge Farm
Liberty, Indiana

Dear Son [Bob],

Well now we are not getting any letters coming our way now. Been 10 days since we got any mail. We got to pick corn this week. We got Grandma's field done and if we get to pick tomorrow, we will get Grandpas about done. Then we have the middle field with 16 acres. Here at home we got 7 acres in the field done. Bruce Pullams been shucking it by hand and expect will finish it if it doesn't rain any more. If we get 3 or 4 more days, we might get done before Christmas yet. Has not been one year for the Picker. It is hard on wheat. We sent 65 hogs Monday evening and got my check. Today the son of bitches took \$1.00 off per head. Am bailing this week and got \$14.55 a hundred. Just lost \$65 as you know how they work it. They are supposed to give \$14.55 til January. Got 32 tons shred today to get \$5.86 for the 65 head of hogs, They weight 24 a piece so not so bad for an old man Ha, ha. We got 17 in this bunch so you see I don't have it all. We got 13 loads of corn today about 30 bushel to load. Guess Lawrence will be all shot tonight, ha, ha.

We got some news from Les [West]. He lost his good sow. She had 8 pigs this Fall and we took her over and fenced her in with a Black Boar and the son of a bitch broke her back. She wasn't in bad shape, just one of those things. Can't help it you know. Will guess he will have to buy another sow someplace for we not got any other one picked out for Lawrence. 3 red ones and 3 black ones. Seems like he had bad luck with sows anymore. You know, he lost the one he bought at Pullans sale last year. Grandma still is fair but you better write her a Christmas letter.

Hope you have a Merry Christmas. Have you heard from your life insurance? I sent them your address and sent it back to them, I just wondered whether they sent it on to you. I've got two bonds for you so that is about right, Well, be a good boy, Have your got your Christmas letter from us? If not, it should be there by now. Well God Bless you and hope we hear something from you before long,

Love, your old Dad

February 26, 1946

Jean Steele [West]

Hamilton, Ohio

Dearest Bob,

I received your nice letter a couple of days ago and was certainly glad to hear from you. Thanks a lot for the pictures. They were both good. Now I have a pretty good idea what you look like in uniform and it's OK. As soon as I finish this, I will try to find one of myself but I will guarantee you right now that it won't be good for I don't have any good ones at all.

Starting next Monday, I'm changing jobs. This place where I am now is the worst paying place in town, I think. So about three or four weeks ago, this other place (Leshners) had an ad in the paper and I answered it and had an interview last week. They will pay almost \$10 a week more than I'm getting now and only 5 days a week. I work 5 and one-half now. So I think I would be foolish not to take it. My boss offered me more money to stay but I didn't take it. One of the girls I work with is trying the same thing now since I've done it.

Since you aren't very far from San Francisco, do they let you come in for liberty very often or do you have to stay out there for any length of time? I imagine it would get pretty monotonous but your turn will come one of these days so hold on for a while yet.

How is your folks now? It's been a long time since I've seen them. In fact, the last time was when Nancy [LaMar] was baptized in our church and your folks came over for that. And that has been quite a while ago. I still haven't seen Helen [LaMar]. Alma told me about her not feeling well. She would be a lot better off if she could gain some.

Does Lawrence [West] and his wife [Gertie] have a place of their own yet or are they staying with your folks? Dickers, the people I stay with, their son and his wife are staying here now. In fact, they have been since they were married, which was the first of December. They just can't find rooms here in Hamilton at all. They just aren't to be had.

Bob, your writing me didn't have anything to do with my not going with that other boy. There were other reasons involved. And don't get the wrong idea either. I started the first part of this letter a couple days ago. I got detained then because my girlfriend came down and wanted me to go skating wither so we went down for a while. We usually go about once a week. Didn't you tell me once you used to skate a long time ago? But me, I can't do it very good though.

Do you know what your will do yet after they decommission your ship? I hope they don't send you out to sea but that's something you can't tell.

Well, Bob, write as often as you can and I will answer all your letters. So until I hear from you. I just found this picture and it's the plainest I had out of 3 or 4. You can cut the black on top off or something.

With love, Jean

March 13, 1946

Jean Steele [West]

Hamilton, Ohio

Dear Bob (c/o U.S.S. Sirius, San Francisco, California),

Received your most welcome letter and thought I had better answer it now or you would begin to think again that I wasn't going to write and you can't think that.

The weather here has really been swell lately. It's been so warm and everything, makes you wat to be outside all the time. But I'm afraid it won't last too long. We will probably be paying up for it one of these days.

You asked what I do in my job. I do Dictaphone work practically all day long. I never did run one before but there's a first time for everything. It isn't hard to learn though. I don't know whether you know what it is or not but I have to type letters that my boss dictates on this machine. I still like the work better where I was before and the kids too. They were a swell bunch to work with.

So you went skating the other night too. Have you gone anymore? I don't go near as much as I used to. My girlfriend and I used to go down about 3 or 4 nights a week but that didn't last too long with me. I still can't skate very well. You certainly did OK not to fall down when you hadn't been on a pair for four years. That's quite a while.

I only worked half a day yesterday. I took off in the afternoon to go to Mrs. Dicker's father's funeral. I only saw him a few times but thought I had better go anyway.

So you are going to have some more nieces and nephews. Just who is it? I must be a little behind times. What is Ruth [Logue] doing now? I haven't heard anything about her for a long time. I will have to get hold of Helen LaMar one of these nights and find out what's what.

The news hasn't been sounding too good lately. I have heard a lot of people say that we might get in another war. I can't think of anything more horrible. We just finished one and we certainly don't want another one started. The atomic bomb is the worst part of it.

I imagine you sailors to have quite a time of it. My cousin [Myron Hueston] must like it pretty well though for last Fall he signed up for four years. Of course, he's only 18 so that isn't so bad but still bad enough.

Homes certainly are hard to find for my girlfriend and her husband have been married since the middle of December and they still don't have a place. And so is the case with Bill and Jean (Dicker's son and his wife) who have been married since the first of December and homes just aren't to be had.

How long does it take my mail to get to you? Yours came pretty fast the last time. It was less than a week.

Have you seen any good shows lately? I haven't for the last one I saw was a western, which was Saturday night and I don't particularly care for those. But Camden is quite noted for having those every once in a while on Saturday night.

I'm sorry this letter can't be as long as yours but there just hasn't been much happening to write about. Everyone else in the house has lights out but me so maybe I had better do the same. Until I hear from you, I am

With love, Jean

April 1, 1946

Bob West

U.S.S. Sirius

San Francisco, California

Dear Jean,

Got your letter and was sure glad to hear from you. I'm a little slow in answering this time as I got your letter Saturday but took weekend liberty and couldn't answer until now.

Suppose you got fooled a plenty today [on April Fool's Day]. A few of the boys tried some tricks but not many. It was just another day wasted in the Navy for me.

I think you are having better weather than we had this past week because it rained about 4 days and we had to work out in the rain 2 days, Yes, they are keeping me plenty busy now and will until we get decommissioned. I heard today that we would be off the ship by the 15th of this month, but I don't believe anything I hear, do you? You wouldn't if you were in the Navy. They start something every day.

I had a swell time on my weekend liberty, and saw some good shows. One was "From This Day Forward". I also took a tour through part of San Francisco and out to Muir Woods and seen the big redwood trees. Took some pictures but it rained part of the time and was cloudy so I doubt if I get any pictures or not. Did see some good sites and enjoyed the trip.

So you think Nancy is getting cuter every day. Well I hope so as I guess most babies do.

Does your Dad have his plowing all done yet? I know we haven't but we do have a start. Sure wish I could be there helping this good weather.

Well, I can't think of any more news now. I did tell you we have pulled into a dock now near Alameda, California. You be careful now and be a good girl. Write whenever you find time. Good night now. Enclosed a few pictures but they aren't very good ones.

With love, Bob

April 7, 1946

Jean Steele [West]

Dear Bob,

Got your most welcome letter yesterday so thought I would sit down and answer it now. Say those pictures you sent were good. I was going to show them to Helen [LaMar] last night but didn't see her so didn't get to. They are good of you though.

You were talking about seeing the movie picture "From This Day Forward." I saw that last week. I went to Cincinnati one night to meet one of the girls I worked with at Lurights and that's what we saw.

You are probably wondering what happened to this paper that it's all messed up. My Dad just came in and saw me writing to you and tried to grab it from me but it didn't work. He didn't get it anyway. I would crown him if he did. Not that there is anything in it that would be of interest to him but it's the idea.

You asked how he is coming along with his plowing. It is about half finished now. So I guess he isn't doing too bad. He hasn't been very well at all for the past several months. He has been having quite a bit of trouble with his heart. He wouldn't go to the doctor for a while, but we finally talked him into it and now it doesn't seem to be doing him too much good. He has attacks or spells (I don't know which to call them) quite often but everything will come out OK though.

Have you found out for sure if your ship is going to be decommissioned the 15th? As far as the rumors are concerned, I can imagine how easy it is for them to get started. Is Alameda, California close to San Francisco? I can imagine how you feel, keeping you in suspense and wondering what you will be doing next. Maybe it won't be too much longer though.

Did those pictures turnout that you took that day when you went on your trip?

Well, it's time I am getting ready to go to Hamilton so will close for now. Be good and don't do anything I wouldn't. Write soon.

Love, Jean

April 11, 1946

Bob West

San Francisco, California

Dearest Jean,

Guess maybe I had better drop you a few lines to let you know I got a nice, sweet letter today from a nice sweet girl. Just makes the day a little happier for me when I get mail.

Guess you are keeping right up with me at the movies as you saw the same show as I did. I saw "Gentle Annie" on my last liberty. I have this weekend with liberty so will try and have a good time and still think of you, how's that? I am now living on a L. S. T. "RB1" as we are decommissioning the Sirius ship. I still work on the Sirius and have the same address for about 2 more weeks. This L.S.T. is tied up right behind us. They have about 180 men on it and we have about 80 so it's a little crowded. They sure have good food on her and have a show every night. I am skipping the show tonight and writing instead. I saw "Out of the Depth" last night. They are talking about transferring me and letting me stay on this ship after we decommission instead of sending me back to Treasure Island. This is just what I want to stay on until I get discharged. I'll let you know how I come out later.

I guess I wouldn't hurt if your Dad read this, he probably never wanted to in the first place, just teasing. Is he still the big teaser he used to be? Well maybe I can help you pick on him some of these days. I want to get home by the 4th of July. Hope your Dad's heart trouble gets better real soon. He's probably through plowing by now.

I guess my 2 sows at home did do some good this time so Dad tells me. One had 11 pigs and one had 8 pigs. Now they both have 6 so that's not so good. Guess they need me there to baby them along.

They say the Sirius will be decommissioned by the 25th for sure and maybe before then. Alameda, California is close to San Francisco and I can still go over there in about 1/2 hour. You see Oakland, California is just across the bay from San Francisco and Alameda is just south of Oakland. They join each other. Lots of places to go on liberty here. Oakland is just practically as big as San Francisco.

Those pictures I took on that bus tour didn't turn out but I have a few others I took since then. I'll enclose a few for you.

Can't think of any more news for now so had better close. We are having wonderful weather here now. Say what do you mean when you say for me not to do anything you wouldn't do. Just what could that be? Ha! Ha! Good night now and be careful. Write often. I have to get up early in the morning and stand a messenger watch.

With love, Bob

April 22, 1946
Bob West
San Francisco, California

Dear Jean,

Was sure glad to hear from you again today. You are doing fine now so just keep it up. Say I hope you can send me some more pictures of you some of these days. Glad you like my pictures. I'll try to send you some more of them some of these days when I get another good week.

Say you must be getting to be quite a skater by now. I'll be such a poor skater beside of you. I wouldn't be seen on the floor with you. Maybe you could hold me up. Ha! Ha!

What did you do on Easter? Sure wish I could have been home as I spent a long, lonesome day on the ship as I never even had liberty.

I guess you are missing all the good shows now as you are sending most of your time skating. I saw the show you seen in Camden, "A Sailor Takes a Wife" quite some time ago and I liked it very well.

I saw "Because of Him" here on the ship last night. I had seen it before but it was worth seeing again. I'll miss some of the shows as I have a watch to stand sometimes,

So you don't know where Treasure Island is? It's between San Francisco and Oakland and is reached only by a big bridge. I'm not being sent there though because they already have my orders made and are transferring me to the U.S.S. Aristaeus ARB-1 sometime this week. This is the ship I am staying on.

You are right about when a ship is decommissioned. It isn't being used by the Navy. Sometimes the Merchant Marines run them by some company which uses them for commercial use.

You are correct about me not being able to wait for my discharge. I'm counting the days already and they go very slow. I am going to have some rugged duty before I get out with more sea duty but don't tell Helen. I'm glad you want me to hurry up and get out but you can't hope it as much as I do,

I spend most of Sunday afternoons out playing football and getting a sun tan. I also went without my shirt all afternoon today. They tell me we have to wear shirts at all times of the ship I'm getting transferred to. It sure is getting hot here now.

Well, Jean I don't know any more news for now so will close hoping to hear from you again soon. Be good now and hope you have good luck at skating. Good night.

With love, Bob

May 1, 1946
Bob West
San Francisco, California

Dear Jean,

Well I sure hope you are O.K. and enjoying good weather like I am. I'm feeling fine myself but am pretty tired and sore as I have been doing some pretty hard work below deck.

I sure don't like to work down below deck where it's dirty and no air hardly at all. I like the open, guess that's why I like farming. You should see me before I clean up for chow after I have been working. I look more like a negro with rust all over me, sure keeps my working clothes dirty also. We have been chipping rust.

I am not on my new ship and this is a reason I'm writing to give you my new address. Another reason I'm writing is because I think of you pretty often and hope you are still a sweet girl. I hope you write a little oftener, honey. Maybe you won't have to always write but I sure like to hear from you now. I'll soon be home. I'm even counting the days now. Ain't be too soon for me, maybe we can have some more good times together when I get out of this outfit.

I think you should send me some more pictures Jean by the way. I took some more over this past weekend as I had liberty. I hope they come out good. I'm supposed to get them tomorrow night. I'll try and send

you some if they are any good and if you want them. I doubt if you want them because I'm just a no good monkey.

Have you seen any good shows lately? I saw about 7 shows over the weekend. The show on the ship tonight is "A Strangers Impersonation". I stood a messenger watch this afternoon from 12 to 4. Got to stand the same thing tonight so guess I won't get much sleep. My dreams will be but short tonight. Well Jean, be a good girl and write often. And remember I haven't forgotten you. Good night, honey.

With love, Bob

May 13, 1946
Bob West
San Francisco, California

Dearest Jean,

I am now on watch from 8 to 12 so I decided it would help me pass my time if I wrote some letters, that is if some officer doesn't catch me. I got your letter and nice birthday card you sent me and thanks a lot honey. Yes, my birthday is the 16th of May so you were right.

Don't worry about me crowning you for not writing because you are too nice a girl for me to hurt but I do want you to write as often as you can. You asked me when I would get discharged. I don't know for sure but I am supposed to have enough points by the 15th of June. I hope to leave the ship then. It will take me about 4 or 5 days to get into a draft then to my discharge center at Great Lakes. It will take 4 or 5 days riding on a train after I got on a draft. Takes about 3 days to get discharged and about another day to come home from Great Lakes so you can see it will be about the 1st of July before I can make it. Please don't tell any of my family this because I want to surprise them and also I may not make it by then and I wouldn't want to disappoint them. I'll let you know how I come out and also when I start to Great Lakes.

I don't like working below deck because it isn't healthy. I spent almost all my time working in those lobster tanks, however, we do have a few odd jobs, like sweeping down the ship and sometimes my watches are doing working hours. It looks like I'll spend most of my time working below deck now until I get out.

I'll let you in on a secret but don't tell Helen [LaMar] or anyone because I don't want Mother to worry. I'm going to be sailing in 4 or 5 days starting about the 25th of May. We are moving down to San Diego to finish decommissioning this ship. So if you don't hear from me for a while, you will know I'm sailing. I sure hate to go sailing when I'm so near getting discharged. I guess they are going to show me I'm still a sailor. But I can take anything they dish out for the rest of my short Navy career.

