A Firm Foundation

A Collection of Letters
To Marion E. Potter
Written by
Wilburn and Florence Potter
and Family Members

Prepared by Bernard W. Potter
Acknowledgements

The letters are copied from the originals with no deletions. This experience is a first for me. I have found it exciting and infectious or perhaps even addictive!

A big thanks to my brothers Carleton and Willard for their help in finding and identifying family pictures and for their recall of various family events.

My Bean-Hazzard cousins---Virginia, Ruth, Joan, Bonnie, Herb---have contributed more pictures and recollections. Nieces Jean and Susan have been helpful. Your input is appreciated.

Children, Pat, Bill, Nancy, Joanne, and Bernice and their families have given me the spark to “just do it”—so thanks—you’re all special.

Most special of all is the encouragement, advice and patience which I have received from my dear wife of fifty-four years, Margaret Smith Potter, as I secluded myself with our Apple Mac for hours putting A Firm Foundation together. Thanks, Margie.

Thanks to our extended family and friends, past and present, who have made and are making these writings so meaningful, God Bless.

Bernard W. Potter

June 26, 1998
6351 Prospect Terrace
Truxton, New York 13158

Covers: Front: Home farm on Cheningo Road, Truxton, NY c. 1963
Grandma Marion E. Potter
Florence and Wilburn Potter
Back: Home Farm c.1876
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*This Contents highlights significant events described in the letters. There are many other comments related to the same or different happenings. They are entwined within the entire collection and the reader will enjoy finding them. The inclusion of pictures is an added adventure. The photo placement has no planned relationship to the adjacent text.*
A Preface

This collection of letters written to my Grandmother, Marion E. Potter, is a treasure and a legacy for us who are fortunate enough to be members of the Potter and Bean families. Grandma kept this Collection dating from 1914-1944. The spelling of Grandma's name, Marion, is correct.

Most of these were written by father Wilburn and mother Florence. A few by sister Marian Bean Potter Kitts, brothers Carleton Wilburn Potter, Willard Harmon Potter and myself, Bernard William Potter.

In 1907, while pastoring the Universalist churches in Cortland and McLean, Grandfather Wilburn Daniel Potter became afflicted with tuberculosis. He went to the Adirondacks for rest and fresh air. At that time Wilburn, still in high school, became his mother's strong support.

The marriage of Florence May Bean and Wilburn Herrick Potter on October 7, 1914 is the beginning of these letters. With that union the Potter and Bean families became one. So the reader will very quickly appreciate the ties that bind not only by the words but also the pictures, some older and others more recent, which we have placed throughout this collection.

The contents of the letters to Grandma depicts the joys and disappointments of a young couple who had set their life's goals. Those goals numbered in part—the raising and educating a family, being of service to a community, to achieve financial stability through the occupations of farming and veterinary medicine. The goals were encapsulated in a deep religious faith strengthened by involvement in God's church.

Titling this collection, "A Firm Foundation", is special. Recently, here in Florida, Margaret and I were visiting by phone with our dear sister-in-law, Phyllis Bradley Smith in Penn Yan, New York. As I was telling her about this letter treasure—her response was, "How Firm a Foundation". Thank you, Phyllis.

Within these letters there are names and instances that may mean little to the "now" generation. So, between each year I have made a few notes which I believe will make them more enlightening to all.

I hope you enjoy the letters and let your mind reminisce and dream as I have. We are a very fortunate family with A Firm Foundation as our legacy. Let each of us resolve to pass it on.

As Wilburn and Florence would write,
With Love from all in Truxton
Bernard

Valentine's Day 1998
Leesburg, Florida
Monday Eve

Dear Pa and Ma:-

We are just thru supper and while Nellie and Florence are doing the dishes and Frank is putting Gerald to bed will pen a few lines to you. We have been very busy today. It being very pleasant was a relief after about a week of rainy weather which made it rather disagreeable about getting around. Think we have seen something new everyday.

Today we went to Jackson Park. Probably Pa will remember something of it as the World's Fair was held there. Some of the buildings still remain. It's just beautiful as we have had no frost as yet. On the way back to the city I stopped off and went over to the stock yards again while the ladies went up to the city to do some important trading. This is the first time that Florence and I have been away from each other since we left Cortland. Guess you'll think I have changed my tactics from the time I was a little fellow.

This p.m. I was very much interested in the coming dairy show, the selling of horses and all the other numerous activities. Yesterday we went to the M.E. Church here in Edison. At night we went to Orchestra Hall to hear Mr. Robert E. Speer of New York. He was just fine and a fellow didn't feel as if he were the choir, the congregation and also trying to help the preacher as there were about four thousand in the audience. There were a hundred voices in the choir besides the quartet, a pipe organ and a piano.

A week ago we heard Dr. Gunnsalus at the Auditorium where the audience was large. In the afternoon we visited the Art Institute, then Lincoln Park, which has a large zoo, a conservatory, beautiful lawns and walks. Then we have been to hear Burton Homes in one of his travelogues on England which was very good. We have visited the Stock Yards, the P.O., Sears & Roebuck Co, Garfield Park, Park Ridge, Marshall Field Co, Oak Park besides other less important Gunness houses. It is some city and I think I should like the west even as well if not better than the east.

Tomorrow I think I shall go to the famous dairy district of Elgin. I've heard so much about it that seeing I'm so close that it would be a shame to be so near and then not take in that trip. I forgot to mention we went all thru the Great Western Depot which only cost 24 millions.

We are planning on leaving here either Wed. or Thurs. p.m. arriving at Niagara in the morning and only spending the morning there. Then arriving in Cortland on the 6:40 that night. Then a short stay in Cortland and leave for Chatham the first of the week. Do you notice that all our towns begin with C. Isn't it funny.
I wonder if Pa has done anything about any money. Think we shall buy our stuff at Peck's and we'll need some cash. So wish you would send me two hundred dollars at once in care of Daddy Bean. You may draw this from my account or if you rather not, I would be very glad to pay it back to you as soon as I am able. Or if you want to draw half on mine it will be alright. Any way you see fit will be perfectly agreeable to me, but do hurry it along.

I shall be quite glad when we get settled down for the winter. Think we shall enjoy each other very much for Florence is alright, just for me I guess.

Well it is after ten so think I'll close for now and hope to hear from you soon. Was glad to hear that the pullets were laying. That's dandy. Must close with

Lots of Love from

Us both to you Both

Wilburn and Florence
Sunday Evening

Dear Mother and Father,

And still we are in Chicago! We have about decided to spend the winter here provided we can get the Borden Company to pay our salary right along. We had fully decided to leave Thursday night when we received a letter from Doc Hall saying that Wilburn had better stay for the dairy show a few days and to wait and meet him out here as he expected to leave today for Chicago to attend the Dairy Show, too. So you understand why we still linger on.

I believe Wilburn wrote the last letter to you on Monday last after we had been to Lincoln Park. Well, on Tuesday we arose a little earlier than common and went into the city--then took a train out to Elgin which is about thirty-five miles out. Wilburn was anxious to see the country as it is considered very good farming land about there. We enjoyed the ride immensely. You know it is very, very level and we could see either side for miles. We imagined that it would be some different farming that sort of land than the hillsides back in Columbia Co, N.Y.

We walked about the town a bit and decided that it must be quite a religious spot as we saw churches of every creed and nation. There was a rather nice Universalist church there. Called at the office of one of Borden's plants. We would like to have gone through the Elgin watch factory but that was not open the public, so we just viewed it from the outside.

We came back by trolley and went over to Oak Park which is one of the suburbs out that way. We were invited to Mr. and Mrs. Radway's for dinner--they are great friends of Frank and Nellie. Frank came out from work and Nellie we met as we got there. Had a lovely time and played cards awhile in the evening. When it came time for us to go, they brought us home in one of their cars--just a fourteen mile ride! Mr. Radway runs a garage.

On Wednesday we were home all day. Wilburn worked out in the garden some and I tried to assist Nellie a little bit. We have surely been on a vacation all right and work has been the least of our worries. If we don't go home pretty soon Wilburn will be so fat he can't walk--he has gained almost eight pounds since we came. He says to tell you that he weighs the most he ever has.

Thursday we did a stroke of business. Went down town in the morning and looked at rugs at various places thinking that after we had gotten a good idea of values etc. we would go over to Sears, Roebuck and Co and see what they had to offer. But we found one we liked at the second place we looked. It seemed a bargain to us and Nellie thought it a good thing too, so after looking at another place we returned and bought the rug. It is a Dobson Wilton. Has quite a bit of deep red in it and light tan
and some blue. I can't describe it very well but will know about it when you come to see us. It is a good imitation of the Oriental designs. Nellie and I shopped awhile in the afternoon then came home. In the evening we attended an entertainment in the church here at Edison Park.

On Friday Wilburn was out at the Dairy show all day and I stayed home. Nellie went out in the afternoon so I was the sole protector of the place for a time. It was our first day apart and it was a little lonesome but suppose I will have to get used to absences once in a while. Yesterday Wilburn went down to Frank's place of business and they went down and walked around the city some but came home in time for an early dinner. Last evening we played cards—the Potters winning once and the Beans winning once.

Today we went into the city and heard John Timothy Storie preach. He was in Cortland at the Presbyterian church as pastor about eleven years ago. He was splendid in his sermon today. This evening Mr. and Mrs. Bean went to church here and we stayed with the youngster. Wilburn is very much absorbed in a book. He says that his father better get it as it is splendid. The name of it is, "The Inside of the Cup" by Winston Churchill. I started it also but he seems to have more time for reading.

We were quite surprised to hear of Mr. Shecham's departure from Canton and that he would take the position he did. You know Wilburn had heard of that place and had hoped to hear more from it. Have any more pullets begun to lay?

Write soon. Love to you both

Florence and Wilburn

rather of a chronological letter but will try to make it better next time

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notes 1914

Florence Bean and Wilburn Potter were married October 7, 1914. Their honeymoon took them to Chicago to be with Frank and Nellie Bean and their son Gerald

10-26-14

Borden Company--Wilburn was farm manager for the Chatham, NY, Columbia County farm owned by the Borden Milk Company. Dr. Hall was in charge of all of the upstate Borden farms. He was very helpful to Wilburn and appreciated his talents and so encouraged him in many ways. It is very probable that Wilburn decided to go to veterinary college because of his admiration for Dr. Hall. bwp
Dec 14, 1915
Monday Morning
Ithaca City Hospital

Dear Pa and Ma:-

You will probably be more than surprised at the above heading but it is true never the less. Florence kept having sharper pains from early in the evening but as the doctor spoke of a false alarm we were in no hurry to start for Cortland. Finally after getting Dr. Ball he thought we better come so I hired a car from Ithaca and we started. We went to about a mile the other side of Dryden and the drifts were too large and the ground so soft that we couldn't make it. So there was nothing else to do but to turn around and either go home or go to the hospital and we chose the latter. We got to the Hospital a little after 3:30 a.m. Everything is doing alright but it seems to be a slow case. The first ones are so they say.

While I think of it what are we to do about that suit of Grandpa's, the coat is too small for me and if pa can wear it with alteration it would be better for him to have it.

Yesterday afternoon we took a sleigh ride, the first of the season. It was pretty cold but we bundled up good and so had a nice ride. When we returned home the Tailbys were there and stayed until five. Then I went up to the train to meet Gladys Witty, and Carl McKinney got off of the same train so you see with the two extra and Tailby we had quite a busy day of it. Walter took Carl down to the College about eight and now Gladys and Walter are keeping house.

Lell Burdick and Henry Button are to be married at Christmas time at Elmira. Carl McKinney and Evelyn Kingsley are to be there. Wonder if you remember Sylvina Eaton. She used to board at Buckleys with Ruby and lone when they lived near Snyders on Greenbush St. Well she is head Maternity nurse at the hospital.

Tues. a.m.--Well quite a lot has happened since I started this and you know the results before this. Florence kept having pains but they were were not strong enough and quick enough to do the business so the Drs. thought best to take the baby away and so everything is fine and dandy this A.M.

Think this will do for now but will write often that you may know how we all are especially Florence and Marian. I am just penning a line to Auntie and others.

Love to both
Wilburn
12-14-15

Tailby----Walter, Professor of dairy science at Cornell. Wilburn and Florence lived in the house on his small farm in Varna, while Wilburn was going to Cornell Veterinary school. Wilburn milked Tailby's cows and drew the milk to East Ithaca creamery with horses and then went to classes at the Vet college.

Carl McKinney and all----most of the names mentioned are friends from Florence and Wilburn's years at Cortland High School

**Marian Bean Potter** was born December 13, 1915. Marian with an "a" is correct.
Dear Pa and Ma:-

I hope you will not be alarmed to see my hen tracks again but that you might be glad to see them once more. I hardly know what to write about, so if I repeat some that Florence has written you must not mind. Think she wrote that Dad and Emma were here last Saturday and Sunday taking us to Ithaca Saturday and then on Sunday taking us to South Lansing, Brookton, Slaterville Springs, Ellis Hollow and home again.

When we reached here two of the heifers had gotten out of the pasture and had left their tracks all thru the barn and had given their two calves a nice warm dinner in the meantime. Also Mr. Gibson, our neighbor, had just finished putting the pigs back in their pen, so you can see when the cat away the mice will play.

This week has passed quickly and quietly with the general routine work as chores, drawing the milk, and then I've cut the third cutting of alfalfa, plowed a little and put in a small piece of wheat, dug a few potatoes, repaired the old milk wagon, drawn a load of hay to the "Vet" college and also have been to town yesterday to deliver the eggs and do the numerous errands.

Thursday Florence went to Homer to meet the other grandchildren at Grandma Bean's to divide the household goods. As it happened she was tired and was sick all the afternoon and that evening but the next morning she felt quite like herself again.

The numerous articles that she is to have are carpets, bedroom suit, mirror, writing desk, drop leaf table, ___? box, silverware etc. I am to drive over tomorrow afternoon and get them, coming home Tuesday morning. Don't believe you knew about the Will did you? By the terms of the Will, Daddy Bean is to receive either 1/5 or 2/5 (E. & E. say 1/5, we say 2/5) and the remainder, excepting $500 is to be divided equally between the ten grandchildren.

The estate is approximately $20,000 and would have been more except for some bad investments made shortly before her death. Daddy Bean is quite busy straightening up affairs at present. They are planning on attending the National Grange at Washington, D.C. in November.

Friday afternoon E. & E. and G.W. Hazzard rolled in, in Donald's car. They staid until two o'clock today. This morning we took quite a drive; Florence and myself taking turns at the wheel. It gives us both the fever to have one but suppose we'll have to wait awhile.
The kids are awful cute. G.W. sits right up straight and shoves himself along. Doesn't try to creep or pull himself up and has one tooth out plain and another pricking thru. We weighed them this morning and G.W. tipped the scales at 21 1/4 and our Baby at 17 1/2 lbs. She had gained a pound in the last three weeks and is just as plump as a dollar.

Wonder if you knew that Fred Murray died this past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Hazzard are delegates to the convention at Syracuse this coming week. Maybe you remember a small place just below Caffertys. Well if they sell the farm to the County they are thinking of buying this place. House and barn and fifteen acres of land. E and E are thinking quite strong of buying the Smith place—the farm of ten acres directly across from the County House. They intend to keep hens and raise berries.

Guess that you'll be tired of this scratch by now so will close with

Lots of Love
From the Kids

notes 1916

Late summer 1916
Brookton---Brooktondale today
Dad and Emma--Grandpa W. J. Bean and his second wife Emma Gilbert Bean. She is the only Grandma Bean us children ever knew as our own Grandma Annie Harmon Bean died in 1910.
the Hazzards---George and Kate Hazzard parents of of Emund, Dorothy and Donald.
G.W. or George William son of Uncle Edmund and Aunt Emma Bean Hazzard. Same age as Marian Bean Potter Kitts.
E. and E. ---mentioned many times--Uncle Edmund and Aunt Emma Bean Hazzard
Dear Mother,

Well I understand that Wilburn hasn't written you yet so guess I shall have to. Maybe you would like a little money from your books. Don't know whether you will like the amount or not but it is all they sent, namely fifteen dollars. Wilburn opened it and thought he would send it right on but has been pretty busy.

Busy keeping house and going to college and new things to think about. Marian and I staid in Cortland until Saturday. Had a good rest as well as made a new dress for myself, also a collar and cuff set out of the pieces of that henrietta cloth, embroidered around the edge in running stitch. Made a pair of bloomers for baby and finished her white dress so that she wore it and it is now ready for the wash tub.

The latest news is that we move before Dec. 1st. We are not crazy or anything worse so don't get alarmed but keep cool. Last week Tailby informed us that he hoped to sell the farm before spring and that we would probably have to get out before we had planned, nice mild way of putting it. So Wilburn got busy immediately and got the job of caring for the cattle in the new barn on the Vet farm. Dr. Williams of the college has it in charge and think it will be a fine opportunity for the boys to get extra work in the genital diseases of cattle. Dr. Williams is a specialist in that line of work and known the world over, I guess. It surely won't be very pleasant moving just now but it hasn't all got to be done in a day but can begin now and take my time.

The house is not a very pretentious looking one and quite a lot smaller than this one so think we can heat it full as easy this winter. There is a kitchen, dining room, living room, very small bedroom and a pantry downstairs and three bedrooms upstairs. It is being papered and painted all thru so it will be nice and clean anyway.

There isn't much news other than the above, as we are just busy with the usual work. Wilburn was out on ambulatory this afternoon and so didn't get home until late.

Hope to wash in the morning so guess I had better retire.

Love

Florence, Wilburn and Marian
Dear Mother,

Well it has been a pretty cold day and not very bright. We got up at 5:30 and did the washing before breakfast so had it all on the line at 8:30 this morning. The clothes have been frozen most of the morning but are beginning to act a little dry now.

We were over to Trumansburg over Sunday. Marian and I went over Saturday morning on the bus, then Wilburn came at night. He missed his train so rode his wheel all the way over. Took him about an hour and a half which was not bad considering the kind of wheel it is. Had a very nice time just visiting. The two youngsters got along better than usual.

Was sorry that you had been sick, am afraid you haven't got real rested and strong yet. Wonder if you are getting in a nice long nap every day and retiring early. I had an hour and a half nap today.

We are packing up slow but sure. It is a possibility we will move this week but are not sure. We had rather planned that we might move Thanksgiving Day but hate to do it unless actually necessary so think we will do as much as possible this week. You had better send the mail this week here as usual or even till you hear from us again. Our address after we move will be Ithaca R.D. 3.

Yes it is over by the new barn that we go and it won't be quite as far from college as we are here and not near as far from down town. Yes we will have a horse to drive or rather Wilburn will, after it is broke. It is a colt and not broke yet, so don't think baby and I will take many drives alone--They may come to discover am not sure about it yet.

There is to be a social at the church this week Wednesday night expect we will have to go.

Rather thought from the writing that the letter for you that came here recently was from Helen. How is she and family?

How do you like knitting? Think my Red Cross Knitting will have to wait until after Xmas. What are your wants for Xmas. Have a start on my gifts. Tell Auntie we would like to see her hand writing sometime too.

Love to you both

Wilburn, Florence and Marian
Dear Mother,

Hope you haven't worried about us as we are all fine but still in a rather unsettled state. We are in our new home and have been since Thanksgiving afternoon but the settling goes a little slow as I can't get much help from the boys. They are pretty rushed themselves getting into the swing of their new job. I guess it will keep them hustling but they like it so far. We also think we are going to like our house. It will be much easier to heat than the other place as the ceilings are low and the rooms some smaller and then they are better arranged for heating. There are not so many halls and extra nooks.

Have the kitchen all done and the living room except for pictures and curtains both are ready to go up any minute I get around to them and we have things nearly arranged in the dining room, and the pantry is settled. That is very large and took me all one forenoon to do that. Have shelf room galore in it. But if you could see the pans of milk I have on hand now you would know I needed much room. Dr. Williams is the only one that gets any milk here so we can have all the rest so we are planning to experiment with butter making! Then I put the matting down in our bedroom today and hope to make a start on Adrian’s room tomorrow.

It was pretty cold part of the time last week and was afraid Marian would take cold but she seems to have survived all right thus far. You should hear her say Mother Goose rhymes. She can say the last word of every line and sometimes quite a lot more to most of the common ones. “Twinkle, Twinkle, Baa--Black Sheep, Boy Blue, Bo Peep, Mary, Mary quite contrary” etc. She tells them to her dolls when she can’t get some one to tell them to her.

Did you and Auntie have company or go away for Thanksgiving? We had our dinner that day at Mrs. Taylor’s. They were invited out so we made ourselves at home. Had planned to get over here for dinner but the last end took longer so had dinner before coming. Mr. Taylor brought the baby and I over in his car late in the afternoon. Shall miss Mrs. Taylor very much and Marian, I fear, will miss Madeline.

College is going much as usual. Adrian is having exams this week which keeps him hustling and Wilburn says he is having regular work and that keeps him hustling. Am hoping by the end of the week I can take it a little easier and get to sewing again to try and do a bit for Xmas.

Please pardon the blots--but my new pen doesn’t hold on to the ink very well.

Love, Wilburn, Florence and Baby
Change of address noted---Grandpa Rev. Wilburn D. Potter died June 2, 1917.
Grandma Marion E. Potter then moved from Canton, N.Y. to Orange, Mass.
which was her childhood home area.

11-6-17
enclosed with this letter was a letter to Grandma and enclosing 15 dollars for about a
dozen books which she had sent to N.J. Bartlett & Co, Boston, Mass. These
books were from Grandpa's library. They gave reasons why they couldn't pay
any more!

11-19-17
over to Trumansburg---Edmund and Emma Bean Hazzard operated a drug store there
two youngsters--Marian Potter and George William Hazzard--both about 2 years old
Red Cross knitting--to help in the War effort--World War I

12-4-17
help from the boys---Adrian Mills, also a vet student, lived with Wilburn and Florence
Auntie--Miss Esther Harrington--Aunt to Grandma Marion E. Potter
Taylors---think he was Rev. Taylor of the Varna Church
ink blots--the pens used had only points and it was dipped in an ink bottle and then
used for writing--sometimes the ink dropped off the point and made a blot!
Dear Mother,

At last I guess I am settled for a few minutes writing provided Marian continues to entertain herself for a while. She has been a little fussy since waking from her nap--guess it is too cold weather for her. My but isn't it cold? It was only 28 below last night and 16 below the night before and it has not warmed up much during the days. And it is settling in for another session tonight. But we have nothing of which to complain and I guess there are many that have had, with the scarcity of coal and the H.C.L. in general.

This week has sped by so fast and nothing in particular accomplished. Have managed to be rather late in retiring all most every night and therefore late in rising. Edmund and Emma and Geo. Wm. came up to Ithaca Monday evening and Wilburn met them. Then we went to Cortland together Tuesday morning. The youngsters hung up their stockings and quite a time with their things in the short time that they had in the morning. We put the things from you and Auntie and Aunt Ida and the Kiddie Kar in Marian's stocking. She thinks everything of her locket. Ask her who gave it to her and she says Santa Claus but ask her who sent it by Santy and it is Gamma Potter. It seems as tho you remembered us all pretty generously. I am breaking in my bed socks these cold nights. Sister gave me a pair also but as they were larger my husband is using those. Let me see if I can remember all that Marian received--2 hdks, 4 books, some doll clothes, cloth for dress, petticoat with crocheted lace on the bottom, locket, kiddie kar, cart, ball, baby plates. I don't seem to recall anything else just now.

Am initiating one of Wilburn's gifts now, that is a fountain pen. He also received two ties, pr. socks, set of garters and armlets, shirt, stick pin, thermos bottle, and a book on obstetrics from Dr. Williams--the one they use in college on that work this coming term. Then he and I received the subscription to the Standard for another year and a diary, Carl and Evelyn's pictures, Walter and Iva's pictures and Geo Wm. picture. Wilburn gave me a lovely Bible for Christmas and other were two bags--one of black velvet & silk, beaded, that goes nicely with my coat, the other was of very pretty ribbon with black tassel at end, a purse (no money in it), a book of fifty fairy tales that are good to tell to Marian and later read to her, a calendar from Frances Stone, three aprons, two bunches of kitchen holders, 3 dish towels, a fancy cap, set of shirt waist pins, a collar, an aluminum cake tin, 2 small agate kettles and a bread bar and three hdks. Think we all received a good deal for a war Christmas.

What did you receive and do? Oh yes we had a lovely big dinner with twenty seven of the family present. We had mashed potatoes, chicken, biscuits, gravy, escalloped onions, olives, pickles, coffee, pumpkin pie and whipped cream and fruit gelatin with whipped cream and popcorn balls. Suppose you had turkey!
Wilburn and Edmund came back to Ithaca that same night but Sister and I stayed up home. I came back the next day but she was intending to remain until Friday. It was such a stormy bitter day Friday that I rather she went back then.

Adrian I suppose will be back Tuesday sometime as college opens Wednesday a.m.. They have cut the vacation short and there will be no more until college closes in the summer which will be the last of May instead of the last of June.

Well Wilburn is in for lunch and the young daughter is lending a very helping hand in the writing so guess I had better close.

Please thank Aunt Ida for the book for Marian. Will try and write her myself sometime soon. Love to you all

Florence, Wilburn and Marian

Here it is Wed a.m. and this hasn’t gone yet. Monday a.m. we went down street and forgot to put it in the mailbox, yesterday was a holiday. Monday a.m. down on the campus when we were there it was 13 below zero. Yesterday was very quiet but busy-settled Adrian’s room at last. Went as far as Varna with Wilburn last evening when he went on beyond to get a horse. Just as cold as ever this a.m. but we are all keeping well so don’t mind so much. What did you do for New Year’s? When I wrote this intended to send to Holyoke but you had said you were returning Monday so have changed.
Dear Mother,

Another nice (?) winter day. It isn't so cold as some we have had but there is quite a wind which drives right in. Haven't cared to stir out. And the boys have been close in since finishing up chores this morning. At present they are both up in the barn as Dr. Williams and Carpenter are up there.

Last Sunday was lovely. We went over to Varna to church and had a nice sleigh ride. They held services out in the small S.S. room and when we arrived it was nearly all full except for the front row so Marian could entertain the whole assembly. Madeline sat in the second row and she did the talking and Marian the wriggling. Guess that I wrote that the Taylors were over and spent one day during vacation then this last week Wednesday Mrs. Taylor and Madeline spent the afternoon with us while Mr. Taylor went on beyond.

Tuesday I went down town calling and shopping. Thursday afternoon I was down at Mrs. Williams to help spread sandwiches for the men's refreshments in the evening. Thursday and Friday were Vet. conference at the College and they served refreshments Thursday evening at the smoker and Friday noon at lunch. Friday night was the dinner at the Ithaca Hotel. Both of the boys went down both nights and took in all the lectures during the days. Had some fine talks so they said. Dr. Hall was out to dinner with us Thursday noon. Dr. Way called in just a minute, but Dr Holford did not get out.

Perhaps you remember that we sent the Holfords one of our pups last summer or early fall. They think he is fine and like him very much. Suppose the last one we had is sold now, he has been gone from here some time.

How is your knitting going? Don't you find it fascinating work?

Wonder if you knew that Mr. Ledyard has resigned from the church at Cortland and gone to Vermont I believe. Tell Auntie that she is going to get a thank you letter all her own some day soon so not to be too surprised.

Love to you both

Florence, Wilburn and Marian

Wonder if you finally got a letter from Mrs Phillips. She had one returned to her and then I sent her your address.
Dear Mother,

Guess you will begin to think we have dropped off the earth, if I don't stop to do a little writing pretty soon. But we haven't, only just been busy and I was on the invalid list a little last week because of trying to do too much I guess. But am all right now and lots of work waiting.

