

Steele Family Letters, 1916-1933

by

Darrell M. West
Brown University
and
Brookings Institution.

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Preface

These are letters written by various members of the Steele family of Fairhaven, Ohio, the maternal side of the West family. It includes correspondence to Martha Steele (a nurse in Cincinnati) from her mother (Mrs. Robert) Emma Steele, sister Georgia Steele Thompson (a school teacher), sister Mae Steele Huston (a farm wife), and various relatives, friends, and neighbors.

The 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 1920s correspondence describing family and community life, there are dramas concerning Harry's 1925 unplanned pregnancy with Dorothy Sheffer Steele, the death of the father (Robert Steele) in 1926, Emma's struggles to find work taking care of infirm people following the death of her husband, farm debt during the Great Depression, and family disputes over farm costs and operations in July, 1932.

The letters show what life was like during a period of great economic and political turmoil in the United States. Money was quite scarce for most of the family members and there were sharp disputes in July, 1932 over finances as the Great Depression intensified. Georgia 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 John Thompson confront Emma and say she 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 accusations again, he will have him arrested. The letters end in 1933 with mother Emma no longer on speaking terms with her daughters Georgia or Mae, and pleading with her remaining daughter Martha for information about the family. Mae died in 1937 and Emma passed away in 1941.

Several times during the correspondence, Emma asked Martha to burn the letters after reading them for fear other family members would see the negative comments she had written. However, since it is almost a century after the exchanges and all the letter-writers

are deceased, I have compiled them so current relatives can gain a better understanding of the family history.

December 7, 1916
Louise
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
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.

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 s will stop now.

Love, Georgia

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 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

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 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

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 car 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 10, 1922

Aunt Mary
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 mussed 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

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 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 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 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

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 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 am 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. 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 head 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 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 Pellman

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.

January 24, 1924

Eleanor Gutser

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

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 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

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

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

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

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

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 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 till 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 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 woman 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

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

February 19, 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

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

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. Glens 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 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 it 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

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.

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 They'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 Elmery 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

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 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 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. Glens 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

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 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 blixie 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 breadth 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

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.

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. Johnson

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 as \$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

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. Ferguson's 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