No, I have't tried that medicine you spoke of. I Can't take every kind of med. Doesn't agree with me. Just got Henry's letter - will try and write.

Lots of love to all the folks.

Vira

\* \* \* \*

#### R. 13 - ELVIRA CALKINS To Her Sister LUCIA ELLIOTT - 1938

Mrs. Elvira Calkins Alpha, Ill.

> Miss Lucia Elliott 320 E. Washington St. Sigourney, Iowa

> > Alpha Sept 16 - 1938

Dear Sister Luci

I am going to start a letter to you - I received your two letters. Was glad to hear from you. It is cool this morning - have a little fire in the furnace. I intended to write sooner but we have been so busy canning tomatoes and some pears - we want to save everything we can. We try to can some for Clara - was using her cans for her and the lids are so old that some have spoiled - just a little seep hole in the lids. It is too bad - after they spoil they are no good. We thought we could do some of those things for her to help. But can't get as much done as

we want to. Edna is slow and I am slower. Some times I think I am worth nothing, so little I can do. Can't be on my feet very long, my legs give out. If I live till next May I will be 80. Doesn't that seem awful. Where has the time gone to. Did I make good use of it. Time and tide waits for no man. My nerves seem to be worse part of me. I feel bad most all the time - sometimes I am so discouraged - and I know that doesn't do me any good.

Maymie and Walter went down to Elliott and Carrie's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, took Edna and I with them two weeks ago this Sunday. Just in the afternoon. They served cake and ice cream. Had a nice time. While we were there, Vina and George and Emerit and his wife came. We were awfully glad to see them. They were glad to see us, too. Vina said she had a nice letter from you - said she wanted to answer it soon. She said they were so busy that they couldn't get up to the reunion. Said they were older now and couldn't get so much done. Takes longer to do it. I realize that myself.

And we saw Ora and Mrs. Snell. They came while we were there, too, so had a visit with them. Ora looks old. She looks better than she used to look. And their daughter was there with them. She is a nice girl. She is a graduate in Piano and Pipe Organ. Mrs. Snell still sings in the choir. The girl is a Christian girl. Mrs. McMullen says their boy doesn't amount to nothing.

Elliott has a nice home - I hadn't been there for a long time before. Got his basement all fixed up, nice bathroom, a double garage. He adds to whenever he gets the money. Now he has bought the lot east of him, joining him. He has a tall flag pole put up and a martin box in his back yard.

Robert seems to be a nice boy. His girl was there, she seems to be nice. We liked her. He called in here since we came back, had her with him.

The W.P.A. is starting a project to give those work that has none. Dave is going to quit the oil station and trying to get in that. There is no money in the oil station in winter and so much expenses. Too many of them in town, five of them. They have to go to Kewanee to work. Maybe Harvey can get this one. We have only heard about it two or three days ago. There are so many men out of work around here. John wants too much rent, \$30 a month, they can't make it. They burn so many lights, nights are so long, and doesn't sell much gas.

Clara seems to be getting along. I guess that lump doesn't hurt her much. She was sitting out in the yard the other day. Edna went up to see Harvey. I went along. We wanted to get Harvey to help the Boys put up hay. He got some work in haying time but that doesn't last long.

Well, Lucia you are going to have a birthday Sunday. Wishing you a Happy Birthday. Wishing I could send you something. I haven't anything in the house. I told Edna I wish I had a nice hankerchief to send you. Maybe I will some time.

No Lucia, I did not feel so bad about you leaving without seeing you but I wondered if I was laying down on Stella's couch or where I was. I didn't know when you went. Someone said they have gone. I only said I hadn't seen you long enough - time was so short. Wish you could come and stay longer.

Dinner is ready, so will close. Lots of love to you and love to all the rest. I want to write to Henry. I think of you all lots of times. I guess *Roosevelt* is not going to get in. I hope not.

Your Sister,

Vira

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Aunt Lucia,

I will scratch you a few lines before I take this letter to town. Stella entertains our S.S. Class tonight and she need some Whipping cream so I have to take it up and Mother wants you to get this letter before your birthday.

We went to see Aunt Clara about Lucile and she said she wasn't coming back there. Will wouldn't let her. So I wrote her to see if she would come here and she wrote back she would come. Her father said it was all right, too, but she was at her cousins in Alexis at the time so as she didn't come on Sunday as they had phoned she would, we drove down to see them. Her cousin had cut her hand so she had to stay another week. Then she wrote a card and said she would not come at all, was going to stay there. But she wanted me to take her coat to town. We were very much disappointed. I wrote her back that it was perfectly all right for her to stay there if they could do more and better for

her than we could. That her future was before her and she must plan ahead for it. That she must get herself glasses as soon as possible, but that her grandmother hadn't the room we had so I'd just leave the coat hang where it was and she could stop for it when they went past. Maybe that wasn't the right thing for me to do, but I felt like the coat was worth her putting herself out a little too. I sure feel awful sorry for those children. It's too bad for children to be brought into the world to live such lives. My, how Vivian does live. Lyle was sick and had not started to school. Said he couldn't get his breath. They had had him to three different Drs. He looks bad. Doesn't have what he needs.

Well, I must get to town. Many Happy Birthdays is my wish for you. Love.

Edna

NOTE: The children referred to [Lucile, Vivian and Lyle] were the children of Irene and Will Johnson. Irene, the daughter of Clara Elliott McDowell, died when the children were very young. *Lucile Rogers*.

R. 14 - Miss EDNA CALKINS TO Her Aunt LUCIA ELLIOTT - 1939

Miss Edna Calkins Alpha, Ill.

> Miss Lucia Elliott 320 E. Washington St. Sigourney, Iowa

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Alpha, Ill. June 11, 1939

Dear Aunt Lucia,

Well, how are you getting along by now.

We have had a nice day. It has been real cool, we took Lucile to S.S. then Mother and I went to church. Aunt Clara and Harvey were down to dinner and we were expecting Lucile's folks to dinner. But they did not come. But Clifford came up hunting for his folks and we had a real nice visit with him. He told Mother he was keeping company with another woman with 3 children and would marry her when Gert would release him. Then Vivian came in with a young man "Johnnie Glass" and called and said they were to be married in Aug. I presume we are to lose Lucile then. Of course we can't keep her all the time as we are giving her \$3.00 a week.

We paid her up and took her to Galesburg and got her a permanent, she bo't two dresses - a silk and little lawn. A hat and another pair of shoes, black ones. She got a pair of white ones when she first came. Then she got a box of Pond's face powder, a compact and finger-nail polish & stockings & socks. Had little over a dollar left.

When she was helping with the dinner she told me twice. "You don't know how I felt in

Sunday School this morning. Why I just felt different than I ever felt, I just felt like the other girls." I told her we just naturally feel better when we can dress like other people but we are just as good as they whether we can dress well or not. She is so proud of her hat. I don't know when she had one. But she looks quite like a lady with her hair curled and shorter.

Aunt Lucia, how would you like to come back her and keep house for Clyde Mc. He is with Howard's now but wants to go home. He is not very well and keeps home sick. He said he hired two women to clean his housed all over. I guess he don't want May, anyway she has such a good place in Orion & he would have to go to Calif again this winter, I expect.

He has a nice home and every thing so handy. He wondered this morning to Mother if you would come. He wants company. Someone who will be home most of the evening. His children are very good to him and haul him around a good deal. And he is afraid to be in the house alone much as he takes sick most any time. The children always come when called. He just wants a home.

Love, Edna

June 12 - 1939 Monday Morning

I have been patching this morning - one shirt for Owen to take with him to the shop to greese machinery in. He gets so greesy and dirty when they get so bad we just burn them up. I am patching on another one that is terribly patched. But if I can fix it up to do a few days it will help a lott. It just spoils a good shirt, can't get it clean again. Don't think he will be in the shops much longer. They make over a 100 combines a day. He expects to be layed off this month. Then the boys will miss the money.

Lucia, I always forget to thank you for your birthday gift to me. Many many thanks. I got me a dress with it to be made. I can't buy a dress allready made very good, have to be made over to suit me and I don't like such short sleeves. I wish you wouldn't do that either. That is worse than I did when you make good use of it for yourself, where you need it - I am glad you got it - and that I could give it to you. I owe it to you and a lot more besides.

I think we have done a little better since we came back here and I hope we still do better but selling prices are going down right along now, I hope they will get better. But sheep are going up right along. Stewart wants to buy some yearlings sheep and they are too high. 6 1/2 to 7 cents a pound. The gain won't be much when we have to pay so much for them. When we are buying and selling it is pretty unserten and risky to venture in it, the way things are running now. It looks like *Roosevelt* is going to run for his third term. Things are in a pretty bad muss already. Some thinks he can get us out of the muss better than others. But I think we will get in deeper and deeper until we are broak, you never saw any other President so determined to stay in there as he is. If he did he would be shot. He is a Democrat, or he would be shot.

Dan Robinson droped dead up here on the Allison Farm Friday afternoon - stooping over changing his good shoes to Rubber boots to go out in the field to tell the tennant how to fix something - dropped dead by the milkhouse. I guess there wasn't any tears shed for him. They shipped him to his mother in California, Sunday. She is 82 years old. I just wondered if you wouldn't come and keep house for Clyde this summer. He had written Susie McDowell, Dan's wife to see if she

wouldn't come. I hardly think she would leave where she is. She is keeping house for a Police in Silvis - I expect gets good pay. Police get big money. Ruth's man gets over \$200 a month - he is a Police man.