Last week was exam week and the boys were more than busy but think we passed them all so are now on our last term of college. Not very high marks perhaps but guess we could not expect too much with all we have had to do aside from college work.

Am afraid we can't tell you yet where we will be another year as we don't know anything very definite ourselves. Will probably go into private practice and hope it won't be far from Central New York but that is only a probability. There are many other things we are considering but we are here and very comfortable and hope we won't have to move until fall. Wonder what you have decided to do about going to Herkimer? Before I forget, in order for Wilburn to get your Liberty Bond you must write out an order to the bank permitting him to get it, as your receipt is not enough.

You must be getting to be quite a knitter. My needles are still in the drawer waiting. Am doing a little crocheting at odd times but nothing strenuous. Have ripped up a dress of mine and washed it and have it ready to make Marian a coat. Also have the material for a dress for her that she got for Xmas. A very pretty blue that I think will make up lovely. She is getting to such a big girl her clothes are too small. She talks whole sentences and is at it most of the time.

Sunday and Sunday night was rather a strenuous time. Had hope to go to church in the morning but Dr. Williams came out about as we had decided todo so, so didn't. Then after he had gone Wilburn was trying to clean the separator while it was running, caught his cheese cloth in the cogs and broke them all to smash. In the p.m. Dr. Carpenter was out. In the meantime churned a batch of butter. In the evening put Marian to bed early and went over to Varna to church and staid until almost ten at the Taylors. On reaching home found we had a new calf so Wilburn had to go down and get Dr. Carpenter and they didn't get thru up at the barn until two a.m. When he had to take him back down town. Served them to a lunch of coffee etc about 1 a.m. As a result we were all rather dumpy yesterday and fear the boys did not start in the new term very briskly. Yesterday was a bitter cold day with an awful wind--a little milder today. But it seems as tho I could hardly wait for warmer weather to come.

How are all the Orange people? Does Esther like her position still?

Must get busy as the dishes are not even done.

Love from us all
Wilburn, Florence and Marian

Guess we haven't thanked you for the check
Family of John Spaulding and Catherine Farmer Potter
standing: Bernard Ulysses, Wilburn Daniel, Wendell
seated center: Veva
R.D. 3, Ithaca, NY  
February 20, 1918

Dear Mother,

My the days fly along so fast I can scarcely realize when they go. Last week especially went so fast. Perhaps it was because it was so full.

It started in by going to Varna to church in the morning (Sunday) and just a quiet happy day at home. Monday I had a caller and got a new coat started for Marian.

Of course last week was Farmers' Week at Cornell and a good deal doing down on the hill. The only thing we were down to was the entertainment given by the Ag-Dramatic Club in Bailey Auditorium. Wilburn took in a few other things but didn't have time for very much. Howard was over one day. Walked out and surprised me about noon. Then Dad and Emma were over to College Thursday and came out with Wilburn at night and staid with us until Saturday night. Emma and I sewed. We practically made the coat for Marian. I finished the button holes after supper Saturday night. Also fixed over a couple house dresses for myself that she got for me at the $1 day sale.

This week has been a little less strenuous as to guests but there has been plenty to do. It is much milder this week or has been before today. Now the wind is beginning to blow a gale and very much colder. Last night it just poured and the boys had to swim to the barn even tho we are on a side hill.

It was very nice of you to offer to come and help and appreciate it very much. But we plan to shut up the house while I am in the hospital and Wilburn get his meals out. Will be one less thing on his mind and leave him free to come to see me whenever he likes and can. Then my Aunt is coming with me and also Miss Scott perhaps. Am not dead sure about her yet but yet feel rather certain. After they all leave me I should be very glad probably of a helper for a little while, but that won't be until last July or into August. But don't think you had better give up any certainties for us, as we are very uncertain creatures here. There is a possibility we would be all packed up before, in fact there are so many things in our minds they almost whirl at times.

Last week a man from a big farm in the western part of the state looked up Wilburn and practically offered him a job but have decided that it is not the kind of thing we want to take up yet. It was to be farm manager and clean up the herd also. College and State exams will be all over before I am sick.

As to sewing I hardly know what to say. I haven't very much to do for the new comer and have Marian about up to date, so there is nothing very rushing. I have part enough yarn for a baby jacket and am going to match it up so could send that to be
done if you are anxious to keep busy and perhaps I'll have something else by that time to send with it.

It is Thursday morning and guess if I had waited until now to start writing I should never have said it was milder. It is pretty cold and blowy and the fire got low so the house is far from hot this morning. The boys have been gone an hour but Marian is just eating her breakfast as she was a little lazy this morning.

There has been a great deal of whooping cough and measles around this winter but we have managed to avoid them so far so hope we can continue to do so. At present she is trying to warm her fingers under my chin so guess I shall have to stop my scratching.

Love
Wilburn, Florence and Marian

Marian received her Valentine and calls the children "Cousins and Marian"!
Dear Mother,

Well while the cookies are baking, also a cake I'll scratch a few minutes. Besides these have made salad dressing and gelatine, dressed and helped feed baby and cleaned up the pantry and it is just 9:30. The boys were up earlier than usual this morning and left for college at 7:30 when as usually is about eight. But--the dishes are not washed.

Should judge from your last letter that everyone was enjoying poor health!! Hope you did not get anything with so many having things. Guess Marian must have caught it now from the letter as she has been about sick since last Friday but she is much better this morning if her actions tell anything. Guess it was sort of the grippe as she had cold in her throat and head and quite a temperature. It seems as tho all I had done for a few days was grease, grease, grease. So far her mother and father have escaped.

We have been doing nothing unusual or exciting except that Wilburn took a trip out to Avon last Saturday. The people there were very anxious he should come and look it over at least so they paid his expenses. But am afraid the trip did not do any good as far as our going is concerned. He had a very pleasant trip, did not get back until after twelve. One of the firm is a Miss Puffer and her Uncle used to live in Shelburne Falls. Wilburn said he knew him and told his first name but can't remember it, probably you know who he is.

Asked Wilburn a while ago what I should tell you about a price for the wagon and he didn't say and have forgotten it since. Should almost think it would be wise to sell.

Made about five pounds of butter last night and it was good too. We have had splendid success with our butter all this year but the first month was not very good but we were getting our experience then. The hens are beginning to do something at last for which we are very thankful.

Had our first thunderstorms of the season this morning about five and it was a good one too. Heard my first robin this morning and Adrian heard a yellow hammer? so am beginning to have hopes of spring coming sometime. It is so foggy now that it's impossible to even see the barn so feel quit alone in the wild.

Haven't done anything about the yarn as I haven't been down town. haven't any directions but think I can get some if you haven't any good ones. Must get busy as the cookies are done and the postman will be here soon.

Love, Wilburn, Florence and Marian
Dear Mother,

And it is St Patrick's Day and I haven't thot of it once all day. Am afraid that I am not a very good Catholic. It has been a lovely day here anyway. A typical March Day--lots of wind, sun has shown all day and been quite warm. You said you saw wagons occasionally and it seemed strange to us as we have been driving one about five weeks now. Guess there is plenty of snow back farther but we haven't it here.

Have you a new spring bonnet yet? Am beginning to think about one as I guess I shall have a brand new one. Need something to tone me up a little as we have been shut in so close this winter I feel quite restricted.

Haven't done anything very strenuous or exciting in the last couple weeks. Had a caller or two and made as many I guess. Am sewing a little. Made an apron for myself and most of a dress for Marian and got one one of those white dresses of Wilburn's partly made over, also a petticoat lacking the button holes. Come to set it down it seems like quite a bit but as it goes along it seems pretty slow, as I have to wait for Wilburn to manipulate the peddle on the machine.

Wilburn is rushed as usual with college and farm work. They are just putting the fellows right through in college work this term so as to get them thru early. There is no Easter vacation this spring. This coming weekend Wilburn is expecting to go to Sidney to look the territory over in view of a practice there. We have just heard that it ought to be a good place so thought we would look into it.

Suppose you were up to N. Orange this past week. Hope you did not overdo. Did not like to hear of your going to the Dr. but hope you feel all right now. Did you dispose of the wagon and get the room in the house vacated?

Yes, we have the cow yet. She has spent the winter again on Valley Farm. Don't know yet whether we are to sell this spring or not. Wilburn wants to know if you will be taking out about a thousand in Liberty Loans this spring? Believe the next Loan is to come soon. We are buying instruments and drugs now ready for practice. Ordered a medicine case a week and a half ago. It all helps to make us feel as tho we would soon be real Drs. (of cows)

Can you get coal any easier now than you could a month or two ago? Or are you burning wood? Our winter supply is still holding out and think there is enough wood around the place to saw up sometime when that is gone.

Did you decide to go to Herkimer? If you do you will come on and make us a
little visit before won't you? Can imagine that you have enjoyed the Red Cross work. I should judge from you last that you were quite busy with church and all.

How is Auntie? There isn't much news so won't tire your eyes longer.

Love,

Wilburn, Florence and Marian

Marian weighed about 36 pounds today with her coat, rubbers and sweater on. Hasn't gained much in weight of late but has grown taller.
March 26, 1918, Ithaca, NY

Dear Mother,

Well I have just performed a rather unpleasant task and now I'll sit and wait for the results. But am afraid I'll be sitting for some time if I do. I took some salts. I had to screw up my nerve pretty much but I finally downed it.

Well it is now Wednesday morning and nothing done yet except get the boys off to college but will finish this first or it won't get into the mail this morning. Don't feel very ambitious but perhaps as much so as I have for most a week. Have been having the grippe, I guess. That would include a terrible cold in the head and sore throat and general "unwellness" wouldn't it? I really haven't had time to think abut my own ailments, however, as Marian has been sick too. I rather think it is the grippe too but the Dr. said it might turn out to be whooping cough and would have to be prepared for anything.

We went over to Elmira for couple days the first of last week and the youngsters had a great time playing. Then it was so lovely they played out of doors quite a bit which they enjoyed immensely. All last week was perfectly beautiful here and it didn't seem as tho we could ever have any more snow and cold, but we are getting them again this week.

Wilburn went to Sidney Friday morning. Had a good trip out, seeing lots of people we knew and lots of country he had never seen. We heard before he left that a Vet. was needed at Cherry Valley so he went on up there while he was out and then Saturday night came to Earlville and had a talk with Dr. Hall Sunday morning. We won't go to Cherry Valley as it is most the end of nowhere and Mr. Lambrecht says they have winter nine months of the year and that doesn't appeal to me. But Sidney seems good and if we continue our plan to practise think it will be there that we will locate. Wilburn saw the Lambrechts and then while in Cobleskill on his way to Cherry Valley he looked up Carl and Evelyn and the Foxs'. Both couples seem to like it there very much. Carl and Evelyn haven't been there a month yet. He is assistant Farm Bureau agent for the county. Then in Cherry Valley he met Dr. Holford for just a very few minutes. Dr. Hall said that Borden's were expecting now to buy a large farm in N.J. stocked with purebreds and if they did he would like to hire us, but don't know as he would consider it anyway. There is an opening for a Vet right over to Brockton just a little way from there as the fellow there now is going into the army. In fact there are any number of places as well as any number of different things one might go into that it is rather hard to decide but think we will know definitely soon.

Baby wasn't taken sick until Thursday night and as she had only just got up when Wilburn left Monday a.m. we did not know how bad she was. But called the Dr. before noon--that day and she wasn't dressed until yesterday, so I had three nice days
alone with a sick baby and myself so near it wasn't much fun. Adrian was gone practically all day each day and part of one night, so was here only for meals.

Wilburn says you must stop worrying about the N. Orange place. Why don't you sell it if you get a good chance, you probably won't ever go there to live will you. He wondered if you could prove that the Millers had used the wagon and if so of course you could make them pay rent for it if you wanted. He thought you would pretty near have to sell it for what you could get. It is too bad things don't stay fixed up any longer isn't it but it seems to be the way of the world.

Well I must get busy or won't anything get done around here today. Love

Wilburn, Florence and Marian

Wilburn says why don't you sell the Baird lot as it is away a little from the other property and doesn't seem to be bringing in much. And that if you could get as much or little more than Grandpa put in why not do it.

---

Carleton Wilburn Potter

June 14, 1918

Hospital and Doctor billing for birth of
Carleton Wilburn Potter---June 14, 1918
Dear Mother,

While Wilburn is separating the milk I'll get this started and then perhaps it will get finished. Guess I am sleepy now as I wrote March instead of April. My time is going right along with it.

We had supper before the boys went to the barn tonight and thought I would get thru and have lots of time for letter writing but Marian didn't want to go to sleep unless "Mommie stay Marian" so of course I had to stay. She is feeling quite like herself again and don't think she is going to have anything more. (next afternoon) She had quite a cough for a few days but guess it was the same as I had and came from the grippe. She has been playing out of doors most of the time today. It is just beautiful tody and much warmer than it has been for most of the week.

Last week Thursday afternoon Leah Day came and staid until Saturday morning with us. Enjoyed having her here very much. She inquired for you and wished to be remembered to you. They think they will like their new minister as far as they have gone. The Hazzards have a granddaughter. Dorothy had a little girl named Barbara Jane. Dorothy seems like such a girl yet to be having a baby of her own and they were only married last August. But I suppose they just proving the statement that the first one comes anytime and the rest take nine months! Yes, we received an announcement from the Parkers. Isn't that nice.

Last Sunday night we were over to Varna to church and made a little call on the Taylors after church. Guess that is the only place I have been all the week. The boys are busy in college and keep looking ahead and thinking how short the rest of the college year is.

Avon is 19 miles south of Rochester and on the trolley out from Rochester--also on the Erie that runs from Elmira to Rochester. I think that the farm is couple of miles from Avon toward Rochester and the trolley stops at the farm. Am afraid we can't say much about the house yet only that it has electric lights, bathroom and hot water heat. There is over 500 A. in the farm and they make certified milk which they sell to Bordens. I think there are better than 70 head of purebred cattle on the place and quite a number of purebred sheep. Yes it is quite a job but think we can do it all right.

Well Marian wants some company out of doors so will go and bring in the few clothes we washed this a.m. Rather expect the boys down street this evening so maybe this will get mailed.

Love,

Wilburn, Florence and Marian
Ithaca, R. D.3
April 18, 1918

Dear Mother

I went to get some paper on which to write and found this so thought I had better use it up. You know we should practise economy even on paper. Economy seems to be one of the world's favorite words now and I do think we people as a whole need a few lessons in the subject.

Well we have had quite a nice week thus far except for a thunder storm later yesterday afternoon and an April shower this afternoon, so that now the grass is beginning to look quite green in yards and by the roadsides. We have a clump of daffodils on our place and they are in full bloom, much to the delight of Marian.

(Friday morning) Wilburn got ready to go to bed at this point so stopped immediately, and thus, got to bed at 9:30 and we didn't get up until 6:30 this morning which gave us a fine night's rest. We have finished work, up at the barn, and a new man cme to work this morning. The boys will take care of the calves but that will be all. Wilburn had to have more time for study than he was getting since exams begin in about four weeks. Don't know as Dr. Williams liked the idea but he put on twice as much work as he had agreed to have and we just couldn't do it and do justice to college work.

Wilburn was out to Avon again last Saturday to discuss plans for the season as to crops and help etc, and they wish him to come again before we go for good. It seems as tho we couldn't wait to get there now it is decided we are going and Wilburn is so anxious to be there to get things started right for the season but guess we will have to wait a minute. Don't know yet whetter we will go by truck or train. It is something like eighty miles from here.

Have you gotten a new hat this spring or will you wear the one you had last summer? I am still wearing the beautiful one I have worn for two summers but am planning to have a new one soon also a coat. Haven't anything I can wear in the coat line now except my winter one and that is getting rather warm. Wilburn has gotten a new rain coat. Think perhaps we will get down tomorrow to do some shopping and hope to get the wool to send on. Couldn't get it the last time I was down. Have just finished up a new dress for Marian, it was started a month or more ago. Am just making my little nighties now and have one more crepe dress to make then the most of the sewing will be done except for the diapers and a dress I am going to embroider which I think wasn't actually necessary but if I had time would be nice. Well the dishes are not done so guess I had better get busy. Am making bread today which is the first time in six months I guess.

Love

Wilburn, Florence and Marian
Dear Mother,

Just a note to say that at last I have gotten the yarn and am sending it by this mail. But if you don't think there is enough now just say so as I can get more now. And don't think you have to sit right down and do it right off for there is no hurry. Take your time.

It is a beautiful spring morning here, not so sunshiny as some but nice and warm and such a nice "growy" feeling in the air. Am doing a little washing also a little ironing and just generally busy.

Suppose you got one of the pictures from the Holyoke folks. I think they are splendid. Only wish I could meet Uncle Bernard.

We went down street shopping Saturday morning and bought a new hat and coat for me. They are both on the brown (light) and quite different than anything I have ever had, but guess I shall like them very much.

Edmund was out and spent the afternoon with us as he was on his way to Cortland for over Sunday. Emma is up there now and am expecting a call any time to tell of an arrival.

There isn't much news. Of course you know it is Wilburn's birthday but he says he doesn't feel any older --than yesterday.

Love
Wilburn, Florence and Marian
Dear Mother:

Am waiting in the Lackawanna Depot for the noon train to Cortland. Came from Avon this morning leaving there at 7:10. Received a telephone call from Florence at 5:00 this A.M. that she was ready to go to the hospital so immediately arranged my work so that I might leave at 7:00. Am hoping everything is alright and that it won’t be drawn out over so long a time as when Marian was born. Will write you and let you know how everybody is.

Hoping you are taking it easier than you had to when you first arrived in Canton. Try and visit around until we are able to be in our own home at Avon which will probably be about four weeks.

Have been putting in full time at Avon. At present I have fourteen men on the payroll and twenty head of horses and colts, about a hundred of cattle, 25 hogs. Our corn 85 acres was in the first of the week and most of it is up and cultivated, ten acres of potatoes, 6 acres oats & peas, 30 acres winter wheat, 15 acres spring wheat and about the same of buckwheat besides a large garden for the boarding house and 1-1/2 acres of cattle beets. Once in a while something to look after.

The farm borders the Genesee River and is located in one of the finest sections of the state.

Walter Snyder, the fellow whom I work in laboratory with while at Cornell visited me yesterday and came to Rochester this morning. He will take the State Board Examination for License to practice the last of this month and then go into the Army. About forty of our fellow will go to camp after they take their examinations.

As it is time for the train to go will drop this in the box and write later.

With Lots of Love
Wilburn

On this same letter, the following excerpted lines were written later by Grandma Marion Potter to her Aunt Esther Harrington in Orange, Mass.

Canton, June 19, 8:30 a.m. Dear Auntie:- Will send these letters of Wilburn’s and Florence’s cards, which will explain themselves, would like you to send W’s first letter about his ranch back to me-------W. and F. seem to keep up their record of doing things.

Love, Marion
Dear Mother,

While Wilburn is making up a few days reports I'll send a few lines along. We have been enjoying a furnace fire today for the first and Wilburn has been in the house practically all day. Marian realized we had a fire as she put her hand on the smoke pipe and got quite a burn. I had just gotten her dressed and was dressing myself preparatory to going down to Sunday School but there was no going after that. Instead we walked down to see some new little baby pigs and then thru the barn to see all the cows and calves.

The day we took you in we didn't get back until after one as we drove out to see Evelyn and baby, then several other places looking up help. Then last Sunday P.M. we were in the city again--looking help for boarding house and Wilburn was in again Monday. Miss Hardenbrook is still with us and think she will be. The room upstairs here, Fay's and the middle room, are to be papered and painted and fixed up for her this week. Mrs. Mantel has been there several days and a woman from Avon two days so she has been happy quite a bit this week.

Mr. Pearson arrived here Wed. for the day then went on to Washington and a week from today they will leave for the west. He had quite a number of German trophies which were rather interesting. Friday noon I was up to Mrs. Ogilvids to a luncheon she gave for a Mrs. Swan who is leaving town. Had a very nice time. Mrs. Hyde came over and staid with the children and of course they were good.

Carleton gained 3/4 lb a week ago and half pound this past week. Wilburn has had a fester on his finger which hasn't made him feel very good some of the time but has felt better today. Nothing so serious but that he has been busy all the time.

Have finished up the gingham dress and put Carleton into short clothes. Have several more things to fix or make for him but got tired of seeing him in long clothes and then it makes him look larger in the short ones. Leo and Susie Kingsley and baby and Evelyn and here less than three week old baby were out a little while a week ago Sat. They both have lovely babies.

Did not get the pictures until Friday as we were not before. Hope they reach you at Herkimer as I know you would like to show them there. Did you have a nice trip up the Creek? Had a card yesterday from Auntie. If you want any more of the pictures let me know.

Love from us all
Wilburn, Florence and the babies
Dear Mother,

Well if I don’t get busy with my pen soon you will be thinking we have the flu or something worse. Well I might assume you (know) that I have very little time for letters but I don’t suppose I am busier than heaps of others.

This has been a little different Sunday than many we have had. Wilburn was up early and the babies and myself about seven. Breakfast as usual morning work then I took Marian up to S.S. on the quarter of twelve trolley and back on the 1:18. Daddy took her for the first last Sunday but he staid with the baby today. This afternoon Georgia Knight a girl from Cortland who now lives and teaches here in Avon walked out and called. Just as she was leaving Miss Dunford came and remained until six. Since then we have put babies to bed and lunched and now have a breathing spell.

Last Sunday we had the whole Ogilvie family out for dinner and the last one didn’t finally go until nine in the evening. Dr. Frost, minister of the Presbyterian church, ws out and called Friday. Miss Isabelle Puffer also was in a short time that afternoon.

Miss Hardenbrook went home Friday morning finally and came back tonight. She said that she had a lovely time and hated to come back. But things are quite some pleasanter around than they were as four of the men who were always going on “sprees” were fired last Sunday. Mr. Ogilvie happened to be here when they were having a general good time across the road so he went up and wrote their checks and they got out that night. Then the dining room and kitchen over across have been papered and painted and the rooms up here for Miss H. Hope she will be happy for a time at least. Work is progressing slowly but surely. They are working on cabbage and beets and plowing some.

It is now Monday P.M. Mrs. Reid was here and washed this morning and it has been such a windy day the clothes are dry and in. She came Monday this week as we are now planning to go to my sister’s for Thanksgiving and then on to Cortland and perhaps be away for three or four days. We are planning quite a bit on it as we think it will do us both good to get away from here for a minute.

Will some of you people be together for Thanksgiving? Hope you all will have a very pleasant time. Baby is growing right along, weighed better than thirteen last week. Marian is fine and very busy most of the time. She is taking a nap just at present so think I had better call this enough and take it to the office before she awakens.

Love from us all
Florence
Dear Mother,

There seems to be a lull in proceedings for at least one minute so will make a start. This is about the end of a stormy, snowy, cold week. But it is thawing today and guess over seven inches of snow will soon disappear. Marian has enjoyed the snow if none of the rest of us have. She has had her sled, pails and shovels out and spent almost all of each forenoon outside. This morning Mother had to go out and help make a snowman. Quite profitable business for Mother!

Well we have had a little vacation since last I wrote. A week ago Wednesday night we went to Trumansburg and staid over until Friday morning then went on to Cortland where we staid until Sunday morning. Walter brought us back to Varna then we staid to dinner with the Mannings and he took us down to the Trolley and we managed to miss one on the Hill and consequently we missed the Black Diamond that was to bring us straight thru so we took the next and came back to F? and staid until Monday when went back to Ithaca and took the fast train. Got into Rochester Jct. about 6:30. Miss Dunsford met us with the car so were home in short order. Found everything O.K. and lots of business waiting. Baby was just too good for everything all the time we were gone and we all kept well. I guess we all have had a little cold since we got back but we are practically over them now. Edmund considers himself well, has been working about two weeks now.

The Misses Puffers are in Shelburne Falls. Called there yesterday as Mrs. Henry Puffer is very ill and not expected to live.

Sunday P.M.--They had word yesterday saying Mrs. Puffer died just a little while before the ladies from here arrived. You will no doubt hear more thru the Shelburne Falls people. Mrs. Ogilvie came out on the three o'clock yesterday and staid until the five. Then soon after she left Miss Dunsford and Mrs.____ called. Mrs. Pearson and Miss R Dunsford have gone west and they miss them so much.

Wilburn took Marian up to Sunday School today. It has been quite warm and our snow is practically gone. Work is progressing as usual. Rather short of help but we are getting accustomed to that state. Think there will be something better before long however.

Wonder what you are planning to do for Xmas. Expect now to go into the city tomorrow to do a little Xmas shopping. Mrs. Ogilvie is to take care of the babies. Carleton is growing right along and such a fat baby now. Not much news and as I want to write a few other letters must stop. Love from all of us to you both.

Florence
1-2-18
H.C.L.---High Cost of Living
up home---Christmas was celebrated at the Bean home farm where Walter and Ivah
were living
Holyoke---Mass. home of Uncle Bernard and Aunt Ida Potter

2-12-18
Howard--Uncle Howard Bean--Florence’s youngest brother
Dad and Emma---Grandpa William J. Bean and his 2nd wife Emma Gilbert Bean
while I’m in the hospital--preparing for another baby in June

3-26-18
Carl and Evelyn---classmates in Cortland High School
N. Orange---many references--homestead area for the Herrick family

4-8-18
Leah Day---another Cortland High School friend
Hazzards--referring to George and Kate Hazzard--parents of Edmund, Dorothy and
Donald. Mr Hazzard was secretary of Universalist church in Cortland for many
years thus they became good friends of Rev W.D. and Marion Potter who
preached at that Cobblestone Church
Avon etc----Evidently Florence and Wilburn had called Mother Marion about
accepting the job as farm manager at the Markham--Puffer Farm in Avon, NY.
This farm was known as Elm Place with the Misses Linda and Isabelle Puffer as
the owners living on the farm.

4-23-18
This is Wilburn’s 26th birthday---born April 23, 1892
Emma is up there---Cortland-- waiting for the birth of Emma Virginia Hazzard
Holyoke folks---Uncle Bernard Ulysses and Aunt Ida Barker Potter

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I am disappointed that we have no letters between the June 14th letter and November
11, 1918. Especially one after Carleton Wilburn Potter’s birthday which was
June 14, 1918, Flag Day. Perhaps we can still resurrect some of these
interesting manuscripts---bwp

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11-24-18
Miss Hardenbrook---I gather that she was the cook at the farm boarding house. On
larger farms there often was “boarding house” where the employees took
their meals and also had rooms.

12-9-18
Black Diamond---that was the name for the fast train from New York City to Rochester
on the Lehigh Valley Railroad.
back to F-- Frank Bean living in McLean
Mr. Ogilvie--sounds like he was one of the owners or head man at Elm Place. In any
case I believe Wilburn reported to him.
Avon, NY
Jan. 12, 1919

Dear Mother,

While Wilburn is doing his report will get this started and then perhaps it will get finished. Had intended to do a little writing this afternoon but this seems to have been our day at home so haven't found time.

Marian and I went up to S.S. then we had one of the fellows in for dinner. He is a fellow from Cortland who is working here, Lloyd Baum. Then this p.m. a Miss Aldrich, Mrs. Hyde, Miss Puffer and Miss Alleneueshaw have all been in to call so with the babies have been a little busy.

