

The Elliott Roundup
For nineteen-eighty-three
Our family reunion
More cousins there to see.

The families are gathering in.
Just listen to the chatter!
That's joy and happiness you hear
So the noise won't really matter.

A hog roast was prepared for us
With many salads, too.
We all ate our fill again,
The word "diet" was taboo.

It was agreed that in two years
We'd like to meet again.
We selected a committee
To tell us "where and when".

Then much too soon, 'twas over
Time to go our separate ways.
We thanked those who worked so hard
To plan these pleasant days.

To all our relatives so dear
We each would like to say,
"May God's rich blessings rest on you
And your families every day."

One of the cousins,

Lucile Elliott Rogers

P.10 - "STRENGTH" by #1964. Hayley Michelle COX

STRENGTH

Life is full of so many lessons.
As a child I remember being taught the basic ones,
Run with the scissors facing down,
Always say please and thank you,
And never forget to wear your seatbelt.
At age 5
I thought these were the "lessons of life."
But as I got older,
I began to realize life offered more.
It was not until I lost someone,
That I realized how precious life really was.
Life is often something we take for granted.
I have seen people fight battles, and struggle with problems.
The battles and problems we are given are often very overwhelming.
But focusing on the problem is often easier than facing the future.
When the future is unknown to us,
We get scared.
But once we realize how valuable each minute, of each day really is,
That is when we begin to live again.
When I see people that I love - hurt,
I get scared.
But then I look at the future.
I count the blessings in my life,
And before I can finish,
I have already forgotten why I have tears in my eyes.

I will miss you Grandma
Love Always, Hayley

This poem is dedicated to my Grandma Lois, who has always given me unconditional love. She has shown me that if you want something bad enough, then you will eventually succeed.

NOTE: This was composed after [#857.] Lois' death on 3 Apr 1999 by her only granddaughter {#1964.}.
At this time at age 22 was a senior at Iowa State University, majoring in Journalism.

Appendix "Q"
LETTERS OF CHILDREN OF COMFORT & MARTHA [ROWELL] ELLIOTT

Q. 1 - REV. S.A. To His Brother, CHARLES S. ELLIOTT - 1858

This was addressed to³⁷
Mr. Charles Elliott
Walnut Grove, P.O.
Knox Co., Ill.

Oquawka
October 14th 1858

Dear Brother

I take this oportunity to write to you to let you know that I am still alive altho I am not well. I have been unwell ever since I came on this circuit. I have been afflicted with the dysentery, altho I am better now. I think I shall be able to fill my apointment. I hope that I shall continue to mend. I wrote a letter to Mother since I came on the circuit but received no answer. Dear Brother, I am a stranger in a strange land and I want to hear from you. Write soon, let me know whether you have been to Iowa or not and give me all the news. Give my love tall inquiring friends. Do not fail to write as soon as you

Receive this. To C.S. Elliott.

*From your Brother in the
Bonds of the Gospel*

S. A. Elliott

P.S. Direct your letter to Oquawka, Ill.

³⁷ Charles C. ELLIOTT [#631] contributed this letter, noting that some punctuation marks had been added.

March the 7, 1863

Dear brother³⁸

I received your kind and welcome letter and should have written to you before but I have not been home and I did not know the directions to you. And my dear brother it is a heavy task that I pen this paper. Oh it is so hard for me to write it even to my friends. Must I inform you of the death of our brother Willard that in minutes he was called away. He went to work at 8 o'clock in the morning. At one o'clock he was brought in a corpse. He was hauling saw logs and the log rolled on him and killed him the people thought he did not live a minute. They supposed he was dead about three hours when they found him. His jaw bone, on leg and his breast bone was broken, the back of his head was mashed in. His little boy was born Tuesday the 10th and he was killed Saturday the 14th of February. Mary calls the boy Willard Wilcox. When Thomas went to the war I was so glad that I had one brother that I could go to see but that brother I shall see no more till we meet in heaven where there is no more parting with those we love. I can look back to the time when we were children, encircled the same fire side, seated at the same table with our father and mother. The coming footsteps no longer is heard and the grass of memory a long years growth now forms his covering. That mother too has passed away, she has laid her earthly garments by, put on the robe of righteousness and God has ordered it that our brother has joined her in that happy land. And my dear brother, let us so live and be prepared as to meet at that great and awful bar where parting goeth out no more for we know not the day nor the hour that the son of man cometh.

Dear brother and sister

I hope you will not slight my letter. I know that every word is not spelled right nor placed right nor every letter is not made right, but remember it is from a kind and affectionate sister that is bowed down beneath a weight of grief and trouble. The last letter I had from my husband he was in Franklin, Tennessee.

March the 7, 1863

Dear brother and sister I hope you have not forgotten your promise that you would get my mother's likeness and send to me. I suppose I have tired you already and will close so goodnight.

Your sister truly

Martha A. Jones

Write as soon as you receive.

³⁸ NOTE: The following is a letter from Martha [ELLIOTT] Jones to her brother, Rev S.A. and short note to her sister-in-law, Louisa.[Mrs. S.A.]

Dear sister

I was very glad that you wrote to me and hope you will continue to do so for I am very lonesome here since my husband has gone and since I have buried my dear brother and I want you to write to me often for I like to hear from you and your children. I suppose Martha J. is growed a good deal since I saw her.

Write as soon as you receive this

From your sister M A J

NOTE: Rev S.A. and Louisa had only been married four years when this correspondence transpired so Martha wouldn't have been well acquainted with Louisa. Her husband, Thomas Jones, in the Civil War, was to die five months later, Aug 1863.

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Q.2 - REV S.A. and LOUISA to HIS SISTER, MARTHA - 1863

Layfayette, IL, March 20, 1863

Dear Sister

I received your letter on the 18th instant. I was so glad to receive a letter from you. But on opening it imagine my feelings when I read the sentence Must inform you of the sad death of our brother Willard. Great God, is it possible. Have I read it correctly? Again the sentence is read. It is correct but OH it comes like a thunderbolt to my stricken heart. But on reading further of the horrible manner in which he was mangled my feelings became more intense. Oh, my brother, that I had been with thee. I might have rendered thee assistance in that critical moment. But all is over. The breast has ceased to heave, the heart has ceased to beat, the pulse has ceased to throb. The eye is dim in death, the limbs are motionless, and Oh, that familiar voice is forever hushed in death. Oh no, not forever. There is a voice sounds from the sacred Word, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me though he were dead yet shall he live." Awake, ye nations underground. Ye saints ascend the skies. Glory to God we may meet where parting is no more. Death and sorrow are eternal strangers in that happy country. Willard has crossed over. He has joined little Nancy, Martha, who has shouted, "Pa has come." Me thinks I hear Mother saying, "Willard, you are safely landed." and Willard whispers back to poor stricken Mary and Lucinda and Martha and Lemuel and Charles and to Sherburn, "Be every moment prepared for death and follow me." But I do not wish to open the wound afresh in your heart. May the Lord give you and poor Mary grace to bear up under the severe stroke.

And now, my dear sister, I wish to know more of the particulars concerning our brother, if he held fast faith and what had been his religious enjoyments just before his death. If you were there at the time or not, if you attended the funeral. Who preached the funeral sermon, if any, and what was the text. Tell me also where he was buried and where he was living, who he was working for and with what kind of a team, how far he was from home when he was killed and where Mary now lives. Tell her to write to me. Do not think me inquisitive for I am anxious to know.

From your afflicted brother

S.A. Elliott

March 24, 1863

Dear Sister

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. We are all well and I hope when this comes to hand they may find you enjoying the richest of God's blessing.

We got a letter from Charles last week. He was well. We were down there this winter and he came home with us. We have been to father's once. They live in Avon, Fulton County. Dear sister, we are glad to hear from you but were very sorry to hear such sad news. I hope you will write as soon as you get this and let us know how you are all getting along. Mattie has grown to be quite a girl. She can talk almost anything. She thinks a great deal of her little brother William. He weighed 18 pounds the last time we weighed him. You must excuse the bad writing for Mattie wants to help me. You spoke of your Mother's likeness. We can not get it taken here in town but will get it taken somewhere as soon as we can.

I must draw these few lines to a close. Write soon. Give our love to all the friends. No more at present but remain your affectionate sister.

L. M. Elliott

Write immediately

NOTE: Noted by Charles C. Elliott: Lafayette [Illinois] is about ten miles south and three miles west of Kewanee, IL.