So you were going to see the circus and they called it off because of strikes. It sure burns me up to hear about these strikes. I have the weekend of liberty and you can't guess I saw a circus here in Oakland. It was the Shriners Circus and I sure enjoyed it. That's the first circus I had seen for a long time.

I still own my car but I'm letting one of my brother-in-laws use it while I'm in the Navy. I'll soon be using it, I hope. I'm enclosing a few pictures for you and hope you like them. I hope you can read this as I'm writing on my lap. I'll close for now so be good sweetheart and write often. Good night now.

Love, Bob

May 27, 1946
Bob West
Long Beach, California

Dearest Jean,

Got a swell letter from you again and was really glad to hear from you. Writing with a pencil was certainly O.K. The main thing is that you write and as often as you can.

I am sure plenty busy now but won't be for much longer as I'll soon be out. Am now down at Long Beach, California and its sure a swell place here. We had it pretty smooth sailing and are now anchored out in the bay here. I just had a weekend liberty and sure had a swell time. Sure wish you were here too so we could lay out on the nice sandy, hot, sunny beach like they all do.

Well since you won't come out to me guess I'll have to hurry home if I want to see you. I'm sure counting the days now. I'm sure tired of Navy life. They are giving me plenty of headaches now and working me too hard. But I am taking it for the rest of my time. I have now lost 13 pounds since I've been on this new ship.

I'm sure glad that I can depend on you to keep secrets and not tell Helen LaMar when I'll be home. You are just the nicest, sweetest girl I know and can't wait to see you. Again I apologize for the way I've been since I've been in the Navy and never wrote to you.

I'll get out in time to help do a lot of work this summer and the way they are having so much trouble planting corn, they are going to be so far behind, they will need me. I'll never forget what I have learned about farming. I love it, don't you? You had better like it or else.

It is sure hot here tonight and I'm really sweating writing this letter to you. Got 8 letters today and it's the first I've had for over 10 days. Sure feels good to get mail again. The S.P. are sure thick down here when I go on liberty but they don't bother me because I'm a good boy.

I sure hope your pictures come out good and am looking forward in getting some of them of you soon. Please write a little oftener Jean. You won't have much longer to write so do the best you can, will you?

I've got 17 letters and 11 birthday cards that I haven't answered so you can see they are keeping me so busy I just can't catch up on writing. But I'll write to you and the folks and then to my sisters when I have time.

Well that's all the news for now so good night my love and write often.

With love, Bob

June 20, 1946
Bob West
El Paso, Texas

Dearest Jeanie,

Hope you are as happy as I am. I am now on my way home. We will hit New Mexico tonight and will arrive at Great Lakes sometime Saturday afternoon. I will be there about 3 days. I expect to get home sometime Tuesday night. Will see you soon. Be patient now,

Love, Bob

June 21, 1946
Bob West
San Francisco, California

Dear Honey Jean,

Just another card to let you know I will be in Chicago tomorrow. You can see I'm seeing some nice sights and wish you were along. I am in Kansas and will be in Kansas City tonight. There's sure a lot of wheat here. Well, be careful now and I'll see you soon.

Love, Bob

June 24, 1946
Bob West
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Jean,

I am a civilian as I got discharged today at 1:30 today. Now I have to wait until 9:30 p.m. before I can catch a train and will get to Richmond, Indiana at 4:00 in the morning. It's really a wait. I'll see you sometime Sunday afternoon, June 30.

Love, Bob

August 13, 1946
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dearest Sweetheart,

Well honey, I guess I have some bad news for you. The fellow [Ralph] that was going to go with your girlfriend Thursday night can't go or at least he says he can't. It sure makes me feel bad too as I was hoping for a swell time. Of course, we have fun but it's always fun to double date. Maybe your girlfriend can't go either anyway. I'm awful sorry. He wants to go with her, I mean your girlfriend after we get through showing hogs, at least he talked that way.

I hope you got a lot of beauty sleep last night. I bet you had it tough today. I got 2 hours sleep last night as I got home at 4:00 a.m. and went to work. I helped bale straw all day today and am plenty tired tonight.

I doubt you can read this as I am writing with a scratch pen and can't do a very good job with it. I guess I could write with any.

I do hope you get this letter in time to give the girlfriend of yours the news before Thursday.

Well honey, I hope you still love me and are being a good girl. Write to me when you get a chance. I'd love to get another letter from you.

I am very sorry again that Ralph can't go with your girlfriend, Good night honey. Maybe we'll have better luck the next time.

As always, Bob

Undated, 1946
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

Dear Bob,

You probably think the unbelievable has happened that I wrote this but no kidding, it's me. Did you make it home the other night all OK? I'll bet you had to take an hour's time out to sleep on the way didn't you?

Anyway, here is my reason for writing. You know what you asked me to do Sunday? Well don't jump to conclusions. I'm not backing out all the way but I'll tell you what happened. My cousin [Myron Hueston], who enlisted for four years in the Navy, just came home yesterday and his folks are having a big picnic over at their house for him so of course we are invited and I want you to go. Would you or your mother get very mad at me if I waited until another Sunday to come and if you are, then I will come to your house this Sunday and forget about the picnic. If you do come to the picnic, you can go to Sunday School first and then come over.

It's all up to you. But be sure to write and tell me what to do so I will get it Saturday. Send it down here to Hamilton for I'm not going home until Saturday afternoon. But remember I'm not going to the picnic unless you go. Tell your Mother and see what she says. You see, my cousin is just home for a few days and will go back. Be sure to write.

Love, Jean

August 22, 1946
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dearest Sweetheart Jeanie,

I was sure surprised to hear from you today. At first I thought you were backing down on me but found out different. I guess you are leaving it up to me as to where we will go Sunday. I am glad you wrote.

Since you are so cute and sweet, we will have it your way for once, Mother said she would just as soon wait anyway. However she was planning on you being here but she said if we wait, it would give her more time to get ready. So we will satisfy my honey and my Mother and go to your cousin's picnic Sunday. It doesn't make any difference to me as long as I can be with my sugar.

It sure is swell of you to offer to come over instead of going to the picnic, But you are so sweet you couldn't be any other way. I'm glad you couldn't come Sunday anyway because I got to be Superintendent at Sunday School and I wouldn't want you to see me at my first try. I would come early Sunday to your house but I got to lead Sundry School so I will be over as soon as possible. I should get to your house Sunday by 11:30 at least so please wait on me honey. Send your folks on if they don't want to wait on us. I do hope you know your way to your cousin's house.

I really feel sorry for the boy I was in the Navy. Maybe I had better wear my uniform, no not me, never again I hope unless I just put it on for you sometime and show you how I looked in it.

Jeanie, you know I never get sleepy. I got home safe and sound Saturday night. However it did take me 45 minutes as it was so foggy and I had to drive under 20 miles an hour all the way home. I bet you slept all day Sunday didn't you. I am really tired and sleepy tonight as I've been mowing weeds all week.

I finally took my pictures to get developed and I should get them by Saturday night so if I do I'll bring them with me Sunday. That is if you never spoiled them all. Ha! Ha! Of course, accidents happen and that was one,

Well honey, get lots of beauty sleep now and I'll see you Sunday at 11:30 at least and we will go to the picnic. I want to sleep again. Good night my love and pleasant dreams.

With love, Bob

Undated, 1946
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

Dear Bob,

Well, I stick to my promise OK and am writing on Tuesday night just like I said I would. Aren't you proud of me now? I stayed home all evening last night and didn't leave the house once. Oh I take that back. I went down to the Drug Store and was gone about ten minutes, but I didn't feel like doing anything. I came home at 3:30 yesterday afternoon from work for I was really feeling rotten but I'm just fine today.

Did you have any trouble getting your car started the other night? Here's hoping you didn't. You were to get it fixed yesterday, weren't you?

Well, Honey child, guess what? I have an appointment to get a permanent Saturday but don't worry. I promise not to have much taken off the back. Buit honestly I have to have it over and I think you will agree to that now don't you?

I don't care what we do Friday night but if you don't have anything in mind maybe we could go over to Naomi and Jimmy's for a little while. I will call and see what she is doing but I won't promise anything.

Have you seen Mabel [Kalsbeck] yet? If you do, be sure to tell her hi for me too.

I'm afraid this letter is going to be rather short but until Friday night, I will always love you. You know that. I was especially playing "Always" for you the other night.

All my love, Jean (xoxo)

October 14, 1946
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dearest Darling Jeanie,

Well Speedy, guess I lied to you when I said I couldn't write the early part of the week because here I am trying to keep my sweetheart happy again. Bet you had a tough day today, didn't you? I expect you are now in bed and probably dreaming. It is now 10:45 your time and I just got back from school and can't sleep so I'm writing. I hope you are tired enough to sleep good and got your beauty sleep. Of course you don't need it at all because you suit me honey,

Maybe you are a little happier tonight as Lurman turned the ceiling on meat so maybe you will be able to get a little to eat now so you can gain that 4 pounds back or I mean the 4 you are under weight. I got weighed today and weighed 152 pounds, not bad is it. I hope I don't lose over 5 pounds this week.

I was over to Ralph's early this morning and we are just about ready for the sale now. I ran a nail in my leg tonight about 5:30 but guess it doesn't hurt me much. I'm just tough, I guess. I had better be anyway.

Here's hoping you get this letter in time so you can write to me before the week's gone. I think you can if you will and really love me, You can find time to do anything you want to do just like me writing to you tonight, But Speedy, I love you and am writing instead of sleeping because I want you to write back, Write and tell me what you think of me, I'll guarantee nobody else will read it. Say Jeanie, did I surprise you Sunday night when I asked you what I did or was you kinda expecting it? Please answer. I still can't see how we can wait as long as you want to. But we will see how things turn out.

Guess I had better quit coming to see you for about 6 months if you want to wait 8 more months, maybe you can be ready by then. Never seen anyone so slow. Ha! Ha! Don't get mad, but I'm really not going to be driving to Hamilton all this winter when the snow is bad and roads are icy. I really do love you Jeanie and you know it. I hope you change your mind a little I have a lot of reasons to change them for you. Maybe I can talk things through with you and we can compromise.

Today was really a hard one for me but guess I can take it. Of course, I didn't do much though as usual I got to get up early in the morning and go over to Ralph's because we got to get everything ready tomorrow because we want to go to Bruce Pullen's sale Wednesday.

Say do you think you can beat me in bowling yet? I still give you a chance sometime.

Well honey, I'm getting pretty sleepy to write so will have to close soon, The only reason I'm writing is because you are the sweetest and best girl in the world and that's not hay, that's you darling and I really mean it too honey.

Please write now sweetie and make me happy. Do you still love me and have you changed your mind from Sunday night? Well darling, just keep dreaming, sleep good and get a little sleep for me. If you still love me, I'll see you Saturday night. Don't melt before then. Write me a long sweet letter, honey.

Your honey, Bob (oxoxox)

October 17, 1946
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dear Jean,

Hello honey hope you are O.K. and happy as a lark. I am just dropping you a few lines to answer your letter I got today. I'm so tired I couldn't stay awake to write anymore,

I went to school Monday night and wrote to you. Got to bed at 11:30. Tuesday night, I worked over at Ralph's until 11:00 at night and Wednesday night was the sale and I worked until 12:30 at night. That's 1:30 your time so you can see why I'm so tired. We sure are getting a swell rain here.

I'll do my best to get to Hamilton early Saturday night if you want to go to that wedding. I don't know whether I can work it by 6:45 or not. I don't care much about going to the wedding but I'll take you to satisfy you.

Be good now Sweetheart because this is your second letter this week. You are going to owe me a little writing next week. I'll close for now. Good night, dear.

Love, Bob

October 21, 1946
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dearest darling Jeanie,

Hello honey. I sure hope this is one letter you never forget because of a heel like me. I am so sorry for what I done Saturday night, I have been sick over it ever since then. If you don't believe me, just ask my dear mother. Will you please forgive me honey? Answer as soon as possible. Everyone makes big mistakes honey but I'm the biggest fool there is and made the worst mistake of my life. I'm so sorry sweetheart,

I do hope you still love me after all, but I can see in the way I done you probably never want to see me again. I couldn't sleep, eat or anything else and only thought of you so that's why I'm writing tonight darling because I love you so much. It really hurt me worse than it did you. I also realize you love me by the way you hung on to me when I got ready to leave. I am so sorry, I could let you knock me down and it wouldn't hurt me for the consequences,

I tried to paint today but I wasn't much good, I just had to get this off my mind and I hope you answer before the week is out. I really love you and will never treat you that way again if you will only forgive me,

I sure pray I can see you Saturday night on your birthday if it's at all possible, I'll be over to your folks house about 7:00 your time and sure hope you will be there. You will never regret it honey, I'm sure if you only give me another chance. I'll also be over to your birthday dinner Sunday as was planned. I guess a person don't know what they are doing sometimes if they get mad. Did you expect me to write honey? I bet you knew I loved you so much that I couldn't stay away. That was sure a tough night I put in Sunday night and I never want to go through with it again. I went to bed at 6:00 but don't think I slept over an hour all night. I hope it didn't hurt you that much but I knew it did as you love you and I'm sorry but the harm was done, Never again,

Say honey, what do you want for your birthday???? I'll just leave that a big question mark for you. I'll get you a little gift of some kind to make you happy and to let you know I love you and will never leave you again like I did Saturday night,

I also will write to your mother and tell her I'll be there Sunday for dinner, Of course it will be a little late when I get there because I have to be superintendent Sunday of all days. I'm just unlucky honey so you know what you're getting, I hope.

I will bring the picture of yours I brought home with me Saturday. I'm sorry, I'll also bring that class picture of mine, I promise you, I am sorry but don't think I had better come down for supper any this week as I told you I would. I would love to but I think it best not to at the present, I know you can cook anyway,

Well Sweetheart darling please write before the week's out and answer my letter. I'm awful sorry I can't wait to hear from you. I really want to make you happy on your birthday. Good night darling and forgive me. I'll see you Saturday night so let me know if I can and try to be home honey or let me know where you will be.

With all my love, your honey Bob

Undated, 1946
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

Dearest Bob,

I received your letter yesterday and I must say I was quite surprised to hear from you because that was the least expected. I would have answered it last night but first of all I didn't know what to say and I still don't and then I went over to Mr. Dicker's daughter's house, then went to the hospital, and then met a couple of girls and we went to the show.

About Saturday night, I knew we all make mistakes and I know you are sorry for what happened and I am too, that's for sure But I guess it's my fault and I guess you think I'm about the most stubborn creature put on this Earth. But honest Honey, that isn't my reason at all. I certainly don't want you to take it that way at all. I wanted to tell you Saturday night but the words just wouldn't come out.

My main reason is that I want just a little more time on what you asked me in the first place. Don't get me wrong for I think an awful lot of you and I mean ever word. I'm saying if you will just give me a little more time. That's why I don't want to by January. Besides I've got to get the cedar chest paid for first and with Christmas coming on, I can't do it by January. I hope I'm not hurting you too much by saying all this because I definitely don't want to do that. Now don't jump to conclusions and say I don't love you for I think I do but I've got to make sure. Please just a little time and please don't get mad at me. I realize you can't come to Hamilton as often this winter and I don't expect you to for it's too far especially in bad weather.

Yes, you come over Saturday night and come about 7:30 our time to my folks. Also it will be important with Mother and me for you to come Sunday.

I had to finish this up tonight for I only had little bit of my lunch hour to write and I had to quit. Then tonight I worked from 7:00 to 10:00 and that's no lie either. This is the first I've worked overtime for a while but I had to so it's around 11:30 now by the time I took my bath and everything. So long until Saturday night and be good.

Lots of love, Jean (xo)

Undated, 1946
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

My dearest Bob,

Have you recovered from the weekend yet? I don't think I have and I do know I wasn't worth a nickel yesterday. But I went to bed last night and I feel better today. But I still feel the effects from it. I'll bet you went home and didn't even go to bed or did you do the opposite and sleep all morning or day like I wanted to but didn't. I know one thing. I couldn't take very much of that.

I saw Ginny and Jerry tonight and it looks as if they are going to beat us married yet. I don't think it's very far off but I don't know just when. I think they are going to Kentucky and get it done fast. At least, that is what they are saying now. Time will tell. She isn't getting the diamond after all, just a wedding ring. She doesn't want any. So much for that.