Everything is progressing as usual. The children and I came back Wed. and have gotten things cleaned up and moving along again. We had a very nice visit but am glad to be back and by ourselves again. The children got so many things for Xmas. Everything a child could wish for in the the way of toys and dollies too for Carleton received a lovely coat, Marian a dress, and a coat and hat that I got for her since Xmas.

Am glad you left Aunt Ida all well again. Does she often have throat troubles? We should certainly love to see Uncle Bernard anytime he could come. Hope it will be soon. How is Auntie? Imagine she was glad to have you back.

They are hoping to begin filling the ice house this week if this cold weather keeps up.

Monday P.M.--Have done a big washing this morning with one of the fellows help. Mrs. Reid's boy has had scarlet fever and they are not yet out of quarantine so am doing things without her. It is quite like spring today--not very good ice making weather.

Mr. George Hazzard has his farm up for sale and will sell if he gets what he wants and move into town. Donald is working in town now in the Overall factory.

We received a lovely Wallace Nutting picture for Xmas. Wilburn got a sweater vest, army style, a fur cap, hdfs etc. M & P gave us the Outlook for a year and a W.S.S. and lots of things for the children.

Must get this up to the office and then iron if there is anything dry.

Love to all
Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother,

As the children are both asleep--Carleton has just this minute awakened! But guess he will be good as he always is. He grows and changes every day it seems to us. He sits alone on the floor now and smiles mostly. Marian loves him most to pieces altho her loving is a little rough at times but the baby does not seem to mind. Have thought he would have some teeth by this time but nothing doing yet.

We have been having beautiful spring weather for the past week or more but today is windy and cold again. Don't think we will tire of winter as badly this year as last. But the heating system in our house is excellent so would keep warm, I think, no matter what the weather.

Wonder if you are making refugee garments for the Red Cross? I went over to sewing here last week and took both of the children. They are still working on pajamas.

Last Sunday I broke my gold crown off so Wednesday afternoon I visited the dentist and had all my work finished up that afternoon. My teeth were in good condition he said.

Had a woman to help me Monday so did a big washing and washed all the kitchen paint. Then Tuesday Mrs. Reid was here and ironed so haven't had it very strenuous this week. Am doing a little sewing all the while just to keep things going.

You asked about our cow. She was tested and reacted so the State took her over. We don't have to worry about her any longer.

How is Auntie? Imagine that she is enjoying this kind of a winter much better than last. It does seem good not to be kept in by snow banks. Everything is going along very nicely on the farm and everybody busy.

Walter and Ivah had a nine pound boy the fourteenth and are doing very nicely. My sister went up home for over last Sunday and the baby came down with the measles so presume Geo Wm. will have them also.

Well if I get this up to the office for Henry will have to hustle it along

Love from all to all.

Florence
Dear Mother,

Have the clothes all rubbed out and dinner on to cook so guess I will sit and rest and write. Mrs. Reid has been unable to come thus far so decided I would get the washing done and then she might get here for the ironing. Monday I washed curtains and bedspread.

We are having a little wintry weather today but it has been beautiful, Monday especially. Six weeks more of this kind of weather would be bad. Only hope that we will have it cold enough for a little ice.

We are doing a little testing for Advanced Registry now and Wilburn is doing the feed for it, so we are hoping that one or two of the cows will make a good record, if no more. They are milked four times daily so it seems like milking mostly. Work in general is moving right along.

Saturday night we were up to the Ogilvie’s to play cards with two other couple. Lloyd Baum staid over with the children. We are invited out to an Eastern Star card party the 14th but if the milking stint is still on am afraid we won’t get there.

Have a new dress finished for Marian except for the lace so she is pretty well attended to for a while. Also have rompers ready for Carleton. He is getting to be quite a boy, weighed 18 lbs last week. But he hasn’t a tooth yet.

Sunday we had the tester in for dinner and callers all the P.M. so didn’t get my letters written then as I had planned. And the week has continued as the Sunday started it with a caller each day. Guess things will remain quiet today as I don’t know who could possibly come.

Had a letter from Leah last night and she said that Aunt Kate was very poorly this winter. Leah is teaching night school as well as day school so is rather busy.

How is Auntie now? Hope she is feeling all fine again now. We are all well and think Wilburn is getting fat.

Well must go and finish dinner and clean up a bit ready for Wilburn to help with the rinsing when he comes.

Love from us all to all

Florence
Monday p.m.

Dear Mother,

Just a card to let you know we are alive and well and busy. It is quite a dull afternoon, trying to snow. Did my washing alone this a.m. but guess it won't dry very rapidly.

The children are well and growing. Carleton has no teeth yet. He is taking his milk out of a cup now which I think pretty good for an eight month old baby. He jabbers all the time. Marian was out to her first party last Sat. p.m. at Mrs Ogilvie's and needless to say she had a lovely time.

Are you and Auntie all well? We haven't heard from you in quite some time. Expect to get a little package out to you folks in a day or two.

Love from us all.
Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother,

If I hurry maybe I can get a few lines written to you before mail time. We were so sorry to know you had the grippe and all the other sad news. We haven't yet received any letter that Auntie wrote. Wonder if she directed it right? Are you feeling pretty good again? Probably not very strong but eat lots and drink lots of water and try and get a little fat on. How is Auntie now? Lucy has quite a care off her hands but it must be lonesome and sad for her.

We are usually busy. Have a woman helping me today and we washed, cleaned the kitchen paint and all, and this afternoon she is washing windows and light globes. Wilburn has been busy getting three carload of ice unloaded and a car of feed.

This week Friday night we are rather planning on going to the Masonic Ball in Avon. Two weeks ago we attended the Eastern Star card party and Wilburn received the Booby prize.

The babies are all fine both asleep at present. Did you receive the pictures?

Had a new tenant man come Sat p.m. and as the house wasn't ready we asked them to come over here so the lady was here until yesterday and and the man came in for supper but staid at the boarding house the rest of the time.

There isn't much news so won't spin it out too long. Hope you are both all right again now.

Love to you both from us all
Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother,

We were glad to receive your letter and know that you were better, but sorry to know that Auntie has it. Do hope she is better now. We are all very well. This beautiful spring weather ought to make anyone feel tip top.

It is now Tuesday afternoon. The ironing is finished and work done up. Have had a woman helping me these last two mornings so am quite advanced with my work this week.

We went to the dance last Friday night as we had planned and don't think we are fully over it yet as we haven't had a bit of extra sleep. Have had three extra sleeping here since Saturday. They are the new people in the boarding house—a man and his wife and a little girl seven years old. Miss Hardenbook went yesterday, also the woman that had been helping her for a month. I don't believe many people shed tears. She didn't so much as stop and bid me goodbye as she has no use for Dr. Potter or his wife.

Wilburn was in the city part of the day yesterday and bought a team of horses and is in again today to get them started out etc. We were both in one afternoon last week.

The children are both fine and busy mostly. Both are asleep at present.

The Globe which you sent had much praise for Wilson all right. The people on this place are very much opposed to Wilson and his methods.

There isn't much news and must hustle it up so as to get it to the office. Hope this finds you much better.

Love to all from us all
Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother:

It is a little before eight and the boys are in for breakfast, the stock are taken care of, the milk is drawn and the manure is hauled to the lot. I helped milk this A.M, have tended the fires, taken out the ashes and completed my reports to date so I guess we are in pretty good shape.

If you had received letters every time I had thought of writing you you would have been busy indeed reading them. We have put in a busy winter and any of these large places will be busy but that is the way of the world and as Walter Hyde often says, "It's a great life if you don't weaken". But guess most of us will weaken. Our affairs are running a great deal smoother than when you were here, the people in the boarding house are doing first rate and are more congenial than Miss Hardenbrook. She disliked us very badly at the last. Couldn't say things good about us etc and vowed she would leave the place before she did. But that's history now and with the new men that I've lured and the old ones leaving we are getting a more efficient organization which is bound to help this summer.

This past week I've had the pleasure of buying a team. Went to the city and had my own way. Bartered around and finally bought two horses, a dump wagon and a set of harnesses. Guess I must take after my grandfather Herrick in liking that sort of thing. Wish I might do more, perhaps they'll let me later on.

We've been very fortunate about getting sick this winter as we only had slight colds a short time. We've certainly had a great winter as far as temperature is concerned but whether it has been the best for our winter crops we don't know. We do know that our crop of ice has suffered badly as our ice house is only half full. We are perhaps more fortunate than some as we've been offered a hundred tons which would more than fill our house. We are now figuring on a commercial plant to manufacture some.

Florence and I still have the automobile fever. Looked at used cars when in the city the other day. Wish we might have a new one but our pocketbook don't feel fat enough.

You probably remember the shed just back of the boarding house and this side of the hen house—that will be our garage. Miss Markham has traded her car for a Dodge Sedan so now we have to walk to go on the trolley or drive a horse and that ties us up pretty much with two babies. We think we could put the kiddies in the car and take our rides as we used to. But the great question before the house is, "Can we afford a car?" No definite decision has been arrived at as yet.
People around here are busy making out their income tax reports. This year I'll be exempted but next I suppose I'll have to pay one.

Don't know whether Florence wrote that the Reids leave the first of April and Mantel and Hyde are to stay. While he is a steady sort he lacks pep. Mrs. King seems to fit in nicely in taking care of the children. Florence probably wrote that they live in the Red House.

Think I've done pretty good this a.m. Hope your cold is so much improved that you are gaining fast also Auntie.

Will close with Love from all to you both.

Wilburn
Dear Mother,

Just a few lines as I am very sleepy and weary and so do not feel equal to a lengthy letter.

We have been having a little company for couple or three days and so have had a little extra to do and a little less sleep. Sat. night the Ogilve family was out for supper, then they had been gone about twenty minutes when four more came and staid until this morning. Those were Fay White's brother and wife and children (2). They were enroute for Saskatchewan, Canada, and stopped over to see Fay. We thought it would be pleasanter here than at the boarding house with all the men.

Did not wash today but am planning to do so tomorrow. Also hope to get into the city to spend the day with my cousin sometime this week. Last week I made a start on house cleaning and did a little changing around. Have Marian in the little bedroom by herself and have turned the office into the spare bedroom. We now have Wilburn’s desk in the dining room.

We are wondering how you and Auntie are feeling these days. Do hope much better and stronger. How is your heart acting now? Don’t the Dr. think it will be all OK again when you get some more strength. Heard the other day of several people that had had trouble very similar after the grippe but had seemed to get over it entirely after a bit. We will hope that will be the case with you.

The next time you write would you give me Uncle Bernard’s address or are they still at 210 N. Pleasant?

The children are both well. Carleton gained 1/2 lb. again last week and is now 19 lbs.

Must call this enough and get to bed.

Love from us all to you both.

Florence
Avon, N.Y.
March 26, 1919

Dear Mother,

While I am waiting for my fire to come up so I can do a little ironing before dinner, will get this started and then it will get finished sometime.

We have been having beautiful weather all of this week. Most too good to be true. Some of the teams are busy plowing and dragging and spring work is beginning after our severe (?) winter. It surely has been a wonderful one. I suppose this coming Sunday we have another hour of daylight at the end of our day. It is so warm today that it is uncomfortable in the house with the doors closed.

This last Sunday we had the tester, Mr. Carr, in for dinner. We think he is quite a nice chap. He is a Cornell graduate from Ag. in '14 or '15 and is a splendid pianist. While in college he played the piano in the Cornell Orchestra so you may know he is pretty good. In the evening all the fellows from the boarding house came over and he played for them. He is just back from camp and has all the camp songs at his fingertips.

Evelyn and Carl and baby and the Kingsleys stopped for a few minutes on Sunday. They go over near Caledonia to work this coming year and will be only about five miles from us so we are planning on seeing them often.

We are expecting the Hazzards and Mother Emma out anytime now for a little visit. No, my brother is not back on this side yet. Walter & Ivah call the baby, Herbert. Monday morning I washed then at noon Wilburn and I went into the city. Spent most of the afternoon looking for rugs but didn't buy as yet.

It is now afternoon and both children asleep so will finish this up in a hurry and get myself ready to go up to Avon with Wilburn for a few minutes when everyone is awake.

Are you and Auntie feeling pretty well again except for lack of a little strength? That will come back soon we hope. Walks in the open air would be good tonic for you.

Birds of all kinds are back and it surely does sound good.

Love to you both from us all.

Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother,

Intended to write yesterday but the day slipped by before I realized and only did one letter all day. We have been having two beautiful spring days but quite typical of April. Think it is turning colder tonight, however. Hope it doesn't freeze hard enough again to injure all the buds etc. that are so far advanced.

Last week was quieter than some have been. We were out couple evenings. One night at the big house with Mr. Carr, the tester, to hear him play on their piano. But our concert was cut rather short as we had a hurry call to the boarding house. Fay White fainted away and they hadn't been able to bring him to. There was a bit of excitement for a little while but he finally came along all right and felt good the next day.

Thursday night I went into the city with the Misses Puffer and Mason to a concert given by Jascha Heifetz, the famous boy violinist. He is a Russian and only 18 years of age but considered about the best in the world. He was wonderful and did enjoy the numbers immensely.

All of the boys from the boarding house came over that evening and Mr. Carr gave them a concert on our piano. Mr. Carr left yesterday forenoon but p.m. we spent resting.

There seems to be plenty of excitement over across all the time. The Peace Conference had better hurry up or the Bolshevists will beat them to it yet. If newspaper talk is only half true I guess that things are in a sorry condition over there.

Well my whole family is asleep but it is time to wake Wilburn up to milk so guess I'll stop and go to bed. Have helped do a big washing today and have a busy day ahead.

I suppose you are seeing the Dr. right along so as to get strong as fast as possible? No, my people haven't been out yet. Mr. Geo. Hazzard has sold his farm and bought the Titchenor place on Clinton Ave. They have an auction this week Thursday.

Love from all to you both

Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother,

As I have a few minutes, guess that I shall have to practise on the type-writer and write you a few lines.

This has been a busy week, with no time for letters. My people, the Hazzards and mother Emma, came out last Friday and stayed until Tuesday. Emma and Edmund have a new Oakland car so we made good use of it while they were here. Last Saturday afternoon, we drove over to see Carl and Evelyn a few minutes, then on as far as Caledonia and back home. Sunday afternoon we went around that way again and on to Rochester and called on all of our relatives and the Kingsleys. Did not get home until almost nine in the evening. Monday afternoon Mother Emma took care of the children and the four of us went into the city again to do some shopping. We bought a new rug and new curtains for living room and dining room.

Yesterday I cleaned the living-room alone and got the new rug down. Today I have had a woman to help me and have cleaned the dining room. Put the living room rug out there, so we look quite fine. Am cleaned now up to the kitchen, bathroom, and pantry, so feel as tho I were doing pretty well.

The children are fine, Carleton is growing every day and seems to know so much. But he has no teeth as yet and does not creep. He weighs almost twenty one pounds now, so you see he is a good fat boy.

There is not much news. They are busy outside with spring work and have unloaded four carloads of ice this week.

How are you and Auntie feeling now? Does Auntie plan to have much of a flower garden this year? I am hoping to have a few flowers but do not know how my plans will work out.

Must hustle this up if I get it up to the office for Mr. Ogilvie to take. Perhaps this is easier to read than my usual tracks. Will try not to make so many mistakes next time.

Love to you both from us all
Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother,

If you will pardon the typewriter, will send a few lines. I wanted to get so that I could do a little something on the typewriter but the only time I get to practice is when I write letters, so my friends and relatives are being afflicted with my mistakes. But I figure that those are no worse than my writing.

The box of Arbutus arrived Wednesday in very good condition. They were beautiful. We took part of them up to the big house and they were delighted with them. Your letter came on the same day also, so Wilburn had quite a Birthday. Mildred Smith came last Tuesday and stayed until Friday, when I went up to the city with her to see her safely started for Syracuse.

Well, we have gone and done it, so to speak, as we have bought a car. We bought it last week Monday, but didn’t get it home until yesterday. It is a Dodge touring. Took our first ride in it yesterday and took the Ogilvies with us. We were up there to dinner and went riding in the afternoon.

It was pretty cold here last week, and am afraid there was quite a bit of damage done to the small fruits etc. Today we are having April showers.

How is Auntie feeling now? And is your heart pretty good again?

The children are fine and growing every day. Baby isn’t gaining weight so much now, but is growing longer and older in ways. He is just as good as gold all the while. Marian is just as full as ever.

Must call this enough if am to get it up to the office in time.

Love to you both from us all
Wilburn and Florence
Avon, NY
May 12, 1919

Dear Mother,

For some reason didn't find much time for letters last week and suggested to Wilburn that he write yesterday since it was Mothers' Day but he didn't find any more time than I so guess I shall have to get busy for a few minutes now.

There is nothing especially exciting going on. Plenty of rain, the flats are flooded so we have quite a water view from the barns. Think that all farmers would appreciate one week of sunshine.

I believe you were here last fall when Edith Woodward was here. She and her sister were up Sat p.m. and to supper. But it had to rain all the time could not get around to enjoy our car.

I have learned to run it and have been up to Avon once alone. That is without Wilburn but took the children. Think I shall enjoy it a great deal this summer as I can come and go when I like. Then with the long evenings we shall have some nice rides together.

Late yesterday p.m. we took Lloyd Barum and his father up to Rochester. Rode around a little and called on the Kingsleys then left Mr. Barum at the N.Y.C. depot and we came home. We were also in the city last Tuesday p.m. Took one of the men from here to the hospital then went shopping a little. Bought a new robe for the car so we can ride and keep warm.

My woman was here and washed this morning. Don't know whether the clothes will get dry to iron tomorrow or not. Am getting well along in house cleaning as I only have the bathroom and back hall to clean. Will be glad when it is all done then I can sew in peace.

The children are both well and happy. Marian and I went up to S.S. yesterday. She enjoys going so much. Carleton isn't gaining much but seems so well and strong and developing so fast. He has no teeth yet. He goes all over the kitchen floor now lying flat on his stomach and going backwards.

Will Auntie do much for a flower garden this year? I have some pansies and geraniums and dahlia roots. There isn't room for much here.

Love from all
Wilburn, Florence and babies
Sunday Evening

Dear Mother,

Well, we have had two days without rain, they have not been so very bright, but no rain. We took about a forty mile ride this p.m. The country is beautiful now.

My cousin, Cora Gilbert, from Cortland is visiting us now. We went up to Rochester and got her this evening.

Last Monday was fine so drove up to Avon in the p.m. and had Marian's hair cut and took one of our neighbors up to do some shopping. Am beginning to feel quite easy driving the car.

Wednesday night we took Evelyn and baby and drove over beyond Caledonia to look at a farm we saw advertised. It began to rain going over and simply poured most of the way but with the curtains on we didn't mind in the least.

Friday night Cora and I went up to an organ recital at the church. It was real good. Last night we took a little drive up to Avon and back. Got some pictures I had printed will enclose one or two. Took some of the baby again this morning.

Helen evidentially having her hands full. We enjoyed her letter very much. They are evidentially planning as big a celebration at St. L. as at Cornell this June. Hope the new president at St. L. proves satisfactory in all ways. They have had quite a time.

Wilburn is planning on going out to Pine Grove this week Cabana's sale of purebred Holsteins. M. & P. paying expenses.

How is Auntie feeling now? Hope that you don't get sick again taking care of her and doing the work. Not much news so won't scratch longer/ Love from all to all

Wilburn and Florence

We don't be able to come to Mass. until August probably. We haven't made any definite plans.
Wednesday Evening

Dear Mother,

While I am waiting for some water to heat down on the gas so I can wash the supper dishes will scribble a few lines. We may take a ride upstreet so as to mail it.

We are very sorry to hear that you are not feeling quite so fine. Guess that you have been trying to do too much again. It has been pretty warm to try to do much. As I am writing the water runs right down my neck.

Cora is still with us and we gad about mostly. Do a little sewing between times.

Wilburn has been very busy helping every one else busy. The tractor has been kept going all day since this a.m. and if it doesn’t rain will continue until nine p.m.– also two corn planters. It rather looks now as tho we were to have a thunder shower.

Carleton is getting fussy and dish water is ready so must close. Marian sends a kiss 0 0. Love from all.

Florence
Avon, NY
June 23, 1919

Dear Mother,

This is just another glorious day like so many others we are having now. We surely can not complain of the weather now. It is a little warm to be sure but guess we need it to make things grow.

Guess that I have not written since Carleton’s birthday to thank you for the little gifts. He enjoys playing with the Comeback(?), by shaking it rather than rolling it, however. He surely is growing and developing. The Monday after his birthday we discovered a tooth pricked thru and now he has a second. Both on the upper jaw. He creeps all over like a streak now and into everything. We have a new oil stove in the kitchen and that is a great attraction. He has learned what “no, no” means or rather the motion of your head when it is said. When he goes to the oil stove if I say “no, no” to him he sits back and looks at me and shakes his head no, then turns around to the stove again. He says Mama and Daddy and knows who I mean when I say Sister or Marian.

Don’t know as I have written since our flying trip to Syracuse. Wilburn came in about five o’clock one afternoon and wanted to know if I was ready for a regular spree. Of course I said “yes” and he said he was going to Syracuse to get a part for the tractor, would leave right away. I simply put on my hat and coat and put up a few sandwiches and left the children in Cora’s care and went. We left here at six and were in Skaneateles at nine. I staid with Mrs. Taylor while Mr. Taylor went on into Syr. with Wilburn. They didn’t get back until about one then we had lunch and retired to sleep for couple hours. Left there at 4:15 and were home at quarter of eight and had had to stop and change one tire. It is 83 miles from here into Skaneateles, so you see we jaunted right along. But it surely was a bash and we did enjoy it very, very much.

Then a week ago tonight we took the man and wife who runs the boarding house up to their home beyond Nunda and finally put in 81 miles that night. Last Friday night we all were over to Evelyn and Carl’s to supper and then took a ride in the evening. The country is so beautiful around here that we do enjoy our riding. Sat. night we were into the city. Last Wednesday, Cora, Evelyn and baby, and myself and babies were in the city. I drove in for the first.

Yesterday we were in Avon for S.S. I sort of have to go now as I have a class to teach. Then last night we went up to hear the baccalaureate sermon but can’t say that I thought it especially fine.

We are having all kinds of things from the garden—asparagus, peas, lettuce, radishes, spinach so we are feasting mostly. Think I shall can some peas tomorrow.
The Mountain Laurel was beautiful. It was the first I had ever seen. We took some over to the big house and they liked it so much. Their roses have been just beautiful this year and we have had huge bouquets.

How are Auntie's flowers doing this year? My dahlias are just jumping and my geraniums and foliage plants are just beginning to behave properly.

Must write a note to Sister so will cease this scribbling. Hope you are feeling better now. Don't try and do too much.

Love from all

Wilburn and Florence
17--postmarked, Aug 5, 1919, Avon, NY--written by Florence to
Mrs. Marion E. Potter, 276 N. Main St, Orange, Mass

Elm Place
August 5, 1919

Dear Mother,

If I hustle I think I can get a letter done before Wilburn comes back and says
"better get to bed". If I don't you will be sending out a searching party to find us. Well
you would find us pretty deep in work.

I came back from Cortland a week ago tonight. Was there a week and a half,
and Wilburn didn't take time to write while I was gone and I was busy there and this
week since I returned has been too full for anything. Have been doing a little canning
along with regular work. Guess I am not very smart or I would get around faster.

While I was home we broke up the old home and divided things up and cleaned
out the house and my brother Walter has the place.

Haying was all finished almost a week ago and tomorrow we think if it does not
rain. Outside work is all up to day, which is fine.

Should judge from your last letter that you had had quite a trip. Think it was
good for you to take it. Probably what the Dr. had to say quieted you some too.

Guess that I didn't say that Wilburn drove thru to Trumansburg Sat. night to get
us and we came back Sunday afternoon. Had hoped to bring Emma B. back with me
but it just didn't seem best that she come just now but think she will come when we
return from Mass.

It looks now as tho we would be out to see you people the middle or last of this
month, if our plans materialize. Our two weeks vacation begins the 16th but don't
believe we will be there until the 18th. Our plans are not very decided as yet.

Yes, the children are growing fast. Carleton has four teeth thru and another just
ready. He walks by holding on to things and is a caution for climbing.

Wilburn is back so must put some clothes to soak and retire.

Monday p.m. -- Washing all day and in and sprinkled. And the children are just
getting up from their naps. It is very warm here today. Must get my letters to the office
or they won't get out today.

Love from all to all
Wilburn and Florence

52
Sunday Evening

Dear Mother,

Well we are once again at Elm Place after a fine trip home. It was just beautiful all day Friday and so could enjoy the trail to the full. Arrived in Herkimer about 6:30. Uncle Bernard and family were up the Creek then, but returned later in the evening. Had such a good time with them all. It was nice all the Potter cousins could be together. They all wanted to know why you didn't come back with us and wished you might have been there.

As it rained yesterday morning did not leave Herkimer until 3 p.m. Vance coming with us. Came down thru Cazenovia and Cortland and had supper at Walter's then came thru to Trumansburg. Staid there until 11:30 this a.m. and arrived here about four.

The children were both rather tired tonight, also ourselves—so must get to bed. Hope you and Auntie are not completely used up after our visit. Suppose Frances is with you today.

Love from us all

Florence and Wilburn

Wedding picture of Albert and Ada Griffin Bean
September 1919
Sunday Evening

Dear Mother and Auntie,

If you please to pardon the paper, think I can get a letter written. Did not mean it should be so long but have been about as busy as they make them since I came back.

Guess I wrote that we reached here Sunday p.m. after a very nice trip. Cousin Vance came home with us and staid until this last Wed. morning. He seemed to enjoy it very much here. Don’t know whether he is going back to school or not but he surely had it talked to him while here. He is an odd chap but as good hearted as can be.

Have canned peaches, plums, tomatoes and made jelly of grapes and some peach marmalade and a doz. cans of tomato soup; besides cleaning up the house and doing part of the ironing each week. So you see I have had to work around a little.

Wilburn has been equally busy in his line—such as, filling silo and taking cattle to Avon Fair and back. They won eight first prizes and eleven seconds and three thirds, so that the prize money amounted to over $200. State Fair was this past week and some of the boys went out. Guess that it was very good this year.

Hasn’t Esther finished up any of those pictures yet, or were none of them good? Does Judson walk alone yet. He will have to hurry up if he beats Carleton as Carleton has taken five or six steps alone and it is nothing unusual now to have him take three and four. He is 15 mo. today.

Tell Lucy that I used the pie plate three times all ready and it works fine. Hope to find time to write her before long myself.

This seems to be Pig day on Elm Place as we have had 22 little pigs arrive since three p.m. There maybe more by now as I left Wilburn watching them over a half hour ago and he hasn’t come in yet. These are in 2 litters today and then we had another last Friday so we will have more than thirty anyway.

It is late so must hustle to bed so as to be ready for the week. I have a new sister as my brother Albert was married a week ago.

Mr. Rawley of McLean is dead we noted in the Cortland Standard.

Love to all from us all

Florence
Dear Mother,

Even tho it is 9:30 and I am slightly weary will try and scratch a few lines. How are you and Auntie? You must try and not overdo as you know you can't be sick too. But I know Lucy will help you and you must let her do it. Wish it were so that I would step in and give a little help.

This has been a busy day here. I helped with the washing and baked and canned a few tomatoes besides regular work this morning. This p.m. have ironed a little, cleaned up and taken my brother, who came in very unexpectedly Sat. a.m. on a long ride and then to the station. Coming home I had a flat tire and had to phone to someone to come after me as we hadn't a good extra tire.

Have pickled and canned and made jelly until I shall be very glad to see the end. But I think we shall enjoy everything very much this winter. Still have pears, a few more tomatoes and grape juice to do. Perhaps another batch of mock mince meat.