I didn't ask Clyde what he would pay. I don't know whether he goes back to California next winter or not. You wouldn't have to worrie what you could do through the winter. He wondered if you would come.

Vira

NOTE: Some capital letters and punctuation added by Lucile [Elliott] ROGERS to make reading easier. There was very little punctuation in the original letter.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### R. 15 - `CHUCK' ELLIOTT To Cousin STELLA [CALKINS] CARLSON - 1945

NOTE: This was a V- MAIL letter written just after World War II had ended in Europe but still on in the Pacific! `Chuck' is #631. and Stella is #589. Harvey mentioned was probably #625. Harvey E. McDowell, another cousin.

TO.

STELLA CARLSON ALPHA ILLINOIS FROM. 37040791
PFC CHARLES ELLIOTT
HQ. CO. 54 AIB APO 260
c/o POSTMASTER NY.NY.

Dear Stella

I received your V - letter of May 20 & glad to hear that you are all o.k. It sure is cold & raining today. We can't have good weather all of the time.

I don't know where *Harvey* is. I had better write him & find out. This town is about 50 miles south of Munich. There are plenty of mountains around here.

About all we have been doing since the war ended is standing guard. When we aren't on guard, we are doing a little training but it doesn't amount to much. I guess this will be all. Write when you have time.

Love

Charles

REPLY BY V.--MAIL

### LETTERS OF DESCENDANTS OF Rev. S. A. & LOUISA ELLIOTT

### S. 1 - EDNA ELLIOTT To Her Friends [?] - Nov 1886

OFFICE OF
PICKERING & BARNES
Wagon And BLACKWork SMITHSPECIALTIES ING

Leon, Iowa, Nov 18, 1886

Dear friends

I seat my self to answer your letter. We are all well hope you are the same. We have been washing today and *Tom* intends to butcher to morrow. *Tom and Mattie* was bouth sick last weak, but are able to be about again. well, I will finish my letter this morning as I did not get it finished last night. it is snowing here to day. I have pieced 82 quilt blocks for *Mattie*. send me the money or a new pair of shoes for my shoes are about played out. well I will close for this time write soon and often.

Love to all - Edna Elliott.

p.s. school is going on now and they are going to have a vacation during the hollow days and then begin again. in closed you will find a piece of my new dress *Mattie* gave me.

#### Edna E.

Mattie say this must do for her to for she has not got time to write. if you send me the shoes send me buttoned ones.

NOTE: [#474] Edna, a sister of [#469] Mattie, was 13 when she wrote this letter. I suspect the `friends' she was writing to was her parents and other brothers and sisters. Like her father, Rev. S.A., she seldom capitalized a word starting a sentence. Her brother-in-law, `Tom' Barnes, was a blacksmith. She used some of his stationary. Also on it were small pictures of farm wagon and an anvil. Mattie died two years later at the age of 28!

#### S. 2 - BERTHA BARNES to Grandfather S.A. - Nov 1895

THOMAS BARNES,

"BLACKSMITHING,"

\*\*\* Tuskeego, Iowa
WAGON WORK A SPECIALTY.

\* Nov. 5th, 1895

Dear Grandpa Elliott.---- I will seat myself again to write you a few lines this makes the second time I have written to you since you wrote to me and I am getting a little bit uneasy about you, for fear you are sick or something. I am working out now. I am working at Mr. Mays, it is a pretty good place to work but I only get a dollar a weak and I would rather have a dollar and a quarter but they have not enough work for a girl to do to pay them anymore than a dollar. The baby is growing real fast I think he is awful sweet. We call him Clifford. Well Grandpa would you like to have me come out and keep house for you this winter and go to school, if you want me to and pa will let me I will go for I would like to real well, for we would be lots of company to each other and then if you should get sick I would be there to take care of you. I want to make you a visit anyhow sometime this winter if I can. I got a letter from Edith the other day and she wants to visit you real bad, and if we go we will all three go on the train. I dont know just when we can go though, if we go I want to go in about two weaks and, if you want me to stay, write as soon as you get this and let me know, and then I will write right away and let you know when we are going if we go at all. Well are you gathering corn this fall. I guess everyone around here is, there is lots of corn around here this fall. The wind is blowing real hard today I dont know eather it is going to rain or not it is awful warm. Well I guess I will have to close for this time and get to work. Now pleas write as soon as you can and let me hear from you, I remain as ever

Your loving grandchild

Miss Bertha Barnes

NOTE: Bertha's mother, `Mattie' [#469], passed away at the age of 28 in 1888.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### S. 3 - EDITH [BARNES] TUCKER To Grandfather S.A. - Jan 1902

Sargent - Nebr Jan 15th 1902

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

Dear Grandpa -

I will try and write you a few lines in answer to your letter which we received some time ago. I havent time to write much or very much to write about; but it will let you know that we are both well and I hope this letter will find you the same. We have been having some real nice weather for the last week or so - just like spring. I think we will surley have a change though before long. How is out your way. *Henry* has been digging an ice house, and is going to begin putting up ice as soon as it freezes enough. We are only a few miles from the river, and it won't take long to haul it. Come out and eat ice cream with us next summer. Henry bought a new cow at a sale last week that makes us *two*. Have you still got your old sow? We have been having pretty bad luck with our hogs again this winter. We have lost two of our best sows since Xmas, and there is another one or two sick. I don't know what is

the matter with them unless it is the cholera. I haven't heard directly from home sinc Christmas but Pa was better then *Louie* said. I got a letter from *Bertha* night before last. Well Grandpa this is a short letter but will have to do this time. Henry is going to town this afternoon and I will have to close and get dinner. Will try and do better next time. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Your loving grandchild,

Mrs. H.F. Tucker

NOTE: Edith [#636] was to be nineteen two months later and a *mother nineteen days after this letter* was written - a very hardy lass! Original letter & others in possession of Loren S. Elliott [1985].

\* \* \* \* \*

### S. 4 - BERTHA & LOUIE BARNES to Grandfather S.A. - Dec 1905

Lamoni, Ia. Dec 30 - 05

S.A. Elliott Mt Ayr Ia.

My Dear Grandpa,

Louie and I had got you a little Christmas present, and as you did not come down Xmas, we thought maby you would come this Sat, but, as you can not we will send them to you for New Years. Louie got the hankerchief for you & I the Muffler, & I want you to use it to keep your neck warm. Well this is all for this time. Wishing you a Happy New Year.

We are your loving Granddaughters

Bertha and Louie

NOTE: These were daughters of `Mattie' [#469] who had died when they were small. Bertha was 24 and married at this time and `Louie', 19, may have been living with them.

### S. 5 - EDITH [BARNES] TUCKER To Grandfather S.A. - Aug 1906

Sargent - Nebr Aug 26 - 1906

Mr. S.A. Elliott Mt Ayr Ia.

Dear Grandpa -

Well as I guess you are not going to answer my other letter I thought I would write again. We were very much dissapointed that you did not come out when *Louie* did, and expecially so when you have not written to us why you did not come. We had a fine **time while** she was here, but she did not get to stay as long as I would liked her to. She was here 3 wks. and it was so lonesome when she left. She said she had not heard from you for a long time. She went home quite a while ago. I suppose her school will begin a wk from tomorrow. *My she looks so little to teach school - she isn't quite as tall as I am.* Well Grandpa how are crops out there this year. They are pretty good here. Corn is fine. If we do not get an early frost we will have an awful large corn crop. We had so much to do in the spring that we did not get our corn in as early as we should of, but it will be all the better for it if it doesent frost too soon, as the early corn was hurt some by dry weather. It has been awful hot out here lately, but is quite cool to-day. We had quite a rain yesterday and I think they must of had hail somewhere - it has been so cold all day. Just puts one in mind of nut gathering time. Well I must close for this time. We are all well as usual and I hope this will find you well. Now write soon.

from your loving grand child

Edith

NOTE: Again she said nothing about an expecting a child or referred to herself. She became a mother for the third time five days after this letter was written!

S. 6 - EDITH [BARNES] TUCKER To Grandfather S.A. - Aug 1916

H. F. TUCKER, Sec'y-Treasurer Farmers Educational & Co-Operative Union Cummings Park Local No. 644 Sargent, Nebraska Aug 8 - 1916

My Dear Grandpa -

Recd your letter Wed and was so glad to hear from you, but <u>gladder</u> to know you are thinking of making us a visit, but would be still gladder if I was <u>sure</u> you would <u>come</u>, and <u>we</u> are Expecting you, to be sure we <u>all</u> want you to come, and the limit for staying, well such a question! for you know we will be glad for you to stay just as long as you will stay. What time is the State Fair? *GayI* says tell you to come before school starts, but we don't know Exactly what date school begins but some time the

fore part of Sept. Gayl is going to go to school in Sargent, and she wants to be at home while you are here, if she could. Say Gene Teals of Kellerton are coming out to Mary's, that's (Henry's sisters place). Now before long and maybe you could arrange so you could come as they do. Then you would have company all the way. Mary said she did not know exactly when they were coming but she thought this month. Henry says he wont thrash for 80 days but dont wait on that. We are stacking the grain now. You know we can't tell anything about a thrashing machine. Henry says tell you to come any time you get ready. We will be at Sargent to meet you whenever you say you will be there. No I never hear a word from Aunt Lou or any of the rest of my aunts or Uncles on my Mothers side. Im most sure I wrote to Aunt Lou last. Was sorry to hear Aunt Martha had been sick, she had a close call. I certainly would like to see her. I sent her a card last wk. of course I don't expect her to write to me for she told me she can't write much and is have someone write for her. Well I must close hoping to hear from you soon & see you before long.

from your loving grandaughter

#### Edith

I talked to Mary this morning & she said Teals were coming out the 22 of this Month, but of course if you wanted to go to the fair that would make a difference. I guess our place stands a good chance of being sold. The agents told Henry they thought they could sell it soon. The Bohemians are coming around here & the neighborhood has changed so & school so poor we want to get out. Then poor crops has made it hard to keep up interest so we thought best to sell & go somewhere we like better when we are able to go.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sargent, Nebraska August 8 - 1916

#### Dear Grandpa;

You didn't need to write all those questions you can come write tomorrow and stay allways if you want to. I think you could come before school commences. I would have a bushel of fun. Gayle is going to Sargent to school next term. I will be glad when school commences. We are going to have a Farmers Unions picnic at Coming Park Aug. 12th. Papa and one of the neighbors are going to put in a stand. This is all I can think of so Good bye. Be sure and come see us.

from

Rea

NOTE: *Rea* was then ten years old - the daughter and youngest child of *Edith*. *Edith* died two years later from the flu epidemic and her oldest, `*Gayle*', died three years later in 1921.