Q.3 - MARTHA to her bro & wife, Rev S.A. & LOUISA - 1863

April 6, 1863

Dear brother and sister,

I received your kind and welcome letter of the 20th of March. I was glad to hear from you and to hear you are all well. We are all in good health at present. I received a letter from my husband last Friday. He was well. He is in Franklin, Tennessee. He was well. He was much afflicted when he heard of the death of brother Willard.

Now, concerning my brother's death I will relate to you the particulars as Tuesday evening, February the 10th and he came to Youngstown after me Wednesday and I went home with him. He was so pleased to have me go with him. He told me he wanted me to make his house my home while Thomas was gone to war. He had bought 3 acres of land with a house on it, going to move in to the house the first of April. He had paid for it all and was getting lumber to build a blacksmith shop. He went to work Saturday morning about 8 o'clock. I believe the sawmill was from a mile and a half to 2 miles from where he lived. He took his dinner with him so we did not expect him until

evening. He had sled and oxen. He had unhitched the oxen from the sled. A man was chopping in sight of where he was, noticed the team standing in one place, went to see where Willard was and found him dead under the log. The folks thought he must have been there about 3 hours. Then they came to tell us and brought him in a wagon to the house. I think I have wrote you all the particulars.

Oh Sherby, that sad day shall I never forget, no never till life and memory fail me. You asked me if I was there when the accident happened. I was and it was me that they called out to tell the dreadful news. It went like a knife to my heart. It seemed as though it could not be possible. All the brother I had that I could go and see or to come and see me but I will see him no more in this world. Myself and Elvira³⁹ were all the relatives he had to follow him to his grave. He was buried at Powers Bank in the Loveland Graveyard. The funeral sermon was preached at the house for the sake of Mary. I do not remember the text but I will ask Mary the hymn. Why do we mourn departed friends? Dear brother, I have no reason to doubt but what he lived a good man. Everybody that knew him loved him. Mr. Powers said that he did not think he had left one enemy in this whole world. Sarah Loveland, his sister-in-law, told me the horses and cattle that no other man could do anything with - he would go to the field and they would come to him. She said she thought it strange but he said he always spoke kindly to them and they all loved him and would come at his call. He feared God and honored man all that knew him mourns his loss. They lived three miles south of Candfield with her sister where she is now. They are as well as can be expected. I wrote to brother Charles. I have not received a letter from him since I came from the West. I want you to write and tell him I wrote to him and for him to write to me. I want you to write and tell me how Charles gets along. I want him to come out here. I am so lonely. He would do well, wages are high. Dear sister, I feel glad to think you have not forgotten me and I am sure I have not forgotten you. Write soon.

From your sister M. A. Jones

Write often for I am so lonely. Goodbye, dear brother and sister. Kiss the children for me and tell them of their Aunt Martha. I could tell you many things if I could only see you.

Q. 4 - CIVIL WAR LETTER of LEMUEL ELLIOTT - 1863

October 5th, 1863

Camp in the Woods

Dear Sister,

I find my self seated for the plesent task of writing a few lines to let you know that I am well at present and able for all the rations that I get for we don't get but half rations at present. I received the letter that you wrote to me in August and I answered it the same day but as I have not herd any thing from you since so I thought probly you did, not get it so I will write you wonce more. We was about 6 miles from Franklin when I received your letter but we have had a long march since then we

³⁹Elvira was the 3-year old daughter of Willard & Mary.

have marched down to Chickamauga by the way of huntsville Alabama and also thru the corner of Gorgia whitch made about 225 miles we arrived at rofsville on the 16 of Sept About 5 miles from Chatanooga that is on the Gorgia side on the 18 we was ordered out in front we took our position in front of the sentries we held the rebes to there place till the 21 by that time our men gut Chatanooga well fortifide and there seige guns planted so then we fell back behind the intrenchments we stade there 2 or 3 dayes till we found out that the rebs did not like to attact us so brigade crossed back over the river and went 8 miles up the river where we are at this time.

I have not herd any thing from home since the 19 of Sept they was all well at that time I would like to here from Mary Elliott and her family this is all at present and dont for gut to write as soon as you receive this and I hope these few lines will find you as well as they have me.

So I will close my Letter by bidding you all good by

***This is from your
kind hearted Brother.***

L R Elliott

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NOTE: A copy of the following letter was provided by [#751] Merrill STACKHOUSE.

FLT-CMF
March 19, 1936

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It is hereby certified that the records of this department indicate that;

LEMUEL R. ELLIOTT

Enlisted August 11, 1862, for service in the Civil War, and was assigned to duty as Corporal of Company D. 86th Infantry, for a period of three years. He was mustered into the service August 27, 1862, at Peoria Illinois.

The remarks of the muster roll show the following;
Mustered out June 6. 1865, at Washington D. C. Promoted Sergeant January 1 1863

Description; Age 32 years; Height, 5 feet, 5 1/2 inches; Hair, dark; Eyes, hazel; Complexion, dark;; Occupation, farmer; Native, Mahoning County, Ohio.

C. E. Black
The Adjutant General

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**Q. 5 - LETTER From CHARLES S. ELLIOTT To His BROTHER,
SHERBURN - 1876**

NOTE: The following letter was provided by [#763] Betty [ELLIOTT] THOMPSON.

*Alpha, Ill.
Aug. 9th 1876*

Well Brother Sherburn there has a few weeks past since I received your letter. I finished shocking my grain yesterday, it has been very dry here since harvest began. We was glad that you did not forget to write, also to hear that you are all well. We are all able to be up and a doing. I received a letter from Martha not long since. She was better than she had been for a long time. Lemuel and his wife was here a while after corn planting. Their Martha had been very sick but was better. It is thundren and looks like rain. I would like a good shour. I suppose you have heard that Mr. Moore and Mr. McKinty have sold out. They boath sold to Charles Falk four year ago last March. The house where Moore lived has been taken away. We have not made much improvements as times have been to hard but are getting better. I shall now close, it is chore time, hoping to hear from you before long.

*Truly Yours
From your brother
C. S. Elliott*

NOTE: A copy of this letter was provided by [#631] Charles C. ELLIOTT.

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**Q.6 - LETTER From CHARLES S. ELLIOTT To His BROTHER,
SHERBURN - 1880**

*Alpha, Ill.
May 30th 1880*

Dear Brother and Sister [To S. A. & Louisa Elliott]

Your kind letter was received in due time. I had intended to answer it sooner but time passed fast. My family is all well. Our youngest is a boy 3 years old the 11 of last Apr. I know your affliction in the loss of your little daughter was very great and hard to bare. My heart aches for you in your affliction. Elvira was married the 28th of Jan. 79. She lives one mile from here. I am living in Alpha. Thankful has traded the old farm off for one in Iowa. I do not remember the county. Mary is married and has got two children. She lives near where Bennet did. Henry went to Nebrasky and got married. Marthy went out to see Henry about two years ago and has got married out there. The other three are with their mother. Thankful had a little girl since she was married and it died. Sister Martha is married, her husband name is McMillen, P.O. adress, Sigourney, Iowa.

We have had a very fine spring here, crops all look well and prospect of a good fruit crop. I cannot tell now as I ever shal get that far west or not but would be very glad to see you. Your letters have all been answered that have been recieved. If you can get time and an opportunity to come and see us, do so. We would be glad to have a visit from you or any of your family. I know our days are growing few and we shal soon give place for some one else. When I come to

think on the time when we were children and was enjoying our boyish plays and spending our youthful hours. How time has flew by. Those days have gone, to return no more and some of our Father's family have gone to the spirit land, there waiting and watching for us to come.

I will now close hoping when this reaches you it will find you all well. We send our love to all. Remember us to your children. Tel Mattie I hope she will always live happy. Please write again and let me hear how you are.

*From your Brother
C. S. Elliott*

NOTE: Copy of letter provided by [#631] Charles C. Elliott.

Q. 8 - LETTER From MARY [URMSON] ELLIOTT To Her BROTHER-IN-LAW, REV
SHERBURN ELLIOTT - 1882

*Alpha, Henry Co., Ill.
January 6, 1882*

Dear brother and sister

I seat myself to inform you of Charles death. Died the first of September 1881. He was moving a hous for Ciras Calkins at Woodhul. They were both working at the roap, around the captsel, wen the lever broak where the horses whare itched. The lever struck them boath on the head, kild Calkins instnly. Charles lived until the next morning, two o'clock, was not concies. That was a sad day to many. That was the sadist day I ever seen. On the same day a man was kild by falling off a horse in Windsor, man in Cambridge, man in Galva, man in Rockiland, north east of Wodhul was a woman at the well drawing a pail of water, something fel from the top of the windles. struk her on the hed and smashed her brains kiling her instnly. This is sad newes for me to wright tho I have tried to wright to you and could not.

