

Newark, Ohio.
April 1st 1943.

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Dear Philinda & William:

We have been hoping to receive a letter from you for sometime and I have put off writing thinking that we might receive one any day. Possibly one will come today after I have written these few lines.

Your good letter of February 11th arrived on February 26th and made very good time and we were all so glad to know about the wedding and to know that everything went along so well. Even the wedding cake arrived on time or in nick's time.

We hope that Philinda will give us more details of her voyage across the ocean, that is if it is possible. Hope that you have your apartment all arranged and that Philinda will like it despite the hot climate.

Did the boxes that we sent around Christmas time ever make it, I hope that they did or will for there were quite a few things that I am sure you would like to have.

Mrs. Younce called Sarah several weeks ago and told her that she had received a letter from "Laddie" telling of his landing at Lagos and meeting you and also Bud Francis. I hope you will tell us about it as it must have been quite interesting to have met him in that way. I am enclosing a clipping which Phil Wuertz sent to me from Cleveland about his grand nephew coming from Lagos. He said in his letter "We appreciate the interest and help that your son William had in accomplishing the safe trip that the boy had."

I have not heard from Janie for several weeks but I owe her a letter so cannot blame her for not writing. She tells me that they have a very lovely place which faces the ocean and have plenty of ground for a victory garden. You possibly have her address by this time, if not it is 3030 Esplanade Drive, Seattle, Washington.

I had a letter from Lillian yesterday and she says that Aunt Vomie is about the same and that she, Lillian, is improving and is able to get around a little better. She says it is almost two years since she had a letter from you and I am sure that they would love to have one even though short.

The [redacted] plant is coming along in good shape and Newark has been declared a defense area and there are two hundred and fifty new houses to be built here. This should give us some business if it is possible for us to meet the competition and get the material. You may not know the old town when you get back. We also have a small machine plant of the [redacted], located in part of the [redacted] buildings. Owens Corning are going fine and business would be very good if we just had the merchandise to sell. Our inventory was down \$19,000 from last year.

We did get a car of nails a few weeks ago, a small amount of poultry fence and poultry netting and expect forty rolls of barb wire. This will all help a little. We will have no screen wire, lawn mowers, guns or ammunition. Garden tools are almost all gone now and the gardening is just starting. The government is asking everyone to put in a Victory garden, but tools and seeds are short already and I do not see how it can be done. We want to put in a garden again this year and hope to raise enough vegetables to carry us through. With almost everything rationed, we shall have to raise quite a bit. It is a good thing that we have a farm for it will help out quite a bit. On Sarah's place at Hanover we have thirty eight head of cattle, one hundred and twenty ewes, thirty five yearling lambs, sixty odd shoats and twenty sows, with around a hundred little piggies, the piggies are just coming and we should have around one hundred and fifty. From gardening I got to the farm and left the store. Our shelves are looking rather bare as it is just about impossible to buy any tools or cooking utensils and hundreds of other items that we have stocked.

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Grandpa came down last Sunday and surprised us all. He says he can stay a week or so as he has to get back and put in the garden. For his age, he will be eighty six in October, he is doing very well although his hands are getting quite shaky and his knees hurt him all of the time.

I see by the paper the Margery Ann Jones married the Shrontz boy last Saturday and Betty Reinbold is going to marry Corwin Harris, a newcomer who is Secy. Treas. of the Schuler Engineering Co., located in the old Jewett Car Company location, tomorrow. He belongs to Rotary and seems to be a very fine man, aged forty and I notice in the licenses last night that she is 28.

While we do not have goods to sell everyone is anxious to buy and it keeps us very busy. Ollie has not been well, has heart trouble, so it just keeps all of us stepping and when night comes, I am just too tired to do much of anything except read the paper and go to bed.

I think that I told you that Sarah and Mel had the flu, but they are alright again. Mel is having vacation this week.

I went down to see Uncle Cary on Sunday and he is getting along in very good shape, thought that he would never be up again but he is hoping to get out when the weather warms up more. We really had our first spring day yesterday, temperature was above 70 and this morning when I came to the store at 7 it was 60.

It is now almost 8.30 and I must close this before the store opens for I will not have much chance after that to write, at least in any peace. I come down at 7.30 almost every morning and do the odd chores before we open. With Walter and Virgil both gone it makes it tough for me.

Dean Homer Price died suddenly a week ago, he was a very fine citizen and will be missed by the public. He always asked about you and seemed to like you very much. Also Mayme Smucker died a couple of days ago and I am to be a pal bearer at her funeral this P.M.

I know that there are dozens of things that I should tell you but they do not come to my mind now. Betty is as well as usual and wrote to you a few days ago. Aunt Rob ask about you every week, we take her to S.S. and Church but she is getting rather feeble.

Write and tell us the news, with Philinda with you, it should be much easier for you to write to us.

With love and best wishes to you both, God bless and keep you both safe. Hope you will get a home leave soon, but do not look for it until the war is over.

Yours,

Laddy.