#### S. 7 - LIFE OF FAMILY OF BERTHA [BARNES] PATRICK

By Ardis [Patrick] Nelson [#840]

As a little resume of my family history I will start with myself.

I, Ardis Patrick Nelson, was born almost at the turn of the Century - 1905 - to Bertha Alice Barnes Patrick & Wm. Emmett Patrick. My mother was the oldest daughter of Martha Jane "Mattie" Elliott Barnes & Thomas Barnes. My grandmother, Mattie Barnes, died when my mother was only eight years old, leaving four small children behind. A sister of Thomas Barnes stayed with the family for a couple of years - then my mother tried to take over & be mother of the youngest ones - but, when she was 13, she started to do house work for farm families and that was how she met my dad. Dad was helping with the threshing that was being done for the family my mother was working for. He was much impressed with the baking powder biscuits she had baked and decided he would like to know her better, and on Apr. 23, 1899, they were married in Tuskeego [Decatur Co.], Ia.

I was their third child - my brother Harold was born Mar 24, 1900, - my sister Mable born Dec 21, 1902, - when I decided to come along Aug 7, 1905 - my folks living on a farm 9 miles southwest of Lamoni. My dad had to hitch up the team & buggy - take my brother & sister 2 miles down the road to his folks and pick up his mother. The doctor had to come 9 miles horse & buggy - I didn't wait on any of them. My younger sister Louie Martha came along Dec 31, 1910.

My dad started life on the farm, as did his father and grandfather - in fact his grandfather, Harmon Patrick, came to lowa from Marion, Ohio, in covered wagon. Iowa was just being opened as a new state and he bought 320 acres at \$1.25<sup>52</sup> per acre in what is now Riley Twp, Ringgold Co. My grandfather and father were born there but my father did not like farming. He wanted to go to high school but his father said he would only be a farmer anyway - why should he spend 4 yrs in high school when he could be helping on the farm? So he never got to go to high school. After about 10 yrs. renting a farm, he decided to buy a farm 3 miles west of Kellerton. It was there my sister Louie was born. But still my dad was dissatisfied on the farm and became fascinated with the trains that ran through the farm, and decided he would like to work on the train, so after a couple more years, he decided he to rent the farm and move to Van Wert, Ia., a railroad junction town and where my mother's step-mother lived. Yes, my grandfather remarried and to them two children were born, Clifford O. Barnes and Marie Barnes.

He applied for a job on the railroad, but to no avail. Then he took the exam to become a railway mail clerk but, altho he passed the exam with flying colors, his papers came back `too short'. He was only 5'4". The only work he could get on the railroad was on the section. That not being what he wanted back to the farm we went.

By 1916 he decided to sell the farm and move to Albia where we children would be nearer to high school. That pleased my mother since Aunt Lou McGinnis and Uncle Elbert lived on a farm near Albia. He took what work he could get and, again, took the exam to become a railway mail clerk. Again his papers came back, grades very good but `too short'. When he decided he would not get that job, he

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> This would have been about 1853 - the government made land available for sale at \$1.25 per acre after it was surveyed.

decided to take the exam that the gov't was giving for rural mail carrier. He scored highest in the group and was given a choice of a route out of Lovilla or Hiteman - he took Lovilla.

It was there that I graduated from high school, being one of the first pupils in the new high school building that year. After graduating I took a teacher course at Penn College in Oskaloosa and taught school for one year - a country school. When I was in high school yet, I had met the boy I decided to marry. At that time married teachers were not hired. We had decided to wait until school was out to get married but then my boy friend, being a farm boy and lost his father the year before and was trying with his mother to run the farm, thought he would be so busy on the farm in the spring when school was out to get married then and urged me to get married during my Christmas vacation, keep it a secret, and announce it when school was out. So we decided to get married Dec 24, 1924, and go to Des Moines to a Methodist parsonage, a minister we knew of. But the catch there was - there were so many applications for marriage licenses that day that our marriage license came out on the front page of the Des Moines Register, my secret all over the front page. My only salvation was that the president of the school board of the school I was teaching happened to be a good friend of my folks, and decided he could trust me to finish the term.

After three more years on the farm my husband, who also had not attended high school, was not satisfied with farming - he loved wood work and also had an urge to become a salesman. So in the fall of 1927, he sold the farm and we came to the Tri-Cities. Davenport, Moline, & Rock Island - I had never heard of them, but Harold's Mother had an Aunt who lived here so they had been here on visits. My husband worked at a few different jobs until he got a job at Rock Island Millwork where they made doors & windows. The wood work he liked and was soon promoted to supervisor of a department, a job which lasted until he had the opportunity of becoming a salesman for our son, who by that time was in the remodeling business. He was really happy with that job.

Kenneth, our older son, was graduated from high school in 1944, and almost immediately he was drafted into the army, and sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for training. Then he was sent to the east coast to be sent overseas. That was just before the Battle of the Bulge but, before they shipped out, the Gov't decided that they would not sent 17 yr olds overseas if they had not had a certain amount of training so he was sent back to Fort Sill for more training. When he was sent overseas, the War had ended. When he returned from overseas, he decided to go to college but didn't know just what he wanted to do so he took a test to see what he was suited for and was told he should become a salesman. So after one year in college, he began working for a remodeling and roofing business, and soon became a partner in the business.

He married Barbara Wangelin, whose father came from the line of Benjaman Franklyn. They had two children - a boy Douglas and a girl Kathi. He had several good years in the business, then developed Rheumatroid Arthritis - had operations on his twisted hands, a hip operation, open heart surgery, and lastly a knee operation. He went through surgery, his hospital stay, and had been removed to a care center, where he was to be given therapy to use his knee. Had just gotten settled in when a blood clot took his life. He was 57 yrs old - almost 58. His family was grown & married, his wife well provided for, but it was about the hardest blow of my life.

Harold O., Jr., graduated from high school in 1948. He went to Augustana College for one year & joined the National Guard. He then worked for Eagle Signal Co., found the girl of his dreams and was married. He married Beulah Beth Stowe, whose father wasrelated to Harriet Beecher Stowe. Then the

National Guard sent him to California for more training, then overseas for occupation. When he returned from overseas, he was employed by Goodyear Tire Co. here in Quad Cities but after a few years was sent to manage a store in Olivette, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis, and has been there ever since. They had two girls, Gayle & Nancy. Gayles husband works for Lohse Automotive Co. & has recently been made vice president of the company.

Marilyn graduated from high school in 1951, worked at the Modern Woodman office for about a year and was married to Gerald Purvis. His occupation was driving a wholesale milk truck until he had a bad fall and became disabled. They had two sons, Gene & Terry. Gene loved to drive by trucks and became a truck driver, but now is in the business of selling and repairing campers. Terry lives in Texarkana, Ark., where he has a video repair business.

All of my grandchildren are married but Nancy. Each couple has two boys except Terry - he has one. Makes me 9 great grand sons so it was quite an event when one of my granddaughters presented us with a girl, my only great granddaughter.

### S. 8 - REES ELLIOTT to MARK ELLIOTT & Family - 1918

The following letter was <u>typewritten</u> by Rees to his brother & family - may this writer duplicate it with as few errors.

Greene, Iowa, Apr. 28th, 1918.

Mr. Mark Elliott Mount Ayr, Iowa.

Dear brother & family.

Received your letter last Monday and was sure glad to hear from you. You did sure have some snow storm. It snowed here the same time, commenced on Saturday and snowed until Sunday afternoon, and snowed once since, but did not amount to enough to cover the ground to any extent. I judge from your letter that the snow was the first moisture that you had for sometime but we had a rain here on Monday and Tuesday before that, and had another rain last night, commenced about Seven o'clock P.M. and rained until day-light this morning.

You are having some luck with your pigs, but I hope that your trouble with them has come to an end.

As to having our garden all made, we have just got started, I planted some potatoes last night, our first, have got three rows planted across the garden, and have planted a little more than a half bushel of seed. Our early garden is just coming up, so we will have some garden stuff about the middle of May if it grows.