Wilburn is more than busy keeping all of his helpers busy and all the machinery running smoothly. They have one silo full and a start on the second in the morning. Tonight he is helping get certified milk ready to ship to the National Dairy Show.

Last week we were all on the bums for a day and night. Dr. called it a slight attach of cholera neosbuc (sp?). Baby had it the worst or rather longest of any of us but guess a good deal of his came from his teeth as has another one just thru. He seems to be feeling fine now and trying to say a few things and walks all the time.

The Ogilvies at last have their wish and have a baby girl and are almost too delighted for words.

It was too bad that Walter Stone could not have a girl altho I think it nice to have two boys. How is Mrs. Walter getting on? Remember me to her if you have the opportunity. How are all the other Orange folk? Hope this finds Auntie much better.

Love to both from all
Florence

I forgot to say that the pictures etc. arrived all safely. Think some of them are very good indeed.
Dear Mother,

Have just had the children out for a little ride and there still seems to be time for a letter before lunch. It has been a beautiful fall day, rather cold but invigorating. Marian and I got up to S.S. Wilburn and I hope to go up to church tonight.

How is Auntie feeling now? Also yourself? Hope you are not overdoing. This family is feeling quite fine now. We have all had colds but just about over them now. They seem to be visiting every one on the farm.

This past week had our fifth anniversary so of course had to celebrate. Did so by going into the city to the theatre and taking Carl and Evelyn with us. It was a very cold night to ride but had enough fun to make up. Then Thursday night we got ready to go up to the High School reception but as we were late we decided not to go in but went calling instead.

Am done with canning and hope this week to do some sewing. The whole family needs clothes. Carleton is growing so fast that he is outgrowing all of his rompers. He walks all over now. Is on the trot all day long and should think his little legs would be so tired at night. He weighed 23 lbs. this morning. Marian is busy playing and now she has a great desire to help with the dishes.

The silos have all been filled once and they are refilling. Have had a little difficulty with help lately and so Wilburn has been very busy.

We had a letter from Vance the other day and he has had tonsils and adenoids out and says he feels so much better.

We received a picture of Arlan last week. Were quite surprised but very much pleased.

Wilburn is in for lunch so must stop.

Love from all to all

Florence and Wilburn
Dear Mother,

We are having a young winter today with snow and wind and cold. It makes one feel fine. The only thing I regret about winter coming is that we won't be able to drive the car much longer.

Well you have had quite a rest from my handwriting. Have tried to get Wilburn to write but he isn't very keen for writing letters. I don't know where the last two or three weeks have gone to but know that I have been mostly terribly busy. Mother Emma came back from Chicago three weeks ago today and was here almost two weeks. We surely kept busy while she was here with sewing. She made me two dresses and two pair of night drawers for the baby.

Then a week ago last Saturday we started out to take her to Syracuse and went as far as the Taylor's at Skaneateles that night--then into Syracuse Sunday morning. Spent the day with my brother there and came home that night. Had a lovely trip. It was cold but as we were well wrapped up did not mind.

As Mrs. King is sick, had my washing and ironing to do alone. Besides that I had a woman to help me and we cleaned the living room, dining room, kitchen and Marian's room and ours---all in two days. I was some tired Saturday night but was rested by Monday.

Sunday noon my brother and family from Chicago came and are still here. They are coming back to McLean to live on a farm. They are still here but expect to go on in the morning. Monday a.m. we did the washing and in the p.m. took about a 70 mile ride into Rochester and out east aways. Staid with my cousin in Rochester for supper. Don't know whether we will take a ride today or not.

The children are fine. Discovered last night that Carleton is cutting two double teeth altho as yet he hasn't all of his front teeth. He surely keeps me busy as he goes from one thing to the other just as fast as his legs will carry him. Marian was so delighted with the snow this morning and had to have her sled out.

Wilburn isn't quite so busy, now that he has finished testing. Work is in fine shape. The last tester here was a Mr. Whippen and he was the son of the Universalist minister at Shelburne Falls before Father was there. Wilburn was quite surprised when he found it out. He seemed like a nice chap. How is Auntie feeling now? You are not over doing are you? Must close and get cleaned up as we may have company this afternoon. What are you and Auntie doing for Thanksgiving? You better come and eat with us. Love to you all.

Wilburn, Florence and the children
Dear Mother:-

Your letter from Holyoke reached us tonight and as I have my reports practically up to date think I will write a few lines. If you only knew how many times I’ve thought of writing and then just put it off.

We are sure having an early winter this year, altho we have plowed over 125 acres this fall since silo filling. I was hoping to plow about twenty five more while the weather was good. Now we are doing the regular routine work, chores, drawing milk, manure and fire wood and husking corn. Want to get some white washing and painting done shortly.

We spent a rather pleasant Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. Gould at Avon having Roast Duck and all the fixings. They are some older than we but that doesn’t make any difference. They have three children the oldest being fourteen and Jane a year younger than Marian. Mr. and Mrs. Clark a neighbor of the Goulds were also there. At night we attended a Legion Dance getting home two a.m. So I got to bed about three as I had my midnight milking to do.

Florence is planning on going into the city tomorrow. Mrs. Ogilvie is to take care of the children and I’m to have a nice cold dinner if I don’t warm it up. Wish Uncle Bernard might stop off here on his way back from Chicago but I suppose he’ll be in such a hurry that he won’t have time. Hope you didn’t get over tired at Holyoke and at the Fair. Wonder if you are investing in any more Kennecott Copper just now or are you selling.

If you have any of those Sugarman Bulletins on hand would like to look one over if you could spare it. We still have farm on the Brain but maybe it will pass away before anything happens if this weather keeps up.

Well this is just a line to let you know we are all well and that Carleton had his first haircut out at the Barbershop today. Will close with lots of love to you both.

from Avon Potters

George Hazzard---owned first farm on left from Cortland, now Stoughten.

M. & P.---Markham and Puffer, Avon, NY gave Outlook, a business magazine

cow---state took her over--reacted to Tuberculosis test---State program

rubbed out--on a scrub board--washing by hand; rinsing--after scrubbing and washing

Wilson---President Woodrow Wilson--Globe, Boston--newspaper still today

just back from camp--military training

back on this side--of the Atlantic ocean after WW I---Uncle Albert Bean

over across---in Geneva, Switzerland---a League of nations which U.S. did not join

Mildred Smith--Cortland high School classmate

N.Y.C.--New York Central Railroad

certified Milk---raw milk, supposedly the best--produced under perfect environment.

sold for a premium--later all milk for drinking was pasteurized

Wilburn and Florence were married October 7, 1914

Farm on the Brain---Wilburn and Florence dream of owning their own farm
Dear Mother:-

Your cards duly received and was glad to hear from you. Also Auntie's. Florence and the children are still in Cortland being there since Christmas. We had a splendid ride and Christmas with Frank at the Sweetlands. We left about 4:00 p.m. Wednesday and got to Sweetlands before ten. Carl and Evelyn went with us. I made the trip home after five o'clock Thursday getting here before ten. Quite a ride about 120 miles one way. The car has certainly earned its way if one calls running it earning its way. We've been over 6000 since we got it the last of April.

We had a very bountiful Christmas. Guess I'll let Florence tell you about it as she knows more about the things and where they came from. She has been expecting and wanting a kitchen cabinet so I got one in Tuesday. Sellers latest and largest size. Wish you might see it. It will surely save a lot of steps and one will know just where to look for things. Florence gave me a very nice desk lamp (Electric).

I still have Farm on the Brain. Can't seem to get it off but guess I'll have to wait until I have more ready money that I've got now. Expect to send a check to Shelburne Falls before the tenth. If you get any more Sugarman's bulletins send one along for I like to study them. I note that Western Union is selling for 87 or about and pays 7%. Pretty good investment I'd say as that is nearly as good as U.S. Bonds. If one buys at 87 that makes them over 8% a hundred and they just declared an extra dividend a little while ago.

Am wondering how you are making out down with Frank. Hope you will not work too hard but seems as if after a little that would be a mighty fine place for you and Auntie. How do you like it? I should think Frank would be fine to work for and get along with. Is Auntie feeling much better than she did or doesn't she gain. This is pretty cold weather for anyone to feel very extra. We are filling our ice houses now. Hope to finish in less than a week. Then the wood is next.

Hope I may hear from you when you have time.

Love, Wilburn
Monday Evening

Dear Mother:-

Altho it is after nine, will try and keep myself going a little longer, so that I may at least start a letter. Wilburn has been so busy I guess he has not found time to answer your letter yet but think he will before long.

He has been doing some more Advanced Registry work for couple weeks, which means that he has to milk four times a day. It has been quite a successful run this time as some of the cows have made rather good records. I believe they end up in a couple days now.

The Xmas box came thru all O.K. and we all thank you and Auntie for the many gifts. They were so nice and useful we shall get lots of good out of them. Yes, I think there is plenty of material for the dress and rompers and if I lack I can put on contrasting collar and cuffs which I rather think I shall do anyway. When I was home at Xmas time Mother Emma made a coat for Marian out of the dark blue broadcloth which you gave me some time ago. It makes a very nice looking coat for her and very warm. Also made my wedding suit over into a dress for myself, so have had something to wear during this cold weather.

We have been having a long cold stretch. Lots of snow everywhere. Saturday night it was 12 degrees below but today it has been so warm and mild. A great change in a short time. Snow has disappeared quite fast. Guess there has been no danger but that the bear could see his shadow but hope it doesn't mean another six weeks like the past six.

Last week was rather busy in the "going" line. As we started off Sunday by dining over to Carl and Evelyn McKinney's. And I think we were out somewhere or had company everyday. Wed. evening it was a card party. Thurs p.m. a tea and Thurs. eve. one of the entertainments in the lecture course up at the High School. Sat. p.m. two of my S.S. girls came out and staid for supper. Yesterday Carl and Evelyn were over here for lunch. They move the first of March out to McLean on George Fitts' farm. We shall miss them here very much.

How is Auntie feeling this winter?

Love to you both from us all.

Florence
Avon, NY
Feb. 14, 1920

Dear Mother:-

I am writing just a few lines this morning to let you know that we will probably leave Elm Place some time before the first of April. Probably to go on a place of our own. Have looked at several places and like one near Truxton about the best of any if terms can be arranged. 253 acres. Strictly modern house, lights, bath, hot and cold water, and heat. 120 foot barn with stable for 64. On state road one mile from town. Don't suppose you have any cash invested that is paying small dividends that you would like to lend me. It's quite a big undertaking but we looked at all angles of it and think it is the best thing to do.

I imagine you will be too surprised for words and you will think we are foolish but only time can prove that. It takes too much out of a fellow to live and try to manage a place when trying to live with three old maids, an old man and a private secretary.

Will close with lots of love from the Avon Potters.

Uncle Frank and Aunt Nellie Sweetland Bean
Elm Place
Avon, NY

Dear Mother:

Your letter at hand and was very glad your were able to get up to the ______ and also attend the Concerts. We have staid at home as far as the social functions have been concerned. I was in Rochester Sat and Sunday afternoon. I left for Cortland Sunday afternoon getting there at 6:30. Spent the night with Walter and then Monday morning went to Homer to meet Mr. Crandall and Rowe. Left Cortland in the afternoon and came back to Rochester from there I went to Hilton to Hamlin and thence back to Brockport to Rochester and home. I guess that is the last of my traveling for a while except up to Cortland.

You asked about the babies. Marian is very busy with the dolls, playing out of doors and washing dishes or helping her Mother and tending Carleton. Carleton is so full he can hardly stand it but guess he will get over it after a time. Yesterday Florence found him on top of the sewing machine. A few days ago he got up on the piano stool thence to the piano keys and was picking the pictures from the top of the piano. He talks a lot in his own language but is getting more distinct every day. He knows nearly everything in the house and so we think he'll know something some time. He just trots from the time he gets up until he gets to bed.

In regard to the farm we think it is for the best to make the change now. We wouldn't be fixed financially well enough to pay for the thing out and out until we were forty to fifty years old and with any success at all we should pay for the thing before we are forty and might do better and maybe worse but we doubt it.

In regard to endorsing the notes it will simply give us a boost and cannot possibly harm you unless we fail. The latter is possible but I cannot learn of anyone who has owned the farm failing. When everyone in a section speaks only good of a place there must be something good concerning it. This place is wintering 84 head of cattle, ten horses and some sheep. He raised a silo full of corn, 1000 bu. of beets, 400 bu. oats and cut 185 loads of hay. He will have fifty tons hay to sell this year. He sold over $9000. worth of milk last year. He has kept 2 men the year round and he says these men may work for me if they will.

I don't know as I told you exactly where the place is located but it is one mile from Truxton on the State road on the East side of the Valley. About 150 acres tillable and the balance pasture. Think you have a pretty fair idea of the place now. Guess this will do for now.

Love from all
Wilburn
Dear Mother:–

I thought I would receive a letter from you before now but suppose you have been too busy to write and too surprised for words. I was in Cortland Monday and talked with Mr. Crandall and Mr. Rowe in regard to the farm. We have decided to take it and if we have our health we believe we can surely make good. Suppose you think we were very foolish when we had such a good job, so to speak, but I cannot do the way I've done the last year as the worry in trying to please is a great harder than the work. I will never be satisfied until we have found out we can't succeed on a place of our own. Mr. Rowe has certainly made good on the place making as near as we can figure $12,000 besides his living in eight years and he is only thirty years old now.

I wonder if you would have confidence in me to endorse a note for me. That is to say that I would like to borrow money from a National Bank without giving a Chattel Mortgage on the stock and tools and you see as I am worth not a deal more than we have paid on the place, it is necessary to have someone who is worth more than the amount of money I wish to draw endorse the note, and that means if I fail to make the payments the bank would have the privilege of drawing on your account.

This means that you would not have to put up a cent if I make good but your name would give me the necessary backing or security to secure the money necessary to buy stock and tools without giving a chattel mortgage on them. By giving a Chattel Mortgage on them I cannot sell any poor animals without giving the one who has the Mortgage notice that I wish to sell and getting his permission to sell.

Miss Puffer and Miss Markham are so interested in the affairs that they will endorse my note for two thousand. That is a great help and we certainly appreciate it. Of course I can give a Chattel Mortgage. I don't want to if I can possibly get away from it. I have talked the thing thoroughly with Miss Linda and Mr. Markham, also Mr. Hazzard and Fred Fitts besides learning about the farm from other people. Florence and I are sincerely hoping that is is the right move and that we will be thoroughly satisfied with the deal.

Marian and Carleton send Grandma Potter a Hug and Kisses. Marian is surely a busy body and Carleton is just as much so or more. Marian washed all the dishes this morning. Florence tried to keep her from doing it but she persisted.

Must close with much Love from all. Wilburn

P.S. I would want to make the note for $4500. Please write as soon as possible and let me know if I can depend on your signature. Will (write) more after your letter come.
Dear Mother:-

Your letter came today and it surely does not seem as long ago that we wrote so the days have evidently passed very swiftly. They have been busy ones for us. Florence is busy packing and cleaning and tending the children. The warm weather just agrees with them. They just like to get out and play. Florence did her washing Monday a.m. and finished the ironing before breakfast Tuesday morning. Tuesday p.m. we went to the city.

I have been busy doing some more Advanced Registry work. Made the best record that has ever been made here at Elm Place. Over thirty pounds of butter in seven consecutive days and one hundred pounds of milk in one day. So that will give us a grand and glorious finish. Some of the other cows have done very well.

I guess we've started in farming for ourselves alright for I have already purchased five horses and 26 cows and a bull to be shipped from Avon this week. We are expecting Morris to move us this week and we'll have two car loads of cattle and horses. Sometimes it looks rather large but guess we'll swing it alright. Mr. Rowe does not have his sale until the ninth of April but we have the house the first if we get there. He sells 75 head of cattle, 6 horses besides all the equipment.

The children are very well and enjoying the spring weather immensely. Florence weighed Carleton yesterday and he weighs 28 1/2 lbs. He trots continuously. Herbert Walter, Walter's baby, has been quite sick but is better now. They are to have an addition this summer.

I am enclosing the pictures of the farm buildings which will give you a little idea of how we will look. That is land below the barn not a river as you might think at first glance.

I hope this finds you well and Auntie and Frank much better. We have escaped any serious trouble this winter which seems very fortunate. Probably if you don't write until the last of the week you better send it to Truxton R.D. % Clark Rowe.

Will close with Lots of Love to all from all, Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

I am writing just a few lines to let you know that we are in Truxton for a little while anyway. The auction was yesterday and was a large sale. We have 44 head of cattle now. So you see we have some money invested.

I am enclosing note which I wish you would sign on the back by the cross.

The children are all well now but Carleton had a couple of bad falls which rather upset him but I guess he is getting along alright now. Tell Frank the roof is slate on the house and galvanized iron on the barn.

We are just leaving for Cortland so will mail this down there. Mother Emma has been helping settle and we are pretty well along. Everything being new it goes fast.

Must close with Lots of Love from All.

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

I am penning just a few lines this nice rainy morning and my 28th birthday. It doesn't seem possible that the years roll around as fast but our lives are so full of business that we don't think much about the time until after it is gone.

We are coming along fine here. We have plowed about fifteen acres since we came besides of course the other necessary work. We have 44 grown head of cattle and 3 calves and 4 horses. Had the misfortune to lose the best horse I bought before I ever got her to Truxton. She was a purebred Percheron and at the time she had her colt she ruptured the vagina and peritonitus set in. The colt was born dead so that gave us a fine send off but that is part of the game.

We are shipping about seven cans of milk (600 lbs) and will probably have more as the summer advances. At present we have three hired men but only expect to have two after a little. One is a tenant and the others we are boarding.

We went down to Walter's last night for a little visit and brought home some chairs and four gallons of syrup.

We sold our new living room rug and bought a complete set of four of the same pattern of Mrs. Rowe so now we are quite well fixed. Have a vacuum cleaner and now when we get a power washer and electric motor for the sewing machine we'll be right up to date.

Breakfast is now ready at seven o'clock so will stop for now. I am enclosing another note for you to sign and this will be the last I hope until we have to rerun them in six months.

Hastily from all the folks.
Truxton, N.Y.
May 24, 1920

Dear Mother:-

I expect you are wondering why we do not write and I guess the only reason is that we haven't taken time to write to anyone. We are just plugging along each day trying to get our work along. As yet we have only planted a few oats and peas but we are all ready to plant corn and potatoes. We will have about 15 acres corn, 8 acres potatoes, 6 acres cabbage, 5 acres oats and peas, 2/3 acre beets besides a big haying of probably 100 acres.

We have just put in a milking machine as we are milking 37 it made a little too much for two to do and I figured that they would pay for themselves give them time.

We mowed our lawn for the first time tonight. Went to Cortland this afternoon bought lawn mower, feed, sold some hens and roosters.

At first I bought 22 hens and a rooster and then later I had a chance to buy sixty more so now we have them minus those we sold today. So now we have 76 hens and one rooster and we get from 30-51 eggs a day. We also bought 161+ eggs from trap nested hens. Walter is hatching those in the incubator for us and they'll be out Thursday.

We are getting a little better than 700 lbs of milk a day now beside fattening two or three calves all the while. I planted 2 1/2 lbs cabbage seed the other day. Our four horses work well together. Grass is growing nicely now but has been slow starting. But this farm is a great hay farm so I guess we'll have it if anyone does. Think I shall go to another auction Wednesday. Don't know what I'll buy maybe nothing.

The babies are just dandy. I'm sure you would hardly know either one. Think that you and Frank better run out this way in your car this summer. It just a dandy ride and you surely must see this place this summer. We went over to Frank and Nellie's for dinner yesterday. Walter and Ivah were there, also all the Gilberts. Saw Carl and Evelyn up at the Fitts. You know Carl is working for George. Think that we'll have to go to bed and we get up bright and early now. I'm up before five and now we are in for breakfast at 6:30 so you see we are right on deck.

Love from all
Wilburn
Truxton, N.Y.
June 27, 1920

Dear Mother:-

It is now after ten o'clock and have finished the chores, had breakfast, played with the children and have my books caught up to date. I will write a few lines before we go to church. Just seems as if the time has flown.

We have been very busy all the spring. Have between six and seven acres of potatoes in and nearly five acres of cabbage set. If we get a crop we'll surely come out on top. We are milking around 35 cows, having an income from them of nearly twenty dollars a day. They are getting their entire feed out of the pastures but may have to start feeding some grain in the barn soon. Our hay crop is good and we should make over one hundred fifty tons and hay is as good as gold this year. It is selling at $35 & $40 here now. Probably when mine is ready it will be lower. Will start cutting the clover tomorrow and keep on cutting until it is all in the barn.

This past week we have been setting cabbage plants. Florence has driven the team and Myron and myself have been doing the setting. Have done some veterinary work, have taken in nearly a hundred dollars since we came here. It takes some time but think I can do quite a business in the winter months when there is more sickness. The fellows in Cortland are only doing about 1/3 as much as they do in the winter.

Last Sunday was our Sunday at home. Frank and Nellie and Mr and Mrs Sweetland were up to dinner, then in the afternoon Edmund and Emma and children, Emma Bean and the three Gilberts were up so we had quite a day. Florence went to Cortland Monday. Friday night we set cabbage until nearly 9:30 but generally we are all thru at six o'clock.

We are wondering how things are turning in the shop there, are they working any more hours? We are wondering why you don't say when you are coming out. Wish Frank would come. Think he would be very much interested. Think I could keep him busy for a few days at a pretty useful occupation. They are offering from four to eight dollars a day for help so it wouldn't take a great while for one to work his way. Think we'll have some pictures of the babies the next time we write. Don't find any thing of that check and I cannot remember why we cashed it or not.

Must close with Love from All

Wilburn
Dear Mother,

I find Wilburn did not return Helen's letter so will send it along. I believe you wanted it. This is a beautiful morning. Haying is to continue this a.m.

We had a very pleasant Fourth or rather the fifth down at Gilberts. All our family was there except Howard. The children had great fun with fire crackers and some of the older boys too.

There is nothing very exciting happening here but seem to keep busy.

When are we to expect your visit? You had better not wait until fall or it won't be so pretty thru the country. Wish Auntie might come too. Why don't you come right away? It is lovely here now.

Love from us all

Florence
Truxton, NY
Monday P.M.

Dear Mother:-

It is a dark rather dull fall day and have been doing a little picking up. Florence has done the washing and our new tenant man has been picking apples. We were a little afraid the apples might get frosted and spoil them entirely.

We haven't quite finished the potatoes but hope to do it soon. Will have around eleven hundred bushels in the cellar when we get thru. Now if the price go up a little we'll have quite a good thing on potatoes. Our cabbage have developed and headed rapidly of late but the price is rather low but they make extra good cow feed and save good grain.

Our new man moved his goods Friday and went to work Saturday afternoon. Apparently he is a good sort of a fellow at least he starts off well. He has no family other than his wife. They are young people. He 31 and she 23. They staid here Friday night but went up there Saturday.

This has been a most wonderful fall so many fine days and so little rain. We haven't done any more plowing than when you were here but hope to do some when we get the potatoes taken care of.

Our cows are milking around six hundred pounds a day now making our income from them over twenty three dollars a day. But we need it all to come out on top in good shape.

I am enclosing another note which makes the last one until next spring, for which we are thankful. Wonder how you came out with Ben and I see K.C. is very low now. If you should have any spare change that you want six percent on, think I should put it into young stock. I neglected to send this before so now you have to send it right back.

Hastily with Love from all, Wilburn
Dear Mother,

Not that I have nothing to do on Saturday morning but if I don't take the time now won't get it written this week. Had not intended to wait so long to thank you for my birthday gift. It seems to me that it was an elaborate gift. Thot you said you were making it for yourself.

Before I forget it, did you write Miss Hanford and have her make some tatting? I received some in the mail some time ago without a word of any kind in it and could not make out the post mark so am wondering to whom I should repay. If you did have her do it please tell me how much it was and let me settle.

We were down to Isabelle's for supper the night of my birthday and we celebrated together as her's was the 10th. The next night was over to an entertainment at the Church. Thompson Blood (sp?), the impersonator, was there.

Have had a S.S. class for two Sundays.

Wilburn went to an auction at Solon yesterday so went by way of Cortland and the children and I went down to Gilberts and spent the p.m. Had hair cuts again so as to look well for Thanksgiving. We go over to Trumansburg for Thanksgiving.

Farm work is progressing. Chores take a great deal of time now since the cows are in the barn. Cabbages are still in the field. Picked up about $45. worth of cider apples and sold them. Potato prospect looks a little more favorable.

Must get busy or won't get thru work today.

Love from all

Florence

Hope you have a pleasant time Thanksgiving.
Truxton, N.Y.
Dec 23, 1920

Dear Mother,

This is some hour to be writing letters (5:30 a.m.) but decided if it were to get done this morning I had better do it first. Had thought Wilburn would write so have just put off doing it myself.

Have been so busy for the last two weeks. Doing just a few little things for Xmas and regular house work has been a little more getting ready for the folks. I guess we told you in the summer that we were to have the Xmas gathering this year. I haven’t done much for Xmas, made a few things for the kiddies. Dressed a doll (it isn’t quite finished) for Marian. The specifications were that its eyes open and shut, so of course it had to be. Then I got a little doll cradle that I used to have and treated it to a coat of chic ? enamel and it looks fine. Mrs. Woodward wanted to make the sheets and things for it, so it will be quite complete. Santa had orders to bring a carriage also but guess he’s too poor this year to do everything, especially with carriages at $10.

How do you like the pictures? They are not very large but rather good I think.

We came down to Cortland Sat. and Marian staid down with Gilberts until yesterday, Wed, when I went down to get her and Mother Emma. She had a great time playing with the little girl next door. Think it was a good thing for both of them to have someone to play with. Carleton also had a fine time here with no one to bother him. It seemed so quiet with just him.

Wilburn has been working in the woods this week, getting out trees ready for the buzz saw. We haven’t sold our potatoes yet. Did not sell the cabbage either. In hopes to sell our hay soon if we can get any decent price at all.

We have had some good snappy weather this week but no snow much yet. Am in hopes it will hold off now until after Xmas so the folks can come in their cars.

Must get breakfast so will wish you a Merry Christmas and hope to hear about it soon.

Love from us all,

Wilburn, Florence and the Children
Truxton, N.Y.
Dec 29, 1920

Dear Mother,

While I am waiting for Wilburn to come will scribble a few lines as I suppose you
are anxious to hear of our Xmas. Am very sleepy but maybe I can stay awake a little
longer. Don’t seem to have found much time to rest up from last week’s rush.

Everyone said our Christmas dinner was fine. We had roast pig, mashed
potatoes, gravy, dressing, boiled apples, scalloped onions, turnip, celery, pickles,
rolls, coffee, gelatin, pumpkin pie and loads of whipped cream. We have been eating
pork all week and are not done yet, in spite of the fact that 29 partook of it. Then there
were two who were too small to indulge.

In the afternoon we took things off from the tree and think everyone fared very
well indeed. Marian got so many things, likewise Carleton, I don’t believe I can
remember them all. There were two sets of dishes, and a little tea set, a stove, books,
puzzles, cut-out books, a cap, scarf and mittens knit of red yarn, a dollie’s fan, doll
cradle with wheels and comfortable, tick and pillow. Santa brought also a doll that
opened and shut its eyes. I don’t think she hardly had it our of her arms all day.

Carleton had leggings, cap and mittens of gray trimmed in blue, books, balls,
train of cars, some small blocks, bedroom slippers, fire horses, bunny on wheels etc.