Are you still peeved about what happened Sunday night or should I say Monday morning? I'm hoping that doesn't happen again because I still say there's a time for that and it isn't now. Don't get me wrong. I'm not mad but I'll admit I was torn after so long a time. I guess I can't blame you for trying but I think you know what the score is. I do know any boy is going as far as they can because I've been out with enough that I know. But please Honey, let's wait.

I got the one piece for Boots down at the Drug Store and I'll get the other one tomorrow when I go uptown with Ginny during our lunch hours. Oh yes, you forgot to give me your film to get developed.

Haven't you gotten my cold as yet? I have a good one now but I will be over it by Friday night.

Well Robert, it's now time for me to turn the lights out and I still love you. You had better not change on that either.

All my love, Jean (xoxo)

October 29, 1946

Bob West

Liberty, Indiana

Dearest Darling Sweetheart,

I'm taking time out now to write to you but I should be out working with a sow that's having pigs. You are the only important thing to me now anyway honey. You have made me so happy over this past weekend and I really believe you love me now which means so much to me. I don't even feel like the same fellow.

Before I never cared for anything and didn't care what happened. I am going to quit driving fast now honey because you have caused me to start living again. I haven't cared what happened to me since I joined the Navy until this past weekend. Something changed me. I think my folks are pretty happy over what happened. I thought you said my Dad never said anything about your engagement ring when you showed it to him. He tells me he asked you where you got your ring.

I hope you are catching up on sleep by now and are writing me another sweet letter. Guess I'm going to lose clear out on sleep this week. My sow is starting having pigs about 4:30 early Monday morning after I got that and she really is trying to give us a really good start honey because she had 15 pigs. I left 10 with her and was feeding 5 on a bottle. Just getting in practice, ha, ha! That's not my job, though. I had to get up every 2 hours last night to feed them after I came home from school so you can guess how much sleep I got. Dad's got a sow having pigs right now, It is about 8:00 o'clock now and she has 2 pigs so far, Just starting I gave her the pigs I was feeding on the bottle so I won't have to get up and feed them tonight. I can sleep and dream of my honey after this sow gets through having pigs. This sow has 14 teats so maybe I can leave my pigs to her if she doesn't have too many. I won't get too much sleep tonight, I know. I have school again tomorrow night and we are going to start picking corn tomorrow also. Lawrence is getting his new tractor tomorrow too.

Liberty has its first basketball game Friday night and I think I'll go to the game. I'm wondering if you can come to the game, I'll come down after you about 6:00 o'clock Friday night. That's 7 your time. I want you to call me or my mother. I'll probably be busy by 5:00 o'clock Friday if you can't come. Otherwise if you don't call, I'll be down to Hamilton after you Friday night at 7:00 your time or maybe a little sooner if I can make it. My Dad's name is Walter West if you do have to call and tell me you can't go. I don't know our telephone number as we just had a new telephone put in and have a different number. You can get us anyway by asking for Dad. I'll pay the charge when I see you if you do have to call. I sure hope you don't have to call so I can see you honey. But you may have had other plans so let me know if you can't come otherwise I'll be down.

Time is sure going slow since I saw you last. Seems like it's been a week already and it's just Tuesday night. I want you to know I really love you with all my heart honey and am willing to wait for you if I have to so you don't make it too long. I think we should know by Christmas when we really are going to get married Then we can plan more. That's giving us plenty of time to talk it over don't you think so.

Can't think of any more news for now so honey stay sweet and happy. I hope to see you Friday night otherwise about 7:30 Saturday. O.K., that what you always say. Sleep tight honey.

As always, your lover Bob

November 5, 1946

Bob West

Liberty, Indiana

Dearest Sweetheart Darling,

Well honey, hope you aren't as sleepy tonight as I am but it doesn't hurt me or it hasn't yet. I guess you know why I'm sleepy. It's just my school at night and you darling. You know that's the only place I lose sleep, don't you. The funny part of it is that I love to lose sleep when I'm with my honey. I really love ever minute I

spend with you darling, you know that, don't you. The week is pretty long when I can see you for a while. Well, that just makes me love you more and appreciate how lucky I am to love such a sweet, beautiful girl like you.

What are you doing to fill in your time, honey? It doesn't make any difference to me because I trust you, only want you to have a good time, and still love me. I would be lost without you honey. I have been helping shovel corn so am pretty tired tonight. Pretty hard on my old back. Also went and voted today at noon. Sure wish you have changed your mind and voted because it's your duty.

I can't find the letter you wrote to me last week so just have to write and if I don't answer everything you asked me, just box my ears because I can't help it darling. I'll probably find your letter when I get through writing.

Say darling, we are invited to a New Year's party so I want to know whether we can go or not. I hope so anyway. Boots [Ruth] and Julian [Logue] are having the party after their short honeymoon. Seems like we really have a supply of places to go way up ahead of us, don't we? Always some place to go. Looks like we do all the going now, maybe someday we can have some of them coming our way, especially after you learn to cook. Ha! Ha! You can't fool me sweetheart because you already know how, don't you. I haven't found anything yet that you didn't know how to do. You even know how to make me happy, don't you honey.

I am supposed to have company tonight so probably won't get any sleep. Ralph Whitmer is coming over to see me about something. Probably work and that's something you know I never do. He was over Sunday afternoon right after I left to come over to see you, but he missed me. The kids told him the only night I would be home would be Tuesday and Thursday nights. So he said he would come tonight. He hasn't come yet and it's 7:30 your time now. But he's a farmer and I know he can't get here too early. He isn't as lucky to have a Dad do his feeding for him like I do.

Well sweetheart, can't think of any more news for now so stay sweet and remember I love you truly, Are you still missing your rings honey? That's just the way I miss you. Don't forget to get my pictures "Baby" because I want to see them Friday night. I'll see you about 7:30 your time Friday night if I can possibly make it and I'll drive slow too. You know me, I don't break promises. Good night, sweetheart.

With all my love, Bobby (xoxoxo)

Undated, November, 1946
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

Dearest Bob,

I got your letter today already. I just happened to notice that it was written last night and I got it in this afternoon's mail. That was really quick service. Just what time of the morning did you mail it anyway for its postmarked 6:00 a.m.?

It's kind of late when I'm writing this for I had a busy night tonight. First of all, Mr. Dickers and I have been eating our supper over where Mrs. Dicker is so I ride my bicycle over so I can come back when I please. I came home as soon as the dishes were done and did some ironing and Ginny and her boyfriend came over. So we three left then and met a couple of other girls and when I came home I finished my ironing and took my bath and put my hair up (as usual) and here I am. Quite a busy girl, aren't I?

You better find that letter of mine, probably some of the kids found it and have read it to everyone. I better never hear anything like that. I think the best thing for you to do is tear these letters up as soon as you get them, of course. I don't do that to mine for no one is here to read mine so I'm safe on that point except that past card you sent me on the way home, remember?

Will be glad to get my rings back for it seems funny without them. I called up Mary Ann about Friday night and I will know tomorrow night what they will do for she has to ask him first. I told her we weren't coming back to Hamilton.

I think it's time for "lights out" so had better call it quits for now so until Friday nite. The New Year's party is on with me.

All my love, Jean

November 12, 1946
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dearest Sweetheart Speedy,

Well honey, I'm so tired tonight, don't know whether I can write or not. But I'll do my best to please my sugar. I suppose you are all caught up with your sleep by now. I'm getting so I can't take it anymore. Guess I'm just getting old. Do you think that's my trouble?

I got home O.K. Sunday night and I took my car to Liberty Monday morning so it is still percolating. Went to Connersville with my folks Monday afternoon and we seen Eleanor [Rapson] and also stopped a little while at Martha's [Mathis]. Eleanor wants us to come up to her house some of these days. She said in about 3 or 4 weeks. She will be here at home Sunday for dinner so maybe you and her can make a dinner engagement. At least, it seems like you two are boss at the present.

I'm more or less a cripple tonight as I hurt one of my legs this morning and can't hardly walk on it. I tell you what I was doing to hurt it when I see you, We picked corn this afternoon and it was pretty cool. I'll sure be tickled if we can get done before the weather gets too bad.

Say honey, you was just super Sunday. Seems like you just huddled closer to me and loved me more than you ever had before. That just makes me love you more and to appreciate how lucky I am to have such a nice sweetheart as you, my darling. Say I haven't smoked anything since I left you Sunday. You never said anything about me quitting so I guess you don't want me to quit. I do hope and pray that you quit with me also soon honey. That's one thing I hate to see you do.

You made me love you so much this past weekend honey that I'm going to be a changed man from now on. I'll never bother you honey until we are married because it's just too sacred a thing and I realize how hard it is for you and you are just too sweet to me. That's why I decided to quit smoking and living all over again. I do hope you learn to love me more and especially to trust me because that's just one of the things so important to married people. That's what causes a lot of divorces because they quit trusting each other. It wouldn't be so hard but you are always talking about how you don't trust me and it really hurts me clear through. I'm going to do everything I can from now on to make you trust me.

Liberty had a basketball game tonight with Connersville but I never felt like going. I thought they would win anyway. I don't care whether I go anyplace anymore or not. All I care about is being with my sweetheart, the best girl in the world.

You can ask Ginny that joke you were afraid to tell me the other night. You said you had forgotten it. You had better write it down this time honey. Ha! Ha! I'd hate to be a _____. Well honey, are you still scared of the dark like you were Saturday night? I thought sure you were braver than that. I hope you are writing to me tonight because you said you would try and write Tuesday night. But I'll just bet you a dime you never write tonight.

Guess that is enough for now honey. Don't take me wrong in this letter now honey because I love you very much. Stay sweet now and make me happy. I'll see you Friday night at 7:30 if nothing happens. Good night my love. Don't forget Sunday honey,

With all my love, Bob (oxoxxxx)

November 19, 1946

Bob West

Liberty, Indiana

My dearest darling,

Well honey, I hope you are caught up a little on sleep by now and are ready to forgive such a heel as I am once more. I'm almost too ashamed to write even. I'm so sorry sweetheart for the way I acted "Monday morning" and I do hope you will forgive me again. I think that's about the first promise I have ever broken with you honey. There's one thing about it is that I'll never break it again. If I do you can give me the ring back. I love you so much darling that I'll never give you a chance to give it back.

I did learn something however Jeanie dear and that is I have the best girl and truest girl in the world. I want to tell you I wouldn't be afraid to trust you with anyone now because you certainly are tops and have plenty of will power. I'm proud of you darling for having a mind of your own. Any fellow would be proud to have a girl like you and I'm sure no one has ever touched you. This really makes me love you more darling but it will make me feel better if you just slapped the tire out of me the next time I see you. You probably would have already if you hadn't loved me so much. I do hope you will forgive me and then I can forget about it

darling. There's one thing that must wait until we are married. That's one love I must learn to wait for and then appreciate it more. So much for that.

Did you go to work Monday morning? I can bet you had a tough day if you did. I sure put in a bad one and still am worn out because I haven't caught up on my sleep much yet. But I'll be in bed by 7:30 tonight honey. I got home 5:00 o'clock my time Monday morning and went to bed. I set my alarm clock at 5:30 so you can see how much sleep I got. I shoveled corn all day and put in an extra big day so Dad wouldn't kill me on me coming home so late. He never said a word to me about it. Dad and Mother had the radio on when I got home Monday morning and were awake. Then I went to school last night and could hardly hold my eyes open. I got to bed about 10:00 which sure felt good to me. Don't think that will even happen to me again to stay out so late. I expect it will be late enough New Year's though but I won't be working so hard then.

"Hefty" my sister just got through combing and brushing my hair for about an hour which sure felt good. I was laying on the davenport after supper while she did it. That will be your job some of these days won't it sweetheart or will it? I took my car to town real early this morning so they could start working on it. But I was mistaken this time as there was a big '73' milk truck that broke down last night and they said they almost had to get it fixed before they took on my car so I thought so too. Dad's going to take his in Thursday and they are going to do the same thing to his. They will to mine too so I told them to wait until next week on mine. We got to keep one car at home anyway and mine does run so I'll wait until next Tuesday. You can see how unlucky I am, can't you darling? Hope you sure change my luck when you slip that ring on my finger, honey.

Yes sweetheart, I'm very very proud of you for writing on Tuesday night last week, But I'm more prouder of you on other things, I do hope you still love me after what happened Monday morning. I guess I just got stirred up a little darling and you were sweet to keep your head.

Yes darling, I'll agree that you needed something done to your hair. It should be grown out by the time we get married and you will look the best. Of course, you are very beautiful to me anytime darling.

I was certainly glad to hear you were playing "Always" for me up at Lawrence and Gert's [West] the other night. You are getting sweeter all the time darling and I'm getting worse I guess. Please give me a chance to prove better darling. I'm not a bad boy at all. Just have bad ideas because I've never done anything to any girl and treated any girl like I have you. I never even touched another girl honey. Please believe me because it's the truth and I love you and want you to know it. I guess I love you too much darling for my own good.

I don't know whether we can get into the Richmond-Liberty basketball game Friday night or not but we will try. They sure have been bragging about Liberty in the Richmond papers. If we can't get in, we will go to a show or do something to make my darling sweetheart happy.

Jeanie darling, I love you truly and very, very much. Anyone could love such a sweet girl like you. I can really trust you too darling and I do hope you will learn to trust me, especially before we are married. Honey, what do you want for Christmas? I'll take anything you get me darling and want you to just surprise me. But don't waste much money on me honey because we got to start saving more now as we will probably need it when we become one.

I hope this letter pleases you honey. Maybe you will tire reading it but I don't want to make you mad over Monday morning and want you to love me. I'll see you Friday night at 7:00 if possible but please don't get mad at me if I'm late because we will be picking corn. Stay sweet honey and make me happy and forgive me. I love you.

I hope you destroy this letter because I don't want anyone to ever see it. Good night sweetheart. Get caught up on sleep before Friday.

I forgot to give you my roll of film to get developed so I think I'll take it to Liberty tomorrow night when I go to school.

I have had the stiff neck ever since Sunday night, not bad but bad enough.

(picture of heart with an arrow through it)

I love you darling with all my heart.

With all my love, Bob

December 10, 1946
Bob West

My Dearest Darling Sweetheart,

It seems like a week already to me since I've seen you. The only thing about it is I haven't caught up on sleep yet. I know you are writing tonight Honey, so I had to. I have run out of stationary so "Hefty" gave me some of her note book paper. Please excuse the paper, writer mistakes, and even me, your honey.

I haven't done much today as it rained most of the day. Helen and Bill LaMar and Nancy and Gordon came over and spent the day. We were supposed to go over to their house to shred fodder today but the rain stopped us. I would rather see it snow than rain this time of year. They are playing one of your songs on the radio right now, it is "I Would Rather Get The Papers."

Boots [Ruth Logue] said for me to thank you very, very much for the tea kettle present. But we need to get her an electric toaster for a wedding present before Friday. I'll enclose \$5 in this letter to help you out of it. If that isn't enough, I'll pay you more when I see you darling.

Well darling, that was a cute idea you wrote on the first page of your letter last week. It was pretty hard to read but a change in writing is surprising sometimes, especially coming from the one I love.

However, honey there is one thing I have got to look into when I see you. My mother told me Monday morning so I believe her too. She told me someone was trying to beat my time with you Sunday and I don't like it. I never thought it of you until my mother told me. It wasn't Clyde either because that was in a game. I don't blame Rick on that thing behind my back and then someone telling me about it. You will hear from me on this Friday night. Don't let me down anymore honey. I do trust you with all my heart so let's keep it that way always.

You may have another job if you will accept it darling. It's playing the piano for someone during our Christmas programs, which will be in a couple of weeks on Sunday night. I'll tell you about it Friday night so don't let me forget it my Jeanie dear.

Listen Jeanie, Evelyn, Moonbeam, Speedy, the Rabbit, Sweetheart, Darling, Sugar, Honey, and my one and only girl I love and trust and could get along with, I think you should stay home if you ever have any more total blackouts if you love me. You know and I know it isn't safe and anything could happen to you darling. I don't care if Jerry and Ginny was with you, they couldn't stop anyone with bad ideas if they attacked you. I want you to enjoy yourself but not in these kinds of times because I love you more than you have any ideas of. I really think I love you too much so am playing on cutting myself down until my love matches yours.