My health is very por and having a grate care on my mind. Clara and Lucia goes to school, Henery is playing with a nabour boy. Willard as gone to the coal bank. Vira gave birth to a little guirl wan week ago. Her oldist is a very smart guirl, she is two years.

*I wil close, oping to hear from you soon.
Love to all*

from Mary Elliott

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**Q.9 - MARY [URMSON] ELLIOTT To Her SISTER-IN-LAW,
MARTHA [ELLIOTT] MCMILLAN - 1882**

Alpha, Ill.
January 6, 1882

Dear Sister

I will try to wright you a few lines although it is ard for me to wright. I have taken up my pen many times to wright to you. I must inform you of Charles death, it is ard for you to loos a brother and ard to loose a husband and father. He is gon and left us and his children. It was a sad day to many. Thar whare eight persons kild that day and he was wan of the nomber. It was a sad telegram to me. He was moving a house at Woohul fore miles from Alpha. The man that he was moving the house for was kild instantly. The lever that the horses ware itched broak and struck boath on the head and Charles lived until 2 o'clock the nex morning, was not concies, is skull was broak in three places. The same day was a man thrown off a horse and broak his neck. Six miles was a woman went to the well to draw a pail of water, something fel from the top of the windles and smashed her head. This was the last day of August. Charles was bered the 1 day of Sepember. I sent you a telagram that knight, but som how you did not get it. I roat a letter to brother S.A. today.

Dear sister, I received your letter today and was glad to hear that you was all wel. This will be sad letter to you. My health is very por. Clara and Lucia are going to school, Clara learning verry fas. Henery is in is 5 year. I have tried to have Willard wright you. Vira as a little girl wan week old yesterday, is getting a long wel. Mary Stackhouse was hup to see us this fall. She as three children. Henery and Matty are in Nebrasky. Emma is living with Henery, she is very home sick to come back to Ill. Willard thinks of sending her money to com in the spring. Vira tould Mary she would cloth and send her to school if she would work for her. Ed is in Iwa. Do you know that they sould there place and moved to Iwa. I donnt know how they get along. Mary is getting a long wel, they have bilt them a new house this fawl. I will close, this is the third letter I have reten today. I pretty tired. Wright soon.

Mary Elliott

We would like to see you com out

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Q.9 - REV SHERBURN ELLIOTT to His SISTER, MARTHA, - 1888

*Mt Ayr, Iowa
Dec 23rd, 1888*

Dear friends one and all

It is with a sad heart that I seat myself to write to you. Must I tell you that our Dear Mattie is no more in this world. She died at her home in Leon on the morning of Dec 5th of blood poisoning. She was taken very bad on Saturday about noon and for several hours she suffered intensely after that she seemed quite easy the most of the time. We got there Monday forenoon and stade with her till she died which was almost like going to sleep she could not talk but little. We brought her to Mt. Ayr on train and buried her in Rose Hill Cemetery⁴⁰ by the side of Lillie to sleep untill the Ressurrection morn. She was at Thanksgiving Supper Thursday and the next Thursday was in her grave. She was at church on her last well Sabbath and partuk of the Sacrament of the Last Supper. She was not at home after the time when you were here but she wanted to come home. The last letter she wrote she said she was affull homesick to see us all, but she has now obtained a better home, and our great loss is her eternal gain but it seems almost impossible to give her up. I shall never get over it. It was Mattie that I expected to stand by my dying couch (if permitted to die a natural death) and administer to my wants but Providence has determined otherwise but I feel that the seperation will be short.⁴¹ It will not be long untill I shall join Mattie and Lillie & Annie in that sunbright climate where there is one eternal day one perpetual spring where there is no biting frosts no chilling winds no withering blasts no tears no sorrow no death. May God grant that we all may be fully prepared when death shall come that we may meet all ther "in the sweet, by and by". "Think of the Friends over there" what a glorious meeting. The children are here. Bertha is staying with Al and Lou is keeping Louise and Edith and the baby are with us. I should have written to you sometime ago but it seemed that I could not. I would like to see you all. I hope this will find you all well give my love to Lucinda and all her family and to all your family and give the street and No. where she lives and now Martha will you be so kind as to write without delay to your deepley afflicted brother.

S A Elliott

P. S. This letter was forgotten when Louisa went to town. The folks have all gone to Bethany but Dave, Lou, & Jessie they are with me. S A E

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⁴⁰ This oldest daughter of S.A. is buried beside him in Middle Fork Cemetery. At one time there was a country school in Middle Fork known as `Rose Hill' and church services were held there. At that time Middle Fork Cemetery was known as `Rose Hill'. She was 28 years old with three small daughters.

⁴¹ Rev. S.A. was to live 38 more years.

**Q.10 - LIZZIE A. [FOWLES] RATCLIFFE To Aunt MARTHA
[ELLIOTT] McMILLAN - Feb 1900**

*21 Rice St.
Newton Center
Feb. 14, 1900*

Dear Aunt:

Your letter of Jan. 14 received. I am very sorry to hear that you have been so ill and that you are along again.

The last news of you was that Lucia and her brother and his wife were with you for a short time, and then you and Lucia went together to Brooklyn, Iowa. That was just a year ago this month, and I have heard nothing from Lucia since. You did not tell me where she is staying this Winter. I am sending to you with this letter one of my photographs, which I marked Merry Christmas. Now you must call it your valentine. Will you please give me Lucia's address when you write me again, at receiving my photo as I wish to send her one also.

We are having a warm winter. I do not remember one like it. No snow to stay long. Only once has there been sleighing, and that unsatisfactory. I hear quite often from Hudson. Mother is wonderfully well and Beckie is slowly but surely gaining health and strength.

I have no fresh news to tell you of my family, as I wrote all about my daughters and their families at Christmas time. They still keep well and happy. Bertha, who is living across the water, in Paris, writes to me every week. You may be sure I enjoy the letters. I do wish you had some children to comfort you in your old age; but you seem to have the children of your brothers, to take the places of those that were denied you. You are very fortunate in being able to visit them and have them stay with you as Lucia has done. When does she return to you? She must make your home very bright and lively, I think.

Hoping to hear of your entire recovery and that you are less lonely.

I remain

Your affectionate neice,

Lizzie A. Ratcliffe^{A2}

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^{A2}NOTE: Lizzie is #452, a dau of [#328] Lucinda [ELLIOTT] FOWLES.

Q. 11 - WILLARD W. ELLIOTT To His Uncle Rev S.A. ELLIOTT- 1906

W. W. ELLIOTT
Traveling Salesman
For
THE J. R. WATKINS MEDICAL Co.
GRINNELL, IOWA, Nov 25, 1906

Dear Uncle

Aunt Martha came last Night and she wanted me to write you so here goes. We are all well at present. Aunt Martha is pretty well - she is going to Illinois Dec 10th and she wants you to go with her. You come this way if you can and go with her. Mary Stackhouses Anaversy is Dec 12th and they want all the Elliotts there that they can get there. It will not be so I can go. Now uncle you must go for they want you to and you will have a good time. If you cant come this way you can come this way when you go home. They expect Edward Elliott and Martha Flitcroft there so you will get to see lots of your Nephews and Nieces. Now be shure and go.

*Will Close with Love
W.W. Elliott
1009 Elm St
Grinnell, Iowa*

NOTE: This was a rather well written letter in pencil. His custom stationary has his picture in the upper left corner and also on the envelope. He was a good looking man will a very adequate amount of well groomed hair and a trimmed mustache - 43 years old when writing this. Original letter in possession of Loren S. Elliott in 1999.

Q.12 - 'MAMIE' [CALKINS] STITT To Family In Alpha - 1906

*Weskan, Kan.
Dec 22, 1906.*

Dear Ones all:

This is Saturday morning and as I am waiting for my oven to get hot will start you a letter.

This is a very beautiful day, sun shines so very warm and bright. I just got Aunt Marthas letter a few minutes ago and will ans. it when we get some more paper for this is all we have now.

You surely had a fine time at anniversary, we thought of you so much. We also remembered Aunt Martha's birthday and supposed you had a big dinner. I guess we remember all of the birthdays.