Wilburn, neckties, socks, hdk’s, moccasins. Myself 3 casseroles, two aprons,
knitted scarf, aluminum kettle for baking my beans, pyrex dish, fern dish, hdk. We also
had photos of Walter’s two children and Emma’s two. We are also to have the Outlook
another year.

Your box came this past Monday and many thanks for all the lovely things. It
seems to me it was a pretty generous Xmas box especially when the one sent, was so
small. Carleton is delighted with his fork. The cloth will make Marian a lovely summer
dress.

Are your nerves getting calmed down? What have you been doing to upset
yourself so? Better go a little easy.

Marian may get around to write her letter in the morning. She has been going
do it since her birthday. Both children seem to have a little cold tonight so gave
them refreshments (castor oil) and put them to bed early.

Wilburn hasn’t returned yet, guess his patient is making slow recovery.

Love from us all, Florence
2-25-20
met with Mr. Crandall and Rowe---William G. Crandall--long time advisor of the Bean family on real estate and investments. He also was an auctioneer of high repute in Cortland County. As a young man he worked on the W. J. Bean Farm. Clark Rowe owner of the farm. After selling to Florence and Wilburn moved to a small farm at the end of Rickard Street in Cortland where he dealt in cattle. He and his wife, Cecile, remained good friends of Florence and Wilburn and friends of the Truxton community.

3-31-20
Advanced Registry---the 7 day milk test for a cow was later shown to be unpredictable of her true genetic ability and was later discontinued.

5-25-20
trap nested--like a box trap--when a hen went into a nest to lay her egg the nest door shut--a specialized way of finding out how many eggs a hen laid over a period of time--this method was labor intensive and was later discarded.

6-28-20
Mr. and Mrs Sweetland-----Aunt Nellie Bean's parents lived in McLean

11-20-20
Florence's birthday---November 9, 1891
Isabelle's--neighbors and dear friends--John and Isabelle Feeter

12-30-20
Marian's letter is enclosed with Florence's in its original envelope as of this date.
Monday Evening

Dear Mother,

While I am warming my feet in the oven, will write a few lines, then a whole letter will get done sometime.

It has been a real winter day with the thermometer below zero and a good north wind. Had about three days like that a week ago then last Thursday and Friday and Saturday were almost spring like. The mercury slides from one extreme to the other so rapidly, it seems. Wilburn has gone to take some people to Cheningo and hope the car doesn't freeze up on the way. We have surely had a wonderful winter for driving a car thus far.

Last week Thurs. and Fri. Wilburn was over at Cornell attending the Veterinary Conference. He enjoyed it very much, got some new ideas, and saw a lot of men he knew. Mr. LaLonde and I held forth at home. He is our man whom we board. He is 51, I believe, he says, but a good worker as he is always at it. I wonder if we ever told you that we heard Horace was put in Binghamton Asylum soon after he left here.

Also wondering if you have heard of Mrs. Phillips death, also Mr. Dutcher of McLean. His death occurred after an operation for appendicitis.

We are Grangers once more again. They took us in on the demits that we had from Chatham Grange. Have been to one meeting, the next is this week again.

Wilburn and the men have been working in the woods off and on. Have out quite a good supply of logs which they are planning to buzz about Wednesday. Tomorrow there is an auction, one which must be attended. It is down at Cortland and had hoped it would be weather so I could go along but guess if it is as cold as today I'll stay and punch the fires and do a little sewing.

Thought I was not to have much to do after Xmas, so I would have plenty of time for sewing but seem to find very little time for it. If I stay at home tomorrow will finish a dress for Marian.

Mrs. Thompson is doing the washing up at her house now and that takes quite a lot of work out of the house. Wilburn has had a team drawing logs on a lumber job up beyond Cheningo. The price of potatoes has gone down, down. Guess that they are trying to keep cabbages company. Milk is also going down and the milk question is a serious one through the country.

How are you all feeling now? Hope you are not frozen up. Is Frank working now? It surely is tough to be out of work but there are many keeping him company.
The children are just fine. Have had one of Nellie Woodward’s girls over here most of last week. One came on Monday and stayed until Wednesday p.m. Then the other came Friday a.m. and staid until Sunday! They have a new little baby girl that came a week ago this morning.

No news of great importance as I can think, so guess I’ll say good night.

Love from us all to you both

Wilburn and Florence
Sunday P.M. Feb 27th

Dear Mother,

Guess you think we have fallen from the earth. Days do go by so fast and leaving many things undone that were planned.

We are having a very mild day and as a result the snow has disappeared. Another day as mild as this and there would be very little snow left. We have not had enough any time this winter to stop autos. We have been very thankful for that as we had not wished to buy a road horse this winter.

Marian and I went up to S.S. today and I had her class to teach as Isabelle was not there. They are entertaining company today.

Friday night there was a social at the church. Had a very jolly time. Not a very large crowd but lots of fun. I was on the refreshment committee so was over in the afternoon and worked, too. We served sandwiches, cake and coffee.

Thursday night was Grange night and we attended. Tuesday night we called on some neighbors across the river. So you see we have put in a rather strenuous week for us. And Wilburn wants to start this one by going down to Walter's tonight.

Wilburn was out to an auction near Tully this week one day and bought him a corn harvester. The one other big tool that he will have to have is a grain drill. Am afraid he won't be able to get a second hand one but will have to step out and buy a new one.

Yes, we have sold our hay and had it pressed. The pressers were here a week and as there were three of them and an extra man working for Wilburn it took some food to feed them, I can tell you. The oldest Reakes girl who is married to Leon Ward helped me and he helped Wilburn. It made a very good arrangement and we got along famously, even did a little sewing that week. I don't think I ever saw a man who could eat as much as one of the pressers could.

Guess that I wrote that we had buzzed our wood and have a nice pile for the year. Believe there was about forty cords.

Wilburn has had one and part the time two teams drawing lumber this week from way up the North Road to Truxton. It brings in a little something and makes the horses earn their board.

Our single man left last night, so we have to find another and break him in. We
are hoping not to have to pay quite so much for help this summer as we had to last.

Oh yes, Dorothy Glann had her baby before Xmas and it was a girl, as usual.

It is too bad that Frank hasn't had work but guess there have been many keeping him company.

The children seem to grow every day. Carleton is a mischief. Sister is learning to sew and to write her letter and figures and she wipes dishes part of the time.

Am beginning to plan our garden and if we could have one half as good as the seed catalogues picture think it would be pretty good. Am afraid my strawberries won't amount to very much. Don't know about the rrasberries we got. Our hens haven't performed very well this winter but are doing a little better now.

Have several more letters I should do so must not make this longer and perhaps I'll have ambition enough for them

Love from us all
FLORENCE
Dear Mother,

This is just a beautiful day here, almost too warm for this time of year. The mercury must stand quite a bit above eighty. Washed three pairs of curtains this morning and they were dry in less than an hour. Am doing a little cleaning each day and hope to make the rounds soon. Our hired man's wife decided that she and work don't agree so have no help at all now. Sent my washing out this week so that is helping me a lot. Have you started the spring rehearsal yet? Do you go back to N. Main for the summer?

Wilburn drove a team on the lumber wagon to Cortland today. We butchered our two remaining pigs yesterday and he took those down and was going to get a disc harrow that he purchased at an auction last week. He has bought a corn harvester and a grain drill this spring also. Don't think there will be many more to get this year.

We are doing nothing very exciting, work mostly with a trip to Cortland put in occasionally. Wilburn was down three days in succession last week. We went along one day. We went with the Beatties to a dance in Cuyler last Wednesday eve. There was such a crowd there that it was not much for dancing but most as good as county fair for watching people.

Sunday, Marian and I attended church and S.S. and in the afternoon our schedule seemed to be to entertain callers. Mrs. Hilton, Mrs. Nettie Woodward and Mrs. Stevens came just as we had finished dinner. They had only just been gone about a half hour when the Gilberts and Sister Emma and family came.

Have put in some sweet peas this spring and am in hopes they will be nice. It will soon be time to be working in the garden. Want to get some lettuce, peas and radishes in soon. The strawberry plants we put in last fall are n.g. I guess but the berry bushes, I guess, are going to come along. Do hope some day we will have all the small fruits we can use. Hope to get a few trees set out this spring but it is rather hard to get a man to stop and help.

Will get the notes from the bank when I go up and enclose them so you can endorse. Have settled with Rowe for the year and the Avon Bank so guess these will be the last for now. Tomorrow Wilburn and Walter are going out to buy some more cows. We must have more if we are to have enough income to pay expenses. Cows seem to be quite sure year in and year out.

The children are just fine and playing outdoors every minute these nice days. Think they are as glad as I not to have bundle up every time they step outside. Much love from us all. Wilburn and Florence (Marian prints) 00000 MARIAN BEAN POTTER
Dear Mother: - 

I guess you will be rather surprised to see my hand writing but if I had written as many times as I had planned I would have written often but just seems as if the time just flies and I let a good many of the things go that I should do. Our weather has been fine so we've improved it. Our work is well along altho we have sown no grain we expect to within a day or two. We have over fifty acres plowed. All the ground on top of the hill, all of the corn ground next to the willows on the flats and the piece where we had cabbage as well as about twelve acres just north of the barn on the flats so you see we are considerably better off than last year when at this time we didn't have hardly any plowing done. We also have extra good help. The tenant man is very steady and accomplishes a great deal. The other fellow who lives in the house is a dandy clean cut fellow very exact in his ways and manner but I guess he is a good example for the rest of us.

We are planning on growing about the same crops as last year. Corn 17 acres, cabbage 7 acres, potatoes 6 acres, oats and peas 15 acres, oats 5 acres and 3 to 5 acres of millet beside the hay. So I guess we'll have plenty to keep us out of mischief. Tell Myrtle that I've bought two pounds of cabbage seed at twelve dollars a pound.

Our cows are doing about as well as could be expected but of course they will do better then they go out to grass. Our milk market has been good. That is to say our station has been open and doing business all the time so our milk checks have come regularly at the Dairymen's League price. The Pooling Plan of which you have been interested in is to commence May 1st. I signed up the contract early last winter as I believed the principle to be correct. It is a mammoth undertaking but there is no reason why the officials shouldn't swing it. I'd rather chance the League Officials to give the League member a fair deal than the distributors located in N.Y. City and having no interest in the producing end of the game. We will have to have more cows and make more milk or we will come out the little end of the horn.

Our hens are laying between 36-40 eggs a day selling at 26 cents so they are doing well as have only about fifty. Our garden is started having in peas and onion sets are just showing green. I guess the berry bushes are all going to live. I sold about forty ton of hay and had enough beside to winter my fifty head of cattle and horses. We sold between five and six hundred bushel of potatoes at between 47 and 60 cents a bushel. The veterinary business has been good of late and it kind of keeps us in pin money. Have several jobs that I should be doing.

You will probably be interested to know that we paid seven hundred on the principle beside all the interest on all notes and farm proper. Most people say we are
very fortunate to do even that much. Of course I have bought other things which I will not have to have this year such as milking machine, manure spreader, mowing machine etc. There was about two thousand dollars worth of expense that I will not have this come year. My labor expense is about $25.00 less than last year. So we are anticipating a better year than last. Even the price of milk is lower the price of grain is from 1/3 to 1/2 of what it was last year and probably will be higher because of the decreased acreage.

We have decided we must make more milk this summer and as many of our cow will be dry and ready to freshen in the late summer and fall they naturally won't milk long. So we've decided to turn them back on the hills and milk only good fresh cows here at home. We can milk about forty-five on the pastures we have by feeding green stuff as we did last year. So as you spoke last year about finances we have decided to ask you if you cannot let us have $1200. I know what you think that we are getting in pretty deep and all that but I think that with the past year's experience we will be in a much better position to do the amount of business that is necessary to carry on this sized place. We will give you the note and pay you the interest quarterly or semi annually at the rate of six percent. We feel that we must do this so that we may be able to pay back some of the other money we have borrowed from outsiders. Now don't let this worry you a bit but think of it as a strictly business proposition in which we both will benefit. Hope if you will let me have it that it will be forthcoming soon as I wish to get the cows to go on pasture about the first of May.

The children are both well. Florence did not feel well over Sunday, had a sore throat and was off generally but seems alright again now. We have a girl helping for this week and perhaps longer. That will help her get rested a bit.

Think I have written quite a letter for me but think I'll be able to stand it if you will. Better drop me a card by return mail if you can help us.

With Lot of Love

from all the Truxton Potters
Truxton, N.Y.
May 15, 1921

Dear Mother:-

I will start a letter now and finish it later. Florence has just returned from church and Sunday School with Marian but Carleton and I staid at home. I gave Carleton his dinner and then put him to bed. We are alone today as all our help is scattered about the country some where.

This has been a busy week. Sunday we went to Homer to hear Mr. Taylor preach his first sermon there. Then we went to Aunt Clara’s for dinner, then made a stop at Aunt Carrie’s and Gilberts then home. Monday Florence washed and I was away all day up above Cuyler on Veterinary work. Then Tuesday I was away again as well as Wednesday. Then Thursday and the rest of the week we have fixed fence. Yesterday Florence went to Cortland and did a number of errands as a new hat for Carleton also coat, groceries for the week. She got sugar yesterday for seven cents. She also got seed corn and millet, a new switch for the milking machine outfit and veterinary supplies.

We finished sowing oats and peas and you better tell Myrtle that I put in those two pounds of cabbage seed last Saturday. Tomorrow if the weather is pleasant will start planting corn and keep at it until it is all in. Then the millet, potatoes and set the cabbage and after that—haying.

We have had cows out on grass about two weeks and now we are making over 900 pounds a day. That will make quite a good check.

(Florence writes) While Wilburn is getting ready to go to Cortland will add a few lines and call this a letter. We had a freeze last night but we have nothing it could hurt but a few garden peas and don’t believe my sweet peas will harm.

Wilburn says when he receives the other check he will make out a note for the whole and send it on.

How are you feeling now? Do hope much better and that your ear will come out all o.k. You are having it treated are you not? Seems to me instead of an operation on your throat this summer that you and Auntie better come on and spend the summer here. Think this country air will do you both much good.

Love from all,

Wilburn and Florence
9 P.M. Wed. Night

Dear Mother:—

Altho it is nine o'clock I am going to write. Have just come in from out doors. Every night now we drive the cows from that little lot down by the river over into the night pasture. You will remember last year that we didn't use that lot for anything but this year I've put a fence around the upper side and thus the cows feed it down but I don't dare to leave them in there over night for they probably would either break thru my fence into the corn or go across the river into Mr. Bloomfield's corn.

After that I went down into the corn south of the house. Some of it is up to my hips and some is not near as good. I can't understand what makes it so uneven. But we have had a terrible dry time, the pasture land is dried to a brick and the hay land is also dry but today we've had three showers the last being quite a down pour and it surely did a pile of good. The cabbage look good standing up like majors. We have between 4 and 5 acres set about the same as last year, but I think we have many more plants set.

We received our first check in the great milk pool that you have read and heard so much about. As a rule I think most of the people are satisfied but of course there are always a lot of knockers and kickers. Our check was second from the top in size for the month of May but at that it wasn't as large as we wished it to be. But perhaps if we can stand it and don't lose our determination some day we'll make some milk (money?) I think. We made between 900-1000 lbs a day during May and over 6000 more than a year ago. For June I think we make about 5000 more than last year.

Last week we had rather a busy week. Monday afternoon we left here for Cortland. Had a flat tire before we got to Burgetts across the flats and after we got across the tracks at Cortland we had two flat ones before we got to North Church Street. But we went with Dr. and Mrs. Moore (Dean Moore's son) to Ithaca in their car to a dinner given in honor of Dr. Williams retirement from active service at Cornell. Had a fine time got back to Cortland about 11:00 o'clock and finally started for home and got just above the turn that goes to Walter's and another flat tire. Well we drove the thing in the yard and walked to Walter's and drove his Ford home. Got here about 2:30. That night I went to bed early. Wed. night we were down to Walter's and didn't get home until Late. Thursday night was Grange night and McGraw Grange put on the 1st and 2nd degrees. Over 200 people were there. Then Friday night we went down to Ward Woodward's to Lorings Aid picnic supper. Guess that all for that week. Forgot to say that the Saturday before and Sunday of course Robert and Helen were here. Suppose of course you have seen and visited with them before now. Hope Helen is well.

Monday we went to Cortland. Saw Miss Day on the street. She inquired for
you. See Mr. Hazzard nearly every time we are down. Wonder if you knew Donald Hazzard has another baby. Iva Waterman Bennett and family were here Sunday also the Dickinson and Wadsworth families from the Gulf.

Our broilers are ready to go. Have around fifty that will probably go. The clock has just struck ten so think we better call it quit for tonight.

We are enclosing the note and it sure has done us a pile of good for a little money to those you owe, keeps them happy.

Will close with Lots of Love 
from all the Truxton Potters

Wilburn
Dear Mother,

If someone doesn’t get busy soon you won’t ever get a letter for your birthday. Gifts are going rather slim this year. Have not had breakfast yet altho it must be 6:30. It is so warm and “muggy” this a.m. and after a very strenuous day of haying yesterday it was hard for everyone to get up.

Haying is coming along very well. It seems rather slow but guess we will finish up in a week or so. It was around 100 acres we had to do this year.

Yesterday the Slaters and PerLees called on us. They were coming thru from Morrisville. The PerLees had been over there for a week, and the week before that Grace had been over and spent a week and left the babies at home. One of them walks now and Mrs. PerLee said they were coming along pretty well now.

This next Saturday we are planning a trip to Earlville, taking Isabelle and her husband and a friend of Isabelle’s. We have planned it for a year and it is just materializing. Do hope it doesn’t rain and spoil all our plans—altho we are beginning to need rain again.

The milk question is gradually working out I guess. Just have to have faith and give it time. The League is getting organized.

Work is going along in the house very well, we both manage to keep busy. Am canning beans this week. Then I have had to drive in haying quite a bit.

The church is planning a Centennial celebration the last of August and we are to put on a little play for one thing. They pulled me into that so there is practice 3 and 4 times a week.

Last week Iva and I entertained at a shower for Edith Woodward. We had about eighteen there and served ice cream, cakes, and grape juice.

Breakfast is ready so must stop and Wilburn has to go to Truxton afterwards so this will go out on the morning mail.

Best birthday wishes and much love from all.
Wilburn, Florence and the children
Dear Mother:

Florence and Marian have gone to church and I have just put Carleton to bed. As I am quite wide awake I think I will start a letter to you. I have planned to write several times but haven’t brought myself to it before.

We cleaned up the haying and harvesting yesterday so now the next big job is silo filling which will be early this year. I will have more than twice as much corn as I had last year. We have more hay than we had last year. Of course we can't tell about the potatoes and cabbage but now they are looking fine and apparently the price this year will be very satisfactory. Potatoes are selling on the Syracuse market at around $2.00 a bushel and I heard that early cabbage were bringing $40.00 a ton. I have so much corn that I will not be able to get near all of it in the silo but I cannot buy another now.

My tenant man quit rather unexpectedly a week ago last night so since then Floyd and I have been working along very nicely alone. George went back west to work a farm on shares. I put an ad in the paper and had had several answers but have not hired a man as yet.

Florence writes-- This was started a week and a half ago. So guess he won’t finish it so will add a line and send it along.

My Aunt was with us most of last week and the Gilberts also were up for today. Attended Home Burea on Thurs. p.m. and practised in between times. Uncle Wendell, Frances and Vance came out Saturday p.m. and staid until Monday p.m. Sunday we went to Watkins Glen. Had a lovely trip but a hurried one. Have done a big washing today. My girl goes to the Fair tomorrow. Don’t know whether we go any or not. Our church Centennial is on this weekend and that means a lot of work for everyone.

Wilburn has gone up on Seacord hill to fix fence today and to the mill to get sawdust. We now have a new tenant man and a different single man.

Must kill a few more flies then take a snooze before starting ironing.

Love from all
Wilburn, Florence and the children

Aug. 23, 1921
Truxton, N.Y.

Sept. 20, 1921

Dear Mother:-

If you had received a letter every time I thought I would get to writing you sure would have been busy reading letters. Florence and I have spoken so many times about getting to see you people but seems as if something would come up and would set it aside but when Uncle Wendell was here we had just about planned to come before Vance started in School. But upon their arrival home they found the "Hospital" over flowing so that just put everything out of their minds for a while.

Now we have filled silo and had so much corn left that we have decided to put up another so now we are busy with that and there will be no let up until after the potatoes are out of the ground and that won't be before the last of the coming month. So to be sure you better come this way.

We have had no frost yet which seems rather remarkable. The piece of corn south of the house where we had cabbage is nearly ready to husk so I'll pick part of it and put the rest in the silo. Then we'll dig the potatoes. They are selling for $1.00 a bushel now, think I'll have nearly a thousand bushel but maybe not. Our cabbage are only fair but the price is $25.00 a ton now and estimates that it will go higher so maybe we'll get more than if we had a big yield.

Think I will close for tonight. Marian started in school a week ago yesterday and is very excited over it. We can't hardly keep her reading book away from her. Fay White and his bride visited us last week and we went to the State Fair on Wednesday.

Must close with Lots of Love from all.

Wilburn
Sunday Evening

Dear Mother,

Just a few lines while I am waiting for Wilburn to come back from getting the "hired girl". It is not to be Grace this week but her sister. Grace seems to be the one they depend on at home and as some of the family are sick they want her home.

The wind is blowing a gale. Last night we had a regular tornado in this section. Took the tin roof off from Westcotts store and several chimneys down etc. But we have managed to get to Homer and back today. We were over to Taylors to dinner. Had decided to get there in time for church but had a flat tire so sat in the garage instead of church. Edith Woodward White and he husband were also there for dinner.

Mother Emma came up this last Monday night and staid until Wednesday. We made over my serge dress so it looks up to date again. Also celebrated Marian's birthday. She brought her a doll with hair and eyes that open and shut and all dressed. She was some delighted child. Carleton loves it all most as she I think. Wednesday we went down to our Loring Circle meeting at Ward Woodward's then on down town and shopped.

Wilburn was down town to an auction again Thursday, and another near Taylor on Friday. Bought five more heifers.

It is now Wednesday a.m. and if I get this off with the post man will have to hustle.

Monday night Howard walked in and surprised us. As he had to go back to Cortland yesterday we went down and tried to finish our Xmas shopping. It was a lovely day but today we are having a regular blizzard.

My sister from Penn. gets into Cortland this a.m. and expect her up tonight. Wilburn is driving a team to E. Homer this a.m. to get a new horse.

Am sending a little package that I hope will reach you in time for Xmas. Love and best wishes for a happy Christmas for you all from us all.

Wilburn, Florence and the Children
notes 1921

3-1-21
hay pressers--to bale or "press" hay in the barn. The men pitched the loose hay from
hay mow into the hay presser. Wires were hooked around the bale in the press.
oldest Reakes girl---Helen Reakes Ward-- wife of Leon Ward---Their children are
Gordon Ward and Doris Ward Young (Donald).

5-17-21
went over to Aunt Clara’s for dinner---Aunt Clara Harmon Woodward--sister of our
grandmother, Annie Harmon Bean
Aunt Carrie’s--Carrie Harmon Allport, a cousin of Aunt Clara’s---always known to us as
Aunt Carrie

7-28-21
Canastota & Elmira R.P.O.---railway post office--on the Lehigh Valley train
Grandma Potter’s birthday---July 29, 1870

8-24-21
fix fence on Seacord Hill--below Cheningo--Wilburn pastured heifers and dry cows on
land away from the farm.

9-21-21
"Hospital"---Aunt Anna---Uncle Wendell’s wife operated a nursing and rest home in
Herkimer.

12-?-21
sister from Penn----Florence had only one sister--Emma Bean Hazzard--why she was
in Penn??
Dear Mother.

Had tho’ I would surely write before this but have sort of played lazy this week and recuperated from Christmas. Marian was sick the day we went down for our Xmas tree and so did not have quite the hilarious time she had planned. I did not let her go back to school until Thursday, but think that she feels good again now.

Carleton hasn’t felt real fine for couple of days but they both have gone to barn and out doors tonight so guess he is all right. We are having real winter weather with the terrible winds and temperature low. One doesn’t forget the fire for long now. Wilburn was in Cortland yesterday and took our batteries (rented ones) down and we are putting our car up for a tune.

Christmas went off with a whiz on a Monday for us. Everyone received so many things. The children got books and books, a train of cars, sweater, stockings, top, puzzles, toys for Carleton. Marian three dolls, two dresses, 3 boxes of children’s writing paper, pencil box etc, besides all the nice things you sent. It seems to me that was a pretty big box. We all send many, many thanks to you and Auntie. I had a new house dress, 2 aprons, handmade h’d’ks, writing paper, cap, mittens, some sauce dishes, an aluminum set of five pieces, material for inside draperies for the fining room, a bath mat, a percolator; Wilburn-- shirts, socks, ties, cuff buttons and money.

Last Sunday, Xmas day, was rather a queer one for us. Mr. Moon came up and wanted me to phone the Dr. to come right up and wondered if I would come up until he came. So I ate my breakfast and went right up and found things a little farther along than I had supposed and I was alone with her when the baby came. The Dr. came very soon, however, but until then I don’t think I breathed quite straight. Then I helped the Dr. wash up the baby, then I dressed it and then we cleaned her up and the bedding and staid until almost two. Came home and finished getting dinner and ate and put the family to bed, then went back up and staid until almost seven while he was off getting a woman.

When I came home Wilburn and I both said it hadn’t seemed like Sunday or Xmas day or “anything”. So after Monday too I was some weary when it came Tues.

I think the coat you sent will make a very nice coat for Marian. Lunch is over and the children in bed so guess I shall have to call this enough for now.

Love from us all to you both

Florence Wilburn and the Children
Dear Mother:-

Some class to my stationery, don't you think? It is something new so thought I would use it to show it off.

This is a beautiful day. In fact we have been having several like it. Quite cold but still not 20 to 30 below zero. That is how the temperature ran for several mornings last week. This is when one longs for the sunny south. Should think you and Auntie should go south another winter.

Business seems to be going right along here. Have not finished filling the ice house yet but hope to do so this week. They have built a shute for the new silo this week and begun feeding from it tonight. Alfred is not with us any more but have a young chap now. He seems very good and very willing and nice to have around.

Isabelle and John have a son who will be two weeks old this Thurs. She is in the hospital but hopes to come home Thursday. Had hoped to go down to see her but guess I shall have to wait til she comes home. They call it John Jr. She has gotten along splendidly.

Walter and Ivah and children drove up in a cutter this morning and staid for dinner. Last week Wednesday Wilburn went to a big auction over in Little York Valley an bought an electric washing machine. It is in good shape and surely did our wishing up in a hurry yesterday. It is an Easy. We are both very much delighted with it.

We have all had colds again. But guess we shall be all ok if the winter doesn't hold on too long, suppose we shall know on Feb 2nd! Have you all kept well?

Wonder if you will be surprised to know that there will be another in the family to be Grandma to in the spring? Can hardly wait for the months to go by and the time to get here. Every thing seems to be progressing very nicely.

The children did not have naps so must get their supper and have them off to bed early.

Love from us all

Wilburn, Florence and the children

Marian is not in school now and am very glad during this cold weather.
Dear Mother:-

Altho it is after eight will start a letter and then I will surely finish it. I have been going to start one so many times. I just don't bring myself to it to write anything except short business letters. How do you like my stationery. It only cost about the same as other paper and I think it is much neater and makes one feel a little more business like.