I believe you honey when you said you haven't gone out with anyone else since I gave you the ring and I love you enough I wouldn't take someone else's even if they told me you did. I would just lay low and find out for myself but don't think I'll ever have to as you have done enough harm already when it took you so long to make up your mind that you would accept my ring. So I'm truly grateful that you love me now and I can trust you anywhere unless I see things different with my own eyes.

I just wish I was feeling better honey at least when I'm with you. I wasn't mad at you Sunday night darling. But I did get a little peeved. I shouldn't of but I was feeling very good and it never took much to make me peeved. I will say you're very good to me darling and do treat me fair on you know what. At least you have lately. I love you very very much for being so true and good to me. It brings us closer together but I do realize we are getting close enough for now. But I really don't hurt you and never intend to.

Say Moonbeam, if you take your coat to the dry cleaners, I'll pay for getting it cleaned. I'm very sorry sometimes after I do some of the things I do but I just don't think. I just like to tease you as you know very well by now.

Well honey, I can't think of any more news for now as you know I still love you and always will so you had better catch up on some sleep this week so you will look fine Sunday. I do hope you don't go to Kentucky Saturday as I don't think much of the idea as you already know. I'll see you Friday night Evelyn around 7:00 if I can possibly make it. Good night dear.

With love forever, your honey Bob

December 17, 1946
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dearest Sweetheart Jeanie,

Kinda think I owe you a very nice letter tonight after this past weekend. It isn't so hard for me to write anymore as I've done it for several weeks now so am finding it just part of my work. I am liking and loving you a little more also which makes it easier for me to write to you honey.

Bet you are glad Boot's [Logue] wedding is over now. You did a swell job of playing and you looked so cute. Just made me wish we were getting married too but it's just not the right time for that yet, is it honey?

I think we gave them a real sendoff too, don't you darling but just remember we are in for an awful bad time when we get married too. Do you know what happened honey? They were escorted all the way to Cincinnati by Howard Adams and wife, Bobby Rogers and wife, and Lawrence and Gert [West]. They really had a swell time of it too. Wish we would have followed them now but I thought it was best to save my motor for our own trip, which we will enjoy more, won't we darling? Here's what happened, they got lost in Cincinnati and couldn't find their hotel so Howard Adams had to tell them where it was. It's quite a story, tell you more when I see you sweetheart.

We got a card from them today with a picture of the Metroopole Hotel, where they stayed Sunday night.

I do hope you are writing tonight honey as I'm used to getting your letters on Thursday now. Isn't tonight the night you are going to Cincinnati to meet that girlfriend of yours? And tomorrow night, you have your "grab bag", don't you? I have to go to school.

I wish I knew what was the matter with me because I just feel wore out and about like nothing all the time. I do know I'm not much count anyway. I haven't felt very good since we been engaged but I'm sure that had nothing to do with it because I feel much better along that line and am happier too. Never forget that night however. I was ready to quit [our relationship] but I'm sure glad I never did because I have all I ask for in you and really love you and you are just making me fall more in love all the time as you are so sweet, cute, and nice to me. I really love you with all my heart and soul and wish I could see you more honey but we are just too far apart.

You were certainly swell sweetheart to me Sunday night and I'll admit you have been very fair to me and I love you truly for being so nice and giving to me.

I'll see you Friday night darling about 7:00 your time or maybe a little later. But until then, I'll seal this with all my love for you honey until I see you my sweetheart, who's worth waiting for. Good night, beautiful with all my heart, I love you.

Bob

January 7, 1947

Bob West

Liberty, Indiana

Hi Honey,

How's every "little" thing tonight sweetheart, hope you are O.K. and getting plenty of sleep this slick weather. I've kinda got out of the habit of writing so you can expect anything in this letter until I get back on the ball.

Sunday night when I came home after I left Hamilton and got about 2 miles out of town, there was no more snow or ice so I was lucky as I never had quite so much slick roads. We got about an inch of snow last night and it's slick enough here today but I got around, We had a Farmers Institute at Liberty today and also Grain Show. I am happy as I showed some seed wheat and got a ribbon on 4th place as there were 12 samples in the class. Also heard 2 good talks this morning and 2 this afternoon by a woman and a man. The man talked on raising chickens and the outlook so I gained something. Wish you could have been there also. We were all gone all day. I was at Bettys [Shriner] for dinner. Boots and Red [Logue] and Lawrence and Gert [West] and Howard and Jerry were there. Had a big crowd. I expect "Jean dear" will be there next year.

I bought my new 1947 Auto License today and also some insurance on my car. It all cost me about \$50. If I keep on, I am going to have all my money in my car and won't have any left to get married on. Don't you think so?

I was so sore today, I could hardly walk as I helped Lawrence break stocks all day yesterday. Too much walking for me as I wasn't used to it. My legs are still plenty sore and my muscles. No my bones, ha! Ha! I bet Lawrence slept on his side of the bed last night too. So you know what to expect out of me when we get married when I'm working hard. Ha! Ha!

Dad was just here teasing me and said for me to tell you it was slick up here, and he should know as he turned cross-ways in the road this morning up next to the school house when he fed the hogs up on the hill. I told him to write and tell you then I won't have to write at all. Ha! Ha! Probably get my hair all pulled out when I see you. I had better do the writing to keep peace in my little darling's heart that I love so much.

Sure wish I could see you tonight as I love you so much. I can't hardly wait until we can get married so I can be close to you all the time. I went to school last night and Mr. Young only kept us an hour and then let us go see the basketball game of the A team. As we played Knightstown last night, it was postponed from Friday night, We beat them 42-24 and the Liberty boys never even tried hard, The Liberty Tournament starts Thursday night and lasts the rest of the week. Liberty hasn't been beaten yet as they have 10 straight wins. Hope they win the tourney, don't you?

They are playing my song about you on the radio now, "Buttermilk Skies". You know my story about it so I won't mention it now.

I am sitting here looking at your picture as it's the only thing I can do during the week. It is so sweet of you. At the rate I'm going, I'll have it wore out in about another week. Is those double doors down in the sitting room rattling tonight? Don't laugh because the wind may be blowing them. Ha! Ha!

Say I have a little joke to tell you I heard today and it's to the level to as it would have to be coming from me. Here it is: An Idaho potatoe married a Maine potatoe and they have a little "sweet potato" just like you. The sweet potato finally grew up and wanted to marry Lowell Thomas and her mother told her she couldn't as he was just a "com-a-tator"! I also know one that's not quite on that level so will save it as I think it best.

I expect about a 10 page letter from you this week as it's been about 3 weeks since I've heard from you. I'll probably be lucky to even hear from you but I do know I will because you never break a promise and I can trust you. My dearest little sweetheart that I love truly. Sweetest girl in the world to me. And that is so good to me "sometimes". I had better keep still though as I'm lucky to have such a sweet girl. I really slept good last night for a change did you honey?

Well honey, I can't think of anything more to say for now so had better close. Don't get me wrong, I have plenty I could say but it may not do and I'd probably get my ears pulled. Probably will already with what I've wrote. Remember darling, I still love you and always will so never let me down. Stay sweet and until Friday night, I'll just dream. Good night honey. See you Friday night if I can possibly get there. It's going to be hard to stop me from seeing my honey. I bet you won't be ready when I get there. Ha! Ha!

All my love, Bob

January 7, 1947
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

My Dearest Bob,

Well, it looks as if we are in the old groove of writing again. In fact, it seems ages ago that we were ever writing but it was just a couple of weeks.

Well, did you get home OK the other night? I worried and wondered for I know the roads were so slick, especially closer to Hamilton. Have you had snow yet? We had some again last night during the night sometime and this morning it was just a slick as glass again. I sure hope it melts off before the weekend again. And it's one thing sure we aren't going to Richmond Friday night if the roads are bad.

Listen Honey, I want you to go to church with me Sunday. You haven't gone yet but of course that wasn't your fault either or mine for that matter. Anyway maybe you can stay over on Saturday either at home or Bill's or someplace. But I do want you to go Sunday morning.

You know that wedding dress I thought I might be able to get, well she doesn't want to sell it and she wants to make a formal or something out of it. Now I am right back where I started from and don't know what to wear. In fact, I even get scared of a church wedding and sometimes would rather have a simpler one but then I've always wanted one so I'll go through with it if you will. I mean the church wedding. Anyway, I know both of us will be glad when it's over though. But one thing I am sure of and that is I love you more all the time and every week gets longer down here. But it has to be that way now I guess.

I'm in bed writing this and Dickers are in their room really going to town fighting again. And it's always about that man that roomed here. But I know he's in the wrong about this. So much for that though for that's not my business.

Did you break your corn stalks Monday like you said? You were probably so sleepy you couldn't tell if one was broke or not. Ha.

Well, Honey, I think I had better turn the light off for now and call it quits so until Friday night.

With lots of love, Jean (xoxo)

January 14, 1947
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

My Dearest Sweetheart,

Looks like I'm off for a bad start on this letter already as I made a blot in just starting. Think I'll have to go using my ever sharp pen, What do you think about that? I can't write anyway so you can read it can I? Maybe I had just better quit, period!!

Well honey, I hope you are feeling O.K. by now and on the ball again. I am very sorry what I said Sunday night that made you throw up. I should of known better but I'm just plain dumb, I guess. Kinda looks bad with you throwing up however I know you are O.K., it was just my foolishness I guess. I got a lot to learn someday but will do my best to improve.

I think you are getting the best of me now as I'm getting so I can't stand this night life. I have felt bad all week and can't have a lot of pep. Also have a cold. I slept most of today as Dad and Lester [West] went to an implement show on John Deere tools. Mother was sick so I stayed home with her.

We had company all day yesterday as Boots and Red [Logue] were here for dinner to celebrate Dad and Mother's wedding anniversary. First time they had been here since they got married. They were here for Christmas but that don't count.

It is sure hot up here this week and I'm sitting here sweating as if this was hard work. Of course, writing to you is enough to make me sweat. I support you are still hot as you were Sunday night? You don't need to answer that.

Say sweetheart, you aren't the only one that's scared of a church wedding. In fact, it all about scares me to death, you know that don't you honey? I wouldn't worry about what to wear as it makes no difference to me. Ha! Ha! Yes, I'll be very very happy when it's all over and we can be together, I also love you more all the time honey but it's just naturally I guess, I'm glad the weeks are long for you down there. That means more too because I'm the same way up here.

It seems like it's been 2 years since we became engaged. And we are still waiting. I do know you are the sweetest girl I could ever find anyplace and I love you with all my heart.

Our supper at Boots and Red [Logue] Saturday night starts at 6:30 my time which is a little late. I'll think I'll be pretty hungry. Theu sure made it hot for me in class last night. I'll tell you about it Friday night.

Well honey, I wish I could see you tonight and every night but maybe this makes me love you more and appreciate you when I do see you. But it's pretty hard I mean to not see you because I do appreciate you very much. Will close for now before I say too much. It's time for me to be in bed anyway honey. Stay sweet and happy and have pleasant dreams and I will see you Friday night honey. Good night.

With all my love, Bob (oxoxoxox)

January 21, 1947
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dearest Sweetheart,

Hi honey, I bet you are in bed freezing tonight, aren't you? Well darling, I just got back from the basketball game and Lawrenceburg beat Liberty tonight 32-30. It was a swell game but it's just what Liberty needed. I did hate to see them lose their first game however and also by a close score.

Was kinda glad you never came to the because it's right at zero here and it would have been a cold drive to Hamilton now. I did want to see you and would have been glad to take you home because I love you enough to see you no matter what the weather is. You wouldn't of gotten much sleep however because it is 12:30 your

time now. My Mother said I must really love you a lot to be writing this time of night and I do. I also know you love me enough you'd write this late too. In fact, you wrote me one letter a lot later than this from what you said, and I do believe you honey.

I about froze last night when I went to bed and its worse tonight. Say honey, I just need you to sleep with these cold nights, then I'd probably freeze to death wouldn't I? Well, I have that to find out yet, don't I?

Say honey, I haven't gotten my little chickens yet and I don't care either as long as it's this cold. But I'm ready for them as I've had the brooder on all day and it's plenty warm in there if it's zero outside. They'll be here soon, I'm sure. That's one reason I didn't want to come Friday night because I will see you Saturday I'm sure. The usual party on Saturday is going to be at Bud's and Gert's [West] this Saturday. Gert asked me if we were coming and I told her I never know. It's whatever you want to do honey.

I'm pretty sleepy as this is my fifth night of being out in a row. Hope you have caught up on sleep by now. I hope it isn't cold this weekend as it is now. Of course, you are the only one that gets cold when it's cold out and you are also the only one that gets hot sometimes, isn't that right honey?

I'll close as I'm sleepy and can't think of any more news or jokes for now. See you Saturday night at LeMar's about 7:30. Bye now. I love you more all the time honey and am sure you do too. Don't freeze tonight and remember I think of you all the time. It's not just on weekends as you say.

All my love, Bob (oxoxoox)

January 22, 1947
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

Hi Sweetheart,

Well tonight was the night of the big basketball game and I am wondering how it turned out. It's over now but I guess I won't know until I get your letter as there isn't any way of finding out down here.

And when I said the game was over now, I didn't mean I had been out all evening for I didn't leave the place tonight only to go across the street to get the "wish book", the Sears catalog. I wanted to look through it and so did Mrs. Dicker.

She didn't like it very well about the eggs but I told her just how it happened. Anyway, I guess I will have to tie a red string around my finger and wear it all this weekend so I don't forget. So if you see me with it on, you will know why. She didn't get mad but she didn't like it.

Did you make it home OK Monday morning? I know it couldn't have been very early when you got there or it could have been early in the morning. Bobby was going pretty strong Sunday night and I guess I don't have much room to talk but Sunday I made up my mind that wasn't going to happen 2 nights in a row but for some reason it did. Your said something about I was one of the coolest girls you knew. I'll tell you that I won't or try not to let myself be any different for the time being than I can help.

But I do think we should stop some of this because we've been progressing too much lately. Don't worry, I love you just as much and more and it's more all the time. And I hope it's the same with you. But I told you what I was scared of and that was that if I let you get away with all you do, that one of these days it would be over. And listen, that better never happen. But you said I didn't need to worry and I hope you meant that. I also don't want to wait until we get married any more than you do but maybe we can set it up some from where it is now. But right now, I have to work awhile longer so I can get some things I want.

I got an announcement of Aileen's (my cousin) wedding today. It's the 7th of next month. I hope you will go with me to it.

Oh say, I want to ask you something. If you have feed bags over there that you aren't using or your Mother isn't using, I wish you would send me a few. I don't mean the Burlap kind either. I would wait til Saturday to ask you but I might forget as usual.

I had better quit now and hope you burn this letter up. Will see you Saturday then and be good.

All my love, Jean (xoxoxoxoxo)

January 28, 1947
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dearest Darling Sweetheart,

Well honey, I hope you aren't as bad off tonight as I am. I do hope you appreciate how much I love you. It is now 12 o'clock your time and I'm just starting to write to you darling. I just got home from Connersville as I went after Eleanor [Rapson] as we butchered 6 hogs today and she gets part of one and wants to can it tomorrow.

She never came home with me though Pat did. I got to go after her and Martha [Mathis] early in the morning. Got to leave here by 6:00 so not much sleep for me tonight, as usual. I have had only one night's sleep in the last 11 nights and will be out to school tomorrow night. I got my school check yesterday so am a little better off now. I think I'll need it too, don't you?

I was over to see Ralph Whitmer tonight also and I couldn't get any white socks for you now. He had burned them all up to get rid of them. I told him you would kick the seat of his pants for him. He is going to save us some however that won't do you any good now darling. I get some for you someday.

Say honey I was really wore out Monday night as I sawed wood all day. But you know it was a tough day also. Well why worry about it. I'm only young once and 100 years from now, I'll know nothing about it. Maybe if you can't stand it on Sunday night and work Monday, I had better quit coming on Sunday nights. I'll just come on Saturday nights, how would that be? I think that would get me down worse without seeing my honey than all the sleep I miss. I really love you and have you on my mind all the time. In one way, it's too much that way because I can't do anything without thinking of you. I'll probably run through a fence with the tractor some of these days for not having my mind on my work. There's this much about it, I couldn't find anything any better to think about, only my honey that I love.