I went to the country with Mr. Soesbe last Friday afternoon, started about 3 o'clock and got back at half past ten at night and we did sure have some ride. We drove to Marble rock but everything there was shut up on account of a *Military funeral*. We went from there to Rockford to see

a man (Mr. Otto) about some life insurance, didn't get an application, so we drove back to Rockford where Mr. Soesbe got a cup of hot water, then we drove about eight or nine miles north of Rockford to see S. C. Palmer about some notes which he owed Mr. Soesbe. (Palmer lives due west of Rudd) We located two farms for sale near there. When we got ready to leave Palmer's, Mr. Soesbe had Mr. Palmer phone to Rockford and have them get two orders ready for supper and to get them ready right-a-way, we then drove back to Rockford and had to wait about fifteen minutes for our supper (We didn't drive fast either, only about 35 miles on the average). After supper we drove about five miles west of Marble Rock to see Mr Bailey about insurance, we talked with him about an hour and wrote him for five thousand dollars. We then drove home and a time or two Mr Soesbe let the old boat out, I watched the speedometer crawl up to forty-five then lost track on account of having to hold on to the seat. Mr Soesbe's car is a Cadillac and has six speeds besides almost every other contraption a fellow could think of on it, Mr Soesbe said that the roads never got good enough to use his high speed in this country.

Well I have got a line on a part of the stuff that I have got to do in the office, I will name a few of them: I look after the fire insurance expirations; see that no policy is allowed to lapse in the life insurance without the insured gets two notices, two letters and a phone call; I have to look over all the applications for life insurance and see that the questions are all answered right; remit for the life insurance premiums every Monday; remit for the new policies once a week; look after the abstracts; keep posted on all farm loan expirations; get a report each from Mr. Soesbe, Mr. Marsh, and Mr. Bestor every morning; make a list each of trade prospects, life insurance prospects, fire insurance prospects and farms that may be for sale and all prospective purchasers. I also take care of the cash and write my own letters. In my spare time I help look after the rest of the business.

Frank is practically over the hooping cough and is feeling fine most of the time, except last Wednesday night when I kept him while Lottie went to the show with Soesbe's, she was gone about two hours and Frank was good all the time except about an hour and forty minutes. The country up here looks like it was worth the money. We have one tract of 100 acres listed at \$150.00 per and you can set on your heels on one corner and see across it cornered ways, lays like a table and has some tile.

Lola Stephens<sup>53</sup> certainly has some swell gown. Ethel Boyles<sup>54</sup> told us about it.

The people around here are a mixture some Irish, Swede, English, and a lot of *Germans but all seem patriotic enough that you can't tell them from American's. Our township raised \$123,900.00 in Liberty Bonds in the first week of the campaign and the whole County raised \$900,000 while their quota was \$511,600.00. going some, huh!* 

Lottie got stingy with her stationary and, made me switch off on a tablet, thought I had just as well it to publish my newspaper with as any. She has tried three times to get Frank to sleep since noon and has failed every time. He has decided that the night is long enough to sleep in.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup>Lola Stephens was a sister of his brother Mark's wife - compiler's mother. lse.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup>This compiler had great respect for this gentlemen who deliver kerosene to our farm and gave me much encouragement to attend college.

Has the hooping cough deceased down there? or is it still as thick as it was when we left. *You sure want to be careful of Emiline, cause it certainly spoils a night's sleep to have to get up every night for six weeks. Frank has had it seven weeks next Thursday & is beginning to quit coughing.* 

Well I must quit and take care of my kid. Lottie is getting an early dinner today, it is 3:40 P.M. now and she is making preparations to serve it.

Well write when you can because I certainly do appreciate.

Yours truly,

Rees

P.S. Ma said she would write as often as we did, but she will have to hump herself, she is just a week behind now.

NOTE: Letter of Rees and Lottie [TRIMBLE] ELLIOTT addressed to his brother, Mark ELLIOTT, written about nine months before Rees' death.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### S. 9 - Letters From REES & LOTTIE ELLIOTT to MARK ELLIOTT & Family - June 23, 1918

Greene, la June 23, 1918

"PICTURE OF AMERICAN FLAG"

Dear Brother & Sister etc

Well I have hardly had time to write and have still less to write about.

Mrs. Trimble came last I Friday night. She brought Fred and Ruth with her. Lottie was sure glad to see them.

Frank has two teeth through and more on the way. He gets cuter every day. You wouldn't know him now he has grown so much.

I suppose Emeline has got to be a big girl and is the apple of her father's eye.

Well I am learning more of my work all the time. I went to Waterloo last Wednesday on business for the firm. I took an abstract down to Geo Pike Atty to see just he wanted on the abstract. I got my expenses paid so I didn't mind the trip.

The corn around here is very spotted some of it is about knee high or higher and some of it is hardly big enough to plough over yet. The oats are beginning to head out, that is a part of them are and some of them you can't see a head in the whole field.

Burton Trimble came up about three weeks ago to see if he could get a job. He worked as a carpenter on a barn near Nashua at \$3.00 per day and got his board. He was pretty well pleased with

the job but it didn't last long enough. He worked there two weeks and then they got the barn finished. He laid around here last week trying to decide whether he wanted to enlist, go home, to the city or stay all summer and work on a farm. He got a job last night six miles west of town he gets \$50.00 per month until after harvest gets a horse to drive and his board and washing.

What do you know about the "work or Fight" situation? I wish I knew whether I was included in that or not. You might ask King what he thinks about my job as bookkeeper and office manager in a Real Estate office. I expect I will get an invitation to visit *France* on account of my occupation. Don't say anything to mother about it though because she might have a nerveous fit and be sick the rest of the summer.<sup>55</sup>

We got *Emmaline's* picture alright. She sure has grown some. Would like to see her. I will bet *Frank* can lick her in a wallowing match. He wears his ma out when he gets started to wooling her. He is getting so that he scoots all over the floor and can pull himself up on his knees to a chair.

We went to a Sunday School picnic last Friday. Mr. Palmer & Mr. Dawson went down at noon and stayed until after the ball game. The married men played against the single men. They beat us about 20 to 11. We played with an indoor baseball outfit so we didn't have much of a game. They sure had some eats including cream & coffee.

Well don't blame me for not writing because I do the same thing almost every day and see the same people so I don't get much news to write about.

Be sure and write soon and tell me all the news.

Yours truly

Rees Elliott

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Sister

Well I will try and write a little. I guess Rees has told you about all the news in fact there isent much to write a bout I just finished writing the folks & made Frank some pink rompers Then he looks rather funny in them, would sure like to see Doris Emaline I reken she is getting to be a big girl by this time Frank dident feel a bit well the first of the weak had quit a bit of fever his teeth I guess he feels all right now he is gaining pretty fast now but isent very fat yet.

It is quite cool here to day cool enuff that a person needs a coat we havent had very much hot weather yet.

We have a pretty nice garden and I suppose you have.

<sup>55</sup> Rees had a different opnion of his mother than I did. I felt that *Grandma Emma* could carry the world on her shoulders. Ise.

Mamma Ruth and I went to church this morning don't know yet wether we will go to night or not. Its about a mile to church so it makes quite a walk.

Well I expect I had better quit for this time hopeing to here from you soon when are you folks coming up.

From your Sister

Lottie

NOTE: This combined letter is all on one sheet of paper in ink! Lottie's penmanship was good although her use of a punctuation marks was rare. The word `excellent' is hardly adequate to describe Rees' penmanship - undoubtedly a mark of his profession. His writing is so neat and fine he could have put a long letter on a postcard.

S. 10 - A PLEASANT FAMILY GATHERING - 1919

There was a pleasant family gathering at the home of Rev. S. A. Elliott in Rice township on August 31st, when Mr. Elliott's children and grandchildren met at his home for a family visit and dinner. There were present Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Elliott of Mount Ayr and daughters Gladys and Alice and son Mark and wife and daughter Doris of Rice township, Henry Tucker and son Dean and daughters Gayl and Rea of Sargent, Neb., Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Patrick and daughters Mabel, Ardis and Louie of Lovilla, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. McGinnis of Albia. Some of these relatives had never met before. *Mr. Elliott reports, "It was a very pleasant time until we came to say goodby. May we all meet in heaven."* 

\* \* \* \* \*

S. 11 - LETTER From EDNA [ELLIOTT] HOOVER To MARK & ILAH ELLIOTT - 1920

This letter is written by the dau of Rev. S.A. & Louisa, Edna [ELLIOTT] HOOVER [Mrs. Bert] to Mark & Ilah Elliott.

Greeley, Colo Sep. 5 - 1920.

Dear Nephew & Neice.

Just a line to let you know I am thinking of you & sympathize with you in your great sorrow.

I didn't hear of your trouble untill Friday eve. *Flossie* wrote *Dessie Clayburg* & she phoned it to me. I had not heard your children were sick untill then. I am so sorry for you. She was such a sweet little treasure, we all loved her; my girls often spoke of her & the good time they had with her that last Sun - before we left there.

Life is so full of sorrow & disapointments, but it will only be a few short years till we will all be in the great beyond where parting will be no more.

*Uncl Will McClearys* have moved here. They bought property. He has not been very well lately & he thought this climate might help him. *Esther & baby* came out with them for a short visit & her baby was exposed to whooping cough while on the train out here. He began coughing few days before she started home & she was afraid he might be taking it & she wrote few days ago & said it was. *Esther* <sup>56</sup> lives near Beaconsfield.