I would like so much to see Uncle Sherb, I know he is a dear old man be sure to give him our love. I wish you could all be here for Xmas dinner for I expect to kill the fatted rooster. Just hitch up and drive over to a Xmas dinner and stay a few days with us. We would enjoy it so much. I know Uncle Sherb would be stuck on my man if he could see him, when he stuck on Effie's man. Harry is

just the same funny good boy he was when you were here Aunt Martha and we are just as happy.

Tonight we expect to go to Weskan to a literary, tomorrow morning to Church and Sunday School and practice. Monday night to Weskan to Xmas exercises. Tuesday night to Stockholm to their Xmas exercises, by that time I think we will be tired out.

Did you find that book for Frances, I hope you did. Frances when you get through with it at school be sure and bring it home again for I want to keep it.

I see by the paper that the young people at Alpha seem to be having a good time, plenty to go to.

Coal is very scarce out here now, will not have any in until some time next month. We have a few bu. but are saving it and burning chips and are very thankful we have them to burn. If we should have a cold snap I am afraid many people would perish on a [?] of not having fuel. But during the day it is very warm here we thank our good Lord for the nice weather.

Our well is finished now, went down about 208 feet and have about 8 feet of water, that is very good. Our well is out south where we spoke of building, south of this lot, Aunt Martha. Next summer we expect to build down there, it is very nice place for house. I hope you are all better of your colds and enjoying yourselves. Give our love to all the one there and those who speak of us.

With love

Maymie

If Mother Stitt comes up from Abingdon, invite her over to see Aunt, as she was out here and Mother will be glad to see her. After I had my letter finished I had to lay it in some ink. Merry Xmas.

NOTE: This letter was included with the following letter sent to Rev. S.A. Elliott. Hand writing was very good but ink obliterated a couple of words. Maymie had been married nine months when she wrote this letter. The original is in possession of Loren S. Elliott [1999].

* * * * *

Q.13 - EDNA CALKINS To Her Uncle Rev S.A. ELLIOTT - 1906

Box 41
Alpha, Ill.
Dec 30, 1906.

Mr. S.A. Elliott
Mt. Ayr, Iowa

Dear Uncle:

I promised you faithfully that I would write you concerning Aunt Martha. My intentions were good but that is as far as it went. I hope you had a very pleasant visit at Emma's and Vina's and a safe return home. And hope you are none the worse for your visit and enjoying good health.

Aunt Martha has been quite sick since you left. She has had the genuine La Grippe but is feeling better now. But does not seem to get her strength back. We are trying to give her the best care possible, but our time is so divided.

I have had my Sunday School work to keep up in getting ready for our Christmas entertainment. Then Mary Stackhouse was called to Iowa on account of her mother's illness which took me over there two days. She went last Thursday evening, she and Emma. The last we heard her mother was a little better.

We had a letter from Lizzie Rattcliffe. She has not been well for a long time. They are living with her daughter, Mrs. Holt, now and she has been some better since. She has been having Heart-trouble and Asthma. Her sister Jennie is living with her daughter Mrs. Rev. _____ who has recently received a call to preach in Massachusetts. They were formally living in N.H. The rest of us are all as well as usual with the exception of colds and being tired, except little Alice who has been having a hard cold and Kidney trouble. She is still real bad. Aunt Martha wishes you would write when convenient. Have you seen Al and Lou?

Wishing you a Happy New Year, with love from us all, I am,

Your loving Neice

Edna Calkins

P.S. Will enclose Mamies' letter we received after you left. We were so glad you came to see us. We'll never forget you and your visit. We were all so glad you came.

NOTE: This granddaughter of Willard had beautiful penmanship [27 years old when writing this]. Little Alice Timberlake was 10 months old - lived to be 43. Original letter in possession of Loren S. Elliott [1999].

* * * * *

Q.14 - ELVIRA [ELLIOTT] CALKINS To Her Uncle S.A. ELLIOTT - 1914

Alpha, Ill
Dec 13 - 1914

Mr. S. A. Elliott
My Dear Uncle

I expect you will be surprised to hear from me. How are you any way. I hope you are well. The weather here has turned cold. Snowed last night is more like winter than the weather we have been having.

We have been having a siege of sickness our little Johnnie 12 years old had the Typhoid fever 7 long weeks in bed just got up last Wednesday out of bed. He was very sick and we had to stand over him night & day putting ice water on his head & heart to keep his temiture down & then it run to 104 1/2 in spite of all we could do to keep it down.

I am glad he is better. We are all feeling better wince we got rested. Willard was out here and picked corn for us. It seemed good to have him with us so long again. But still I wish he had a good business that he could make more money. How is business out your way. Any work a man could get to do? There is 50 men here for one job. Our Son in Law went to Chicago to learn the autto traid repairing. But cant get work now. This is Stellas Husband. I understood you were comming out to visit us we will be glad to see you. We miss our Dear Mother so much her empty chair stands here in our room. Aunt Martha| keeps pretty well and can get around so well from one place to another she is so spry. John's Mother is with us. She is helpless in so helpless in so many ways. she walks some by pushing a chair & part of the time we wheel her in a wheel chair. Help dress her & undress her. I will have to go now and help her to bed.

Uncle Sher didnt Aunt Martha give you Grandmother Elliott's Bible & if you have it i sent Uncle Charlies Birth in it. I am sure I seen it in that Bible. I think Mother gave it to Aunt Martha. I think she said she gave it to you. His birth was on May 18 but I dont know what year. We bought a nice tomb stone for both Mother & Uncle Charlie as he had never had one. I wish you would let me know right away as I was to let them know so as to carve it on the stone. I have been so busy here I could think of nothing only that. That I had to do.

Mary is so lonesome since George died. We talk to her in the phone once in a while. They are going to have a sale & move to there place in Burns Co. Clyde is going to farm Marys⁴³ place. The children signed it all over to her as long as she lived. I have 22 Geese & 18 Ducks to pick & dress for Christmas & take to Galesburg about a week from Monday or Tuesday. It will be quite a chore I get 12 1/2 per lb for both. Effie & family are pretty well. The little boy had a bad cold but is better. Well I must close & go to bed as it is after nine. Hope to hear from you soon or see you either.

With love & best wishes

to you all from your niece Mrs. J. F. Calkins.

⁴³Mary is [#461] Mary Stackhouse. George, her husband, died two months before. Clyde [#361] is their son. Cleaning 22 geese! This compiler cleaned one once and that is work! Original letter in possession of Loren S. Elliott [1996]

**Q.15 - CORRESPONDENCE Between Rev SHERBURN and
ALICE [FOWLES] NICHOLS - 1923**

NOTE: The following five letters were written by Rev [#333] Sherburn ELLIOTT and [#585] Alice Mary [FOWLES] NICHOLS, the granddaughter of his oldest sister, [#328] Lucinda Jane [ELLIOTT] FOWLES.

Angola, N. Y.
July 21st, 1923

Mr. S. A. Elliott
Mt. Ayr, Ia.
My Dear Grand-Uncle,

Would you kindly tell me if the descendency of Charles Carroll one of the signers of the "Declaration of Independence" and of whom *Aunt Martha McMillian* was justly proud, came of her Father or her Mother. I have written to some of my relatives here in the East and they either do not know or are jealous of the fact and do not care to pass it on to one who was born and raised in the West. It is not so much for myself but I have three dear children and I wish them to know before the immediate family are all gone. My Uncle J. Augustus Fowles passed away some time ago, Mar. 3rd, 1922. So aside from yourself there are only cousins and second cousins left.

My husband traces his family back to Colonial times thru the Nichols and Gary families. Both of whom were prominent before and during the "War of Independence".

I will close with due respect and affection from

Alice M [Fowles] Nichols [#585]
Angola, N. Y.

Rout 1 Mt Ayr, Iowa
July 26, 1923

[My Dear Neice,

I am glad you wrote to me. I wish I had known you of course. I knew of you but I thought you were in the Dakotas. I did not know that you were married. I often thought of you folks. I thought you were a daughter of Augustus Fowles. Was Henry Fowles your father & was Ray Fowles your brother? Didn't Mary J. Fowles leave a married daughter a Tirsey Fowles Radcliff yet living. I guess you will think I am pretty good at asking questions. I suppose you know that our mother was a Rowell. Her Father was a soldier in the war enlisted as a minute man at Haverhill, Mass. & we have it by tradition that he was in the battle of Bunkerhill. All I know about Carrolls is what Martha told me & she told me that cousin Charles Rowell had figured it out. You know that the Carrolls

were from Meayerland that Grandfather Rowell Mother was a daughter of Charles Carroll one of the signers of the Declaration of Independance. I am getting to be an old man. I will be 87 my next birthday. I am writing this without glasses. I send you & your family my love & best wishes. I want you to write me again if I can give you any more information I will gladly do it. I hope we may meet upon the Highlands of Heaven.