Did you say for me to burn last week's letter up? It was so hot it burned up itself while I was reading it. I do still have it but it's in safe keeping honey.

My chickens are really doing fine. We have 159 now but they look small.

I'd sure be happy if we were married now because I love you so much, it's hard to get along without you darling. Maybe I can't get along with you either but that's for me to find out isn't it? I'm not worried.

I'll call it quits for now and see you Saturday night. You had better come home with me too or I'll sue you for a divorce Ha! Ha! Good night darling and stay sweet and happy, I love you honey more than you think.

With all my love, Bob (xoxoxoxo)

February 4, 1947
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

My Dearest Sweetheart,

Hi honey, what you doing tonight to keep warm? Is it cold down at Hamilton? It sure is up here and I'm sure sticking close to the stove. I about froze my hands tonight but they are O.K. now. I also have a cold tonight I got from somewhere.

You are sure showing me that you aren't a city jake as I often call you. I'll have to take it all back now honey because I think you are a farmerett as you often tell me. You sure fooled me Sunday at Lawrence's. It sure tickled Dad too as he has mentioned it 3 or 4 times already this week. I think you are awful sweet honey and wish we were together tonight. I mean married as we both want. I love you with all my heart and know you do likewise. The place for 2 people who love each other is together so we will get to it some of these days I hope. It's been a long wait already.

I have some good news to tell you Friday night darling. And that is something I won't forget either. I bet you can't guess what it is.

It was sure pretty cold on our chickens today. It got down to 55 degrees in there about noon so I covered them up and it's up to 90 degrees tonight. Of course, that's about half as hot as you are. I've changed my mind about what I said before darling since I've learned more. You are sure good to me and I'll always appreciate you for being so nice, sweet, and smart.

I got home O.K. Sunday night after my worry getting to Hamilton. The car never froze up Sunday night either and I had Lester get me a gallon of anti-freeze Monday morning. I put part of it in yesterday and it about froze up this evening so I put about another ½ gallon in tonight and covered it up. I sure hope it isn't this cold Friday night, don't you darling. I can just see you shivering if it is. I don't know if I can stand to see another wedding or not without getting me stirred up. Every time I see one, I just can't wait any longer for you. My love

is going to sear out before we even get married. Ha! Ha! I bet you could see that, couldn't you honey. Don't think you'll need to worry.

I never went to Iva's funeral today and neither did the folks as Dad said it was too cold and too far. And I thought the same of course. If I was coming to Hamilton I would think nothing of it. That's just how much I love you sweetheart. I'd probably freeze coming down and then burn up after I got to see you, don't you imagine.

Honey, I realize how much you love me and want me to go to a doctor and I love you enough to go if it was necessary but under the circumstances I know they can't help me right now. I know what's made me the way I am but don't tell anyone as I think it best this way but I'm O.K. darling and don't you worry about me not being O.K.. Maybe I'm wrong as I always am but I got to see where I am first. I am just a big baby, I guess but everyone knows what a guy goes through in the service. Just give me a little time and I'll be like I used to be, full of devilment all the time.

I sure hope you keep me warm tonight when I go to bed, guess I'll just have to dream you are in my arms keeping me warm.

The kids have been giving me hell all week because I was mad at you Sunday afternoon playing cards. They think I got mad because you played wrong. I wouldn't get mad over that but just disgusted sometimes. It is what you said that burned me up. I mean to Mac. I shouldn't of got mad but I love you so much and what you said just went straight through my heart. Maybe I shouldn't be that way or maybe I shouldn't love you that much but I do honey and hope you appreciate it. I know you love me just as much as I love you and I say things I shouldn't also but am always ready to give and take and forgive to you my one and only.

I bet you are busy sewing again but it is a good pastime for you if you don't try to do too much at once and ruin your eyes, those great big beautiful eyes of yours. I hauled 7 loads of manure Monday morning and a load of wood. I sawed wood all afternoon Monday and went to school Monday night. I was about wore out and was wondering how you took Monday also. It's always hard for me to leave you on Sunday nights as I know I won't see you all week. Just love showing up again, I guess.

Well darling, I had better close before you get mad and pull my nose for writing too much. Be careful now and don't get any cold like I did. Stay sweet and remember I love you more than anything in this world. See you at 7:00 o'clock Friday if at all possible. Until then, be good and just dream.

All my love, Bob (oxoxoxox)

February 4, 1947
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

Dearest Sweetheart,

I'm at work now and decided I could write you now instead of waiting until tonight as I am practically out of work and I have to have something to keep me occupied until my boss comes back. She has been off at least a half and sometimes almost all day for the last week and she isn't here long enough to give me much Dictaphone work. But I know one thing when she does come back and gets down to business, Jean won't know whether she's coming or going for she has pulled that trick before. I would rather be busy though than have to sit around that's for sure. So much for that.

I know you aren't crazy about going to the wedding Friday night but there wasn't any way I could get out of it for she wouldn't like that at all and I certainly didn't want to go without you. I was rather worried for a while for fear you wouldn't go but you are so that's OK now.

LaMar's certainly have a cold day for the funeral today. It was practically down to zero this morning here but I'd didn't get cold coming to work at all. One of the girls that works up here lives on Belle Avenue too and her husband brings us to work and comes after us at night and I certainly don't mind that now while it's cold.

That that happened Sunday afternoon I'm sorry about. Those words just came out without thinking and I didn't mean anything about it at all but I'm always getting into Dutch messes. But that hurt when you went around ignoring me. It's over now so we'll forget about it.

Talk about Dutch messes. I got myself in one last night. The telephone rang last night and I answered it and it was someone representing sterling silver. Someone that I don't even now sent my name in and before I

knew it she said they would be down to show it next Monday night. Just about that time, I'm not going to be home to them. It's too expensive to even look at let alone buy and I certainly am not one that can afford it. Don't worry, I'm not buying any either.

You said last weekends are getting you down for you feel so tough on Monday so you would quit coming on Sunday. You better not look like you aren't coming on Sunday. But I'm not worried about you not coming then or at least you better not quit. I guess we both have it pretty bad, don't we?

I guess I had better call it quits for this time so will see you Friday night then. Please don't drive off without the tractor anytime. You might be sorry. I mean into the fence. I love you more all the time and my weeks down here are getting worse all the time.

All my love, Jean (xoxoxoxoxoxo)

February 12, 1947
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

Dearest Bob,

How has things turned out for you so far? It certainly did warm up today a lot from what Sunday was. I thought I would freeze for a while when I got in the car to come back down here Sunday night. But it soon warmed up.

That man with the sterling silver came last night and he insisted that I was going to start my silverware now and I was just as insistent I wasn't. Now you wonder who won – I did. I didn't buy any items just like I told you I won't. It cost around \$12.00 a place setting, whereas you get it in a store and it is about \$25.00 a place setting. That was still too high for me and I didn't buy either.

Mac sure had a good time over that Valentine didn't he? It was written all over his face who sent it.

Mrs. Dicker said that Aileen's husband [Jack] was on the Ruth Lyons program today, which means they are still in Cincinnati after their wedding. I don't know whether they are going anyplace from there or not.

Did you make it home OK Sunday night? Your eyes were probably part way closed I bet. I know mine would be if I had to drive all that distance back.

Our chickens sure are growing. I noticed the differences between last week and this week. Of course, they were about a foot taller this week than they were last week. No kidding, though they are cute when they are little, I think.

I started this letter earlier this evening and am finishing it now. Marilyn, the girl I go skating with once in a while has been after me for a good while to go down there so we went down for a while. I don't care much about going anymore. Some night, let's go down, how about it?

Well Honey, how are you coming with your wood cutting job? Getting used to it now.

You say you couldn't stand it if it wasn't for school. Well that's the way with me down here. I couldn't stay home every night here either. I wish we lived closer but since we don't we will just have to make the best of it. For the time being anyway. It isn't so far off now though less than 3 months. I hope you haven't told anyone our wedding date and I'm sure I haven't. Keep them guessing for a little while longer anyway. And I think they are too.

I have something to tell you to where I see you. It's too long a story to put on paper.

Well Honey, I will have to close for now until Sunday night at 7:30 and I still love you with all my heart.

All my love, Jean

February 25, 1947
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dearest darling Jeanie, My Sweetheart,

Well honey, I'm getting so it makes me very happy to write to such a cute, sweet, trustful, and loyal girl as you. You can't realize what you have done for me and helped me by your sweet love that I've gained since I've been out of the Navy. I love you very, very much darling and feel and know you love me. I was a little in doubt for a while honey, but you have proven to me several times I'm wrong in thinking that way. There is certainly no doubt about it anymore and hasn't been for quite some time.

I used to say I'd never get married but honey something has changed me and it had to be you. And I'm glad I have changed because I have lots to plan for now and hope you have too. It's going to take a lot of planning and working together to get some place in this beautiful world of ours. I'm willing to work along with you and will do my best to help you in things you need help and keep you happy honey. It looks like we have started planning already and have plenty to do yet.

Say honey, I'm sorry if I happen to call you Jeanie J. I really don't mean it anymore because you rate mighty high in my mind and if I have anything to say about you from now on, I hope it can be good and beautiful just like you are and mean to me, I got started calling you Jeanie J and it slips out by habit once in a while yet so you be sure to remind me if I slip because I certainly don't want to use it anymore. I hope you never use it in my name anymore either sweetheart.

We are having a little snow and winter up here this week and it's plenty cold, But I'm sure glad you like winter and snow. Ha! Ha! You will probably see plenty of it yet this year. I worked out in it all day Monday hauling manure and got plenty cold as it was windy and snowing most of the day. I was out most all day today doing odd jobs. I went to Brownsville this morning and got 10 sacks of sawdust for I cleaned the litter out I had in for my chickens and put new in. They are sure looking fine now. Hope to surprise you the next time you see them. I mixed some hog feed this afternoon.

I did another thing that hurt me pretty bad today. I sure hate it too. I ran over Poe's dog with my car when I went after sawdust. That's our neighbor's dog. He was racing me up the road I was going about 30 miles an hour and I was just even with him and he started across right in front of me. I didn't even have time to put my foot on the brake. It broke one of his front legs. I went in and told Mrs. Poe and she said it was just his own fault but something like that sure hurts me to see a dog hurt. The last time I ever cried, I can remember was over one of our dogs. I'll tell you about it this weekend if you ask me.

Liberty's sectional tourney starts Wednesday night this week. I sure hope they do some good as it looks like they have a pretty good chance this year for a change.

I'm not going to Cincinnati tomorrow to the stock yards because they wrote my teacher and told us not to come until the last week in March. So I guess we will wait awhile. I think it will be too cold to go anyway. Of course, if I was as warm as you generally are, I'd never get cold.

My Farm Training class is planning on another party like we had at Boots and Red [Logue]. It will be at Howard Adams on Saturday night a week from this Saturday or if Liberty wins in the tourney and will be playing that night, it will be on Friday night. That's the weekend I asked you to come home with me so maybe it will work out O.K. I sure hope so.

I just got through eating some popcorn before I started writing this and it was sure good. Does this make you hungry? It shouldn't because I ate some for you too honey.

Well honey, if everything works out O.K. I mean your period and our figuring we will tell your folks this week when we are going to get married so they can plan a little before your Dad gets too busy with spring work. And don't forget your picture this weekend that you are going to put in the paper, I hope we get it in next week. We will plan it over the weekend.

We will go bowling again some of these days because I had a good time and I hope you did. I'll also go skating with you some of these days. I mean I'll try to skate. I can just see you skating circles around me but I'll try. It's a lot of fun anyway.

Honey, I don't want to live with my folks any more than you do. It will just let us be together anyway. You will probably have fun figuring in my folks letting us live with them. I sure wish I could be with you every night honey. Don't forget your picture for the paper.

With all my love for you, Bob

March 4, 1947
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

My dearest darling Sweetheart,

Listen honey, it sure is getting tough on me to not see you. I miss every minute I'm away from you. I'm all by myself tonight as all the folks went to town for there's another farm show on at the Coliseum in Liberty.

We still have 59 more days to wait and that's just 59 too many for me. Of course, I know I'm not alone when it comes to waiting. It's just as hard for you as it is me.

Here's one thing you can mark down honey and that's I love you with all my heart and will do my best to make you happy. I'm sure there is no one that loves each other anymore than we do. But that's not all honey. You don't know how much you have done for me and changed my life. I tell you about it sometime. You really mean my whole life to me and we will sure make a success of our marriage as we both must give and take and I'm sure we can. It's sure a lot of worry honey in getting married but it's really something worth fighting for. Don't get me wrong honey, you don't worry me now, I mean the planning and so forth.

I really had a time coming home Sunday night, darling. When I was coming home through Hamilton right up the street a little piece from where you work, a fellow turned right crossways in the road in front of me, I had to stop and let him straighten out. And when I was coming down from Road 44 to Grandma's place, I really had to plough to get through some snow drifts. If I'd of been a little later, I probably wouldn't of made it. But my old Ford pulled through for me. Dad said I was going to get caught out yet. Of course, I laughed at him. I'll go through anything to see you darling. That's just how much I love you honey,

That Rinda tickled me Sunday when your mother took the hot water bottle out. I guess she knew I knew what you were sick of. I have your picture sitting right here in front of me and you are watching me write but I sure wish it was you sitting here and I wouldn't have to write. You don't know how much it's going to tickle me when you quit working and I won't have to drive clear to Hamilton. I so dread that trip especially on my way back. It's a tough old grind for me sometimes.

I never had to go to school last night as Mr. Young was sick and stayed home all day yesterday. That's the first time he has missed teaching because of sickness in 25 years. He's pretty tough isn't he? I really caught up on some sleep too. I hope you catch up on sleep a little this week as 3 nights in a row will wear you out. Of course, it won't hurt me. Since I never had school, I don't know when that party is going to be but it will probably be Saturday night unless Mr. Young is still sick. So be careful if you plan anything for us to do Friday night as it may be then but I doubt it. Just have to wait until I get there I guess.

We are sure having winter up here. Guess I'll have to take you sled riding Sunday if the snow is still on and if you have your new overshoes. Say what's this I hear happened to you Sunday before I got there, Your mother said you were going out for a minute and she made you put on some of your Dad's overshoes and you cried.

I think you were just feeling pretty bad or you wouldn't of cried. I just wonder whether I really helped you any Sunday when I was leaving you when you were feeling so bad. I think I was pretty mean in teasing you Sunday night like I did. I'm sorry darling.

I believe your folks feel pretty good now since you told them the wedding date. I could see a change in them just as quick as I came in Sunday. I suppose Mrs. Dicker is satisfied by now. Just what did she have to say? Maybe they all will be satisfied now.

Say darling, here's something I want to give you my opinion on. I think you should bring all your things away from Dicker's when you quit work, even your cedar chest. She won't want them in her way even if she does say she don't care. You can bring anything you want to our home while you have it packed if you want to. We will have our own room at last. Sure wish we had our own house, but darling we will just have to do our best with what we can get at present.

We will try and order our announcements Saturday afternoon so don't forget that. I bet some of my sister's will cork when they see your picture in the paper, and don't find out the date. I wish we would of put the date in now because it isn't far away now and everyone will run us crazy asking us the date yet. Maybe I won't be bothered as much as you will because Mother is putting the date in the Liberty Herald, which just comes out once a week. I hope this doesn't make you mad honey. I hope you can see my point also. Mother thought it best so I never argued with her.

If you keep on your schedule with your periods, it is going to run just right, we hope. We will make the best if they don't. Just have to wait because it will be no one's fault if you change again. Don't think you will change now though.

I really owe you a big kiss honey for that nice, long, sweet letter I got last week Hope you do as good this week,

Don't get too much cold from having wet feet Sunday night. I'll try and have my windshield and heater fixed by Friday if possible,

Maybe I had better close before I break my arm. Remember I miss you all the time darling and love you with all my heart forever and ever. Good night darling and sweet dreaming. Stay happy. I'll try and make it by 7:30 Friday night if possible. I wonder what that new plan you thought of to write home. Hope I can figure it out.

