

Upon trying to read this letter I
think I need a new pen or nerve
medicine - It seems a pen is easier -

March 21, 1941

Dear William:

Rec'd April 8

"Greetings of Spring"! Whatever that may be. Our snowy, icy, unfriendly "Lion" as changed into a meek little lamb to welcome the new season of hope. What a weather we have had here in Ohio!

I enjoyed your last letter very much and do appreciate your words concerning the life of a singer. That is one profession - "with all its ups and downs" that I know quite well. I know what it is to hear cheering mob on a square in Berlin cry "Hoch!" "Hoch!" while the singer drives away - I know what it is to see a Paris audience stand on chairs & do the same. Also New York, Chicago & St. Louis - but also the tragedy of seeing a great voice and musician fail because he could not conquer himself has also been my lot -

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I do hope your friend stops to see us and I sincerely wish him the best of luck - he will need all he can find.

By this time you have heard that Lillian fell & broke her hip. Aunt Vonnie wrote that they have a trained nurse for her. Well, fortunately, it was Lillian for it would have meant the end for Aunt Vonnie. As Lewis Mitchell says - a broken hip is about the worst break you can have for it does such damage to your whole system for some unexplainable reason -.

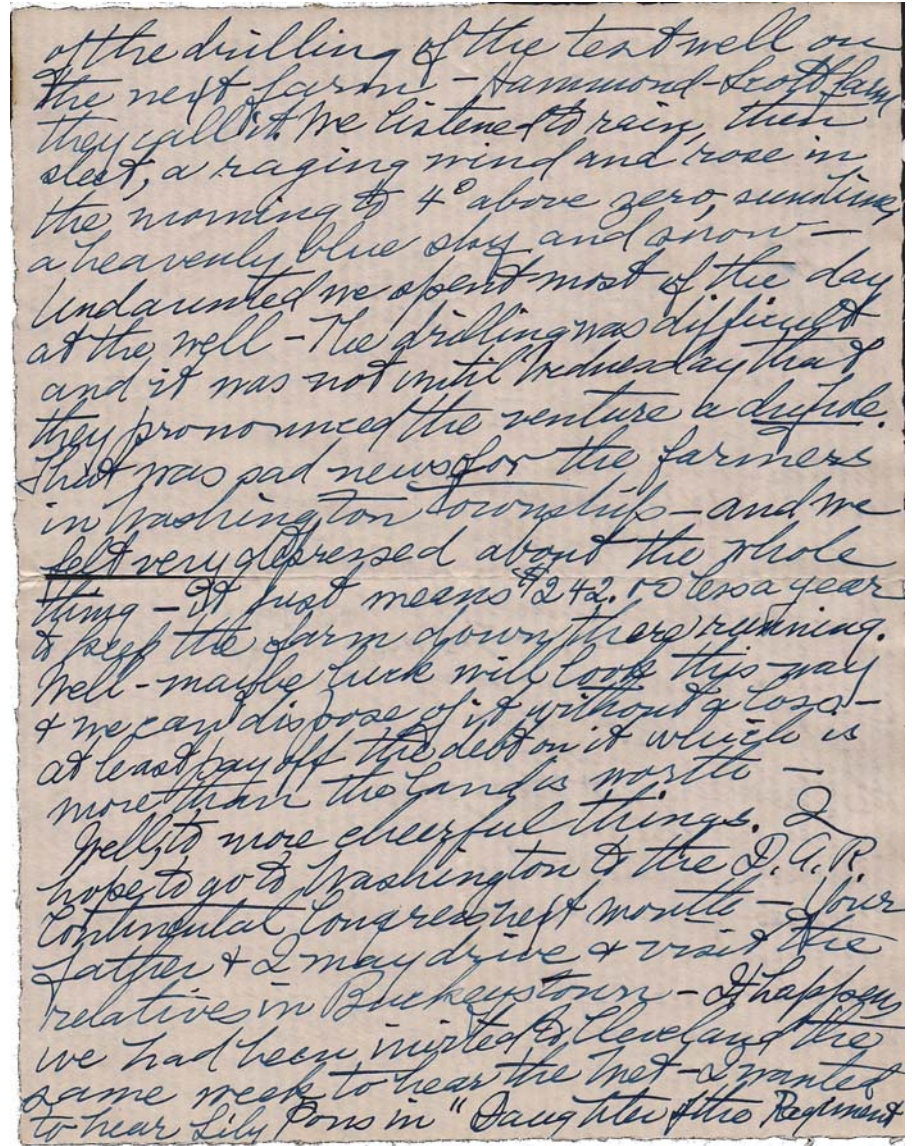
Newark High School is in the throes of another basketball championship. Last night they won the first game of the final and today and tomorrow will tell the fatal story. We had the state Championship in 1936 & 1938.

Last Sunday your father & I were lured by the mercury at 50° warm & went to the country to stay overnight in order to be in at the finish

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of the drilling of the test well on the next farm - Hammond-Scott farm they call it. We listened to the rain, then sleet, a raging wind and rose in the morning to 4° above zero, sunshine a heavenly blue sky and snow. Undaunted we spent most of the day at the well - the drilling was difficult and it was not until Wednesday that they pronounced the venture a dry hole. That was sad news for the farmers in Washington Township and we felt very depressed about the whole thing - it just means \$242.00 less a year to keep the farm down there running. Well - maybe luck will look this way & we can dispose of it without a loss - at least pay off the debt on it which is more than the land is worth -

Well, two more cheerful things. I hope to go to Washington to the D.A.R. Continental Congress next month - your father & I may drive & visit the relatives in Buckeystown. It happens we had been invited to Cleveland the same week to hear the Met - I wanted to hear Lily Pons in "Daughter of the Regiment".



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Do you suppose in the next few years in your travels you could find me a pair of nice vases for our front room mantel. It is a difficult mantel & needs color. Blue would fit the room - the drapes in both rooms are antique blue silk (plain) sort of a crepe material. A pair of red Venetian glass vases would lend color as well as fit in nicely - not too big nor too small - at least 6 inches high. Or a pair of figurines might be nice - can you find anywhere over there a dozen Dresden china plates - dinner plates - that are not too expensive. You could carry all this home under your arm -! - We shall be so overjoyed to know you are in the U.S.A. that we probably will be poised on the pier waiting for you in N.Y.C. - with the Mercury at the door. I will reimburse you for the mentioned items. Needless to say such things cost much here - or cannot be obtained at all -

Take care of yourself and I hope you can read this very miserable writing of mine - Love from us all - Sarah

Mary Shinn is wearing a nice sparkling ring & the event is to be soon.

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