Your uncle,

S. A. Elliott

Angola, N. Y.
August 7--1923

My Dear Grand-Uncle

I was, indeed, pleased to receive your letter. Glad to know you were well and have retained your faculties to such a wonderfull degree. It would be a pleasure to meet and visit with you, and we wish you many happy returns of your coming birthday. There are not many of us spared to reach the venerable age of 87. I was glad, too, to learn of our connections with the Colonial People. I was never plain to me before. My Grandmother was a dear sweet old lady and I spent a great deal of time with her, and dear Aunt Martha made two visits after I was old enough to understand but I did not remember of them speaking much of those who are passed and gone. Dear Aunt Martha, I shall ever have occasion to remember her goodness and kindness. And now I will try and tell you of the Fowles side of the family.

Lizzie Fowles Ratcliffe passed away in 1915 leaving her husband and two married daughters Bertha Sloan and Mary Holt, and Mary J. Fowles passed away in 1917 I believe it was, leaving one married daughter, Edith Langdale. These three are still living. Augustus Fowles had three sons, Arthur, Ray, and Frank. Ray passing away in Jun 1919. While I was the daughter and only child of Henry Fowles. I was married Dec 9th 1909 to Chester E. Nichols, a young man who came from Fowlervill Michigan to make his fortunes in So Dakota. He has been a good husband, having none of the bad habits of a majority of the young men of to-day, and we have three children, Clarence age 11, Colin age 8, and Esther Alice 5 yrs. After our marriage I went to the western part of So Dakota where Chester had been for several years and while we did not make any great fortune in the West, we did fairly well, and in 1920 we decided to try life in the East. We like it her very much and I believe it was a good change. We have an 134 acre farm here with fair buildings and apple, pear, & cherry trees and about 20 acres of grapes. We are some 20 miles west of Buffalo, N.Y., and find life a great deal differant than on the prairie 53 miles from the Rail Road. Well, I must close. Hoping I have not tired you with this long letter and hoping to hear from you again,

I am your affectionate Niece

Alice M. Nichols

Angola, N. Y.
Nov. 9th, 1923

Mr. S. A. Elliott
Mt. Ayr, Ia.

My Dear Grand-uncle,

I have a bit of spare time and thought you might like to hear from us again. We enjoyed your letter so much and would like to have you write again. We are all well and been unusually busy this fall. While our harvest was not overly heavy we had to cover just so much ground. We had barley, oats, buck-wheat, corn and grapes. The season was very hot and dry so there was not more than a half a yield of anything. There are 20 acres of grapes on the place which is one man's work alone. we have 134 acres and that is a big farm for this part of the country and really to big, the way farming is done here. They have not the machinery to handle many acres and when my husband hitched up four horses it proved quite a sight to the neighbors. We have shipped in and sold over two hundred western horses since coming here. It has proved a better business than farming. Chester is a natural horse-man and we have worked together to good advantage.

Our two little boys are in school now and are doing nicely. I do hope to give the children, all, a good education. Come what will, nothing can take that away from them. I have just had a very nice letter from my cousin Edith, Mary J. Fowle's daughter. Her husband is a Congergational Minister. They now live in Lawrence, Mass. They have no children so give all their time to the Church work. When I was quite a young girl, they each made a visit to Dakota with Aunt Martha. I remember Vira brot her little girl Frances, who was the sweetest little one. They grow up so fast she must be quite a young lady by now.

You did not tell when your birthday would be. I should like to know and will not forget it. I must close hoping you will pass a happy and comfortable winter, I am

Your affectionate Niece

Alice M. Nichols

* * * * *

Nov. 24, 1923

My Dear Neice & family,

I received your welcome letter in due time & sure I was glad to get your letter & to know that you were well & doing well. I suppose when you were 53 miles from the R R you felt as if you were out of civilization. When I came to Ringgold Co. in `66, we were 125 miles from a R R & neighbors were few & far between but the country is now all settled up & now we have 3 lines of R R through

our Co⁴⁴. I sent my picture to your Grandmother in 1894 or 5. I have Mary Janes picture & her daughters & her husbands & I have the picture of a man & woman that I think r Radcliffs and I would like to have your family group as well. I will let you figure out when my birthday is. My Parents started from Croydon in Sullivan Co., New Hampshier in September 1836 for the Rock river country in Illinois that rich prairie country to make a home but I stoped them on the way. I was born in LaBuff Township, Erie County, Penn. October 21, 1836, neare the historick old town of Waterford about 25 miles from Erie which is quite a city now. You living near such a city as Buffalo you have a good market for everything you have to sell. Lucia is still living in Sigourney. Vera has not been well for sometime. She has the leakage of the heart. Her husband, John Calking, died some two years ago. Francis has been teaching school but I heard that she was engaged to be married to a farmer. I expect to go to Albia soon to visit my Grandaughter. Well I must close. Sending you my love & best wishes. I hope I may hear from you again.

Your old Uncle S. A. Elliott

NOTE: The original letters written by Rev S.A. were graciously given by the daughter of Alice, Mrs. Esther [NICHOLS] SUTTON, to Loren S. Elliott on April 5, 1965. These letters are legibly written in pencil and spelling and underlining of words are as he wrote them. However, all punctuation marks have been added - he used none. The original letters of Alice were given to A. W. Elliott, passed on to his son, Mark Elliott, who gave them to his son Loren [this compiler] who returned them to Esther - also in 1965.

⁴⁴ In 1985 the last of the three lines was to be torn up leaving Ringgold county without a railroad.

Q.16 - CORRESPONDENCE From DAUGHTER OF ALICE - ESTHER SUTTON

10 Overbrook Place
Tonawanda, N.Y., 14151
April 2, 1965

Dear Loren:

I am delighted to hear from you; and to acquaint you with me. I am a great-grand daughter of Lucinda Jane Fowles hereafter affectionally referred to as "Cindy") who was (presumably) a sister of your great-grand father, Sherburne Elliot.

Martha⁴⁵ is a gem and has been most gracious; considering the fact that I had adressed one of those "or next of kin" letters to her late father, Charles. I had a letter from her today and I hope hope to have the pleasure of meeting her in Cleveland, Ohio, the latter part of this month.

Believe me when I say "grab suitcase and all" that your father has offered you. It was actually Aunt Martha Elliot McMillan's obituary of some years past that started me on the "hunt." You are right, we never threw away a single thing and now they are proving interesting. You may keep the enclosed letters. The July 26th one is too light to X-erox but I have typed a copy for my "file". That 11/24/23 photoed very well and I feel that you should have the originals, as I have no one to "hand them down" to. As for my mother's correspondence, I would love to read them and copy them, and return them to you.

You are fortunate to still have your parents and I can imagine a gala April 25⁴⁶. My father passed away in 1949 and my mother in 1957. We left Angola at about the time that all the correspondence was taking place ---1923. We lived at Gainesville, Fillmore and Belfast.....Belfast the "home base" since 1942. Clarence (a grand-father for the 3rd time) has been in Baltimore for years; Colin lives in Belfast.

I don't know just how much info Martha may have sent you beside the "scoop" so I'm making a "package" for you. The extra X-erox is intentionally included for your "worksheet".

Please let me know how you are making out with the tree. I shall be glad to send additional bits as I ferret them out. Such as Sarah Cloyes going to the Boston Jail for witch- craft etc. Believe she was Hannah's mother..will look it up to make sure. I can fill you in on the relationships referred to in Grand-daddy's if you don't already have the answers.

Thank you for Mrs. Fogleman's⁴⁷ address. Perhaps she can solve my "Cindy" problem; and really, "Cindy" is a problem!

⁴⁵ #627. Martha Elliott GREEN.

⁴⁶ 50th Wedding Anniversary party of my parents, Mark & Ilah Elliott.

⁴⁷ Great Aunt Lou Elliott Fogleman provided amazing amount of material to this History after age "92"!

The Elliots claim her as one of theirs. She was born July 9, 1819, according to the Fowles family Bible, whereas Comfort and Martha Elliot's marriage was published in Dec 1820 and they were probably married shortly thereafter. (Really now!)