All my love, Bob (oxoxox)

March 5, 1947
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

Dearest Sweetheart Jeanie,

Hi honey, I hope you don't faint because this me writing to you again for the second straight night. I just wanted to tell you I love you very very much and am missing you even more. Hope you are feeling better than you did Sunday. Hope you are learning to take good care of yourself with your mother's help.

Went over to Boots and Red's [Logue] for dinner today and celebrated Red's birthday. His folks were there also and we had a swell time. Wish you could of been there with me. Still waiting on you darling just like you are waiting. You are getting sweeter and sweeter all the time honey and I sure hope you don't melt.

We really had a pretty day here today as the sun was nice and bright all day. Just about took all the snow off. They say we will get 3 to 6 inches more snow tonight or maybe some sleet. I sure hope they are wrong this time, I hate driving on slick roads.

My car is giving me another headache. I got ready to go to school tonight and it wouldn't start. The battery is down again. Now the windshield wiper won't work, heater won't work, and the battery is down. I wonder just what will be next. I got to get it fixed before Friday night so I can see you honey. The thing I enjoy most is seeing you. That's what I wait for every week is for the weekend to come.

Carl Shriner has been off work because of the flu but is getting better now. There were 57 out of Liberty High School with it yesterday. There's a lot of it around so you take care of yourself and not get it.

The real reason I'm writing tonight is because I love you. But what I wanted to tell you is the party of my class will be Friday night up at Howard Adams at 6:30 my time. Hope you have nothing planned for then. They voted for it tonight and it had to be Friday. I wanted it Saturday night but I lost. I'll have to be down to get you at least by 6:30 your time to make it back for the supper. I hope you are ready when I get there. I don't know whether I can make it that early or not but I'll try just for you darling, sure hope the roads are clear.

I am still planning on coming after you Saturday afternoon to pick out our announcements and want you to come over for the weekend as planned because you haven't been here for a long time and we also have the Sundry School party Sunday night. Well darling, remember I love you and will see you at 6:30 your time Friday if I can possibly make it. Good night darling and don't faint over me writing twice in one week.

With all my love for you, Bob

Undated, 1947
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

My Dearest Bob,

Well, here we are again at the writing stage and hope you are OK but I know you are. It won't be very many more times that we will be doing this though. Please excuse the pencil writing but I have mislaid my pen somewhere and I've come to the conclusion it must be up at the office. At least, I am hoping it I but I'm sure it is for I remember taking it out of my purse. I'll wait and address the envelope tomorrow morning after I get up there.

Say honey, do you know what we forgot to do? It never dawned on me until last night that we didn't order any reception cards when we ordered our announcements so if you are in town anytime this week, you had better go in and tell them. I don't particularly care what is on it except that it is out at my house. And I imagine you had better order as many as we have announcements and we can decide later how many of these we will send.

Did you make it home Sunday night OK? I wondered if you did but for once the roads were clear. I hope you didn't hit any more dogs either. I'm only kidding but it just seems your luck to hit them here of late.

But there is one thing I don't quite understand and that is why you are insistent that I don't have a cocker spaniel, I have wanted one ever since I saw a little red one down here and I still want one, Hope you see your way clear to changing your mind on that one.

Well honey, my picture was in last night's paper. It didn't turn out very plain at all. But I guess that was because it was tinted which they told me might happen when I took it up. I hope it turns out better in the Richmond paper than it did down here, I'll show it to you Friday night.

Honey, you say you live for your weekends. You don't any more than I do. But it is some consolation when you come on Friday instead of waiting until Saturday. I know it is far down here but you know when you can come and when you can't better than I do. I love you and guess that is why I want you to come when you can.

I guess I will be going home Monday night this week for she wants me not to be there. From what I understand the shower will be about the last Friday of this month but I don't know for sure. So I guess she wants to do or fix things she doesn't want me to see. I think she is writing your mother but I'm not sure. I told her she is going to too much trouble but she wants to do it. She and Ginny are having it together. Now that is all I know about it.

Well honey it is getting rather late so had better close for this time. I didn't quite write just as much as last week but maybe it will be OK this time. Remember I love you and always will. I hope you stay the same too and things will always work out some way. See you Friday then.

With all my love, Jean

March 18, 1947

Bob West

Liberty, Indiana

My Dearest Darling Sweetheart Jeanie,

Hi honey, how's my little cute "Buckeye"? Sure hope your cold is better and you haven't got the flu. I haven't caught anything yet. I guess that milk I drink everyday must be pretty good for me to keep me catching that cold from you. After all, the only thing I get from you is plenty of sweet loving, kissing, and sugar. I mean that's all I'll mention. Get plenty beside that but that's between you and me.

Listen sugar, you are just about getting me down on these weekends. I think this one was the worst yet for me as I can't get caught up on sleep and I haven't been staying as late with you either. I was really tired and sleepy tonight. I laid down after supper on the davenport and slept for 3 hours and just woke up and decided I should write to my sweetheart as I knew you would be writing to me as usual.

People sure read the paper wrong these days, don't they? I went to school last night and one boy asked me how I liked married life. He said his wife seen in the paper where I got married. Of course, she must be like all women and see everything wrong and start some gossip. I'm glad you are a young lady instead of a woman. That leaves you out of the group I mentioned above. I wouldn't even start to list you in with the rest of the women because you are different, you are my sweetheart.

Say honey, I thought you sure made a mistake when Sunday you said you didn't know whether to come to the wedding with Decker's or your folks. If I was your Dad, I wouldn't even give you away if you done that kind of trick. After all, whose daughter are you? Don't get me wrong now honey, I still love you even if you make mistakes because everyone makes plenty of them but I'd think things over before I say things like that if I were you,

I helped Lester [West] finish breaking his stalks yesterday morning and my legs were so sore, I could hardly walk when I got out of bed this morning. I imagine that's the way I'll be after that first night of married life. Ha! Ha! What's my worry, I can say anything to you.

I hauled manure this morning and hauled more buzz wood this afternoon. Going to have a barn lot full again if we keep on. In breaking stalks Monday morning, I think I was walking in my sleep for a while. You can guess how it felt to me to get up early.

I turned over chickens out for a little bit today. I started to write children. Ha! Ha! I must be dizzy or something tonight. They say we are going to get some more snow this week so guess that will make you happy, won't it honey?

I think I'll close for now before I go to sleep. But I want you to remember you are sweetest little darling in this world and I love you with all my heart. I don't know what time I can make it Friday night but it will be just as quick as I can see you because I miss you all week. At least 7:30 or later. Good night honey, hoping to find you as sweet as ever and without a cold. Keep the party at Gertrude's [West] in mind this Saturday night and I'll see what you want to do.

With all my love, Bob (oxoxox)

March 25, 1947

Bob West

Liberty, Indiana

My Dearest Sweetheart Jeanie,

Say you wouldn't like to buy a good pen would you? I felt like cussing but I decided to just give up with it. How are you feeling honey, caught up on sleep as of yet? I sure learned something Sunday night. Won't tell you in the letter though. I'm still pretty weak from lack of sleep. Ha! Ha!

I guess I've got to get up pretty early in the morning. We are leaving Liberty at 6:45 for the stockyards and I have to get my work done and be to Liberty about 6:30. I bet you have a swell time tomorrow night, that is if this weather stays the same. You are crazy if you go if it stays like this.

I went to school last night and when I came home, I couldn't hardly see where to drive because of the blizzard. Worst I had seen it this year. I really got wet last night feeding and I had to go just about clear to the school house to carry a new calf to the barn and it just poured. All I could do to carry it, had to rest about every 100 feet. How's come they have to wait until those kinds of times to give birth to their young? Hope you pick a better time than that to have your young. Ha! Ha! We have another cow that's going to calf tonight, I think. That will be 3 calf's in 3 days. That bull of ours must have worked overtime a little, I believe. Don't see how he can take it when I know once a month would kill me. Ha! Ha!

I made a new chicken feeder for our chickens yesterday and another one today. They just work fine too. The only thing is today I hit my finger with the hammer and put a big blood blister on it today and I just laughed about it even if it did hurt.

I've been batching it the last two days as the folks have been over at Helen and Bill [LaMar] putting on wall paper. They got done today.

I will have to think of some way to get even with you for tripping me while we were skating the other night. I guess Harold and Norman Steele think they are scaring us but I don't scare that easy. Hope they do have a good time, I'm sure we will.

Don't you let me forget to pay you back that quarter I borrowed off of you Sunday. I have been trying to talk Mother into coming Friday night. She might but she says Dad will have to come with her. I don't know whether she will feel like coming or not but I hope so. I bet somebody is busy down there this week getting ready, aren't they?

Eleanor [Rapson] was over Sunday and she brought your scarf or whatever you call it. She also made you a pot holder. I'll bring them Friday night if I don't forget them. She sure done a swell job on your fin-dig and it's really pretty just like my little sweetheart and the one I love so much.

Say honey, I forgot to bring that veil home with me Sunday night, that was your fault because you kept me too busy. I could hardly see when I left I was so sleepy I thought I never would get home. Still haven't caught up on sleep as I had to go to school last night. I bet you caught up on some sleep. You had better caught up some Thursday night, honey.

I guess I must be tougher than you thought I was because I never caught your cold last week. I don't think I'm as tough as I thought. I was after that way I felt Monday. That would kill any man I think. I like to know what was the matter with you however. I just about killed myself trying to help you. So you know I really love you honey, you are so sweet.

I'm not going to tell you how you have changed since I've went with you but it's all been for the better and not worst. I'll tell you that much anyway. You are certainly getting sweeter to me all the time and I love you more all the time also. You should know that as I even helped you dry dishes Sunday

I guess Howard Adam has just about got you beat in telling jokes of course, he tells clean ones beside of yours.

I'll agree with you honey, I don't see why we can't get along swell too because I really love you and that's the most important thing to success.

I don't see why you keep bringing this bad weather all the time. Don't you know I want to plough our garden. I have tomatoes and cabbage plants up already. I also want to find out what you want in our garden because it's partly yours. No need planting something for you to hoe if we don't like it. Ha! Ha! Say honey, I sure hope you never get your hair cut because I like long hair as you know.

Is it cold down there, it's about to blow things away up here. Almost need you to sleep with me tonight to keep warm. I would probably get too hot as I know you are always that way.

I think I about got your mother Sunday night when I told her I would lock her in the toilet. I've got to start getting even with her some way. Of course, I wouldn't bother Helen [Steele's] poor innocent rabbit.

I'm getting pretty tired writing honey but you were so sweet in writing 8 pages last week. I have to let you know I really appreciate it by writing you a long letter tonight.

Maybe you can read this or maybe you can't but you can burn it if you can't read it. That pen was sure giving me a bad time until I changed to my ever sharp pencil.

You are the truest, sweetest, cute, and loveable girl I have ever known. Something just keeps making it harder for me to leave you every Sunday night. We are just too far apart but I still love you with all my heart, no matter where I am. I can trust you anywhere, which is one reason I love you. I can't give all the reasons why I love you as I would have to write a big book.

Well just remember I'll always love you and be true to you only. Will see you Friday night at 7:15 if at all possible. Good night darling.

All my love, Bob (oxoxoxo)

April 1, 1947
Bob West
Liberty, Indiana

My Dearest Darling Jeanie,

Hello honey, I certainly hope you are feeling better tonight because it hurts me to see you so sick. I hope I helped you a little in doctoring you up Sunday night. I do know I got a pretty cold shoulder in doing it but you don't seem to care about doctoring. I wish I knew what I could do with you, I really believe you are smarter than the way you have been taking care of yourself. I'd better not hear of you letting yourself go like that again.

I do know you were a pretty sick girl. Anybody could tell that by looking at you. I hope you don't miss too much work but honey a darn good rest is just what you need, you can't fool me. Maybe by now, you will think I've given you a pretty good balling out but honey I really love you with all. I know how from the bottom of my heart and I'll never change on that.

I turned and moved our chickens out Monday to a couple of hog coops. They sure look a lot better out too. Dad and Mother got their chickens today so I guess I just got mine out in time.

I also sowed clover seed all day yesterday and was so tired I could hardly wiggle last night. These weekends are just about to get my goat honey. But I can't stay away from you. It's hard enough through the week for me. I just hope I don't break down or something before we do get married, which will be our happy day.

The Liberty Herald office called up and said they had our announcements done so I'll pick them up this week and bring them with me Friday night. I guess we are getting there in time with no worry just a lot of others yet though, haven't we sweetheart.

We got the rest of our saw logs out today and they are ready to haul if it don't rain too much. It is sure doing a good job of it tonight up here. I got good and wet doing my chores and now I have the sore throat. Dad sure likes to tease you and I bet he does when he sees you again.

So you only had 3 more weeks of work and 3 hard Mondays but you missed one of those hard ones for a change, didn't you darling. You may miss a plenty yet if you don't take care of yourself. I sure hope that musterole I put on you never blistered you, at least I hope it helped you.

I'm feeling pretty tough tonight as my nose has been running all day. I'll have to doctor up some before go to bed tonight.

Hope you are feeling better by Friday night. Try and get your things picked up so we can pack them Friday night if you don't happen to feel like doing it before then. Don't plan on too much for Friday night because I am practically out and don't know whether I can take much or not. It's according to how I'm feeling and how you are feeling. I'd just as soon set around but I know you don't like that.

I will probably be a little later Friday night if it isn't raining or something. I'll be there as soon as I can get to my loved one, you can bet on that. Just a few more weeks now honey and we won't have to keep late hours on weekends. Just think of how much sleep I'll get. Ha! Ha! I expect I'll need it too by then. I know it won't hurt you any either to get some rest as you have been working too hard.

Well honey I'm running out of any good news for now so had better close, I do hope you are well when you get this and hope it will cheer you up a little also. Be careful now honey and don't go to work too quick. Remember I still love you very, very much and know you feel the same. Stay sweet and wish you happier health for this weekend. Hope I don't get it this time. I'll try to be tougher than you honey but don't know whether I'll succeed or not. Good night darling and give you my love until Friday. It will just make time pass fast.

I hope you aren't mad at me for making you doctor. It was for your own good. I love you honey and would of done anything to make you well. Night night honey. I'll be lucky if I didn't catch something from you this past weekend. If I'm too sick to come Friday, I'll call you hone. I probably won't call though because I have to see you.

All my love, Bob (oxoxoxox)

April 2, 1947
Jean Steele [West]
Hamilton, Ohio

My Dearest Sweetheart,

If I could get only some peace and quiet around here, I might be able to write this letter. But I'm getting too much help from Mother. I am writing one thing and she is saying something entirely different.

I am strong and able again but oh have I got a bone to pick with you. Remember that Musterole you put on my forehead? Well I have a nice big burn and blister all over my forehead. Honey, I'm not mad at you for you only trying to help me but you will never put that much on me again. You should just see me right now. It will still be there by Friday, I know. Harold came down tonight and wanted to know who I had been in a fight with. They called the doctor and Monday morning he said I had tonsilitis but the funny part is I don't even have any tonsils anymore so I think he is a little off the beam. But I feel pretty good today and was going back to work tomorrow but they won't let me so I'm going back tomorrow night for sure. You haven't got the Grip as yet have you? You had better not but your certainty have had the opportunity. Did your sister Jean [McCormick] end up having it?

Did Daddy ever think he was smart tonight. Mother and I were here in the living room and he went out on the porch and starting yelling "oh" time and again. At first we thought he was playing a trick on us and then we decided we have better go see for it might be his heart and just as soon as I opened the door, he follows "April Fool." If that wasn't disgusting.

Honey, I'm very sorry for some of the things I sad to you Saturday and Sunday night for I guess I didn't realize what I was saying but I have since and hope that you will forgive me. For I love you too much and don't want to hurt your feelings and I know you were only trying to help me when you put the musterole on but that was just too much of it, I guess.