It has been a most beautiful day. We didn't get up until half past five and thus didn't get into breakfast until about nine. Of course we do all the chores before breakfast Sunday. Then we went of church and Sunday School. After dinner I had a nap, fixed the Delco engine, chores and supper. Marian went to bed before I came in from the barn as she had no nap today but Carleton stayed up until nearly eight. The sun has been so warm for the past few days that most of the snow is gone but ice remains. We drove the buggy for the first today. The car stands down in the barn where it has stood since we came from the Xmas tree at Gilber's. It is waiting for a new radiator and battery and a few incidental that are always need around a car. Think we will not drive Mr. Dodge as much this year if the price of everything we have to sell keeps going downward.

We have been busy of late getting the ice, drawing sawdust and cutting wood. Of course the everlasting chores have to be attended to first. Our cows have done very well this winter, much better than last for the number we milked. Think if we could get to full capacity we would do quite well but as one of the neighbors say "You've got to creep before you can walk" (The Delco has just stopped) Couldn't you hear it Puff, Puff, Puffing? Oh yes we've got the top on the silo and sold over twenty tons of hay to neighbors and friends. Have some more to sell but shall wait until after April I think. Our tenant man, Moon, moves to Mr. Bloomfield's tomorrow. I've another coming but haven't heard anything since he agreed to come. We have a young man in the house with us. Lucy, our girl, says she will not work any longer so went home yesterday. Your letters and papers are very interesting and Marian and Carleton have heard quite a bit of "Tumbleheels". The milk Pool is a great thing but its hard to give the non-pooler a free ride and let them get a higher price. Your letter and check came toward the middle of the week. We will attend to it soon.

Must close with Love from all to you,

Wilburn

Florence writes--Dear Mother, You asked what I needed for the baby. Well, I don't know as there is anything I actually need. Have all the dresses and petticoats necessary and a very good supply of blankets. And those are the actually necessary thing for a tiny thing. Could use a little bonnet or something for the carriage so a pillow cover or a little afghan or something of that sort. Please don't do much as you have enough to
do without extras and keep yourself well. I have so many things on hand that I have not had to make a great lot of new. Diapers and nighties and one dress is about the limit. I always save my energies for the short clothes so they have to come so soon.

We have quite a bit of snow again today (Monday). Had a big washing but the machine did not object to it. If you go to Holyoke give them our regards and hope you have a fine time.

Florence

Uncle Edmund and Aunt Emma Bean Hazzard 1947

Virginia, George and Ruth Hazzard
Friday morning

Dear Mother,

Had tho't Wilburn would find time to write a line before now but he hasn't seemed to do so. If you will excuse pencil and the scrawl I shall make by lying flat in bed as I write will send a few lines.

Am feeling very good this morning as my after pains are done for, I guess, and my milk is here. Baby is so good. I am at home and have a very good practical nurse who takes splendid care of us. The children are down to Cortland for a few days but expect they will come home Sunday. I like my new girl very much as she is more capable than Lucy ever tho't of being.

The baby weighed 7 lbs and is such a nice baby. Has quite a lot of very dark brown hair and of course blue eyes. His head I think is going to be like Wilburn's altho he has very small ears. His hands are good sized. The children think he is just fine.

The men have been busy trying to get the wood buzzed but the engine hasn't worked well so it hasn't gone very fast. We shall have a nice pile of wood when we get it done. Today Wilburn is going out inspecting dairies.

Nurse says I must have an enema before the Dr. comes so can't write more now. The Dr. hasn't been here since the baby came so he can't think I am very bad off.

Hope you and Auntie are all well.

Love from us all

Florence
Dear Mother:–

I had planned to write a few lines yesterday but the day passed rapidly and didn't get it done. We had a very bad week last week for outdoor work but I did very well inspecting dairies at Cuyler. Have inspected over 300 cows so far and have about as many more to do. I get 12 1/2 cents each so it runs into money fast. The milk business is in a muddle and probably will be as long as there is so great a surplus. Sheffields are not taking our milk so it goes to DeRuyter by truck. Don't know how long it will continue. They claim 90 cans went from Truxton, 135 from East Homer, 200 from Homer to Cortland etc. I'm just ready to start for Cuyler.

Florence and baby are doing fine. Don't believe the baby has lost anything this week. Marian has been having trouble with her ear. She and C. are at Cortland yet. Wished to get them yesterday but on account of Marian tho' better to leave them there.

We are enclosing the Muller note for your endorsement. Also I am enclosing your personal note for the money you lent me. I am making it $500. Thus wishing you to send me a check for $100. So many extras at this time have made us very short.

Hastily with Love to from all

Wilburn
Truxton, NY
April 20 1922

Dear Mother,

As long as it is so stormy I can’t get out, will take time to do a little writing. A regular blizzard is raging outside and it makes one think it is the beginning of winter instead of spring. We have a big pile of wood at the back door so guess that we will not freeze but may next winter if we use it now.

There isn’t much excitement just now with us. I am feeling very good and stronger every day. The baby is good most of the time. Of course he must exercise his lungs some. Have had to give him a bottle in part all ready and he will have it entirely very soon.

Have had quite a variety of hired help in the house in the last month. The girl I had after Lucy left staid until the Sunday before the baby was two weeks old. Got another that came that night and staid a week and now I have the girl back who was with me all last summer. She seems very glad to be here and after my changes am glad to have her.

Wilburn has been doing quite a lot of inspection work. The hired men have been plowing and harrowing. The milk problem is a serious one now. For a time our milk was going to DeRuyter but now it goes to the upper station here in Truxton.

Our family has had to face another terrible grief since last we wrote. Uncle Gib, as the children called him--Mother Emma’s brother--has been taken from us. It was a terrible shock to us all. The children were down there until Friday before he died on Sunday. It was pneumonia.

Carleton has just gotten up and wants to be dressed so guess this is enough for now. We are enclosing a note to be signed on the back.

Are you and Auntie feeling pretty good now? Hope you are not having the colds every one around her are having. The children received their Easter cards and were much pleased.

Love from us all
Florence
Saturday A.M.

Dear Mother,

While the baby is deciding whether to go to sleep or not will start a letter and then perhaps it will get finished sometime. He usually sleeps all the morning but he is trying out a different plan this day. Guess he is beginning to gain at last. He is very good most of the time, of course, he must exercise his lungs some. He sleeps fine at night anyway. Put him to bed at eight last night and he didn't waken until three this a.m.

We are getting some lovely weather this week. Had a nice warm rain couple nights ago which made everything jump. Haven't our oats in yet but the ground is all ready for them. Potatoes are not in yet either. Milk situation is still very bad and likely to be for some time yet.

Have you gotten any seeds in yet? How is Auntie feeling this spring? Wish she were feeling spry enough so you both would come to make us a little visit. Have you finished house cleaning?

Have a big pan of greens waiting to be looked over for dinner. Had a batch the first of the week and they do taste good.

Wilburn received Auntie's package all OK and your letter. Don't know whether he will ever get around to write his own thanks. He is more than busy with work at home and doing some inspection work too.

The children are fine. They are out of doors most of the time and growing like weeds. Carleton has been most too full for anything lately and gets off some great remarks. Marian is getting along so fast in school altho she just goes half a day.

We were down to Walter's for dinner last Sunday--baby's first trip out. Tomorrow, if it is pleasant we are going over to Frank's. Wonder if you know that both Mr. and Mrs. PerLee have been very sick with pneumonia this spring?

Must get busy or won't have greens for dinner or the baby's washing down. He has gone to sleep.

Love from us all
Florence and Wilburn
Dear Mother,

This is a decidedly warm afternoon. At least I found it so scrubbing the kitchen floor. This morning I was up in the cabbage field, driving on the setter. Intended to go back again this pm but Margaret was sick so had to stay here. Baby doesn't need much attention but someone just has to be around. Marian has a little girl in playing with her this afternoon and Carleton is still napping. He received his birthday suit all OK and it fits him very well. That morning he had fallen thru the hay chute onto the cement floor below so he had a bandage on his head and was feeling pretty miserable but we tried the suit on and had his picture taken in it and it all helped us forget. Marian's parasol came and needless to say she was very much pleased. Carleton has his hair cut man fashion now. It changes his looks so much. School was out last Friday with a picnic.

Yes we were hit pretty badly with the rain and flood. All our corn was under water almost two days and some spots are still under so that half will have to be replanted and the rest will be stunted I am afraid.

Cortland was hit something terrible with the wind. Great trees, hundreds of them were uprooted or broken off. Telephone and light poles and wires down and for a day some streets were impassable. One house was flattened out like a pancake but the five people in it escaped with a few broken bones. Only one person was killed. He was on a milk cart and struck by a falling tree. It all happened in about five minutes at about seven Sunday morning (June 11). If it had been a week day no doubt there would have been more loss of life.

A great number of those beautiful old elms on Church Street are down and all of them damaged in varying degrees. Homer Ave and Madison were about the worst hit altho all the streets in that section were badly damaged.

Wilburn has just come in and is ready to go up beyond DeRuyter to inspect a dairy so will close and let him take this along.

Love from us all

Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother:-

I believe you have a birthday shortly and I am going to send a few lines to help you celebrate the day. I thought when I received your last letter that I would answer it immediately and surprise you but just didn't

The children are all in bed and quiet now but Marian and Carleton have been jumping up and down in bed. They are so full they can't hold it all. Today has been a strenuous day for all the family. Arose at the usual time and did chores, Florence got the children dressed and breakfast ready (she has no girl now) then after breakfast she drove the horse fork and we unloaded two loads of hay then put on one and unloaded it. Then I changed my clothes and went to Syracuse to a meeting of the State Veterinary Association. Arrived safely home at about six.

Marian is growing so fast that you would hardly realize her now. She has driven for loading the hay a good bit this summer. It will take us part of next week to finish our haying here at home. Then I have taken another to do. Then we have twenty five acres of grain to harvest so I guess we'll have plenty to do. We will have practically the same amount of hay we had last year and all our oats will be extra. It is now 10:00a.m.

Florence writes----Well it is now 6:00 a.m. Aug 5--some lapse in time. Guess if you are ever to get this I shall have to finish it. Wilburn has been busy keeping the help busy all week. We had an extra man now so as to boost the haying right along. And the weather has been such we couldn't do a thing about it. Have done some hoeing instead.

I have been alone two weeks and a half but have another girl now for a month. Couldn't have done it that long if baby were not so good. He hardly cries from morning to night. When he was four months old he weighed 12 lbs which lacks only a few ozs of being as much as Marian weighed when she was 6 mos. Marian has been such a help this summer both indoors and out. She has been promised a ticket to Junior Chautauqua which comes thru next week. Carleton has been down with his grandmother this week and we have been lost without him. He is such a chatterbox.

We are expecting to go to Trumansburg tomorrow. It will be the first time since last Thanksgiving. Don't know whether you knew of the fire the town over there had. It cleaned out a block in the center and the Pierce-Hazzard Pharmacy were cleaned out.
The insurance man called it a total loss but they did manage to salvage quite a bit and had a fire sale from which they realize quite a bit.

Vance called on us a few minutes one afternoon recently. He was on his way home from Montour Falls where he had been to take a look at Cook Academy. He thought he might like to go there. Guess he hardly knows what he does want to do.

Must get busy and help with the breakfast and sew a little as I want to clean up my pile on the machine today.

Love from us all

Love from us all

X X X X X X O O O O O O O

love form Marian
Dear Mother:-

I wonder if you have any faith in me left. I have really been too discouraged to write sometimes and other times just didn’t get to it. In the first place we are all very, very well and busy. I only have one man and Florence has no help in the house. In the second place I had figured all summer since last fall that we would be in Orange some time between August and October but guess we’ve got to give it up so you must come out here as soon as possible. I have to help fill silos next week and week after, then the few potatoes and cabbage which are not worth drawing. Then we have lots of plowing to do. We have been very little this summer, except when absolutely necessary.

We have a barn full of hay, 500 bu of oats and some cabbage and potatoes which are worth almost nothing today. They are paying only thirty cents a bushel and $5.00 a ton for cabbage. Potatoes will probably go higher but nobody looks for cabbage to advance. My milk checks have been greatly reduced but perhaps if we work hard and people are not too hard on us we may be able to pay our interest and then perhaps next year will be brighter.

Edmund and Emma have bought in East Rochester and move the first of October into a brand new house. The Pierce-Hazzard Pharmacy will then be located there. Albert Bean has just bought a place in Homer. Eloise Hollister has just been married and will live in Presque Isle, Maine. Sophia Berhardt has been visiting with us for a few days but leaves for Wilkes-Barre tomorrow. I have been doing some Veterinary Inspection and will finish five more dairies tonight. Florence has been canning and now has some peaches to put up.

It is now Monday morning at breakfast time. Had our first hard freeze last night. Yesterday was busy as after I finished drawing the milk to see a sick cow then when I got home I went above Chenango to see another one and didn’t get home until 3 o’clock, then I milked our thirty five cows alone as Harold, our tenant man, went to Cato yesterday. We will be very busy filling silo for a couple of weeks now. Then the cabbage and potatoes.

Our Dairymen’s League Certificates of Indebtedness came a little while ago. Ours was nearly $400.00. It will be necessary for me to get some cash with this as security. They pay six percent and the coupons are attached the same as Liberty Bonds. Wondering if you are worrying about the interest on our notes, well please
don't as it will come out right if we stick to our knitting and don't give up the ghost.

Was more than sorry to hear the sad news of Perry's boy for so many reasons. Isn't he the only Herrick boy in the family.  Hope this finds you well and that you may be able to come this way soon.  We are enclosing some pictures.

With Love from all
Wilburn

The Kitts Family
David, Harry Jr, Larry, Marian, Jeanie and Harry Sr.
Dear Mother:

It is 4:45 a.m. and I am taking just a few minutes to write and enclose a note for you to endorse. Please send it back by return mail or it won’t get here in it ?? I have neglected to send it before.

We are to fill silo today and the rest of the week. The cutter is all set up and we will run the millet in the silo first and then the corn. Just seems as if we wouldn’t get started this year as the cutter and engine I have been working with would break first one place and then another, but now I hired a different outfit and expect it will do good work. We are praying that the weather stay good for a few days yet. We’ve had most wonderful weather lately. I only have one man now but he’s one of the best and things run very smoothly.

I will not write more now for I must get to milking so may be ready when the teams come.

Hastily with Love

Wilburn

Harry Kitts and Aunt Carrie Allport ---1948
Dear Mother:-

I have been neglecting writing every day until now I'll have to hustle. The days fly so fast that we can hardly keep up with them. Last evening it was very cold but this morning it has turned mild seems more like summer. Day before yesterday I gave the furnace a complete overhauling, put some new pipe in and Saturday we had our first fire with wood of course.

Yesterday I was in DeRuyter and New Woodstock. Albert and Ada and Emma were here yesterday. Walter and Ivah Monday night and Sunday all of the Gilberts.

I am enclosing the other Muller note for your endorsement. Wish I might reduce it some but don't seem able to. We are all well and the children are growing so fast. Must get this off in this morning's mail so will not write more now.

With Love from all
Wilburn
Thursday Evening, 9 o'clock

Dear Mother,

Well the dishes are done and children abed and breakfast partly ready so guess I had better scribble a few lines or you won’t get it by Christmas. Have put off writing as I tho’t I would be able to say “I am sending a package by this mail also”. But at the rate things are moving guess it won’t be.

The children and I went down to Cortland last week Friday Night on the train and came back Sat. P.M. with Wilburn in the car. Took the children down street in the a.m., then went down by myself in P.M. and did my first Xmas shopping. Had tho’t I would be down again before now.

Gaylen has been feeling pretty much off this week and today went up to see his Dr. at DeRuyter. He phoned back that he wouldn’t be back probably until after Xmas as the Dr. said he must rest. I’d say it was a fine time to be resting.

Wilburn has been away part of the day on Vet. work, Lester doing chores. Marian at school half day. Carleton managed to give himself quite a cut in his forehead while sliding down hill this P.M. Baby is top notch.

Have been having lots of snow and zero weather but much milder today. Wilburn drove a horse and cutter today and said it was well he did as it would have been impossible to have gotten thru with a car. Only two cars have been down and back by here today.

We read in the paper that the Hollisters daughter, Mrs. Hart is home from Maine.

It is now Friday a.m. Breakfast is done and much writing to be done, so will say Merry Christmas for all of us and send this along. Had hoped Wilburn would be able to add a line but guess he won’t. Where do you take your Christmas dinner? We go down to Walter’s. The children are getting very anxious for Santa Claus and the Christmas tree.

Marian speaks up at the church tonight. Carleton was to have done one but don’t think he would look very well with a bandage around his head.

Love and good wishes to you all
Wilburn, Florence and the children
notes 1922

Farm in Truxton purchased April 1, 1920
Tho't----used many times as contraction for 'thought'
down street----to Cortland
over street----to Truxton
Gaylen----hired man, Gaylen Burdick
Lester----hired man, Lester Meldrim
Baby---Bernard born 3-28-22----also called 'the little fellow' see 11-26-23
Walter's--Uncle Walter and Aunt Ivah Snyder Bean, parents of Herbert and Kenneth

1-2-22
Mr. Moon---hired man in the tenant house

1-31-22
Filling the ice house--Storing ice for cooling milk in the summer
Isabelle and John--Feeter, new son John--long time friend of Bernard
another in the family---that's me!!! BWP

2-28-22
Delco Generator for 32 volt power--electricity stored in a series of batteries--at that time
it was in the house cellar--later moved to the barn
Pool--cooperative bargained for higher prices for milk
non-poolers--farmer who didn't sign--but milk handlers gave them the same price

4-1-22
Baby is so good--that's me BWP born 3-28-22--no name mentioned

4-3-22
R.P.O.--Railway Post Office on the train
90 cans of milk--a can is 40 quarts--about 85 pounds
Baby's doing fine---still no name mentioned--boo-hoo, boo-hoo
Muller note--there are many references to money with Grandma--she helped Wilburn
and Florence thru tough times

4-20-22
Baby is good most of time---still--no name
upper station in Truxton--there was a milk plant just north of Bells Mills road beyond
telephone building and across the Rt 13 from Winnie Kenyon farm

6-22-22
Margaret--probably the hired girl
Carleton's b'day---6-14-18

8-5-22
Trumansburg--Uncle Edmund and Aunt Emma Hazzard's drug store

10-5-22
When the teams come--the farmers traded works for filling silo--their teams and
wagons are coming to help fill silo
Dear Mother:-

It is after nine but I must write to you tonight or that Muller note will be very late in getting back. I've been putting it off for several days so now I have to hustle. I also have been going to write for so long but just keep putting it off.

We have had a real winter all the way thru and now it is a cold slippery time, extra good sledding. We have been getting some enrichment on the hill and when that is done we'll start for the woods. Think we have wood enough cut to last thru this winter. We are just about to finish the pile that was at the back door.

Galen and Lester are still here and the present excitement is that Galen went home sick just before Xmas and staid nearly two weeks and while there got married to the Knapp girl. I think you saw her. He has only known her a couple of months and only once a week at that. Last Saturday night they had a kitchen shower for them over above DeRuyter and we drove over. Got home a little before two o'clock. Had a good time and played some of the fine tricks on them that they like in those times. Such as confetti, popcorn in the bed and sewing up their night gowns.

Thursday night we went to Grange and we both have offices this year. Played cards with the Beatties after Grange. Tuesday night we went over to the Garners with six others to supper and cards afterwards. Then last night down to Schells for the evening and to Cortland tomorrow.

Have a barn full of cows now but not making much milk as so many are dry--about six hundred pounds a day now but will make much more after Feb. and thru to July I should make a lot of it. We still have the pigs. They have grown like weeds

We seem to be about as usual, the children are generally well. Baby had a sick spell the other day and Carleton one tonight.

It is now 9:30 and are about ready to start for Cortland. Carleton is feeling better and is going to take the cold trip. It is snowing and blowing now. Galen is getting ready for DeRuyter and Lester is the only one of the men on the job. Florence is just ready to give the baby a bath. Wrote the Athol Machine Co. about the part for the vice.

Must close with lots of Love from all.

Wilburn
Truxton, N.Y.
Dec, 30, 1922

Dear Grandma
   I thank you for the thimble.
   I thank Aunt Esther for the hair ribbon.
   I thank Grandma and Aunt Esther for the things you sent us for Christmas.

   I got a talking doll and three books and two boxes of writing paper, and Noah's Ark, two new dresses, and a hair ribbon, cloth for a dress, and five handkerchiefs and some paper dolls. I got the Burgess Animal book and a bank. I got some stories and a pair of stockings.

   Carleton got cloth for a suit. He got a dish and a pair of stockings and three handkerchiefes, Tinker toys and a fish pond. He got a peg board and______. He got two new suits and a bank and a Wheel barrow and a little cart with an elephant hitched to it.

   Bernard got two rabbits and two books and a rubber kitten and a bank and a baby--got a tinker toy pair of stocking. He got one romper and a pair of shoes. He got a little dog and a little ring

(no signature)
Dear Mother:—

I had planned to write long ago but I've had that wonderful faculty of putting it off. Today we finished chores at 5:50 and supper and dishes and children were to bed before 7:30 and now we are all writing. Florence, to Miss Linda Puffer, and Ivan, that's our latest freak in the form of a Seven Day Apostle, is either writing or reading the bible. Lester has gone to see Thelma Wymer who now is working at Muller's and attending school at Truxton.

Galen went home about three weeks ago and we were more than disappointed as we expected he would stay all summer. He is to run his father's farm next year. He had one of those hill farms in DeRuyter and milks about 12 cows so imagine he'll get rich. Ivan is about thirty years old and a religious fanatic with very little education but as long as he follows the bible word for word he get by alright. He believes the Second Coming of Christ to be in the next decade and the end of the world of course at that time. I have hired Royal, Galen brother in law to be, for the summer and so expect to have one seven day man this summer. Lester only worked about four days in January and was home the balance of the time. He came back yesterday and expect he will stay thru February. Have no tenant man as yet and don't know as I will have.

We have sixty three head of cattle in the barn, five horses and 10 pigs. Our cows are giving the least milk of the year as so many are to freshen between now and grass-time. About thirty five then we will get some milk. The pigs have grown fine and will dispose of them before the first of April. Expect to realize better than $150 for them. Our hens started laying Jan 1 and have laid nearly every day since and now we are getting 5-8 a day. We have over 400 cakes of ice in the ice house and all packed. So we should keep cool part of the time next summer. It is rather amusing but Neil Parker visited here the same day that Helen wrote your letter. He came at night and stayed until the 10:40 train the next morning. Had a good visit and hope we'll be able to see them some time.

The children are quite well most of the time. Of course they have had the stomach trouble and cold but now they seem to be quite well. Last night we thought the little fellow was going to have something and he was breathing so fast, a temperature of 103.5 and high pulse, but Florence got after him and tonight he seems to be normal again. There has been lots of pneumonia around here.
It is now 8:40 and as I have to go to the barn will stop for this time. Hope you won't be too surprised to get this. Hope you and Auntie are usually well and enjoying this frigid winter. Some people said it would be a mild one. Guess they made a mistake.

With Lots of Love from all
Wilburn

Marian and Carleton Potter and family--c. 1963
standing: Mary Jane, Janet, Susan
sitting: Bob, Tom and Jim
Dear Mother:-

It is just past eight and Florence is upstairs putting the children to bed and making the bed for Roy. Time flies so fast that I hardly know where I left off. I think that Neil Parker visited us the same time that Helen wrote that letter to you. He had been to the Ayrshire Breeders convention and also to see about plants for his gardening and poultry business. They are planning to put up buildings and keep about 3000 laying hens. So he came here on the seven o'clock and staid until the next day.

We have a new tenant man by the name of VanDee. They were married this last spring but they already have a grown married daughter, two sons and three younger children. A boy Andrew, 13 yrs. old, helps with the chores and draws the milk. So that works in rather fine. Roy Cuykendall came to work the first of March. He is eighteen and dead in love, a Seven Day fellow but not so erratic as some of the others we have had. He is a good fellow and we are very fortunate in having plenty of help. For nearly all the neighbors are short this year and offering war time wages. The VanDees have lived together for twenty years but have just been married. They have three children in school.

Since I wrote last we have all had the epidemic. Before Lester went, he and I were sick at the same time and it was a lot of chores for two sick men to do to take care of seventy head of cattle and horses. Then Florence had to have it and was all played out and we finally hired a girl for two weeks. The children have all had their siege but are all happy now.

This last week the Little Fellow has had a few sniffles but has felt fine yesterday and today. He will soon be a year old and has no accomplishments, no teeth, doesn't creep, but is just beginning to say a few things but I guess the others say enough to make up for him. He waves his hands for Bye,Bye and smiles and smiles besides jabbering to himself.

Marian has been to school practically every school day this year. She goes only mornings as yet but we cannot see but that she get along as rapidly as many that go all day. She can read very readily almost anything you can give her and is very good in figures. Guess she writes as good as her father. Carleton is too full to control himself.

Have been having doing quite a lot of Vet work lately. Saturday went three
miles beyond DeRuyter, went up West Hill this morning. Have about fifty dairys to inspect at Cuyler, also some at East River and East Homer. All this helps keep the wolf from the door.

Uncle Wendell made us a visit from Wednesday until Tuesday in the last of Feb. Had a good visit and think he enjoyed it. He did a lot of odd fixing. Hope he may come again.

We have burned wood all winter and have quite a nice lot out ready to be sawed up. We are working at the wood every odd spell we get. Yesterday afternoon we were up and nearly froze to death coming home.

I have canceled the contract with the Dairymen's League and expect to draw to Sheffields the first of the month. Probably I'll hit it wrong but I'll know what I'll get for the milk the first of each month.

It is now Monday afternoon Mar. 26. Think I better get this off before it grows too old. Since I wrote I made a lot of inspections at Cuyler and still have several more to make.

We went to Cortland yesterday. The first we have had the car out since Jan 1st. Quite a rest from autoing. Mrs. Nellie Bean DeLong, a daughter of W.L. Bean, died at Reading, Pa and was buried at McGraw yesterday. Florence and the rest went over. Albert, Frank and Walter and families were all at Gilberts yesterday. Emma Bean is teaching a great deal this winter.

We are all well now. The children especially wish you might see them. Marian and Carleton are to speak pieces at the Easter exercises nest Sunday.

This has been a rather discouraging year for us with the price of milk and the flood with no cash crops. It has put us behind in mind and pocket. Guess if it wasn't for the veterinary money I get we'd starve to death. I would like $300.00 as soon as you can get it after the first of the month. Let me know by return mail if you can't spare it.

Don't think of more now so will close with

Love from All to you and Aunt Esther.

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

I was sorry to hear that Auntie is sick but hope that she is better by now. Don’t you work too hard taking care of her; better have someone help you if necessary. Arlan has certainly made progress by leaps and bounds in his musical career.

Baby creeps all over the floor now and pulls himself up to nearly everything he comes to. He has one tooth thru and another is beginning to show. The other children seem to be about as usual. Carleton is very busy out of doors. The men have been working on that piece of ground below the barn and he has to keep track of that.

A week ago Friday I was to Moravia and didn’t come back until Monday P.M. I was inspecting dairies for the Standard Dairy Co. Made about $55.00 and my expenses. Now I am doing 19 dairies for the Evans Dairy Co at East Homer. We have killed three of those pigs that were so cunning last fall and two go Friday so that leaves me five. Don’t know when they will go but probably not until later in May or June.

I have received both of your letters and I surely appreciated both. We are trying to play the game better this year and hope the price for produce and milk will continue higher than last year.

By my book I see that the Muller note is due again so I am enclosing it hoping to get it back Monday.