The Fowles family Bible records her as Lucinda Jane Blanchard married to Jacob Fowles July 9, 1839, at Claremont, N.H. (The Elliots left her behind in 1836.)

What I have been working on, is whether she was first married to a Blanchard; or, was Martha Rowell married to a Blanchard before Elliot. I am rather inclined to think the latter was the case. Comfort Elliot would have been only 18 years of age when "Cindy" was born; rather young to be a father. As you get into this research, you will find a fairly constant age pattern in various families, especially with the men. *You probably won't stop with just the Elliots.....it gets in your blood!*

Do you plan to prepare a book? It's about time someone honored the "kin", past and present; particularly the past. Will gladly share any detail that I have, so write as often as you like and I will try to help. Am also working on the Rowells, Blanchards, Gariners, Adams and Nichols.

Enough of the past for this time. Martha wrote that you and your good wife plan a trip East this summer. Will you include Tonawanda in your plans?⁴⁸ We are 10 miles from downtown Buffalo. Both my husband and I would be very happy to have you visit us. We expect to go to Calif. in '66 and might return your call, en route.

Thank you for writing and please let me hear from you again soon.

Sincerely,

Esther,

Esther Sutton⁴⁹

* * * * *

⁴⁸ *We did stop at Esther's and they provided great hospitality, including taking our family to dinner at top of hotel overlooking Niagara Falls!*

⁴⁹ Many letters followed this but Esther Sutton refused a visit until our first Elliott Reunion in Iowa in 1981 and passed away that fall of cancer! She provided much to our history!

Appendix "R"

LETTERS OF DESCENDANTS OF CHARLES SEVERANCE, WILLARD WILCOX & MARY [URMSON] ELLIOTT

R. 1 - WILLARD W. ELLIOTT, Jr., to His Sister LUCIA - 1896

Mount Ayr, Iowa
Jan. 17th 96

Dear Sister, Bro. Uncle and Aunt

I will now take the opportunity of writing you a few lines. I arived all wright Tuesday evening. Uncle Shirb was there to meet me. A Mr. Blower¹ went in with him and brought me out. Wednesday we went visiting to Mr. Curry's and took dinner there. Mr. Curry is an Uncle to Sam Curry that keeps the hardware store in Woodhull and yesterday and today we have bin fixing up the house. Bin tairing the seelng off and puting tared paper behind it and fixing it up better and warmer. Will has sold his farm. I guess he is going to Missouri and go into the resturant buisness. I havent seen any of them yet but All's wife and children. We went over to All's last night but he had gone with Will to Bolckow, Missouri. Our kitchen, dinning, sitting and bed rooms *are all in one room* but we are geting along fine. About the worst thing - or the best I dont know wich to call it - that Uncle Shirb needs is a wife or house keeper⁵⁰. He was doing some sewing the other night and after he got through and was puting his needle a way he said he wished he had a pin cushion. Cant you make one and send to him. He needs a good many things. I dont know what all he does need yet, some cooking utencles for one thing. How is Uncle Mack? I hope he wont be bad sick. Uncle Shirb is writing a letter but he hasent sayed who to. He sent one to Vira Tuesday. Well I will close, trusting to hear from you soon.

Your Bro

Willard

NOTE: Sent to his half-sister, Miss Lucia Elliott, 922 West Second St., Ottumwa, Iowa.

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⁵⁰ Rev Sherb had separated from his wife about five years previous to this. Will and 'All' [Al] were his sons.

R. 2 - CHARLES 'HENRY' ELLIOTT to His Sister LUCIA - 1907

From Box 220
Woodhull, Ills
Feb 10 - 1907

Miss Lucia Elliott
Grinnell
Iowa c/o Willard Elliott

Dear Sister and All

I will just drop you a few lines this P.M. to let you know that we have got moved and so our future address is Woodhull. We brought 3 loads up Tues. and got them off at 4:30. We got such a late start we made up our minds we would have to stay with Vira that night which we did. John, Charley & Roy each took a load. Then Wed. we loaded up the balance on a sled. It made pretty heavy load so John and Charley had to put both their teams on. There was pretty good sleighing Tues. but it was thin Wed. Vira and Edna came up on the load Wed. Vira went back with John and Edna stayed and helped us. I wanted to get a girl for a week but they wouldn't let me. It wasn't such awful hard work, though. The house wasn't very dirty except the porch-kitchen we have. It was dirty. All wood, so I got a brush and went after it.

We have a pretty nice place, I think although there is not much garden. Have a good barn & buggy shed, pig pen, well and also city water in the house, and telephone which costs me the switching fees. I pay \$6.00 a month. My car fare will pay that besides I can get in more time and be right at home. We are right across the street from Presbyterian church and first house east of Polly Perkins. We haven't got fully settled yet. Edna went home Friday night after the Institute show.

I have had two letters from Evermann since we sold out. Got one last Tues. and in it had four places picked for me. He has been doing his best for me. One place was a 16 acres well-improved place, quite a few apples and well fenced and cross fenced, 1/2 mile from square - \$3500 - 1/3 down. That one suits me the best but it is taking big chances, I expect. I think I can get 250 or 500 from Aunt Martha. I ought to go out after a while and look around. I really am in no hurry to locate till I get something that suits and can see where I can pay for it. But Evermann has done his best for me and I think after he is gone to all that trouble it would be no more than right to go out and look around, but will not go for a few weeks yet. There are several more things I want to write about in answer to your last letter but haven't them where I can find them now and it is getting late anyway and have one or two more to write so will have to close. Will write you all again soon.

The folks are all as well as common. Clyde Stackhouse has been sick but is better. Stella is in poor health. Aunt Martha is getting along as well as usual, of course, she has her ups and downs spells. Mother is as well as usual. Well goodbye for this time and write soon.

Maymie and Harry are going home in two weeks.

The children went into the new school house. It is very nice. Our taxes are about one-third higher for three years and then they will drop.

town - we can't find it on the map. Her and Mary were her for supper one evening. We all went over there one evening. Charlie's were over the same evening, we had a good time. Roy and Dessa have moved up on the old home where George used to live.

Well, I must close. I want to write to Will Powers. Thought I would to Mother before this time. But don't get much time to write. We finished **Maymoe's** quilt last Friday and bound it. She will take it with her.

Give our love to mother.

Your Brother
Henry

R. 3 - ELVIRA `VIRA' [ELLIOTT] CALKINS To Her Sister - 1909

Alpha, ILL. Jan 31, 1909

Miss Lucia Elliott
Sigourney, Iowa

Dear Sister,

This is Sunday afternoon turned off warmer today. It was terrible stormy Friday, snowed and Blowed terrible. No sleighing snow all drifted and piled up. Mrs. Spivey was buried today - old lady.

I received the towel and **John** the handkerchief. Many thanks for them. I think the towel is very pretty. **Stella** made the Burnt-wood - that is done the work and I furnished the stuff. So it is a partnership work.

I wish **Henry** success in his work hope he gets lots of work makes lots of sales. I got a letter from **Aunt Martha**, she is going to **Kelerton** the first of Feb. **Jen Moul** is going with her. She is going to have **Uncle Sherb** come up there to see her. I received a letter from **Will Powers**. He is talking of coming out here in Feb. He says **Sallie** has gone to Calif. to live and **Edds** have moved in their house and young couple moved in the house next to **Wills**.

I would like to see her.

Write when you can

Your affectionate *Sister Vira*

Frances got a card from **Georgie Urmson** with the picture of **Uncle George's** house on and them all in the yard. It looks like them. The house looks natural.

R. 4 - C. H. ELLIOTT to His Sister - 30 JULY 1911

Sigourney, Iowa
July 30--11

Dear Sister

Your welcome letter rec'd a few days ago and was very glad to hear from you but sorry to hear you didn't get your position, but I understand you got another one. I hope you like it. Do you? I believe if it had been me I would have taken that cashier job at the cafe. Anyway, I hope you have a good place and will make a success of it.

Aunt Martha came home last Wed. We wasn't looking for her at all. I guess Willard's will be here in about a month.

We have had several good rains her lately so our corn and potatoes are a sure crop now. We are pretty lucky on potatoes as our early ones done pretty well but we aren't going to sell any till spring. They are #2.00 a bushel now wholesale.

Our raspberries done real well. Blackberries didn't amount to too much. Have a few plums but not many. We had a little over \$450.00 worth of fruit clear, so I guess we can't complain considering the season. With a favorable season next year we ought to double that.