Daddy let me go over to Jean's tonight about the music. We finally have decided on what piece to have played appropriately. I picked out quite a few that could be played and they can fit in for how many they will need. That much of it is in their hands now. She also asked me to hold open the last Saturday afternoon of this month for the shower. Don't know who she is inviting. The kids down at work probably thought that Friday night was too much for me since they haven't seen me since. And then right when I got the car in the garage,

the door shut just as I got out of the car and that is a sensation to go though you. At least, it does me. At first I thought Daddy was out there but he wasn't so come to the conclusion it was just a wind of some kind (I hope).

Well Sweetheart, it's only a month from Thursday and I certainly do have a lot to do between now and then and I don't mean maybe. We are going to have to get our rings pretty soon too. But on second thought, in two months it will all be over. But it will be something we won't forget.

I don't have your letter up here so I can't answer anything your said this time but will try to the next.

Have you lost any more of our chickens yet? Here's hoping. They are probably twice as big as they were the last time I saw them.

Well Honey, will close for now and will see your Friday night. I will be in Hamilton for I am going back tomorrow night. Remember, I love you.

All my love, Jean (xoxoxo)

April 8, 1947

Bob West

Liberty, Indiana

My Dearest Sweetheart,

Hi honey, hope you are still kicking and feeling better by now. Are you still taking your medicine, honey? At least I hope you haven't had to go back to bed. You did get up too soon though honey and you know it. I'm just as sleepy tonight as I was Sunday night and I'm pretty tired so don't expect too much out of me this time.

I still love you very, very much honey but we had better hurry up and get married or you will be marrying a skeleton. Some of these things are going to get me down yet. I'll be the happiest guy living after May 3rd when we get married.

I told you honey I have some awful bad luck and you can see what I mean as the way our announcements turned out. Did you call your folks and tell them to get them? I bet your Dad thinks I'm a good one because I told him I'd get them.

I sent for our hotel reservations last night and hope to hear from them before the week's out. I have a story to tell you about the letter I sent for the reservation so remind me to tell you when I see you darling.

In your letter, you said last week you had a bone to pick with me for I put musterole on you. Think you will ever find that bone? Ha! Ha! Listen you can bet I'll never doctor you again for anything. You are on your own now. I'm sorry what happened but you can bet I'll never harm you by doctoring you again.

I sowed clover seed all morning this morning and we have that job finished now. It's about got me finished too but I'm still going and haven't went to bed as of yet. We worked up on our house all day Monday and also this afternoon. Getting a lot of it tore down already. It's quite a job.

Well honey, we just got to go to Richmond Saturday night and see about our rings. Maybe we can get them someplace else besides Richmond.

I still haven't got our garden plowed and won't get it done this week either because it's raining tonight and they say rain again Thursday or Friday. So I haven't a chance without good weather. Guess I'll have to wait on you to help plant it anyway. Ha! Ha!

Well honey, I'll probably be late again Friday as I can't help it so look for me when you see me unless you call me about that girl which is supposed to come and see you, The days are really getting a lot longer now, aren't they sweetheart?

Honey, I'm just too tired to write a long letter tonight so forgive me this time. I love you honey and that's the main thing anyway. I'll close for now and see you Friday night unless I hear from you or you hear from me. I'll try to stay out of bed. I feel a lot better today. Good night honey and pleasant dreams.

All my love, Bob (oxoxoxox)

Undated, 1947

Jean Steele [West]

Hamilton, Ohio

My Dearest Bob,

[missing first two pages of letter]

I don't get there until about 6:30. It takes a whole hour to ride down on bus. Ruthie and I usually just go out for supper then to the show and then home. I dread to walk from the bus line up to the house if it's very late. That is the only bad part about it.

I had to do my ironing tonight instead of last night for some man that worked at the Autographbic (where Ginny works and where I used to work). He died Saturday morning so a bunch of us girls went to see him last night. It was one of the bosses over there and he was only 43. He had a stroke about the second or third week.

I got a letter from Valeta today and she is wondering about the wedding music I want. I think Gert [West] has the two pieces I am thinking about so will ask her if I can borrow them. One of them is "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise" (I think that's the name and the other one I can't think of the name). Boots [Ruth Logue] had it played and it is something similar to that. Maybe she will know what I am talking about. I will have to give Valeta an idea pretty soon.

I don't see anything wrong in your having Melvin for your best man. I think he is OK. Maybe you don't approve of my maid of honor but Ginny has certainly been a swell friend to me and we have always got along good together. And don't blame her altogether for what I do that you don't like (you know what I mean). She didn't coax me in the least and that's the truth too.

You are right when you say there aren't many fellows that would write to their girls like you do and I feel very lucky on that honey for I certainly do like to hear from you. That helps to break the week up. I don't know why we shouldn't always get along swell together for I love you very much and I know you do me too, You have proved that a lot. But one thing I would like to know is how have I changed since we have been going together.

The weeks are awfully long any more I know that is true for you too but there aren't so many more. In fact, I wish it was all over for the closer it gets, the more scared I get. But it's too late to think of that now so I won't say it anymore. I mean the church !

Today turned out real nice again and I certainly wish it would stay that way for a while instead of that changeable weather all the time. For if there's anything I dislike is cold weather. I just freeze up as you already know but you are far from being cold-blooded. Ha.

Well honey, I think I had better close before I fall asleep here which is just what I am doing, I guess. I'm afraid I don't know much more to say right now. I will see you Friday so come over as soon as you can and I'll be right here waiting for you. I love you very much.

All my love, Jean (xoxoxoxo)

August 28, 1947
Aileen Huston Iglehart
Hamilton, Ohio

Dear Aunt Martha,

Guess you are plenty mad at us but Grandma told us you were going to stay all-night and all day Saturday so we told her we would be back from the picnic around 8:30 pm. We just missed you she said and by that time, she had forgotten what she had told me the day before about you staying. I hope you will forgive us as we are very sorry we missed you.

Did you have a good time on your trip over to Aunt Georgias? How was everyone? We went up to see Jean Steele [West] two weeks ago Sunday. She is very busy canning. They are working on their house slow but sure I guess. It is going to be real nice.

Another couple and Jacque and I are going on a picnic after work tonight. Nothing I like better than a picnic.

Daddy [Huston] got a box from Myron [Huston] last week Had some beautiful material in it I already have a dress made out of one of the pieces. I better close now as I am writing this at work but do come up and if you want to call, you had better call me at work at telephone number 6966 or in the evening at 3859 W, if the people downstairs are home. Hoping to see you soon.

Love, Aileen

November 21, 1947
Mrs. Robert (Margene) Ott

Dear Jean,

Sometimes I nearly hate myself for not writing more promptly. I just don't do it, though. Seems like I never get done with my work. Went to Eaton this afternoon and got my groceries. Takes a small fortune to buy anything anymore. Surely is terrible! I don't see how people in town can make ends meet.

I got an invitation to a shower for Mary Marjorie today. So she must be taking the "fatal step". I hadn't heard anything about it so don't know when it is or anything.

Stevie is growing so fast and changing so much. He's trying to crawl now, but finds it a pretty difficult task. I still have some pears to can. We have so many this year.

Have you moved into your new house yet? Bet it is really swell. I'd like to see it. I know how much fun it is to fix up your own home. All it takes is money, as you've probably discovered by now.

We went out to see Sanja Harris' Ice Dance at Indianapolis last Tuesday evening. It was good but not as good as she was a few years ago. Of course, she still does just about as good as I could! Ha!

We are picking corn so I have been having hands for diner. Had four extra today. But Bob's Mother helps me so that helps a lot. Have you got your Christmas shopping done? I haven't got a good start yet. Gotta be getting busy too.

Well, Stevie is wanting to go to bed so I better get to him. Come see us sometime. I'd love to see you.

Love, Margene

Undated, around 1948

Sylvia ?

Eaton, Ohio

Dear Jean,

Try to answer your letter while I find the time before starting supper. I bet you're tickled to be in your own house, aren't you?

Dixon has been doing exceptionally good. We went when they lost their first game to Monroe. We were going last Friday night but Bob had tire trouble and was home late.

Yes, I remember Jerry Rinehart. You was still at Fairhaven, I think. But I remember her. Mildred married Bill Doty from Camden. He used to go with Helen Buriff and she quit him and married some guy from somewhere in the West. Mildred is married now. I can't imagine her when all she cares about is horses and cats or dogs. Bill will have to give her plenty of them. Ha! She used to say in school that she despised to do housework but liked to be around the barn and do barn work

I don't know Arthur LaMar. Where does he live? I know Dad knows him cause I've heard him talk about him.

We had a nice Xmas. I got lots of clothing and things for the house and I got Bob clothing too and Dickie mostly toys but some clothes too,

The folks and us have been making pineapple ice cream every Saturday night and I just go crazy about it. I hope we'll make some this weekend too.

Stewart sent me another pretty table cloth. And sent the folks two different boxes. Pearls, housecoat and blouses, little bit of everything in them. And another one is on its way the special things in this one. He was going to come home in March but General MacArthur addressed them the other day and said that no one could go home now because things looked pretty dark over there now, So he doesn't know when he'll be home. I'm afraid the Russians are going to start trouble before long.

Dad works over at the Inland now from 3-11. He started two week ago and likes it too. How is the weather up your way? Down here, it has been too cold for me but I guess I'll have to take it. Jim was out two weeks ago. But Martha hasn't been out yet. She has quit work now.

Well, Jean, I've got to quit and start getting supper. So write soon and come down. I won't be up this winter but I will try to this summer. OK?

Love, Sylvia

January 26, 1948

Naomi Belz

Hamilton, Ohio

Dear Jean,

I guess it's my turn to write to you, isn't it? How are you feeling, Jean? When are you expecting? I'm surely happy for you as babies are wonderful.

Darlene will soon be 16 months old and is quite a girl. She's been walking almost 5 months. She weighs 26 pounds now and as she's supposed to weigh 25 pounds at 2 years, you can see she's a big girl. She's not tall for her age though, but is so round and fat. She has blonde hair but her eyebrows and eyelashes are dark. I wish you could see her. Everyone thinks she's a doll.

Are you in your house yet? I hope so. Is there a bus or anything that goes near your house? I'd like to come out to see you someday. Jim and I started over one night but got lost on a side road and Jimmy backed off into a driveway to turn around and got in a ditch, and there we sat for about an hour. If there's a bus over there, let me know and I'll come over.

Jim and I are having troubles. I don't want to tell you now, but will later. I dropped the divorce about 2 months ago.

Did Ginny marry Bob? If it's the B.O., I know well I wish she hadn't. Know any news? I guess Christine Bennett had her baby. I saw where she was dismissed from the hospital.

I'm supposed to go to Alma Tibbs tomorrow all day. But if it's this cold, I don't know.

What'd Santa bring you? I got 2 slips, 2 pair panties, 2 boxes of chocolates, a white scarf, 2 fancy aprons, hankies, Reuben lipstick, and nail polish, 2 pounds glazed pecans, and from Jim I got a Benrus wrist watch, pair of nylons, and strand of pearls. Darlene got so much that I packed most of it away for later on.

Are you going to have your baby in a Hamilton hospital? Who's your doctor? I can't think of much more to write so will close for now. Please answer soon as I want to hear from you so bad.

Lots of love, Naomi

February 17, 1948

Martha ?

Eaton, Ohio

Dear Jean,

I was surely glad to hear from you since it has been so long. Hope you haven't been feeling too bad but I guess it don't pay to complain. I have been washing kitchen woodwork and want to wash all the windows. But of course I will have it to do in a month or two though as coal dust settles so bad in the winter.

It seems like spring out today. I bet your house is nice, but we probably won't get to come until later on in the summer. I will try to get to the hospital to see you while you are there. I want you to see me too. Of course, I won't go until the 27th of May unless it is sooner. Do you go see Bob's folks very often? Bill and Helen [LaMar] and all the folks were over to my aunt's a couple of Sundays ago and exchanged Xmas presents. It was delayed because of her going to the hospital. I have all the baby clothes bought but some more shirts and gowns. They surely are high and the largest blankets are \$3.98 and they used to be \$1 when Loretta was little. She does very well in school and likes to go. Well I hope to see you next month. Write and come when you can.

Love, Martha

December 8, 1950

George Steele Thompson

Carrollton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Just wrote you a letter a few days ago but after I received this nice stationary this morning I decided that I should send the first letter to you. Thanks so much for it, you seem to think of such nice things to give. Don't know if I can ever repay you or not.

We don't have much snow this weekend but I think it is plenty cold. From a report that I heard on the radio, Cincinnati had quite a bit of ice this week.

We had a little but not bad. In one of my other letters think I told you about the death of Calvi Wilson. I see by the paper that May Scott Ramsey is his Administrator. Don't know if I told you that or not.

I don't have much more to write at this time so will say thank you again and close for this time. Hope you are O.K.

With love, Georgia

June 23, 1953

Georgia Steele Thompson
Carrollton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Have been wondering how you are. Hope that you are O.K. We are all as usual. John plans to teach at Malvern next year and Lois will be in the first year of high school. We have been real busy this spring. House cleaning, garden making, and then strawberries to pick and put away. Lois is in her fourth year of 4-H work and I was roped in as assistant advisor this year. Last year, Evelyn Adams spent the week with us. Lois is making pajamas and a duster in 4-H.

John [Thompson] is painting this summer. You remember John's sister Lucy married Pearl Bower and they have a little girl four years old. The last week in February, Pearl got sick with a severe headache and they took him to the hospital. The Doctors said that he had a tumor on the brain. They operated and he was in the hospital 38 days. Then the Doctors sent him home and gave him just a few days to live but he is still living but almost helpless. Lucy has a nurse and a woman in the kitchen to wash dishes and get meals. Certainly is too bad. He was a very nice fellow.

Some time ago, I cut out a clipping about Phyllis Snape to send to you then last week I read a piece in the Register Herald about an antique store robbery in Fairhaven.

Do you see Aileen and Myron very often? I wish they could come to see me this summer. Are you taking a vacation this summer? I wish you would come to see me. How about it. Could you write me a few lines soon and tell me if you can come. Had better close now and get off to bed. Please let me hear from you.

With love, Georgia

September 10, 1954

Latter Day Saints

Mormon Church Building Committee

Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Considerable progress has been made since the decision by the Branch Presidency in February, 1954 to construct a new Chapel. We now have a little over \$4,200 in the fund, nearly enough to pay our share on the building site. However at the present rate of fundraising, it will take six years to complete the project. We doubt if any of us want to wait that long.

The record indicates that you have not yet contributed to the fund, but we know your support can be counted upon. One of the outstanding attributes of the Latter Day Saints people is that we do voluntarily that which needs to be done. Sometimes though, we need a little reminder and most of us find it easier to do a little bit at a time. We therefore invite you to join our Marathon campaign.

Your Building and Finance Committee, in consultation with the Branch Presidency, has arrived at the target amount of \$100 as your total contribution. It is realized that you may have reasons to increase or decrease this amount. We suggest you use one-hundredth of the target as your weekly Marathon. We'll see you on the Marathon!

Faithfully yours, Paul Lowe and Edward Broman

October 26, 1960

Mrs. Georgia Thompson

Carrollton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Here I am at last. Hope can stand the shock. Yes, it is me. Should have written to you months ago. Have really been busy for the past year but am beginning to get caught up.

Of course, you know that I had a steady job teaching school last winter. By the time school was out and I helped John at the church, cleaned house, and then helped in the garden, I have scarcely stopped at all.

This Fall, I am not teaching but still helping at the church and at home. The garden is all finished now so have more time to take care of the house and do things that have been pushed back for so long.

Of course you know that Myron and his family paid us a visit in August. Was so glad to have them;

How are you anyway? Should have asked that question first. Lois and I are O.K. and John is fairly well.

On Thursday of last week (October 22), Arthur and Nellie Hays spent the day with John and I. They were here for dinner and we enjoyed the day together. Arthur and Nellie came to Canton to Chester's house on Sunday the 16th. On the 17th and 18th, Arthur, Nellie, Chester, and his wife took a trip over to the Sky Line Drive through Virginia and Thursday they were here.

When are you going to take a vacation and come to see us? We would be glad to have you anytime. Do you hear any news from around home? I do not. Saw in the Preble County paper the other day that Walter Shaw is dead. He was 74 years old. Do you remember his son Arthur? Arthur has one daughter Sharon. She is in college somewhere but don't recall where just now.