I seen *Sammie Rush* & family last week, met them down town. They drove over one day & back home the next & had so many to visit they didn't have time to come to our house. I got to see *Mrs. Jordan* while here but not long enough to visit with them, it is so far from here to *Claybergs*, to far to walk & *Bert* was so busy all the time. They were here few minutes once. They planned on coming back but their time was taken up they didn't get to.

I wish you folks could make us a visit, would like to see you. I don't know whether I will ever be able to go back there on a visit, not for along time yet anyway. I am stronger than when I came & know Colo has prolonged my life yet I know I am far from well, but I know I am so much better here that I am content to spend the rest of my life here, I couldn't be hired to move back to *lowa* now.

Our school opens next Tuesday. We have fine schools. I don't believe there is any better schools any-where. Students come here from nearly every state.

We had company about two weeks ago that took us by surprise, A. J. Goodale & wife & Ivan Crew & family of Kellerton. We didn't know they were in the country till they drove up & stopped. They came early in afternoon & stayed till next day. They had several other places to visit. They had been traveling over Colo for two weeks - had two cars. They carried camping outfit with them & were enjoying their trip fine.

We would be glad to hear from you.

With love & sympathy,

Edna Hoover 1611 - 8 St Greeley, Colo

NOTE: Edna was 47 and was suffering from tuberculosis at this time. She recovered and lived to be 89.

\* \* \* \*

254

 $<sup>^{56}</sup>$  This farm is owned and resided on in 1999 by one of her sons was designated as an "IOWA CENTURY FARM" by the IOWA GOVERNOR about 1992.

### S. 12 - MAXINE HOOVER to Her Cousin ZOE ELLIOTT - Jul 1928

Manitou, Okla. July 25, 1928

Dear Zoe.

Here I am fixing to talk to you a little while.

I surely was glad to receive your letter and those pictures. they were real cute. I surely would like to see the baby. --- Is he as "good-looking" as the rest of you? When ever anyone comes her and looks at our pictures, when they come to yours they always say that you favor me. <sup>57</sup> You surely should be "flattered." ha ha!

I wonder, if it is raining as much up there as it is down here. If it is, I'll bet that you kids have lots of fun wading. It has been raining a little every day since last Friday and this is Wednesday. Pretty much. Eh?

We got a letter from *Flossie* to-day. she said that they were all going on a trip to Colorado. Why don't you folks go with them? You surely would have lots of fun.

I don't expect that we will take a trip this summer. The crops are too late. They look pretty good tho' considering what they have had to go through with.

Avis came home yesterday. I guess you knew that she had been attending summer-school at Norman. She was gone about seven and one-half weeks altogether. (Pardon the spelling. I wasn't paying any attention.)

We just killed a snake that is Donald did. Uncle Jim is out here now.

Do you see Margarete or llene much? I would like to see them again. We had so much fun last year. I guess I'd better go eat a peach now. Yes, we have quite a few alto' they were bruised pretty badly. Well, I guess I'd better ring off. Mama said that she was going to write some. ---- Horrors! We just killed another snake. The dog caught a hold of him and shook him so that six big eggs came out. (I mean snake eggs.) --- Say don't get the wrong idea and think this a snake country for it isn't. Those are first snakes we've killed in a long time. Well must ring off for now.

Ta, Ta, Lovingly Your Cousin *Maxine* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup>#654. Maxine was 15 and her 1st cousin once removed, #856 Zoe, was only eight. Both had auburn colored hair but wouldn't show in photos in 1928!

 $<sup>^{58}</sup>$  They were neighbors - daughter and adopted daughter of Walter Hardens.

# S. 13 - FRANK ELLIOTT To His First Cousins, DON & ZOE [ELLIOTT] NICHOLS - Jan 1941

Station Hospital Ft. Greely, Alaska Jan 8, 1941

Dear Don & Zoe.

I received your Christmas Card OK. From the sound of the letter, I get the idea that I`m getting bawled out.

For once I`m not guilty. I answered the letter right after I got it. Where it went, I don't know. Grandma & Grandpa never got the one I wrote them or *Flossie* either. I'll try once more, and if you don't get this letter let me know and I try again. But, please, when you bawl me out for not getting this letter, take it easy, & watch your blood pressure. You know what that *red* hair of yours is.

Not much up here that we can write about.

You say Don's practicly in the army now? Maybe all that will change for him will be the pay side, uniform, and G.I. chow.

Well its chow time so I guess I'd better quit & run or I'll get left out. Write again some time.

Love

Frank

1-11-41

I got your package last night. Thanks a lot the cookies & corn was swell. I'll try & mail this now, at least I've got some stamps now anyway.

### S. 14 - MARK ELLIOTT To His Dau & Son-In-Law, ZOE & DON NICHOLS - March 1941

Mount Ayr, Ia March 24, 1941

Dear Zoe & Don

Mother says for me to write you tonite. She says she is tired. I started writing with this on my knee but changed positions. I guess you can tell where I changed. Grandma E. is sick and she was up there today. Had the Dr Sat night but she seemed better today. You know she was pretty sick or she wouldn't let them have a Dr. Better write her a little cheer up letter. I sold some hogs today they weighed 250 lbs.

We were up to Stephens yesterday. Nothing much in detail to say about it.

Uncle Ras was up home today he came Sat Night him & Ollie & Elaine. The women went to St Joe and are going to pick him up as they go home tomorrow. The FFA boys played B B at Corning Fri Night and won. I guess their is not more news so will close.

Dad

NOTE: Dad didn't write many letters so was a treat to receive one from him. `Stephens' was the family of Mother's sister, Lola. Uncle Ras was Grandma Emma's brother. I played a quard on the FFA basketball team. Ise.

S. 15 - `LOU' [ELLIOTT] FOGLEMAN to Her Brother, `AL', and His Wife, EMMA, - 5 Jan 1942

Omaha Nebr. Jan 5th 1942

Dear Folks

Well we had a big snow and the weather turned cold on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> so 1 had the water and lights turned off and the next day I took the train for Omaha. It has been terrible cold and stormy most of the time since I came. They said yesterday the temperature had been from 12 to 18 below, and we have lots of snow here. I don't know whether I will get over into lowa this time or not. Not if it stays cold like it is now. Had a letter from Merle - he said it was 25 below last week. Ednas house is so nice and warm all over - furnice heat and I enjoy it. They keep the temperature about 80 to 83 and I can't realize it is so cold outside till I open an outside door - which isn't often. On Christmas eve we went to Verns brothers house, all the Forsbergs had their family Christmas tree and get-to-gether, there. After enjoying the tree they served a delicious lunch and then part of the crowd went to church. The church was decorated beautifully, with camels, shepherds, wise men, candles & Christmas tree and the like, the music commenced at 11 o'clock p.m. The sermon commenced at mid night. Was over at 1 a.m. We went back to Floyds and got the rest of our crowd and it was about 3 a.m. when we got back to Ednas to another Christmas party, staid till after midnight - went to church the next day and it has been so cold and stormy we have not been any place since, didn't go to church

yesterday and Edna seldon misses church. Joyce'started back to college thiis morning after 2 weeks vacation.

Had a letter from Cecil written next day after Christmas, said it was 16 below there on Christmas eve. Saw in the paper that lowa was having a cold snap. Hope you all keep well thro' it all. Are you playing Chinese Checkers? I often think of you and the games we played and would enjoy another game, even if you did beat me.

Had a letter from Dessie. They are all right yet, tho the situation seems pretty serious sometimes. They were all well. Well will close for now. Have several other letters to write. How is Aunt Minta getting along? Is Esther Ray Merrill with her yet? I got your Christmas Card and letter after I came here. My neighbor forwards my mail. Write again soon.

Love to all

Lou

If weather warms up & If you, or any one you know, should go to Clarinda & let me know, I could meet you there, or if any of your friends should come to Omaha, I might thum a ride back to Mt. Ayr with them. I thought maybe Paul Teale might come to see his mother.

NOTE: Their sister, Jessie, would have been in the State Hospital in Clarinda at this time.

## S. 16 - Mrs. DONALD [ZOE] O. NICHOLS To Her Brother, LOREN S. ELLIOTT - 12 Mar 1943

Mount Ayr, Iowa March 14, 1943

Loren S. Elliott 121 1/2 Welch Ames, Iowa

Dear Loren,

Happy Birthday, Brother! I'll bet you feel all of your twenty years. It seems you and Lois are nearer my age than you used to be. I believe you're catching up.

It's ten o'clock Sun evening, and we've just gotten back from the show, "Panama Hattie" starring Red Skelton. It was a fair show, but I'm not particularly fond of that kind.

Lois was down, as you know, and had to take the 7:06 bus back. We took her up of course and, since it was just show time after she left, decided to take it in. Quite a bunch got on the bus but she got a seat.

Grandma & Grandpa came down today. Dad went up after them. They seemed to enjoy the day, ice cream & cake etc., and Grandpa did lots of tramping around --- more than he should have I expect. Would have been a nice little family gathering, had you been here to have shared the cake. However your share's on the way --.

Mom's fixing up your laundry & mending socks right now, so it'll be ready to go in the morning.

We'll have to admit we kinda looked for you down yesterday. Just hopin' I guess. However with tests coming up we could understand why you didn't. Hope you pass everything O.K. Rec'd your letter yesterday.

We went to town last night. Too nice a night to stay home I guess. I gave Dad a shirt & Ib of candy for his birthday. He thinks he's getting pretty old. I told him he and Don had the same numbers in their ages - 25 & 52. Coincidence or sumpin! Hope Don rec'd his box, that we sent, in time for "his day". He wrote Sat that he expected to be moved this week, the 18th or 20th. Hope he comes up this way farther. I'm hoping real hard in fact.