Phoebe hasn't been feeling very well lately. Bernice generally feels pretty good and keeps well. Robt. Goldners came back from Oskaloosa yesterday.

Well, I don't know of any more news this time and I can hardly keep awake so I will close hoping to hear from you soon. Give Augie and wife our best regards. We are expecting to go to Alpha the last of August for a couple of weeks visit, but we are not sure yet whether we'll get to go at that time or not.

write soon.

Your loving brother

C. H. Elliott

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R. 5 - ELVIRA `VIRA' [ELLIOTT] CALKINS to Her MOTHER - 1912

Return to Alpha
Ill. Box 41

Mrs. Mary Porter
Sigourney, Iowa

Alpha, Ill July 31 - 1912

Dear Mother and All

I received your letter this morning - was glad to hear from you. We are all well and working hard as ever. I have 35 young turkeys now. I lost one the other day. 25 of them stays around home just as nice as can be. But one old hen turkey with 10 young ones stayed out east in the meadow and went over to Johnsons for water and got to staying there and if I haven't had a time to keep her at home, I don't know what a time is. I have been over all times of the day, before breakfast & after supper & twice and three times a day. Harry came to help Will thrash yesterday & he did not get through so he came over here to stay all night. I started after the turkeys as usual. Harry said he would go with me. When we got there they were up in a tree roosting. It was very near dark. We saw and caught 7 - left two over there in a tree we could not find. But two more are there - I will get them tonight. One has stayed home - was sick. I caught the old hen and shut her up - she was laying again so now she is setting on 9 eggs. I put a berrel in her coop. After we got home with the turkey last night, shut them up in the old ice house. I told John I thought I had earned those turkeys. Well, I guess that is a turkey story.

The plums is so thick on the ground - no sale for them. The limbs are breaking down and the limbs touches the ground. We give to everybody we can. We have been having sweet corn until we are tired of it. Our cabbage bursted so bad after those rains. John, Frances, Johnnie and I went down to Clara's yesterday. Clifford teased so hard for Johnnie to stay because he was so lonesome - nothing to do. His father away thrashing - running the seperator⁵¹ - gets \$2.00 per day. Then Frances wanted to stay so we came away and left them. John thought we would come over that new road past Effie's so we came that way. It was quite a scenery - we enjoyed it. We stopped at Effie's awhile - the children were crazy to see us and Alice cryed to come home with us. I told her there wasn't any children here but she didn't care. Stella's Sunday school class me this afternoon and she went up.

Harvey has been sick but is better - he is cutting his eye teeth. Clara has not done anything but hold him since Thursday. They have sold their place to Meeker.

Aug 2 - Well Mother, I stopped this letter short and quick. Edna was trying to talk on phone while I was writing and heard Mrs. Johnson calling for Mina and wanted help so bad that I said to Edna that I have a notion to go right over and help her get ready for thrashers. They were going to have the thrasher men for supper. So I went over and gave her a lift - and then we stirred off 9 qts of plum butter and are making more today. We think we will have the thrashers

⁵¹'Separator' is what they called the grain threshing machine in those days - undoubtedly it was powered by a belt from a steam engine.

stirred off 9 qts of plum butter and are making more today. We think we will have the thrashers Monday. Oats are turning out pretty good, from 50 to 78 bu to the acre. Stella got a letter from Aunt Bettie - she wants Tom to read it Sunday or I would send it out - will try and remember and send it later. If I don't just jog my mind. She went out papering and earned 25 dollars to come west and now Aunt Nancy can't come - can't sell her house. I would like to have Aunt Martha's address. I am running out of paper so will close.

I think Frances and Johnnie will come home today - this is Friday. I wish Willard and Nettie would come now. Stackhouse's are going to move southeast of Rio and 18 miles from Galesburg next spring.

Love and best wishes from your daughter

Vira

NOTE: Vira [#457] was Elvira Jane [ELLIOTT] CALKINS, daughter of [#329] Willard and Mary [URMSON] ELLIOTT.

* * * * *

R. 6 - ELVIRA [ELLIOTT] CALKINS To Her Mother - 1912

Return to Alpha
Ill Box 41

Mrs. Mary Porter
Sigourney, Iowa
Lock Box 245

Alpha Ill Aug 5 - 1912

Dear Mother,

I will drop you a few lines. This is Monday afternoon. We got done washing at noon. Edna ironed some this afternoon. It rained a little at noon. I guess it stopped the thrashers. Our machine is at Sam McCurdy's, thought his oats wasn't ready to thrash. I wrote to Lucia this afternoon.

I have lots of work to do I ought to be at it. I have my black skirt ripped to fix it - it is too big around the hips and waist. I wanted to fix it.

I guess my turkeys will stay home now I clipped their wings.

Tom and Maymie came down Saturday night - stayed until Sunday eve after church. Clara and all the children came up Friday - went to town and done some trading. We have been having pretty cool weather & especially nights.

I will send Stella's letter from Aunt Bettie - you can send it back to her when you write next time.

I want to varnish the chairs and get them cleaned up. I fixed the sitting room floor - grained it and I want to grain the bathroom floor.

Love and best wishes to all. Mrs. Grand and Mr. Grant were here this morning at half past five to pick up plums - she thought they were fine. Lena McDowell was down one day - got a bushel.
from your daughter
Vira

Don't you think it would be nice for Aunt Bettie to come back with Aunt Martha. Is she going to see Aunt Nancy. I know Aunt Bettie & Aunt Abbie would like to see her & hear from all of us. I don't know her address.

Vira

R. 7 - ELVIRA [ELLIOTT] CALKINS to Her Sister LUCIA - 1915

Return to Alpha, Ill.
Calkins Farm

Miss Lucia E. Elliott
153 E. North St.
Galesburg
Ill.

Alpha, Ill. Feb 18 - 1915

Dear Sister Lucia

I will drop you a few lines I ought to write to you more than I do. But there is so much to do all the time I neglect it. I appreciate your writing to me about **Willard and Nettie**. I went to bed last night trying to put my mind on Ma when I went to sleep. She was feeling so poorly when I put her to bed and a hour after she had been to bed her limbs pained her so badly I got her warmed up she so dizzy and faint I got the camphor and raised the window done all I could. The girls was to prayer meeting or a missionary sermon a man lectured here in the Baptist Church. John went to Woodman meeting. He came home about 11:30 - brought your letter - said he got a letter from Lucia - do you want to read it. In the meantime he had torn it open and was trying to open it. I said I would have to have my glasses so he got them and held the light while I read it.

I just felt so rejoiced and happy - just what we had prayed for so many years. I could not close my eyes before three o'clock in the morning. I would lay and think - then get up & go and see how Ma

was & go back & try and sleep but no sleep in my eyes. And today Edna went down to the mail box and brought a letter from Willard and Nettie. I never read such a good letter from them. Maybe you will get one too from them. Edna and I just cried. I would send it down but I want to show it to Stella - Effie - and Maymie first & maybe you will get one.

Willard says Nettie & I gave ourselves to Christ. Now I think I see you all rejoicing. Well you may.

Nettie said they were having the grandest meetings in Old Sigourney. And she has forgiven those that she thought she never could forgive - says it is her that was wrong. It sounds so different. She said her and Willard went to afternoon meeting & Willard was the only man there. She said Willard says he is going to meet his mother in the skies. Lucia I believe his heart was touched when his mother died - I thought he showed it a time or two. But I never mentioned it. I thought I might be mistaken. Oh, I am so glad Jesus loves even me.

Willard said - I would like to see Henry come out. He attends nearly every night. He also said to pray for him. Isn't it lovely to get such words?

Lucia, I will sent Aunt Abbies letter to you, please send it back as I want to send it to Sigourney. Well I must close. Oh yes, Mary is sick. Clyde called me this morning for Maymie so she went down on 48. Mary is feeling better this afternoon, she has a bad cold. They called the Dr. last night. Johnnie has been up a week today. I hope he don't get down again.

Your sister

Vira

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R. 8 - ELVIRA CALKINS To Her Sister LUCIA ELLIOTT - 1915

Return to Alpha, Ill
Calkins Farm

Miss Lucia E. Elliott
153 E. North Street
Galesburg, ILL

Alpha, Ill
June 15 - 1915

Dear Sister

I will drop you a line. I rec- your letter thought I would write sooner. the girls did not get off before the next Wednesday. **Mayme** had to go to Cambridge on Tuesday. Her name is **Mayme Calkins** now. **Effie** and the two girls went with them. Dick expects her home today. Ralph stays here.