Must close now hoping you are as well as usual and that Auntie is much improved.

With Love from all to you

Wilburn
Dear Grandma Potter,

How are you? I am a good girl. I am in the third reader. Mother and Carleton and Bernard have gone to Truxton and have not come back. I went to the woods Saturday and got a lot of flowers. I am going to school all day. Bernard has two teeth and one coming on the upper jaw. He climbs up by taking a hold of something.

Grandma and Aunt Cora and Auntie Gilbert came up Monday. Grandma made me a new dress when I was having vacation and I went down and stayed two weeks. She made me a new apron, too. How is Aunt Esther?

Daddy is milking. We have a new hired man he had four children his name is VanDee. This has been a cold day. The ground was covered with snow this morning and it has been snowing most of the day. I am in the house alone. I come home for dinner and go back. Mother or Daddy takes me back. There are sixteen children in the school. Mother is home.

Love from
Marian
Dear Mother:-

We have had a most beautiful day. The first rain in two weeks and everything has just jumped. It started raining about seven this morning and have had several showers. I finished planting my corn last night after eight o’clock and then went to attend a sick cow. Friday was more than busy. Left early in the morning and inspected two dairies, then worked at home until noon, after dinner I went to Cuyler to castrate two colts and back for chores, then I went at night to attend another sick cow so I made $19.50 beside my work at home. The veterinary work has helped me a pile this year.

We have our grain (oats, Barley & peas) all up in good shape about 15 acres, about the same amount of corn and now for the potatoes, millet and cabbage then haying. There always plenty to do on a place of this kind. I still have a number of dairies to inspect and I just sold some of those pigs that you thought were cute last fall, two go this week and two next leaving me one from which I expect to raise pigs from. Have three colts to castrate yet and thus something to keep me out of mischief for a while.

We all went to church to-day. Baby was a regular talking machine and Florence had to take him out. After church went to Albert’s for dinner and back home for chores.

We have a nice little garden started out back of the house. Have onions, beets, carrots, spinach, Swiss chard and tomatoes our here. Florence was in Cortland yesterday and brought back two dozen tomato plants. We set them out before it rained and now they look so thrifty. Down in the other plot we have corn and peas up.

The children seem to be well and happy. Marian goes to school all day and is getting along fine. She comes home to dinner but we take her back in the car. Carleton has so much to attend to around home that he only weighs about thirty eight and baby about twenty two. He is just beginning to walk a little without taking hold of things. Think Florence has some pictures which she will enclose.

Our hired man’s wife left him and the three children about three weeks ago. She took one with her and now has put that one in the children’s home. She is working in Cortland and says she is not coming back. It makes it mighty difficult for the man and he is so irritable that one can hardly speak to him.

Think this covers most of our doings for a while and if I’ve left anything out Florence will add a line. With Love, Wilburn
Wilburn the Athlete for the Canton Aggies 1911-12
Baseball: seated right ---Basketball: seated left  Friend Neil Parker: seated center
Dear Mother:

It is a beautiful morning after the fourth and we shall be haying for fair from now on. My hay is the best I've had since I've been here. We will finish setting cabbage this morning. Wrote to Vance to come and help us but haven't heard from him as yet. Help is scarce and wages are high. Have a man and two boys working now. We went to Albert's at Homer yesterday. Had a good gathering.

Florence and I went to Syracuse a week ago Monday and I took the Examination for Tuberculin testing for accredited Herd work. Haven't heard from it as yet but I think I obtained a fair mark.

We have a good garden this year. Tomatoes three inches across and sweet corn above my knees. Sweet peas in blossom and other things in proportion.

The Muller note is due so I am enclosing for your signature.

With Love

Wilburn
Dear Mother,

I have just time to scribble a few lines before I make a call on a sick cow and take Florence and Pearl to church and the children also. We have passed a very busy season. Just seems as if time has just flown and we haven't gotten to Mass yet but I haven't given it (up) but now it won't be until after silo filling.

Yesterday we threshed our oats but it rained just about four o'clock so we didn't quite finish. We had a good crop this year will have nearly 600 bushel from 13-14 acres. Last year we had not quite 500, from 24 acres. Our hay crop was good. Had about 110 loads. Had the big barn nearly full and one of the old barns. A man was here the other day and offered $14. (ton) for that which I wished to sell.

Think we have more than enough corn and millet to fill both silos. Potatoes look good as well as the cabbage but the acreage is greatly reduced in both. The price for our milk has been better this summer but we haven't produced quite as much as usual.

They have put in a County road across the flat from Reakes and I have had a team working on that this summer. We worked pretty hard during haying as I had only two boys helping me while the man was on the road with the team. Florence drove to draw off the hay and Marian drove the team on the hayloader. At present I have five shoats (half grown pigs) and four sows that will have young ones the last of this month. I am raising three calves but hope to start more before cold weather.

The children are just fine now. Carleton had his tonsils out a week ago but is good now. I suppose I've got to have mine out again the sooner the better. Marian starts school Tuesday but I suppose Carleton will not this year. Just heard from Washington the other day that I was successful in my examination. So now I have another string to my bow. Comes in rather handy.

Am so glad that you could take so many trips. We haven't hardly been a way from home this summer as our help has not been the dependable kind. Wonder if you have good sweet corn. Ours has been delicious. This past week, Aunt Aurelia, Emma, Cora and Carrie were up and in one day they canned 33 quarts. We have a nice little garden just back of the house.

Did you read that Ethan (?) Hutchins was dead? Vance did not come as he took a chauffeur's job at home. Guess this will be all you can decipher at once so will stop with---- Lots of Love from all at Truxton to you. Wilburn

p.s. We had four puppies until yesterday. Two have gone.
W. H. POTTER, D. V. M.
RIVERSIDE HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN CATTLE
HAY AND PRODUCE
Truxton, N. Y. Oct. 4, 1923

Dear Mother:-

I have been putting off as usual the writing of this letter. But to tell the truth have been a little more than busy. My single man left me and I told the married man that he could go Oct. 1 so I've had everything my own way, milking thirty five cows by hand twice a day. I've had a man by the day for a couple of days and last night I hired a married man for the winter. He comes Friday. Think I'll do more Vet work and less farm work this winter. Adrian Mills has taken a job as veterinarian-inspector for Bordens. He also has a daughter. Sold the last of my puppies yesterday. One of those pigs that you saw last year has a litter and I have three more yet to have pigs.

I am enclosing the note and Mr. Muller said the other day that he wished a substantial reduction so we'll have to do something on the next. Must close for now and keep busy. The children are all well and I think Carleton much improved. He's more wide awake and doesn't hack any more.

With Love

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

I expect you will be more than surprised to hear from me so quickly again. My help has not materialized very fast, but now have a young married man in the tenant house. Don't know just how he will turn out.

Edmund and Emma were here yesterday for dinner. They were making a flying trip as Edmund has to be home to work in the store tonight.

Florence took the note up to Mr. Muller and he told her he couldn't carry it any longer as he had so many who weren't paying in no money. So now it's up to us to do something and do it quick for if we don't he might bring suit and of course he would get judgment against us all. As I see it there are only two ways out, one for me to sell all the cows and the other for you to raise the money. I think the latter is the better way and I'll send you the interest each month instead of paying it to Muller.

In my after life I will never ask anyone to sign my note but who could see how the agricultural conditions would develop. Talking with Mr. Crandall the other day, he said he had two mortgages upon which the interest had not been paid in two years. Please don't let this worry you for I know that things will come right one way or another. The education that I have received will be worth much in future years. This has to be attended to at once.

Must close and go to work.

With love from all

Wilburn

We had a fine visit from Uncle Bernard's people that I mentioned in my last letter. He makes me think so much of my father. He is different than Uncle Wendell. You must not think of Aunt Anna's offer at all for it's not necessary and if it were there's an easier way.

Wilburn

P. P. S. S. I'm afraid if my help doesn't improve rapidly we won't be able to get to Mass. I tho't we'd have our potatoes all out by this time.
Dear Mother:-

The time flies so fast I can't keep up with it. It's nearer the 29th than I expected and so now I will be a little late. Your letter came and contents noted. Am so glad we could satisfy Mr. Muller. Don't know how long he will let the other one run but said he would not take it up yet. But guess he had some time financing his business and others.

Ethel Woodward is here to help Florence with a little dressmaking today and tomorrow. Have to run a tuberculin test soon and am to help Dr. Moore today. This is a rather short letter but you will see we are still busy. Carleton had a bad fall the other day and cut a bad scalp wound about three inches long in his head. Dr. Padgett took four stitches in his head but now it is healing fine. Just had a telephone to see a cow probably sick with milk fever so must hustle.

With Love from all

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

It is now Sunday evening, although it has not really seemed like Sunday. Galen is with us again and another Seven Day fellow that work for us last winter is also here. So while the entire Potter family went to church the two hired men were plowing. I plowed yesterday while they were resting. Think they have been to church each week until yesterday. Ivan only stays until the first of the month and then I have another tenant man by the name of Martin Kibbe. He's a discouraged farmer that decided to quit and work for the other fellow. Guess he is showing good judgment. He's a young fellow probably between 25-30 and perfectly honest and just a little queer also religious.

The ground was covered with snow this a.m. and guess winter is about to commence. The days are growing short. It just seems that the summer has flown so rapidly and so many things have not materialized as we had planned but that seems to be part of the plan, to live and move and plan and if things don't go and come out just try to do better and use better judgment next time. Just seems as this season has been a hoodo. Don't seem best to take the children for so long a trip after the first of December so we are just as disappointed as you are. We had planned on it from last fall but it hasn't materialized. Think you had better hitch up and come out here and stay as long as you think you can.

Marian has not been to school this week. Has had a cold and cough. Carleton had a cough and the little fellow was sick one afternoon but is now o.k. He talks several words and understands nearly everything we say to him. Marian and Carleton went to a Junior League social at the church last night about 25 children were there and they went up to Junior League this P.M. about 29 there tonight quite a gathering for children under 12 years. Florence will finish this--

(Florence writing)

Monday 10:30a.m. Am just ready to start for Cortland on a shopping trip. The pillow cases arrived all fine and many thanks. They are very acceptable as I was a little low in that line. We entertain for Thanksgiving but don't expect there will be more than ten or eleven. Marian went back to school this morning. Tell Auntie I received her card and hope someday to answer it.

Love from all
Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother and Auntie,

This evening seems to be my time for writing thank you letters and guess there is one due you folks. It seems to me it was a pretty fat Christmas box you sent to Truxton. Needless to say we were all very much pleased with everything and shall enjoy them all. I think Marian is planning to write a letter of her own soon. She has had company and been to church twice today so she hasn't had much time.

The little box we intended sending you did not get finished before Christmas. I wanted to send a sample of the mince meat I made and did not finish that until Monday. Wilburn did not butcher until so late the week before could not make it any sooner. Gave away several quarts for Xmas. Also a number of boxes of home made candy.

We did quite a lot for the children but the grownups suffered. We located a secondhand tricycle and a bicycle and a new kiddie car so guess we shall have some riding done. Carleton can hardly leave his tricycle alone long enough to eat. Just now they are very much pleased about the snow. It has been coming down fast all afternoon and evening. If it keeps up it will spoil autoing for us folks in the country.

We had our Christmas at Frank's this year. Emma and Edmund were unable to be there as George Wm was ill. Came near having pneumonia but is on the gain now but must rest and be quiet the Dr. says.

Hope you people will not get colds or grippe, there seems to be quite a bit around here. It is after nine so must retire or I want feel like working tomorrow. Perhaps Wilburn will want to add a line.

Love,
Florence
Dear Mother:—

That picture of you is the best one you ever had and was a surprise to us all. I'm so glad you had it taken. Our Christmas was not as extensive as I wish it might have been and I have decided that the best season's gift that I can give you is my promise to write more often than I ever have. If I wrote as often as I think I will, you would receive a lot of letters from Truxton, but I keep putting it off.

The children had a regular Christmas. Carleton told Marian to write Santa that he wanted either a tricycle or automobile so of course he has a second handed rubber-tired tricycle and he can hardly stop riding it for meals and sleep. Marian has a girl's bicycle which we think will save her many steps and cold dinner at school. Bernard has a Kiddie Kar and is just a big toad in the puddle. He says lots of words but does not put two together yet. He is busy from one thing to another all day long. He is more stocky than Carleton more like Marian but Carleton is much better since he had his tonsils out. His face is so ruddy in the brisk cold wind it fairly look as if it were painted with barn paint.

Mother Emma had an operation about two weeks ago. Very similar to the one you had. I think her tumor weighed about eight pounds and she never suspected such a thing until a day or so before they operated. She seems to be coming along fine now.

Edmund and Emma were unable to come for Christmas as George William has had a severe case of Bronchitis and must be very quiet. Think it is about the first Christmas they have missed.

Galen went home a week ago Friday and has not returned. He and I went in to see Dr. Sornberger and he said Galen had chronic appendicitis. So now Martin and I have had the pleasure of doing the chores alone.

I took the children to Church and Sunday School and tonight got them from Junior League. Walter and Ivah were up for dinner and Marian and Carleton went up (to Junior League—bp) when Walter went home. Will close for now wishing you a most Happy New Year with (love) from all the Potters.
notes 1923

1-6-23
enrichment---manure

2-5-23
Miss Linda Puffer--Avon, NY--Markham and Puffer farm where Wilburn and Florence managed 1918-1920--lifetime friend of Florence and Wilburn
Seven Day---members Seventh Day Baptist Church--Galen also--worked well for the farm--they went to church on Saturday and worked on Sunday
400 cakes of ice--big job in winter to store ice for cooling milk in summer

3-20-23

4-25-23
Arlan--Arlan Cooledge sp--Brown U.

5-10-23 from Marian's letter
Grandma----Step Grandma Emma Gilbert Bean
Aunt Cora----Cora Gilbert, Grandma Emma's sister
Auntie Gilbert----Aunt Aurelia Gilbert, Emma's and Cora's mother

6-4-23
Inspected--Required by milk receiving plants. Farmers' cattle checked for health by a veterinarian.
Albert's----Uncle Albert and Aunt Ada Griffen Bean--Joan Bean Smith's father and mother

7-5-23
Vance----Wilburn's cousin, son of Uncle Wendell and Aunt Anna Potter
Tuberculin Testing----for bovine tuberculosis
Muller--owned local bank, hardware store, several farms in Truxton area

9-4-23
draw off hay----with horses, rope and horsefork pulled hay off wagon into the haymow

Carrie----Carrie Harmon Allport, known as Aunt Carrie--cousin of our own Grandmother Annie Harmon Bean

10-4-23
Adrian Mills--veterinarian and classmate of Wilburn's at Cornell

10-7-23
Edmund and Emma----Uncle Edmund and Aunt Emma Bean Hazzard, parents of George W., Virginia and Ruth (James)
Bernard and Wendell Potter----Wilburn's uncles--brothers of Grandpa Rev. Wilburn D. Mr. Crandall--W.G. Crandall, Homer, longtime friend and trusted advisor

10-26-23
Ethel Woodward--cousin of Florence, daughter of Clara Harmon Woodward--later married John Sweet

12-30-23
Frank's--Uncle Frank and Aunt Nellie Sweetland Bean, parents of Gerald
Mother Emma's operation--believe this was to remove a goiter--which was a common ailment with iodine deficient diets
Dear Mother:–

Just a few lines this fine wintry morning. While there in not enough snow for sleighing, still the autos are running as in July. Wonder if I wrote that I traded two heifers for a Ford Light Delivery in other words a Ford with a box on the back which will hold twelve milk cans or a half ton of feed. It seems to be just what I need.

I expect you would be a little surprised if I should tell you that I am seriously thinking of going back to Markhams for two or three months from the first of February. Their conditions have become quite bad and Dr. Murray who has charge there has offered me $50.00 a week and board and room if I will go out and help him straighten things out. My work here is in fair shape only wish Galen were here but don't think he has had his operation. Went to Syracuse Wednesday to talk things over with him. Drove the Ford. The Dodge has no new license as yet and thus has only been to Truxton a couple times since Christmas.

Edmund and Emma are at Cortland and are planning on coming up here today. George William has been very sick but is entirely well now. Edmund wants to trade his Hupmobile for a Sedan now. He has done more than good in his business.

Enclosed is the Muller note which is due next week. Farmers in general are in hard shape just seems as if each one is a little worse off than the other until one finds out the other fellow's condition. Must close now and go with the milk.

With Love from All
Wilburn

P. S. If you see anything of a report of the Chatauguay milk meeting I should be glad to read it.

Wilburn
Dear Mother,

I expect you are wondering if I went to Elm Place the first of the month. Well I did and have been here ever since and I don't see but it is just as busy here as anywhere I am. We have accomplished a number of different things since coming here. Unloaded thirteen cars of ice, a car load of shavings, one of sawdust and one of ___ew? beside sorting potatoes, hauling hay, manure and cutting wood. We are just ready to start buzzing when the proper time comes. Have had a number of men leave since I came here for one reason or another. They have been carrying too many men all winter and it is time something was done. They had from 16-24 men all the while but now we have less than a dozen on both farms and still the fellows aren't half working—that is, some of them are. Have about 150 head of cattle and about 25 head horses and colts.

Went to Rochester yesterday. Had dinner with Edmund and Emma at East Rochester and did not get back here until six then didn't eat supper until nearly eight as there was a Jew here to buy some beef cows. Sold him three and of course had to help him load them.

Now it is Thursday A.M. after breakfast. It has been a terrible night. Snow fell Thursday and the night before and last night it piled up alright. It is still a regular blizzard this morning so will try to keep the fellows inside if possible. There is so much help around here that it is hard to keep them going when days like these come.

I was sorry to hear of Dick's affliction. How little we know what the morrow has in store for us. It seems too bad that Robert has had to go there so much while so young but suppose it is part of a great Plan. About the only we we can do is to do our best each passing day and in reality not thinking too much about the future.

Must close and mail this this morning then you may get this Saturday. Hope you and Auntie are unusually well this winter. Wish I might drop in and see you all.

Love to all from
Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

The clock has just struck nine and we have returned from taking Isabelle home. She came up when Florence brought the children home from Junior League. I expect you have wondered how we are coming and where I am. I stayed in Avon until Mar. 26th and then came home to do Veterinary inspection work. Spent time at Harford, Cuyler and Moravia netting more than I would have at Markham's and being home some of the time. Don't know whether I will have East Homer and Town Line or not but rather hope so as it brings in cash which I don't seem to get any other way.

Farming is rather a losing game or else I haven't the ability to make money at it. Perhaps you will be a little surprised that I have put in an application for a County Veterinarian job in either Livingston or Orange counties. Don't know as I can get it but perhaps it would be a good thing to try. We plan to run the place here this summer and only keep a few cows or young stock another winter and if agriculture brightens up we will be in position to do most anything.

I am very thankful that I have a Cornell Education. It surely has been a great asset and may hold me in good stead in the future.

We have a big pile of wood ready to buzz so guess we'll not want for firewood this summer. It seems to be a big chore to keep two homes supplied with wood. We have some potatoes in the cellar to sell yet. Thought perhaps the price would be stronger but it doesn't improve very rapidly.

Mr. Carrol Day was buried a week ago Thursday. Died very suddenly at the Farmers' Syndicate where he had gone to buy feed. They will have an auction next Friday and then try and sell the farm. They want $200 an acre. Aunt Kate is now to move with Mrs. Ellis on Rickard St. She is nursing at Harford and rode home with me when I came back from doing inspection work there.

George Fitts now lives in Cortland, Carl and Evelyn (McKinney) are still in McLean on the Fitts Farm but Hart Fitts is running the whole Fitts business. Frank and Nellie (Bean) are to move to Hastings on the Hudson this fall. She is to teach and Frank is to get an accountant position. Gerald (Bean) finishes high school this fall and will work a year before going to college.

Think with our two letters you will get most that is going on around here. Wish you might stop and see our lovely children. Must close with lots of Love from all.

Wilburn
Dear Mother,

Perhaps if we both go at you will get some news of the Potter family. It seems to be such a busy place around here but I guess any place would be just as busy for us.

Had never intended waiting so long to thank you for the lovely rompers. Baby has worn them several times but today has made them look as tho they needed a bath. He also wore the little gray shoes for the first today, so he was quite dressed up for Easter. He is a lovely boy and so good natured most of the time. Carleton and Marian both had pieces to speak at the Easter service today and both did well. They both had new oxfords and felt quite proud of their feet. Have made up the material you sent Marian for Xmas and it makes such a pretty dress. Bought Carleton a new suit of tan-green jersey all ready made, which is very becoming to him.

Marian has learned to ride her wheel and so now comes home to dinner. She does enjoy it so much--and Carleton has ridden the tricycle by the hour.

How is Auntie this spring? Do wish that she felt well enough to come out here and you could come and spend a time with us. As soon as it gets a bit warmer it would be lovely here. Think she would like to help me make my garden.

It has not looked much like Easter or gardens today as it has snowed off and on all day. Heard that people in the city were having their hats insured against rain today and so the rain did not trouble them!

Emma and Edmund were out for Mr. Day's funeral and stayed overnight. Had about an hour's visit with them. They are fine and like it there (East Rochester) so much. My brother, Frank, and his wife (Nellie) and son are going to Hastings on the Hudson this coming fall. She has a position as teacher in the schools there and Frank is going to do something in the city. Gerald finishes High School this June and he is going to work a year before going to college.

Albert and Ada have a lovely little daughter [Joan] which is doing finely?. However she can hardly breath without being watched.

Can imagine Bert and Myrtle have been lonesome this spring. How is Robert taking it all? He surely has gone thru quite a bit for a young chap.

Wilburn has been away so much this winter and spring that it has left so much for me to look after that my own work has suffered am afraid, but guess I will catch up sometime. My writing has been entirely neglected at times.

Love from us all

Florence
Dear Mother:

It is a little past eight after a rather dismal day. We didn't attend church this morning but had an early dinner and then went to Homer. You will probably be surprised when you learn that Brother Albert passed away very suddenly Friday a.m. about 3:00 and was only sick about an hour. We went over Friday a.m. and then yesterday and today. The funeral is tomorrow morning. This is a very hard world to understand the Great Plan. He had high blood pressure for a long time but was as well as usual Thursday night. They have a fine home and of course Joan is only eleven weeks old. The entire family was there today. Howard coming from Virginia. He will leave tomorrow afternoon for the south. He is on a farm in the south and doing very well. We took Bernard with us and think he had a cheerful influence. He is such a sunny little fellow. He is all cow and horse. Talks cow, cow and looks for the pictures in the book.

You have been in my mind more than usual today for it is Mothers Day. Marian went to Cortland yesterday and staid with Mildred Smith and then brought home two handkerchiefs to Florence for Mothers Day. Wish you might drop in and see the children and enjoy them. They're all live wires and don't need some body to set them to things. Of course she's coming along nicely in school. In her last report card the average was considerable above 90% and in the fourth grade ready for the fifth this fall.

Expect you are wondering if I am able to get the county job. Don't know as yet but I'm rather dubious. Wish I had my father's ability to be a good mixer and entertainer. There are some local veterinarians who seem to be very active for the position so probably a distant man will not stand so much show. The farm is fine but I guess I lack the ability to make it pay. So it is rather discouraging.

It is rather difficult to know what to do with the place in N. Orange. Sometimes I think if the repairs are to cost too much that to sell it will be the best and then again the holding of the property might be better.

Wonder how Auntie is? Only hope these days of spring are helping her to bring her strength back. Wish we might drop in and see you both. We have nothing planted except three pounds of cabbage seed. Perhaps Myrtle will be interested to know that our neighbor sowed seven pounds and a man at McGraw, 29 pounds.

Think I will close for this time. Hoping that this spring weather's helping you all.

Love from all to you all

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

Will start a letter while we are having a beautiful June rain. This is a real growing rain one that seems to make things jump. All the rains before have been those cold disagreeable ones that nothing could seem to come. Many pastures are very short even at the first of June for lack of real growing weather. Ours are very good as I have been understocked this year. Am milking the least cows I have ever milked at this time of year. Am afraid it will show up in my milk check later on.

Our crops are getting in the ground slowly. Have fifteen acres of corn in and 12 acres oat and three pounds of cabbage seed growing. Our potatoes will be in this week I expect, then some millet and then set the cabbage and haying. If the grass grows well should have more hay than I've ever had.

Glad you could go to Attleboro and also see Aunt Veva. It seems that she is a stranger to us except in name. Glad Aunt Ida dropped in for a few days

(Apparently this letter was started earlier in June and not mailed until Florence finished it on July 3)

Dear Mother,

In cleaning up the desk found this part of a letter so will add a line and send it along. Am ashamed not to have acknowledged the pretty suit for Carleton's birthday. It is just a good fit and he is very proud of it especially the whistle.

How is Auntie? We do hope she is coming nicely now. Had thought I would write her a letter before this but it does seem as the days were too full for letters. The children are busy and growing. They are quite excited now about the Fourth. They have their pop guns today so the fun has begun early. We go over to my Aunt's in Homer tomorrow. Edmund and Emma are to be out. It will be hard especially for Ada for Albert did enjoy our gatherings so much and was looking after everyone.

Must get busy or the family won't have anything for dinner.

Love from all

The Potters

Start haying today
Dear Mother,

While the men are finishing the milking will scratch a line so it will get off on the night train. Time is getting short for the notes.

We are all busier than busy with haying. It is coming very well every thing considered. Marian drives in the field and I run the hoist in the barn and everything else I can rake occasionally. Have a woman to help in the house now so have a little more time to give outside. She is very good help and am so glad to have come for now I am catching up my sewing.

George William was here for a little more than two weeks. We took him down to Cortland Tuesday. Marian misses him so much as they played together very well.

We are not milking so many cows as usual and not using the machines. But guess at the price we are getting for milk it is just as well. Crops are coming nicely. Have the best looking potatoes we have had since being here, I guess, altho that isn't saying much. Cabbages are coming nicely also. Weeds are growing too.

How is Auntie feeling now? Hope that she can get out some this hot weather. How is Cousin Lucy? Suppose you had a fine visit in Shelburne Falls. How is Frances?

Must get every one ready for supper and wash the pails so will call it enough for now.

Love from all
The Potters
Dear Mother:-

Marian and I have sitting on the back steps watching the stars and the lightning and she asked about the story you told her about the little black kitty that I brought home in my pcket. Florence went to Cortland this afternoon with Mildred to stay until tomorrow P.M. Then Tuesday goes again to Cortland with Dr. Padgett and Bernard to have his tonsils and adnoids removed. It seems too bad but perhaps it is best to have it done now. It certainly bothers him greatly to breath and he snores beyond reason. My tonsils should be removed as I still have lots of infection which should not be.

We have finally finished haying. We put in about 130 loads and it measures in the barn about 140 tons so you see we have been rather busy. Our crops are the best we have ever had and some say our potatoes look the best of any one in town. Only hope they yield as good as they look. Our cabbage are fine but the price for early ones is not much over $5-$6 a ton. Mine are all late so that doesn’t trouble me. Some say we have enough corn to fill both silos but I’ll be able to tell better later on.

Don’t believe you could guess who visited us a few days ago. Someone I’ve not seen in about sixteen years, but we had a real good visit as he is just as much for cows as I am. Well Mr and Mrs Anderson Lathrop spent one afternoon in trying to find us and then got here about 5:00p.m. He came up to me and said well this is Dr. Potter is it? I said you know me. He said yes but of course I did know him. We had a good visit and then went to Cortland with them in the morning to look for a small farm or else a house preferably in Homer. They like this section of the country. Guess he had made a little money dealing in cattle.