Well, I must get at my letter to him & then it'll be time for bed. Be expecting to see you one of these days - the last of the week perhaps.

Be good & Best Wishes,

Zoe

NOTE: Don [in service] and Dad's birthdays were on March 13 while the twins [Lois & Loren] was on March 16. Zoe's first child, David, was two months and two days away from arriving into the world!

### S. 17 - Mrs. A.W. [EMMA] ELLIOTT To Her Grandson, LOREN ELLIOTT - 2 Aug 1943

A. W. Elliott Mt Ayr, Iowa Aug 2 - 43

L. S. Elliott. S. 2. C Baricx 10 d B O.G.U. Farigut Idaho

Dear Lorn

I will write a few lines this morning I was waing for your new adress but your Mother called me and said you was still at Farigut so I thought I would write any way she said she couldent get a letter off today but she would write tomorrow. We sure was disapointed<sup>59</sup> in your not geting to come home but proud you got a promotion. Meby by the time your schooling is over the fighting will be over too. We hope and pray it will. Am sorry *Lee* is so far away I am afraid he will get in the hands of them trecherous Japs. You know he is in Australia and never got to come home.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup>This compiler's 15-day leave was canceled after train tickets bought to go home - said I had to make early draft to go to a radio technicians school in Michigan City. Only one in company of 120 not go get leave and was still there in Farragut when they got back for another two weeks.

I washed this morning we had a little rain this morning we need some more. I expect we will get it for it rained on Monday. Aunt Minta McCleary was her from Thursday untill last night she makes Grand Pa nervous he dont like her very well nor never did she is a big spoilt baby. Lou Crout is down she is at Withers. She is not very well. Aunt Sissie is Dr her up. They will come over here tomorrow. We have been haveing lots of rosting ears the last two weaks and will have them all faul if we get enough rain. Grand Pa has been diging the potatoes. They are not very good but we will have plenty to do us. I will hafto can shell beans right away.

We have got a funy preacher now something is the matter with his eyes he roles them so funy but meby we will get use to him dident notice them quite so much yesturday but he cant preach like Kelley. *Lyle* has a new job he is gathering up eggs & cream for Armers. They live across the street from Withers next to Ligetts. Grand Pa is pretty well this summer. He has been takeing vitamine tablets and they have done him lots of good. Well I will close as Pa wants to go to town. Hope you get this. Meby they will let you come home before long.

#### With lots of love

#### Grand Mother Elliott

P.S. Keath Lorence of Koon Rapids was down here weak before last. He said he was to go to Farigut lda the 26 of July. He wondered if he could find you he said he was going to write you but he thought you would be gone look him up if you have time.

NOTE: Grandma Emma Ona [RUSH] ELLIOTT didn't spell as well and her handwriting wasn't near as good as most of the Elliott ladies that descended from Martha and Comfort. She also didn't use any punction marks - sentence breaks have been added. She did state things very clearly and just the way things were and we all loved her! When Grandpa `Al' thought she was coming on a little strong, he would quietly say, "Now Mother" and she would slack off. LEE KEENAN and LYLE SACKETT are also grandsons. Aunt Minta is related on the `Mark' side of the family. Sissie [RUSH] Withers was her sister and Lou [MORRIS] CROUT was a daughter of another sister. KEITH LAWRENCE was a grandson of one of her brothers.

# S. 18- `LOU' [ELLIOTT] FOGLEMAN To Her Brother, `AL', and His Wife, EMMA, - 10 Nov 1943

655 Sheridan Ave. Loveland Colo Nov. 10th 1943

Dear Bro. & Sis.

Just received your card and was very glad to get it. I had been thinking of you folks so much the last few days especially, and I just said to my self this morning that I was going to write to you today before I write to anyone else. I always have so many letters to answer and of course I write to my kids first.

I have been very busy this summer. I spaded the ground for my garden and flowers, and have

hoed & dug and pulled weeds, then canned every thing I could. I have a seller full of canned stuff. I don't know how much I have canned, but I counted the jars of tomatoes and I have 72 jars, and part of them are ½gallon jars, a lot of 1 1/2 qt. jars & many coffee jars, & they hold over a qt.

I don't work all the time tho, some days I play. Have gone to mountains week ends with friends that have cabins there. I have a lady friend that has a car - she is alone too. We each bought fishing licence this year, and have been going to the different lakes, fishing, more fun at that than anything else. I <u>always</u> think of Al & my childhood days, when we used to fish in the branch. One day when I was just a little kid, I fell in. The boys set me on the bridge in the sun to dry. Al do you remember that?

The weather is so cold now the fish don't bite very well, but some times fishing is great. One day I caught 35 in just a little while. According to law the limit is 20 so I hurried and gave away a lot. I hope you get gas enough next year, so you can come out here & go fishing with me. Edna was in Seattle Wash. two months this summer, if she had known Chester was there, she would have hunted him up. Joyce lived there this summer she has moved to Aberdeen and Edna has gone back to Omaha. Edna wrote last Sunday & said it was snowing there. The weather is nice here, but cool. Had letter some time ago from Edna Hoover. They are about as usual except Leatha. She has been poorly for over a year.

I don't see Merles very often. They came back California & rented a house east of Factory Ave. and on 1st street, its about 4 1/2 miles there & back.

I still walk to the cemetery and back about once a week. I had nice chrysanthemums to take yesterday, a variety of colors.

Well I must get out and rake leaves, then answer some more letters tonight. I don't know if I told you Dave's sister Mary and his brother Bill both passed away last spring.

Write me a long letter next time. Tell your kids and Sissie & Marion that I said "Hello" to them.

Love as ever, Lou.

NOTE: I had never noted the "Middle Fork of the Grand River" being referred to as the "branch"! It obviously attracted little girls. Dad [Mark] took my twin sister, Lois, and I fishing there for our first time when we were five. Enviously, I watched Lois catch the first bullhead but, as she swung it out onto the bank, she rolled over backwards into the shallow stream. Her new straw hat with little balls dangling along the edge went drifting down the stream. Dad quickly retrieved her and her hat but we had to take her home to dry! Dave was Lou's husband. Edna, Merle, and Cecil were her children. Joyce was the daughter of Edna. Edna Hoover was Lou and Al's sister while Sissie was Al's sister-in-law. Chester was the grandson of Al & Emma - son of Hazel. Grt Aunt Lou was 73 when she wrote this letter.

### S. 18 - PFC. CHESTER MOORE to His Aunt ILAH ELLIOTT - 1944

PASSED BY

37411 S

To: Mrs. Ilah Elliott

Mt. Ayr Iowa From:

PFC. Chester Moore
634 M.P. (EG) Co uecSc.

c/o Embarkation A.P.O.

New York, N. Y.

ARMY EXAMINER

#### **FRANCE**

Nov. 22, 1944

Dear Aunt.

U

Just a few lines to let you know I`m still liven an very much pleased and rather surprised to get a card an letter from you. It has been so many years with out seeing or hearing from you folks that I just figured you had forgotten you had a Nephew by the name of Chester Moore. I know I had plenty of cusins in the armed forces but didn't know just who or where they were at. I might be close to where Lyle is over here an might get to see him if I knew just where he is.

I'm glad to hear grandma and grandpa are well. Does Lyle write home mutch. I don't have mutch time for writing. I wrote grandma Elliott a card a few days ago. I guess it will be quite a shock to her to hear from me.

I will have to close for this time and thank you very much for remembering me. I do hope to be seeing you all before to long now. Give my regards to the Cusins of mine you write to in the service.

Good Bye

Chester

NOTE: Chester was the son of Hazel, daughter of A.W. & Emma Elliott. Lyle was a first cousin, son of `Flossie' Sackett who was the oldest daughter of A.W. and Emma. This was a `V - MAIL' letter, a reduced photo copy of the original that was commonly used at this time for overseas correspondence.

## S. 29 - Cpl. DONALD NICHOLS To His Wife's Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. A. W. ELLIOTT - 1944

Cpl. D. O. Nichols - 17096869 (?)nd Wea. Ren. Sqdn. (M) APO #690 Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

PASSED BY

To: Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Elliott

Mt. Ayr Iowa

U 36364 S

U.S.A.

ARMY EXAMINER

India

December 27, 1944

Dear Grandma & Pa Elliott:

When the mail came in yesterday I received the package of stationery and the razor blades. I was very surprised and I certainly appreciate them. Thanks a lot, I really can use them to.

We had quite a Christmas here. I'll try to tell you about it. Christmas eve the Red Cross Club here on the field had a buffet luncheon early and the choir sang Christmas carols. The choir was put together by the chaplain and made up of the fellows on the field. Then at 11 o'clock I went to the communion Service at our church. (Our Services are held in our theatre.) After the church service I drank a can of tomatoe juice and ate a cheese sandwich.

On Christmas day nearly everyone was taking the day off, some had a late breakfast. I was up by eight and ate breakfast. At 10 o'clock I went to the Theater to hear a lecture on Palestine. It was given by an army officer who was a Geologist and had been in Palestine. He did a fine job and the lecture was very interesting.

At noon I was in line not too far from the front for dinner. They handed us a nice menu, which was very well set up with pictures of the area here. As we marched in I got dressing, mashed potatoes, peas, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, candied yams, corn, beans, and hot rolls. The tables had table cloth and on the tables was bread, coffee, nuts, apples, bananas, celery & cabbage salad, mince pie and fruit juice.