Frances and I get along very well. **Lucia** you come here and stay while Mrs. Creig is gone. It will be a chance for you to visit around. I don't know of any place to work around here. It would be better for you to rest awhile any way.

We washed yesterday but did not put the clothes out it was such a rainy day. We shelled corn Satterday that was a bad day too.

Well, I must close. I would like to go to Galesburg the 17th bit I don't know how the roads will be.

I must close. The girls are busy in the strawberries.

Love to you Loveling

Vira

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R. 9 - C. H. ELLIOTT To His Sister LUCIA ELLIOTT - 1915

C. H. Elliott
Sigourney, Iowa

Miss Lucia Elliott
North Henderson
Illinois

RFD c/o C. O. MCDowell]

Sigourney, Ia
Dec 13 - 15

Dear Sister

I will write you a few lines this morning in answer to your welcome letter we received a few days ago. Was glad to hear from you and hope this will find you feeling better. We are all about as usual. **Martha** has had a cold for quite a while. Seems she can't get over it. I think it is nice that you can stay at **Clara's** for awhile. Hope you and **Irene** can come out after Xmas. **Aunt Martha** would have liked awful well to have had you come now. But if you can't come we will have to wait. When you get ready to come let me know and I will send you the money. I sold my old cow and a young calf last Wed. She was getting too old for me to keep. **Phoebe's** brother Anderson dropped in last Wed. and stayed till Friday. Was quite a surprise to all of us.

We have been having a little winter the last few days. I am going down this morning to get the impression made for my plate so I will soon have some teeth again.

Lucia you will have to rest awhile and take care of yourself. Don't think about going back to work for you are not able. You can come out and stay with Aunt Martha and the rest of us. You can try it a while anyway.

I would like to come out but can't get away now. I have quite a good many brooms to make up for farmers yet and must get them done. Tell **Charley's** I will write to them some of these days.

Well I must quit as I must be up at Goldthwaits by 8 o'clock. Mrs. Goldthwait is going to sell all of her household goods next Sat. She is going to Calif. to live. Rev. Struble the Baptist preacher resigned yesterday to take effect Jan. 1. Well write soon and goodbye.

From

Henry

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R. 10 - Mrs. WALTER PETERSON To Aunt LUCIA ELLIOTT - 1920

Mrs. Walter Peterson
Alpha, ILL

Miss Lucia Elliott
Sigourney
Iowa

Alpha, ILL
Feb 19, 1920

Dear Aunt Lucia;

It is not because we do not think of you folks that we do not write but because we do not just get at it.

We were married in Wisconsin at Mr. Paterson, a former pastor of ours and we visited so many friends and relatives of ours on our way home so we have not been home much over 2 weeks. And the folks down home have all been sick but they are better now. Edna had her clothes on today and I think she better stay in bed a few days longer. She is more worn out than any thing else. Effie's were all sick too. Most all of Alpha have had the "flu" I guess. Elmer Shaw lost his wife and she was buried last week (she was Kate Ehrhardt) and he and his family are down there now too. He just has 2 children. Dave Cravens was buried today, he died Tuesday afternoon. Daisy Cox and Grandma Sexton both died and were buried last week. There are several in community now who are very sick but we hope they get over it all right.

Sorry to hear Aunt Phoebe is poorly - she is having more than her share of trouble. Myra Bland is married and has now a baby girl. They are going to live near Lynn this Summer.

We have a preacher now, a Mr. Shanks. He is a rather young fellow, married now with one baby girl 13 months old. We like him fine but he comes high priced. He has been over seas for some time in Y.M.C.A. work.

Yes, Mother and Father are having a fine time and they like it so well out there. I hope they both keep well. How is Uncle Willard we don't hear much from him either? And Uncle Henry and the girls, are they well this winter?

We are living north of town with Walter's folks yet but they expect to move to town as soon as they can get a house to rent until they can build them a bungalow. They bought the Jim Medhurst property and expect to fix it up. It will make a great change in that part of town. I am anxious to get to house keeping tho' and hope they will be able to get something soon.

Well it is getting bedtime and I am getting chilly too. The room is getting cold so I must close.

With love to all
and a good share yourself
Lovingly
Mamie

R. 11 - C. H. ELLIOTT To Cousins, Mr. & Mrs. ELBERT MCGINNIS -
1923

C.H. Elliott
Sigourney, Iowa

Mr. & Mrs. Elbert McGinnis
Albia
RFD Iowa

Sigourney, Iowa
Oct 14 - 1923

Dear Cousins,

We received your card a few days ago and were sure surprised but wish you all the best luck in the world and hope to come down and see you this fall. Sure I have been thinking of you for a long time and started a letter to you awhile back but never got it finished. We went to Ill. in July. Stayed two weeks. They were all well but *Vira*. She hasn't been well since last winter but was better this summer. She has a nervous trouble and heart trouble. *Mayme* & her husband, *Frances & Willard* and one of *Effies* girls drove out in Aug and stayed from Sat till Tue. We made one trip to Mo down close to Kirksville. Gone a week. Thought of coming back by *Uncle Sherbs* but saw it was too far. I wrote to him 2 or 3 weeks ago. Our baby *Lucile* is growing fast and will soon be creeping.

We were awful sorry we didn't get to make that trip last Spring but we sure got some rain here. It rained hard that Friday night before and I was afraid to start out. Thought we would sure be down there before this.

Oh yes *Frances (Viras youngest girl)* was married last month. Lives up by Princeton, Ill., on a farm. We had a pretty good berry crop but the price got down pretty low.

Well I dont know of any more news so will close for this time. I want to write several more letters. Glad to hear from you any time you feel like writing. How are *Bertha's*. Hope they are all well. Are they still at Lovilla?

Well I will bid you good night hoping to see you in the near future. With best wishes

from your cousin
C.H. Elliott

Lucia is well and still holding down her old job. Will try and bring her along when we come. Hope you soon get well & strong again.

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R. 12 - ELVIRA CALKINS To Her Sister LUCIA ELLIOTT - 1931

Elvira Calkins
Alpha, Ill.

Miss Lucia E. Elliott
Sigourney
Iowa

Alpha, Ill May 21 - 1931

Dear Sister,

I will write you a few lines this morning. It rained so hard Monday night and most all day Tuesday and then turned cold & had a frost last night.

Stewart graduated from the Eight Grade Tuesday night and gave a reading he done fine there were 14 in the class Helen Bland - Mira's girl was one, the others were all strangers to you, and also to me. Well, Rolland Frenell oldest boy was one. Yes we were all disappointed not to see some of you. And we all thought sure Mary and Kenneth would be here. Vina came up after dinner, after it cleared up. Frances and family were down. She said they went back home through two big showers of rain. But hey have hard roads all the way and she planned all the time that she was coming down, because it was my Birthday and Mothers Day, too. That was why we thought it would be nice for rest to come because she was sure coming - they came through the rain, too. They have a new car - that helped them out too. Dan doesn't care about the big drives very often. He always has to go home so early to get at his chores. 3 o'clock when they started home.

We are planning to go over to Clara's a week from Sunday - that will be the 31 of May - Clara's Birthday is on Friday before. Will and the children were up this morning to fix up Irene's grave - I gave him some flowers to set out.

Vina said we would try it again some time this summer and see if we couldn't get together once and if they do we will let you know. Willard said Mary was coming out soon and if she did wondered if she couldn't come and be here on 31 and could see more of us.

Birney came home last Saterdag and was out to Charleys on Monday. Harvey said he seemed to be satisfied. He is going to get the spray & help Charley to spray trees. Edna was out in the orchard and she said there are 35 apple trees & several pear trees & some plum. Charlie's seem to be happy in there new home. Harvey says it doesn't take too much gas to go to town and are so much closer to the folks, doesn't seem so far away. Will's sister, who stayed with him - her sons wife died so she had to go & live with her son and Will is alone now and wants to get a house-keeper. Vivian baked a cake and two pies the other day. I will send a clipping of my birthday. Carrie wrote it up Elliott couldn't come - he had to work. I only have two clippings and I want to send Frances one - I suppose I could get more if I had run around to the neighbors but didnt like to do that. It is too bad you have to change places again. I suppose she has to be saving like the rest of us when she can get along. I can use the money any time. But I hope you get secured so as to be sure you get it. I don't suppose his father- in- law wants to sign his papers. I wanted to write to Henry but I don't do much writing. The sun is shining but it seems cold.