Well Martha, if it is possible, please come over to see us. Write sometime and I'll try not to be so long next time. Hope this finds you well.

With lots of love, Georgia

February 15, 1962

Homer Irwin

Elmhurst, Illinois

Dear Martha,

It is quite some time since we have heard from you or you from us. As you probably know, we were over to see Georgia last fall and got your address from her.

We are still living in the same house as when you were here last but the neighborhood is quite different. The area is built up solid with houses except for the lot to there west where the garden used to be. The trees on that lot are so large now that I cannot raise a garden on account of roots and lack of sunshine. I have only one of the flower beds left, as for several years I did not have the health or time to take care of them.

Since you saw him, our John has grown up, married, and has two children: Dorothy Lynn seven years old and John William Jr five years old. Of course we are very proud of the grandchildren. John Sr is working at the Hawthorn Plant of Western Electric in Chicago and he and his family live about two miles from us here.

I have been retired for about a year and a half as you may know. This winter, I have continued my project of writing up the Irwin family history. I find that many questions arise which are difficult to answer. Georgia and Harry Steele's Dorothy have helped me a great deal on the Steele line but some questions even they cannot answer. One of these is the name of the hospital where you took your nurses training in Cincinnati and the date when you graduated from it.

I am attempting to write a short history of the life of each of the Irwin descendants. I will copy the writeup which I have about you. If I have written an incorrect statement, please tell me what it is, including dates if they are important.

Homer

February 26, 1962

Georgia Steele Thompson

Carrollton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

It is now fifteen minutes past eight pm. I just got through talking to Lois [Thompson] on the phone and she is coming home this Wednesday pm or Thursday am and will stay until Saturday pm or Sunday am.

That will give me a chance to get to town and take care of a few things such as getting a new permanent. My hair is a sight right now. The permanent is all gone and it needs to be cut too.

I will have to go to the bank with John's [Thompson] check and any other running around that needs to be done. When John was well, he always saw to paying the bills but for the past several months I have had to do it.

It has come to the place where it isn't safe to leave John alone. He can't get out of bed without help, just lays on his back most of the time. He is a wonderful person to wait on, Never complains or fusses about a thing. I am being the best kind of a nurse that I know how to be. The Doctor says I am doing a good job.

Last week, John got so restless in the afternoon and it would go on for hours, first pulling at the sheet then he would want up so he could go home, Think he had fever and was out of his head.

When the Doctor came on Friday I told him so he gave me a prescription for tranquilizers. I gave him one about 2:30 pm and he rests well all night.

In January we had X-rays of him and the cancer has spread. His hips hurt so.

I told John you called to see how he was. I fixed a pillow for his feet and told him what you said about keeping his feet on the pillow. Think he is trying harder to keep his feet on the pillow since the order came from you. I also put the foam rubber ring in a pillow slip and then he was willing to try using it again.

I know he must be losing weight as his ribs are very easy to see. I hate to see him this way but we did all we knew to do. Thought I'd let you know when Lois is coming and will keep you informed on how John is from time to time.

Am glad to see February come to an end. Will be glad to see spring come so I won't have to make so many trips to the basement to fire the furnace. It is ow 10:00 pm so had better stop and get to bed and hope for a good night's sleep. Take care of yourself and I will keep you informed.

With love, Georgia

July 31, 1962
Mrs. Parker (Marie) Snape
Eaton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

How are you? I bet you were awful sleepy that night after you were up home. It sure was nice visiting with you, Georgia [Thompson], and Jean [Steele West].

Mamma is having a tough time with her heart. She was in the hospital 5 weeks and has been home a week now. Fluid collected in her lungs 2 times in three weeks. She is slowing improving now.

Phyllis Lee's and Tom's families were home last Monday. Phyllis Lee and family stayed a week. We sure enjoyed them all. Don't work too hard. Come to see us soon.

Love Marie

September 11, 1962
Georgia Steele Thompson
Carrollton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Will try to write a few lines this evening and get these pictures on their way to you.

First I will tell you that the lady that Elma Williamson is taking care of is a very nice person but her mind is very bad. Not violent but she gets so confused and can't remember anything for any length of time. I went to this lady's home this afternoon to visit Elma and I'm not sure that I even want to fill in once in a while.

From Elma's I went to see the School Superintendent. He took my name and I will possibly get some substitute teaching work to do. He had such a hard time getting enough teachers he said he almost signed me up for regular work. Maybe I should have taken regular work but with some groups it can be an awful drag by spring. Guess I will just have to wait and see how much work he has for me.

Lois [Thompson] and David bought a TV and Freezer last winter. Along with other expenses they are having a tough time making ends meet. I think Lois should be able to work some and keep things going at home. I did and was much older than she is. Think it would do her good to do a little more work.

Am sending a paper to you and I wondered if you would put it in your lock box for a while. John and I always kept it in a lock box. Lois has never seen it and I don't think it is necessary for her to ever see it. I don't think it is even necessary to keep it. If anything happens to me while you have this paper, please destroy it. I'm sure there will never be any question raised concerning her now. I just don't want anyone fading it in my lock box and I don't know what else to do with it unless I destroy it myself.

After you read this let me know what you think but don't make it clear enough on the phone that anyone listening would understand it. No one has ever seen that paper but John and I. I don't want Edna to see it.

I am sending you pictures and think I have all of them correctly marked on the back. Was you still with us when we saw the Painted Desert? I think you were but I only have one picture of it.

With love, Georgia

October 24, 1962
Jane and Homer Irwin

Elmhurst, Illinois

Dear Martha and Georgia,

Was glad to receive Georgia's letter and to know you are together. Now while you are together, how about coming on up by plane, train, or bus and spending some time with us before winter arrives? Homer says he will meet you if you just say when and where. Would like to have you. Have tried tonight to call you but was told there was no phone listed under Martha Steele.

How if you just call back, please reverse the phone charges. We will not be home Thursday evening but any other time we will be available for phone answering. We do hope you can come.

Homer is feeling pretty good. We got home Monday evening from a week in Ohio. Visited at Harry Steeles. They were ok but Harry's knee was bothering him. Let us hear from you.

Lovingly, Jane and Homer

December 10, 1962
Georgia Steele Thompson
Carrollton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Do you remember my telling you that John H. thought someone took some money that he had in his house? Next time we talk on the phone, remind me to tell you where he found it. I don't want to write anything more than necessary on paper.

They told me about it, but when I am talking to you, I never think to mention it.

Have been working on some fancy work since the weather is so cold and miserable. Have to do something to put in my time.

Hope it stops snowing so the roads can be safe to travel before many days.

Guess Edna and John are having the Thompsons for Christmas. Don't care much if I go or not. So far as I know, Lois and all at her house are going to Ashland.

Don't know at this time (10:30 pm) if there will be school tomorrow or not.

Can't think of anything more to write at this time so will say good night.

With love, Georgia

May 23, 1968
Mrs. Jean Huston
Hamilton, Ohio

Dear Bob and Jean,

Excuse the paper as I haven't been able to find anything here at the time. Thought I had better write and explain for what I did. I know I will be in more trouble with your Mom [Dorothy Steele] for I told her in no uncertain words I didn't like that man [that Helen is marrying]. She didn't say anything there but after she thought it over, I bet she gave me hell down the road. If you or Helen told her what I did up there, I don't care as I would say it all again.

I think Helen should not disgrace her family like that. I just couldn't face them and say I liked him when I didn't. I think he is rotten. I have heard jokes before but not one as rotten as one of his. He didn't give anyone a chance to say anything. What is he going to do when he gets in the family. What will it do to your children, that is what I am worried about. It is none of my business but still I was there and the more I heard, the madder I got. I tried to get Glenn to go but he is too hard-headed to listen to me and I meant every word of what I said about him not coming to the wedding. He would disgrace everyone there. Now if D. [Dorothy] wants that in her family and she is so anxious to marry Helen off to anyone just to say she is married, I got a different opinion on that.

When they are married, their house will be a hangout for all the old battle axes up there. He will have his cake and eat it too. Now I have Harry and Dorothy both mad at me so it is none of my affair just as long as our paths don't cross because the next time I run into him, I will not only tell him off. I am so worried about your family if he starts on them. As far as I can see, he doesn't respect anyone here. We are all total strangers and look what he did now if Dorothy likes that I don't, I am not an angel but I haven't gotten that low and yet and I think he is dragging Helen down to the gutter and she wants to take her family along. I was so happy when you

said she was getting married. I just look at him and it made me sick. That is how I got up the next morning. Sorry Jean but that is how I feel it is awful.

I am just afraid to come to Ken's doing, and afraid of what happens next, although I would not start anything there. I don't want to spoil any for Dorothy and Harry.

Georgia is sick in bed and almost had pneumonia. Had to look in December to find if she will be in bed all week. Don't think he will be there either. I didn't tell Aileen about Helen. That is up to you if you want to. I thought when it happened, there would be time enough.

Helen isn't the girl she used to be. She was so shy and sweet but I can't say that for her now. Sorry I hurt her, but she hurt me first.

See you soon. I hope you don't let the children see this please.

Hope little Darrell is feeling better. I have been sorting out books he might like to read. Some might be over his head so the older ones can read them.

I want to get Ken something but I don't know what a boy of that age is like this day and age.

As ever, Jean Huston

February 17, 1969

Dorothy Steele

Fairhaven, Ohio

Hello, Harry [at Cleveland Clinic],

Hope you are feeling much better this morning. I am as usual trying to go and do what has to be done around here, Bob [West] was down here and helped with morning work. Bill Simpson was here with truck (just left) and got another load of hay. He left a check for \$40 with me. Bob came back down and helped Bill load. Jean [West] called Sunday morning and asked me up for dinner. They stopped after church for me. They brought me back after Bob got home in the afternoon from Church session meeting to do evening work.

I wonder now if I should of gone up for Jean has terrible sore throat and some cold. She did not go to work this morning. She is going over to her doctor and get medicine and a shot. Bob said she was laying on the davenport this morning. I sure hope she isn't taking that old flu for I sure don't want to get it either. Darrell wasn't feeling good either for he didn't go to church either. I enjoyed going up and being with them but I sure don't want what they have got. I did not know they were feeling that badly or I doubt if I would of gone up.

In the Saturday, Richmond Item deaths, I see where Ruth Mings had passed away in a nursing home in Dayton. The services were private Saturday afternoon in West Alex funeral home and buried in Eaton cemetery on a family lot. Perhaps the way she was, it is a blessing she is gone for none of them wanted to bother with her.

Daddy, did you call Bob Worthmore's Sunday for Helen and did not get to talk to her? Sunday evening, Helen and Norm called here and asked if you did. She said Mrs. did not know Helen Steele and Helen said to call for Jenkins. Now isn't that pretty good. You see they are trying to make everyone think they are married. Oh! I'd like to tell them just what I think when I see them and perhaps I might too. Helen talked again like she would like to come over this week a few days and I told her to be sure to come over by herself. I did not insist on her coming for I did not think she would be coming without bringing Tom. I sure don't want him.

Well, Daddy, will you have a big day today going through tests and exam? Sure hope everything turns out for the best and they can do you a lot of good. I talked to Velma Saturday evening and she had company over the weekend (a relative). Said other forenoon when she arrived in his room he looked at her and said "where have you been?" She was delighted to hear him say that for he had not been putting that many words together at one time. He still has arm in a splint.

Why don't you get a telephone book to hunt up Helen O'Hara's telephone number. I talk to him? I'll bet he would come to visit you. Jean said Clayton's wife was asking about you last weekend

Daddy, I am sending some old stamps, what I have on hand. I will get some more from the mailman (Gordon Lybrook). Well bye bye and be good and call or write whenever you can. Sorry I did not get to tell you bye with a kiss before you left. When we hear again, I hope you are much better.

With love, Mother [Dorothy Steele]

February 2, 1971

Georgia Steele Thompson

Carrollton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Just a line this evening. Thought I had better get a check off to you before any more time passes. Got a call to teach this morning so was away today.

When I was down at Lois [Thompson] house, she told me Dave is thinking of or about to take bankruptcy. Don't want to say anything about it over the phone. It is not worrying me at all. It is just about ten wasted years. Nothing I can do, so why worry.

Lois' chin is improving and hope recovery will be complete. We go back to the Clinic on March 1.

Don't have any news in particular and will try to get this letter mailed in the morning. Hope you are OK and we can talk the first of next week.

With love, Georgia

December 9, 1971

Parker Snape
Eaton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

Hi! How are you? Sure hope you are O.K. We are having fog with some rain this evening. We wish you a very Happy Birthday.

We often think of the long bus ride you had to come to see us last summer. Then back to work you went without your day's rest. I guess that is what you say when you work nights. I was glad to get to visit with you and Georgia. Sure hope you both come to our house soon.

Part of the time Mamma can take a few steps holding on then other times, it is next to impossible. She has her ups and downs. Also does not eat too well now.

Chesters are coming down this weekend. Jimmy is planning to transfer from Ashland College to Ohio State University. Phyllis Lee called Thanksgiving Day. They are well. Busy with Christmas programs. Toms are busy with the many things that are to be done on the farm.

Parker still works a lot of overtime and most of the time on Saturday too. Again we wish you a Happy Birthday.

Lots of love, Parker

December 18, 1971

Velma Irwin
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Martha,

For many years, one of my New Year's resolutions has been to answer letters received around the holidays. This year, that was almost done, but then things changed and I have to write a different letter.

Things had been going quite smoothly here with some help at the house plus another part-time helper. The Doctor was seeing Milton [Irwin] each week and a registered nurse came couple of times each week. Since October 11, 1970, practically his only food was the high protein supplement which was prepared at the Oxford hospital. Almost each day, he was up in his wheel chair for shorter periods but sometimes as many as five times. Kidney and bladder difficulties became more acute in October and the Doctor advised Milton to enter the hospital for evaluation and examination by a urologist. We took him by ambulance on Sabbath, October 24 so he was there two weeks and one night before he passed away on Monday morning, November 8 about 7 a.m., just two weeks ago today.

I had no idea termination was imminent but knew he had been restless from the previous Friday night and unable to drink his food from Saturday. When I left the hospital Sabbath evening, I felt he had suffered another stroke but did not call the doctor. If I had done so, he couldn't have done more and I would not have been as prepared to carry on with the duties that fell to me after the hospital called me to return. He had just gone before I walked into the room but was still in his bed and seemingly just asleep and relaxed.

Many folks took over and did many things immediately. Thank goodness for our wonderful telephone systems. Milton's brother and his wife were here from Elmhurst, Illinois before supper and my sister from Orlando, Florida that evening. They all went with me Tuesday a.m. to make selections and complete arrangements, although the schedule had been pretty well decided Monday afternoon with the funeral director and minister.

Other family members came Tuesday. My 86 year old sister came with her son and his wife from Pittsburgh. Milton's nephew and his wife from Elmhurst and my nephew from Des Moines. The services were Wednesday afternoon and on Thursday all left except Serena. She is "standing by" to help in whatever way possible and it is nice having her here. Our niece Alice Harper came from Annapolis Saturday and will leave today. She has been a good tonic for her old aunt. My other sister is 84 and unable to travel alone. Her daughter's family is having health problems so that branch of the family was not represented.

So far, I have been busy with day by day duties and know only one thing for sure about my future plans. Before Milton took sick, which lasted just a few days of three years, we knew there was too much work for us here. It was wonderful having the spaciousness and being here throughout his illness. But I presume by Spring someone else will own the farm and I'll make a change. To where or what I do not know but the same address will be permanent for some months anyway.

Love, Velva

December 13, 1972
Bob and Jean West
Honolulu, Hawaii

Hi Martha,

Took an island tour yesterday and this place is beautiful. Been in the 70s during the day and gets a little cool at night. Going on Pearl Harbor tour today.

Bob and Jean

January 13, 1975
Bee Fuhrmann
Hamilton, Ohio

Dear Martha,

I hope you have a nice holiday. I was pleased to hear from you. Hope you are well. I kind of looked for you over here during the holidays. So far, I have not had the flu that they say is going around. According to the TV, it will be close to zero tonight. I had insulation put in my attic. I do believe it will keep me warmer and the house warmer. Will sure be needed if zero weather comes often. I want to thank you for thinking of me. I'd sure love to see you.

Bee