I slept most of the afternoon and went to the show in the evening. The mail has been very slow in coming in, but yesterday I got twelve letters and two packages.

I have gotten over my operation in fine shape, but it will be some time before I'll be able to do any heavy work.

I forgot to mention that the commanding officer came in and led us in a prayer just before dinner.

The weather here is very nice in the day time, but we have to sleep under blankets. Some of our boys are in China. I guess the weather there is nearer that at home.

I can't think of much else to write so I'll ring off this time.

Thanks again for the package and I hope you had a very Merry Christmas, and I hope the New Year will bring peace to all of the World.

Your Grandson

Don

NOTE: Don was the husband of Zoe ELLIOTT, dau of Mark & Ilah.

S. 26 - NEWSPAPER ARTICLES - FRANK ELLIOTT - 1943
DONALD 0. NICHOLS - 1944
LYLE SACKETT - 1945

Newspaper article of August, 1943---

Frank Elliott, who has been stationed with the army air corps in 29 Palms, Calif., has been recently transferred to Sioux Falls, S.D., where he will attend radio and gunnery school. His address is as follows: Pvt. Frank Elliott, A.A.F.T.T.S., Sqdn. 807, Sioux Falls, S. D.

Newspaper article of 1944--

Cpl. D. O. Nichols left Tuesday for Barksdale Field, La., where he will receive his assignment after concluding a two weeks' furlough with Mrs. Nichols and son, David, and with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Nichols. Cpl. Nichols recently received his wings as an aerial gunner at Fort Myers, Fla.

Newspaper article of January, 1945, probably from the Des Moines Register or Tribune---

#### Pvt. Lyle Sackett Reported Missing in Luxembourg

Mrs. Lyle Sackett received a message Monday from War Department which stated that her husband, Pvt. Lyle Sackett, has been missing in action since December 20 in Luxembourg.

Pvt. Sackett entered service at Camp Dodge April 5. He was sent to Camp Hood, Texas, where he received his training. At the conclusion of a furlough spent with his wife and son, Larry, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Sackett, in Mount Ayr, he left September 5 for Fort George G. Meade, Md., from where he was sent overseas. He landed in England and was later sent to France and Germany.

NOTE: Lyle was safely released at the end of the War.

Another newspaper article of 1945--

Cpl. and Mrs. Frank Elliott are the proud parents of a son, Warren Richard, born January 22 at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Omaha, Neb. Weight, six pounds. Cpl. Elliott is at present stationed in Hawaiian Islands. During the absence of her husband, Mrs. Elliott has been making her home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emlin Smith at Bellevue, Neb.

S. 2**1**.- Letter from LOREN ELLIOTT To his Parents, ILAH [SPENCER] & MARK ELLIOTT - 1945

`Extract printed in the MOUNT AYR RECORD NEWS - 1945'

Mr. & Mrs. Mark [Ilah (SPENCER)] ELLIOTT submit the following extract from a letter to them from their son, Loren, who is an aviation technician on a baby flattop somewhere in the South Pacific, dated March 21, 1945.

I now have a little to write you in which you'll be interested, as they lifted censorship quite a lot yesterday, and Admiral Nimitz is allowing us to write about what we were doing a month previous. I should have more I can write in about a couple of weeks.

You already know mostly what we were doing the first two months after I came aboard the "Mighty

Mak", so I won't go into that. On Sept. 25, [1944] I saw the States for the last time as we pulled anchor and on the way to Pearl Harbor with a load of new planes. We dropped anchor six days later in Pearl Harbor, about fifty yards from the remains of the old "Arizona". I made one short liberty into Honolulu two days later, and the joint didn't quite meet up to expectations. I will go into that more at a later date. We unloaded our planes and started to load back up with old survey jobs bound back for the States, when our orders were changed and we reloaded with new Hellcats and were soon on our way to Manus in the Admiralty Islands. Crossed the Equator Oct. 14, and arrived in Manus Oct. 16. Went on one beach swimming party while there. We didn't stay long and were back at Pearl Harbor the latter part of October and dropped anchor near the remains of the old "Utah". Pearl Harbor practically became home for the next three months, and were in and out every week training pilots. We ran up our total number of landings on this carrier since commissioned to almost 10,000 and set a CVE record of completing 273 landings and takeoffs in one day. I made several liberties into Honolulu and went to school near there for one week.

On Christmas we were docked in Pearl Harbor, and on New Year's Eve we were training night fighters. I happened to have the duty that night and was standing by on the flight deck in the island. It was a beautiful night, and we had very good luck that night. We were served sandwiches and coffee on the flight deck right after the New Year came in.

I saw Ralph Stevens, as he told you, the latter part of Jan. I thought I was never going to find him, but by coincidence bumped into him downtown in Honolulu. The next day we pulled anchor and were on our way to Entiwetok in the Marshall Islands. Were there a few days and went on the beach swimming one day. There isn't much there - just a lot of small islands, more commonly called atolls. We left there a short time later and participated in the Iwo Jima Campaign. Were around all the time, but the Navy had it relatively soft compared to the Marines.

> From there I'll have to leave you. Lots of love - Loren.

His address is: Loren S. Elliott, ART 2/c, V-3 U.S.S. Makassar Strait, CVE-91 C/O Fleet Post Office San Francisco, Calif.

NOTE: "Update - letter was written while the `Mak' was participating in the Okinawa Campaign. The Mak' was a Kaiser built job, about 560 feet long with a compliment of about 1000 men. When operating with assigned squadron, it carried 12 torpedo planes [TBM's] and 18 Wildcats [FM-2 fighters]. The `91' designates it as the 91st escort aircraft carrier built - a total of about 120 were built. A few of the first ones were constructed on cruiser hulls and could travel at about 30 knots but the `Kaiser built' at maximum could only do about 15!"

## S. 23 - Newspaper Article Of 90th Birthday Of `LOU' [ELLIOTT] FOGLEMAN In 1960

It is not so unusual to find someone who has reached the age of 90 these days, but when we called upon Mrs. L. M. Fogleman, who observed her 90th birthday Tuesday, we found her to be very unusual. She might be described as a tiny bundle of wit and laughter.

The two daughters of Mrs. Fogleman are holding open house today to honor their mother at her home at 655 Sheridan. The daughters are Mrs. Joe Tunney of Sacramento, Calif., and Mrs. Vern Forsberg of Omaha.

The daughters are very proud of the fact that their mother is interested in everything today and does not live in the past. Mrs. Fogleman told me that she was happy that the Reporter-Herald carried the schedule for Echo and she saw to it that her two daughters went out into the yard with her to see the sight the other evening.

Mrs. Fogleman lives alone during the summer. She reads the Reporter-Herald without her glasses although she uses bifocal glasses part of the time. She has not told her friends her age until this past year. One would not think that she should remain at home if they knew her age. She loves to go places and plans her first plane ride this fall - a trip to California by jet.

We wondered if her heritage had anything to do with her happy disposition. She was born in a Methodist parsonage as her father was a Methodist minister and her mother's father was a Methodist minister.

Mrs. Fogleman was born on Sept. 13, 1870, in Hopeville, lowa. we asked her if the figure "13" had been unlucky for her and she said she thought it has been her lucky number. 60

She was married June 27, 1888, to David J. Fogleman. He was a blacksmith - an important man in the lowa villages in those days, as he shod the horses and sharpened the plow shares.

In 1912 the Foglemans moved to the area near Torrington, Wyo., where they homesteaded 320 acres. Their crops were not very good the first years so he followed his trade of blacksmithing to have a "cash" crop.

Mrs. Fogleman recalls that about the only entertainment they had in the early homestead days was to get together and sing. She wrote a number of poems that the group sang.

They moved to Greeley in 1919, then to Loveland about 1928. They came to Loveland because their son, Cecil, had the Fogleman Furniture store at 337 E. Fourth St. The Foglemans moved to the present home 30 years ago.

Mrs. Fogleman liked to hunt and fish when a young woman. One of her daughters said her mother is always busy and has more hobbies than anyone in the country. She collects stamps, writes poetry, makes broaches and earrings from beads and sequins, composes verses for the birthday and

 $<sup>^{60}</sup>$  She passed away on 13 Oct 1966 at the age of  $^{\circ}$  96'.

Christmas cards she sends and keeps scrapbooks of important events. She is also a rock hound and has rocks from every state she has visited. She has three old Indian mallet rocks used to grind grain. Two of them were found on the Wyoming homestead. They found these Indian mallets near the old Fort Laramie trail that ran through a corner of their homestead.

She has a number of lovely antiques which have been handed down from her family. Among them are a what-not and walnut dropleaf table that are very nice. Both are over 100 years old.

No matter what trinket Mrs. Fogleman receives she can think of some way to use it. For an instance, she used many rattles from rattlesnakes to make a plaque with the wording "Wyo. Snakes" with decorations.

She recalls that she has lived to see the first electric lights, first automobiles, airplanes and now the atomic age.

Her daughter, Mrs. Tunney, and her husband celebrated their golden wedding anniversary recently. Mrs. Fogleman was visiting her other daughter, Mrs. Forsberg, in Omaha. Mrs. Fogleman went into an Omaha store to select a golden wedding card to send to her daughter. When she did not return within a short time, the daughter went into the store to see what was taking so much time. Her mother said: "I can't find a card that says `Golden Wedding Wishes to My Daughter'.", not realizing that very few mothers live to send cards to their daughters on golden wedding anniversaries.

Here for the 90th birthday anniversary are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tunney and their daughter, Mrs. Ruth Ellis, of Sacramento, Calif.; Mrs. Vern Forsberg of Omaha; and three sisters of Joe Tunney: Mrs. W. C. Harris of Kellerton, Iowa, Mrs. Lloyd Barber, Mrs. Caroline Duffield and Mrs. Margaret Duffield of Tingley, Iowa.

Mrs. Fogleman has a grandaughter, Mrs. Lloyd Barber, and a grandson, Bill Fogleman, who live in Loveland. Her son Merle was here from San Francisco about a month, and Mrs. Fogleman's sister, Mrs. B. C. Hoover, 87, of Frederick, Okla., was here several weeks ago. Mrs. Fogleman is the oldest of five generations.

#### S. 24 - EDNA [ELLIOTT] HOOVER To MARK & ILAH ELLIOTT - 1961

225 North [?] 11 St Frederick, Okla Mar 26 pm [1961]

Dear Mark & Ilah -

I was glad to get your letter: I know you are better I had seen in the paper that you were in the hospital: Herschel had that kind of trouble some time ago, but he is over it now: I had a letter from Edna Forsberg yesterday & they had just received a message that Merle Fogleman had passed away. He had been in the hospital three months; he had pneumonia & three strokes: Lou & Edna didn't go to the funeral. Lou was not able & Edna wouldn't leave her alone: Merle visited Lou last summer: I'm planing to go to Calif to visit Maxine in little over a week. Keiths wife & baby are in Okla City visiting her parents & I am going back with her. We will go by plane: When I get back if you will come down I'll go home with you: I've only been to see Maxine once since she lived in Calif. Avis & Herschel came up yesterday got here in time to eat birthday dinner with me & stayed untill after dinner today. Valroy & Kay are visiting us this is the first long visit she has mad since she was married. She has taught school two years out there & she substituted quite a bit the first part of this term, but had to quit because she is expecting first of June; Ronald & Ava Jo came over last nite. They live in Lawton, forty miles from here: They come over ever week end: Ann has a good job in Okla City. She cane home last week end: She don't come home as often as she did while in college. You have a nice looking grand-son & he has sure grown since he visited us. I will send the photo right back as I'm going away. Thanks for sending it. The kids took some photos of me yesterday if they are good I'll send you one. Tell Emma I think of her & will write her from Calif. Maxines address is 8300 Gonzago Ave, Las Angles 45 Calif. Please write me there.

Wishes to you both & family

Edna Hoover

NOTE: She had just celebrated her 88th birthday. Letter was well written with good penmanship - used colons instead of periods in many places. Original letter in possession of L.S. Elliott.

## S.25 - Mrs. ALVIN [LEATHA] HOOVER to ZOE [ELLIOTT] NICHOLS & Family - 20 Dec 1962

Frederick, Okla. Dec. 20, 1962

Dear Zoe & family,

We were happy to have your card and note. Things like this make a better Christmas, wish your family, your mother and dad could come see us again.

Our girls are away from home - *Kay* is in Gallup, New Mexico. She teaches school and her husband is an engineer. Gallup is really a railroad town. They have a baby girl who was a year old in May, *Jeanetta*. *Ann* is in Oklahoma City. Bookkeeper in the allergy lab, she comes home every two or three weeks. *Ava Jo* and family are in Loveland, Colo. Her husband works in a steel mill and they have a baby girl who was a year old in July.

If it isn't to cold and we don't have much snow, maybe we will see all of them for Christmas.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all,

Alvin & Leatha

NOTE: This well written letter with excellent penmanship by a lady that married into the Elliott Family Line has the same appearance as those written by many of the ladies that descended from the Elliott line. Alvin was a son of Bert & Edna (Elliott) Hoover.

## S. 26 - EDNA [FOGLEMAN] FORSBERG To MARK & ILAH ELLIOTT - 28 Sep 1966

4816 No 36 St. Omaha, Nebr. 68111 Sept 28 - 1966

Dear Ilah & Mark;

Mom was so glad to get your birthday card & interesting letter. Thanks so much for remembering her.

Vern had a stroke & entered this hospital (Immanuel) June 21<sup>st</sup>. He passed away Sept 9. I know I should have let you know sooner but Mom was sick too & seemed like I was always running from one to the other. Vern had so much brain damage that he didn't know us after about the middle of July. It seems so terrible for him to be gone but I know he wouldn't want to live that way. I wouldn't want him to. I'm sure God knows best & I just keep trying to think only of the blessings & I realize I have many.

I had to bring Mom down here 2 days after Vern's funeral. She was so bad. She is better now tho & I hope I can take her home soon. She just don't want me to leave her a minute & don't like for the nurses to do anything for her but wants me to so I just as well be home. I hated so bad to come back down here but there must be some reason I should have come.

Had a sad letter from *Ann Hoover* today. *Alvin* has been sick since May 5. He had a light stroke like Vern & just kept getting worse. The injury was to the left side of his brain as Vern's was. He has been out of the hospital - said *Leatha* was so upset - found she had glaucoma in both eyes. Ann seemed to think her Dad was worse this past week. God bless them, I sure know what they are going thru.

Do hope you folks are all well. Mom talks about Loren so much & she enjoyed your visit so much. Some days she seems to think clearly & other days she is sure mixed up.

Will close for now. Ann said Leatha was so upset she just couldn't write to anyone. Hope you will write to her - Leatha, I mean. I will too today. Thanks again, Ilah for everything.

Our Love to all

#### Edna & Aunt Lou

NOTE: `Lou' [Elliott] FOGLEMAN [#473] passed away 16 days later at the age of *96*. The last four years of her life with the help of daughter, Edna [#650], she passed along to this writer several pictures and a wealth of history information of the Elliott and Mark Families. I almost missed the great privilege of knowing them. Edna's handwriting was excellent as was her mother's.

## S. 27 - JEAN [KEENAN] WURSTER To LOREN & ALMA ELLIOTT - 1984

Mrs. Karl Wurster Box 155 Coulter, IA 50431

Hi!

How is the Word Processor working? I took a course in it a while back & enjoyed it. I thought of you & your work. I keep trying to remember about going to Grandma's for Christmas - the leather couch, the many crocheted doilies she gave us.

I can remember spending every summer & sitting with Grandpa in the porch swing while he played his juice harp. [Then the feeling of homesickness when the locusts started singing.] Remember when Lee would get to ride old Snowball in the parade? Snowball looked so out of place tied to a tree at Grandpa's. I can remember rushing out to wave at the engineer as the train went through. I always liked the smell of Grandma's percolated coffee. The first electric one I ever saw was there. I can shut my eyes & see all those pies she had made on the enameled kitchen cabinet. Do you remember all the hen & chicken plants that grew on the cave? And the grapevines shading the porch? The lily of the valley on the east side of the house? I bet that's where you inherited your interest in

Hope you have a Merry Christmas with your family! We'll be at Virginia's the Sun. before Christmas and at Karl's sister's on the 25th.

Love.

Jean

So glad you had the Reunion!

NOTE: Jean, Lee, & Virginia are children of Gladys [ELLIOTT] KEENAN, grandchildren of `A.W.' & Emma [RUSH] ELLIOTT. You remember well, Jean, - some of those things I had forgotten. Only things you missed that I can think of are the peach trees and the carom board. Wish we had a picture of that train! Lse.

-272-

## S. 28 - XMAS LETTER of DAVID ELLIOTT NICHOLS - 1991

December 25, 1991

Dear Family,

Hope all is going well with everyone. Everything is going fine here. I don't usually write letters with Christmas cards, but I'm always left thinking of Aunt Loraine. I've been known to get scolded for sending one piece of mail a year and having little to say. She is right (of course). The far flung empire of the Elliott/Nichols clans leave little means to track what is going on.

The year was full of pride and milestones. The big one came this spring with *KRIS* graduating from Marquette University's Engineering College (Civil) in Milwaukee. Her first career move was to land a job with the Gas Company, in Milwaukee, in their management training program. Her Boy Friend is Mark Newell, a police officer in Milwaukee. She is the only one I know that will get on a bicycle, go into the countryside for 100 miles, and consider that recreation.

Ann decided this spring that the east coast was not for her. I didn't take it personally -- not with Dave Alton waiting for her in lowa City. She moved back there early summer. It was good to have the time together, almost a year. I also saw more of Scott with Ann (Mom) in residence. Actually saw both Ann and Brian more this year than normal. Brian's job brought him to Washington a couple times. Now that he has moved to North Platte, Nebraska (with FAA), the trips are probably over.

This fall I went on sick/disability leave from my job at the Comptroller of the Currency. Although classified as having AIDS, I'm doing fine and have not actually been seriously sick. The lack of stress seems to have helped keep me well. Early this year, a new friend moved in with me. (Carlos Camacho, from the Phillippines.) He has taken on the role of "spy" for the family.

My first move after "retirement" was to visit New England and welcome in the fall. Visited upper New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. This was the first time I've seen the beautiful combination of brightly colored leaves and evergreen trees. After the first of the year, I'm sure I'll start looking to warmer parts of the planet.

The Thanksgiving holiday was spent in Des Moines. I can't tell you how long it has been since the whole family was together. Great moment.

I think I covered the main points of the year. Hope this letter finds everyone fine and well. Have the best of holidays!

Love.

Dave 61

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> David Nichols passed away 21 Nov 1992 - we loved you too Dave [Uncle Loren].