Perhaps you will be a little surprised to learn that I am to assist Dr. McAuliffe at the State Fair for that week in Doctoring the cattle. It only pays $125. for a week up there so guess its worth getting. Would like to work the next six months at that rate. Suppose you have noticed where Kenn. Copper is going to. Too bad we didn’t put some of that money I’ve lost into that when it was down to 15. We would have cleaned up some money now.

Must close with Lots of Love

Wilburn
August 24, 1924

Dear Grandma

How are you? I have been out to East Rochester for a week with George William and the next week we went to Sandy Pond. We stayed there three days.

While we were there George William and I learned to row a boat and I learned to swim. Then we came back to Cortland Tuesday night.

The next day we went to Uncle Franks for dinner and came up to our the next day.

Carleton and I have got a goat.

Mother went down to Cortland to stay over until tomorrow.

Love from

Marian
Dear Mother:-

Just a few lines before bed to let you know that we are anticipating seeing you in Truxton soon. Just seems as if we must come to Orange this fall but it is the same old story of silo filling, potato digging and cabbage to take care of before the great rush is over. So I don't see how we are going to get there this fall.

I spent a week in Syracuse and came home last Saturday afternoon. Was so disappointed that Florence couldn't come up but it just seemed as if she couldn't. Had a good time with little work and plenty of pay for it seemed just like finding a small gold mine for a week's work.

But what troubles us most is that Marian had been sick ever since last Tuesday and doesn't get much better altho we hope she is coming along a little better now. She had bowel trouble and evidently absorbed some of the poison and thus has had quite a pull of it. Dr. Padgett has been here three times so far and Marian has been in bed since Thursday or on the couch. She is so dull that it makes us all feel badly and only hope that she will begin to pick up soon. We think she is better today but so weak and she hasn't eaten anything except a little beef and chicken broth for a week.

Wonder if you knew that Helen Parker had been sick for a long time and that their last baby only lived a short time. A man from Saratoga told me that at the fair.

Saw Ray Whittaker at the Fair. He is just the same. Happy go lucky and evidently nothing troubles him. Saw Dr. Hall, several times. Went to the night show five nights in succession. They had a horse show and vaudeville each evening and then when I came home Schuyler Roberts brother-in-law brought us to our very doors in his auto.

Hope that you may come soon so as to enjoy the good fall weather. I have excellent help now and everything is rolling fine as far as the work goes.

Must close with lots of love
from all the Truxton Potters

Saw Mr. Pratt of the Pratt Goodell Machine Co, Greenfield with his Jersey cattle from his Ashfield farm. He is a son of the Pratt that lived where Casper Knoors now lives in Shelburne Falls.
Dear Mother:-

Just a few lines to let you know how we all are. Well we are all on the gain. Marian started in school Monday morning and is quite normal again except that she is not quite so plump. She had a tough siege but don't think she was in a great deal of pain for she seemed so doopy.

We started filling silo over at Hildreths Saturday, again Tuesday P.M. and all day today. Monday I went toward DeRuyter and bought two bulls, a cow and a heifer. The next day I sold all except the heifer. Made a little $17.50 on three so tho't it was time to let them go. Today I took them to Cortland. Florence went down about 12:00 and brought__?__back at five.

Tomorrow we will start cutting corn with the harvester here at home so that we may be filling here next week. Mrs. Jacobs has been home for a couple of days but is coming back Friday. I expected you would say exactly when you would be in Truxton in your last. Don't think of more

so wil close with Love, Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

I wonder if you are having the terrible wind and blowing we are having. The weather is very much like that of nine years ago now when Marian came to town. We all spanked her yesterday. She is growing so fast it hardly seems possible that she can be nine years old. This has been one of the severest days of the season. We did not go to church but bundled up in the Ford and went to Walter's for dinner. They invited us in the middle of the week so we thought we better go along. Were only about thirty minutes on the road.

Yesterday we went to Cortland to deliver two of those pigs you were wondering about. I killed three Friday and have only four left now. Think perhaps they will go this week.

We have also thought how fortunate we were to have made the trip when we did and also what a delightful time. Only was so sorry to have you feel so wretched. Think you will fare better on S. Main and Frank ought to take a load off your shoulders.

Went to see a sick horse above Cuyler Friday night and didn't get home until 1:30 a.m. Not much more except that we are all well and trying to keep warm. You should give me another credit mark for writing even a short letter so often.

Love to you from all the
Truxton Potters

Tuesday A.M.

Your package, also letter, for Marian came yesterday O.K. She was very pleased. It still continues very cold and stormy and it takes lots of fuel to keep warm.

Florence
Dear Mother:-

Just a line from all the Truxton Potters wishing you all a most Merry Christmas and a Happy Happy New Year. We are enclosing a check for you to buy an Electric Flat Iron unless you need something that will do you more good.

We are all usually well with lots to do and think about.

Love to you all from the
Potters at Truxton

The children are all so excited and busy they can hardly sleep. Their school exercises and tree were last night and the church tree and exercises were Sunday night. We go down to Gilberts for Christmas Day, but our gathering will be small this year as Howard, Frank, Emma or Ada and families will not be there. Merry Christmas to you all.

F.B.P.
notes 1924

1-25-44
Markhams--Markham and Puffer, Elm Place, Avon, NY--Florence and Wilburn worked as manager there after graduating from veterinary college

2-21-44
buzzing---sawing firewood with a buzz saw
Robert---a cousin, Robert Harrington
Auntie---Aunt Esther Harrington, Grandma's Aunt--Grandma lived with her at that time

4-22-24
Isabelle--dear friends and neighbors in Truxton, Isabelle and John Feeter
Carrol Day---owned farm on Rt 281 Cortland--Gunzenhauser sales barn today
Kate--his wife
Farmers Syndicate--feed store in Cortland--Round House today
Fitts--farmers in McLean
Carl and Evelyn--McKinney--H.S classmates and longtime friends of Florence and Wilburn
Bert and Myrtle--Harrington---Mass. cousins

5-13-24
Howard--Uncle Howard Bean
Mildred Smith--H.S. classmate and close friend of Florence and Wilburn
N. Orange--Mass. property owned by Grandma--from Herrick family

7-3-24
over to my Aunt's--probably Aunt Clara Woodward live on Franklin St. in Homer---sister of Grandma Annie Harmon Bean

7-25-24
Marian drives in the field---horses and haywagon which pulls the hay loader--the man on the wagon loads the hay to be drawn to the barn. Marian--10 years old stands on a standard (ladder) at front of the wagon and drives horses
hoist---gas engine powered hoist--hay rope rolls on its drum and the hay is lifted from the wagon into the hay mow
wash the pails---no hot water at the barn--the milk pails and milk strainer were brought to the house for washing
Dear Mother:

I am writing just a few lines this afternoon while I am waiting for Bernard to wake up. Florence went to DeRuyter to have her teeth examined this morning and will not come back until 5:00 train tonight. I have intended writing every day since Marian wrote but just kept putting it off.

I wonder if you read of Mrs. Parsons death also will enclose a clipping that came in todays Standard.

We are usually busy doing chores and cutting wood. Have only one man now, Linus Smith. He is good help and fine to have around the house and think he likes it here. He worked here last August and then went to the hospital for an operation for appendicitis. Both of the Hortons went before Jan 1st--so now I have no man in the tenant house.

I attended the Veterinary Conference at Ithaca last week and caught a nice cold to pay for it. Saturday and Sunday I was pretty well laid up but helped with the chores. Now I am feeling quite like myself again and don't look forward with pleasure to having another spell.

Think you overdid in sending us so such for Xmas. It means so much work that Florence was pretty well tuckered out after it was over. Think Florence can tell you better about our Xmas.

Hope you and Auntie are both stronger and better than you have been. Hope also that Frank is having work this cold weather. We are having a very constant winter was the temperature has varied but a little a long time. The clock has just struck four so must put on my duds and get the horses ready so Marian can go after Florence.

Florence writes next day

Thought Marian wrote of our Xmas. Had a nice time but our gathering was smaller than usual as neither Emma, Frank or Ada were there. Ada is spending the winter with the Hazzards. Howard wrote at Xmas time that he was married.

Haven't done much sewing this month as I had a very bad cold right after Xmas and am just beginning to feel right. It has been about all my ambition could do to keep house and get three meals a day and the mending. Got my teeth all tended to yesterday. Didn't have as much work as was afraid I had which was very fine. The
Carleton is wearing his unionalls everyday. They tuck in his overshoes and keep his legs dry. Marian is wearing her new nighties and keeping her older ones to wear when it is warmer--which can't come any too soon.

Tonight we are invited out to a seven o'clock dinner with people in Cuyler. There are four couples going from here and Wilburn is going to take the team and big sleigh and have a real sleighing party. We had a lot of snow fall in the last couple of days but the wind hadn't blown. But last night it made up for lost time and the roads were so heavy this morning.

Must get busy are we won't have dinner at prompt noon. Hope Auntie is feeling better and that you are having weather so she can get out for a little walk anyway everyday.

Love from us all
Wilburn and Florence

Enclosed is the Muller note. I expect he will want it paid and I really think it should be. The prices we get are pretty slim.
Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

The clock has struck eight and the children are all in bed but not asleep for Bernard is calling for his Mother to come and hug him again. He is such a lovable chap, so very confectionary most of the time. Never the less he is beginning to have a mind of his own in his wants and his likes. Marian has had another of those spells she had last fall only not so severe this time. She started in with stomach trouble, then had a cold with swollen glands (perhaps gland fever) and finally the ear ache but she seems better now. We are afraid perhaps there is a little gathering in her ear tho.

Yes we pulled thru the blizzard. Many of the old timers claim it is the worst storm in thirty three years. The milk did not come from Cheningo for two days and the second day we didn’t get our milk to the station until about 11:00. Ours went every day. The first morning I got stuck with an empty sleigh just north of the house then unhitched the horses and rode to Roots on horseback to make a path. Then we hitched our horses ahead of a neighbor’s and with four horses they finally made Truxton. Afterwards I hitched on to the sleigh but couldn’t turn around so had to drive to Roots to turn around. It has been intensely cold. One morning it was 36 degrees below at Applegates and only the other morning 14 below at Beards at 9:00.

Our water system at the barn was frozen practically stiff, broke the pipe in three different places and burst as many buckets but the cows did not shrink on their milk. Have only one man now. Linus Smith who was here during August has been here since the first of January. Expect he will stay until April anyway.

Florence has had a very severe cold with swollen glands. It just about did here up. Since then she has had a terrible thumb. An abscess formed at the base of the nail and has been so painful. When Dr. Padgett was down to see Marian he opened it but it has been so terribly sore that it pains her when she touches it.

Wonder if you remember Frank Saunders who lived on Clinton Ave. He died this past week. He was Fanny’s father, seventy five years old.

Yesterday and today have been wonderful day so warm and mild that the snow is settling fast. We have had so much snow that we have only about three fourths of our ice in but some have none of theirs yet. We started to get some off of the river just before the big snow came.

Hope this weather hasn’t frozen you up and that you have no colds.

Love to All, from all the Potters at Truxton.
Truxton, NY
Feb. 11, 1925

Dear Grandma Potter,

How are you?

I thank you for the valentines you sent me to put together. I put them together yesterday and they are ready to send out in the mail today.

How is Aunt Esther? Is it slussy out at Orange? It is raining here and we have to stay in.

Carleton is trying to rig up a snow plow to play with in the house. I have been tracing a valentine and coloring it and Bernard is trying to help Carleton.

One of Mother's narcissus bulbs have a flower on it and it smells very sweet.

Carleton and I both got a valentine from Loualla Fiske on Friday.

Those pictures you sent of Bernard are very nice.

You can see bare ground in lots of places for the snow has gone quite fast and the roads are very slussy.

Love from
Marian

P.S. Maybe I will go up to Truxton to dinner.
RIVERSIDE HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN CATTLE
HAY AND PRODUCE
TRUXTON, N.Y. Mar. 10, 1925

Dear Mother,

Just a few lines to let you know that we are all well and busy as ever. We are having wonderful weather for March, the roads are dry and the snow is fast disappearing from the hillsides. I have been doing some Vet work while the fellows are getting out wood and fence posts.

The shock to us all this past week that of brother Walter's accident. He was hit by a falling tree last Wednesday morning and died about eight that night. He had a broken leg and suffered internal hemorrhage probably from a ruptured spleen. His funeral was Saturday and you hardly ever saw a larger funeral or so many flowers. He had made a great many friends and had become very prominent in the church, Dairymens League and the Grange and Community. It seems terrible that his life had to be snipped out at only 28 years old. As you know he and Edmund were the nearest brothers I ever had.

The entire family were here except Emma, but the others all went to East Rochester on Sunday to see her. They are to have another addition shortly. Howard came from Virginia with his new wife driving 383 miles last Friday or from Washington to Cortland. They left our house this morning for the South.

Think I will not write more now so will close hoping you are having as beautiful weather as we are.

With Love from All
The Truxton Potters
Dear Mother:-

Wonder if you have had the snow storm in Orange that we have had all day. The ground is white but the grass shows so green underneath. Have just came in from Truxton and have written the notices for the school meeting next Tuesday.

Just read in the paper of Mr. Sidney Buck’s death. Will try to enclose the clipping doesn’t seem possible that he was 59. I see they live up town now.

Edmund and Emma were here (Cortland) Sunday in their new Dodge Coach with the new baby Ruth Ann. We went over to Homer to see them. We drove a Buick car that belongs to Mr. French. I haven’t had the Dodge out this year for it is going to cost so much to have it put in shape to run and just seems as if I couldn’t afford it but it seems rather tough to see other people having their new cars and we all crowd into the Ford.

Florence writes

Saturday Evening

Guess Wilburn won’t get this finished so will add a line and send it along. This seems to be a dreadfully busy place Wilburn is on the go from 4:30 a.m. till way into the evening. Had a call out tonight and isn’t in yet and it is 9:30.

Ivah and boys came up this p.m. to stay over Sunday. She is reading. Our five youngsters are all safe in dream land.

For some reason I seem to keep busy. Am trying to clean house but it goes very slowly but am in hope another week will see it pretty well along. Must get at some more sewing. Bernard has not worn his suit as it has short sleeves but it is very good fit for him. He had another suit given him for his birthday so with his “hand-me-downs” he is pretty well provided for.

Wonder if you knew that Dorothy Glann was operated on last Saturday in Binghamton. Quite a heavy operation but doing very well the last I heard. Mrs. Hazzard was taking care of the children but was afraid she could not stand it. Florence Hazzard had mumps last week. Don’t know whether the children developed them or not.

Emma and the baby both stood the trip out last week very well. They appreciated their enclosed car very much as it was quite cold. It has been all week and some snow.
Wilburn writes

It is now Sunday night after nine o'clock but will add a few lines and then retire. Have recently read of the death of Sidney Buck 59 yrs old. Cause by an injury to his foot last fall.

I know that you will be more than interested to know that our milk goes to Grade A now and that it is trucked to Homer. We have it at Truxton at 6:15 every morning so you see there is no more lying in bed in the morning for us. For the same amount of milk my March check was about $175 more than last year. If that can continue I can break ahead in good shape. My veterinary work for the past three months running I think better than $200 a month gross.

How often we think of that trip last fall. I guess it did us all good. I wish we could take another this spring out that way for I wish Auntie could see our youngsters. Think she would like Marian so much for she is a real wholesome little girl. Does it seem possible that she is nearly thru her fifth grade in school.

Many thanks for the birthday presents. Auntie's dollar has given me a stimulus for a good many years now. It doesn't seem possible that I can possibly be over 33 now. Guess I better not think back but only keep a plugging ahead for a better and brighter tomorrow. Florence sits in the big chair sound asleep so think we better go to bed as 4:30 comes rather early so will close with lot of Love from all the Truxton Potters

Wilburn
Dear Mother & Auntie:-

It is just 7:15 a.m. and we are all thru breakfast. Chores are all done and as the horses are out in the pasture there is nothing more to do until night. You probably remember that our milk has to be in Truxton at 6:15 and they have to have it unloaded before eight at Homer. While it makes it a little early I am very well satisfied for it needs something like that to get me started in the morning.

We have all our crops practically in the ground now. Probably you would like to know what they are. We have planted 50 bu. potatoes, 5 bu. corn, 7 bu. barley, 20 bu. oats, 1 1/2 bu. millet, 2 1/2 lbs. cabbage seed besides about $50.00 grass seed. Think we shall put in a few more potatoes. We have set about 6000 cabbage plants which we purchased from Pennsylvania hoping to have some early ones to get the hight price. We also put in some early potatoes for the same reason. Our cows are milking well since that so many are to start giving milk again this fall.

Our milk business is much better and hope it may keep coming so. We are pretty low on cows so we are not getting as much milk as we should.

We have finally let the Dodge car go and now have a used Buick which is very satisfactory. The Buick was owned in town here and the owner traded it for a Sedan so as we tho't it was going to take so much to fix up the Dodge we would put a little more in and ge a better car than the Dodge would ever be. Florence enjoys it very much as it handles so much easier than the old car did. We are now planning to drive to N.Y. City Wednesday morning with Mr. and Mrs. Burdick from Cuyler. Cora Gilbert is also going to Frank's. The reason for our trip to N.Y. is the Dairymen's League annual meeting and we have been elected delegates from here with our expenses paid so that we might better take it while we can.

Just seems as if the past month had been the busiest yet. Perhaps you have read about the T.B. Scandal in Cortland County. Several dealers have been selling Branded cattle back to the farmers to put in their dairy herds. When this was discovered the N.Y.C. Board of Health issued orders that all cattle in the County should be examined as soon as possible for the T. Brand on left jaw. So that gave every licensed Veterinarian plenty of work for a little while. Guess I got my share for I have examined over 2000 head in the last three weeks besides helping with the milking nearly every morning here. It has increased my income by nearly two hundred dollars all of which helps out. It probably made some future business the value of which can not be determined yet.
The children are fine and dandy only wish we were closer so that you might have them to keep you company. Think Auntie would enjoy Marian so much for she is such a lady-like little girl and while not a dumb bell seems to know her place. They are learning their pieces for childrens day next Sunday. They have just finished school for this year and just think Marian is in the sixth grade next fall.

Forgot to say that we have eight little turkeys which hatched Wednesday. We have one hen setting on duck eggs and have about a hundred chickens. Have eight little pigs beside the two older hogs. Started 5 calves this spring which makes me 16 heifers which we have started since a year ago last fall.

Think this will keep you in reading matter for a little while. Will try and write after our return from N.Y.

With much Love to you both.

from all the Potters at Truxton

P.S. Mrs. Jacobs is helping again with the housework.
Hotel Pennsylvania
New York

Dear Mother:

Just a line to let you know we had an excellent trip down. Left home at 4:30 a.m. and arrived at Frank’s about 2:30 in the afternoon. Went to the Theatre last evening and saw Willie Howard in “Sky High” quite different from the Truxton Plays. After that we took the busses to see the milk handling in the city end of the business. Didn’t get in until 3:00 a.m. but didn’t get up at 4:30.

We went to Frank’s yesterday afternoon and we will go there again tonight and go home sometime Friday so to be there in time for chores Saturday morning. We drove about 256 miles coming down.

Have attended the afternoon meeting and had a bus ride up Riverside Drive and Fifth Avenue. Dinner on the Roof Garden and guess we are going up there again tonight. Mr and Mrs Burdick from Cuyler came with us and Cora, as far as Frank’s, Mother Emma is in Albany to a Convention. Carleton down at Ivah’s and Mrs. Jacobs taking care of the other children.

Will call this enough for now and hustle for supper.

Love from
Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother:-

We are just in for breakfast at 6:30 so will take a little time write a few lines to you. Expect you are wondering how we returned from N.Y. Well we made fine time and a dandy trip. After I wrote you we went on a bus ride up Riverside Drive thru Central Park to Grant Tomb and supper we went to the Follies and took the subway to near Yonkers, then the auto to Frank's. Visited with him a while and finally went to bed about 2:30 a.m. Up again about seven. Visited Nellie's school a few minutes and then to Yonkers where the ladies did some shopping. Think we finally left Yonkers about eleven for the trip home. We came up the East side of the river thru Tarrytown, Ossining, Peekskill to Poughkeepsie, across the river to Highland to Kingston, Margaretville, Oneonta, Laurins, Morris, New Berlin, Sherburne, Symrna, Otselic, Georgetown, Sheds, DeRuyter and home about eleven P.M. 278 miles.

We stopped this side of Kingston to view the Great Water Works which supply NY City with water. Wanted to stop in Oneonta for a little while but didn't but did go to Anderson Lathrops for a couple of hours for supper. Had a good visit and then home. Found everything in tip-top shape but of course plenty to do. We had a dandy trip which didn't cost much except loss of time and suppose satisfaction and entertainment paid for that.

Have finished the cabbage setting and cultivating, planted more potatoes and now we are busy haying. Drew the first hay yesterday but expect to keep at it steadily now until finished. Our barns will be crammed full.

George William is here for a couple of weeks and then Virginia is coming. Marian will go to East Rochester for a while but don't know whether Carleton will or not. Think I will close now and write the rest next time.

Lots of Love
from all the Truxton Potters
Dear Mother:—

Wonder how you all are? Only hope this beautiful morning finds you improved. Please get help so you won’t get tired out. Am waiting to hear any news that you may have. We are usually well except for a little stomach trouble which seems to have run its course thro practically the whole family. Geo William has been here for almost three weeks but Florence took him to Cortland yesterday. Expect Virginia to come up soon.

The most important news to us here is the selling of the Bean farm. Mr. Crandall finally sold it yesterday to a brother of the Ass’t Manager of the J.C. Penney Co stores. He had plenty of money and takes everything just as it is down there even buying a large part of the household furnishings. It certainly takes a load off of Ivah’s shoulders for she moves to Dryden the first of August. They had planned to have an auction about the 20th of August but now they don’t have to worry about that.

Our haying is progressing just as swiftly as the other fellows is I guess. We have 37 loads in the barn but should have better than fifty by tomorrow night. We have had considerable rain to hinder us but the weather man says good weather for the rest of the week.

We had a terrible rain Tuesday morning. The river came up very fast and went over its banks. It didn’t hurt us very much as I had cut the hay in many of the low meadows. It is now back to its bed and dropping fast.

I am endorsing the Muller note with a reduction of $100. Hope that our crops may bring more this year than some other so that we may keep reducing. Our milk checks are considerably larger but I lack cows to be efficient with my help and equipment. Have a chance now to get ahead if I only had the extra capital.

The Veterinary works keeps coming along nicely. Have two female dogs to operate on in the barn now. The pennies drop in little by little. Mrs Jacobs is home for a couple of days.

Wish you lived only half as far away so that we could drive there and back quickly. Hope all changes are for the better.

Must Close

With Lots of Love to you all
Wilburn
Dear Mother:

It has been a very peculiar Sunday morning. Sunshine, Cloudy, and rain. Just now it is raining. The day has been unusually quiet for us. Did the chores and in for breakfast before seven. After breakfast I slept until 9:30 then went to church until noon. After dinner read a couple of stories and then another nap until 4:00 p.m. then chores and supper. Since supper we've been cleaning up the desk in the living room.

We've been in one grand rush since haying started. My tenant man left us two weeks ago this coming Tuesday so since then two of us men folks have been milking the cows and Florence and the children have helped wonderfully driving on the load and running the hoist until now we have 94 loads of hay in the barn. About thirty yet to cut. Hope we can get it this week but the weather is so uncertain that it goes very slowly. Think Hildreth across the river is the only one around here finished yet. We can finish this week if it is pleasant.

Bernard is the only one of the children here now. Marian has been in Cortland for a couple of days and now is in East Rochester. Went out with Mr and Mrs. Geo. Hazzard today. Carleton has been out there this past week but comes back with them when they come back. Mr. and Mrs. H. have a new Buick 4 passenger Coupe. Don't remember whether I told you that Edmund has a new Dodge Sedan. Virginia and Geo. William were here practically the entire month of July so now our children are enjoying city life.

Think the arrangement with Leroy is fine. It is so much better to have him offer that to have to ask him. Know that he and Wayland will fix it up so that no one will be injured.

We are so sorry concerning Auntie. Had hope to hear she was gaining. Has the Doctor any idea how long she can possibly stand the strain? Does she know people at all? Would she know us if we were there? We are in difficulty here over the help but could find someone to fill in for a few days. You must get plenty of help to save yourself.

It is Monday a.m. It doesn't look very good for haying today but think I'll cut some down just the same. Hope you all are better this morning. Think of you so much. Keep us posted as to Auntie. Must get this ready for the office so that you may get it tomorrow. Lots of love to all from we alls at Truxton

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

I wish you could realize how much you have been in our minds. For the last few weeks especially I have followed you people in Orange. Yesterday you were constantly there.

When will you come this way. Let us know by return mail so we may plan.

We are all just fine. Marian is at East Rochester but the boys are home. We are just finishing our haying and now for the oats then the corn.

Will take the family to the fair today. Bernard and Carleton are anticipating the merry-go-round. Florence was in a play given under the direction of the Home Bureau.

Saw Geo. Fitts Sunday. Said I would be able to have a job at the State Fair again this year. He is having trouble with rheumatism. Was in bed Sunday.

Must close with Lots of Love to you. Let us hear from you soon.

Love from

Truxton Potters
Sunday Evening

Dear Mother:-

Guess you will wonder what has happened to me but just seems as if my time has been very fully occupied. Between milking, drawing ice, threshing and the like we manage to keep more than busy.

We had a very pleasant surprise when Uncle Bernard and Aunt Ida and Manley visited us last Monday. They had come from home and Herkimer and Buffalo. They staid over night and until Monday at 1:00 p.m. and had planned to go to Canton but instead went to Herkimer. Aunt Ida was sick all the time she was at Truxton so thot they better be getting home.

As you see I am in Syracuse attending the Fair as last year. Came to Fair from Apulia by train arriving Fair Grounds about 2 p.m. Had engaged a room at the Seymour Hotel but the fellow who was to room with Dr. McAuliffe took another place so I am with McAuliffe in the best there is.

Think you better come to Herkimer and then depending on conditions at Truxton we may be able to come to Herkimer. I will be here all the week and might not be able to come next Sunday and expect to be silo filling at home after that.

Must close with lot of Love
Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

I am writing just a few lines to let you know that we are still as busy as usual. Xmas has come and gone again and think we have had much more than our share. We had the family gathering here this year. Twenty three counting the little ones sat down for dinner.

We killed one of the turkeys which weighed eighteen pounds alive. Anna is to have the last one for New Years and we sold one to Smiths, formerly Wolcotts, for 50 cents live. They also had four ducks. So now we have only three ducks and a drake left. Edmund and Emma and family came from E. Rochester Xmas morning only stopping in Cortland a little while. Frank and family did not come this year as they were here at Thanksgiving time.

It has been terrible cold for quite a while now the mercury going as low as 10 below. We have good sleighing and the road is plugged beyond Reakes.

I will let Marian and Florence tell you of the gifts but I will say that we are mighty proud a new 5 tube Franklin Radio which Edmund and Emma brought to the family. Edmund says we can hear San Francisco or other far western cities. Mr. Schell came up today and installed it for us so tonight we hope to hear a program as soon the dishes are done. We have to stop the Delco so we can hear. We took the battery out of the car to use for the storage cells.

We have not had our cows tested yet but expect they will be soon after the first of January.

We have wondered how you are? Let us hear from you as soon as you have time. Wonder if Frank has steady work this cold weather. The water buckets froze up one night but no damage was done.

Must close with Lot of Love
from all the Truxton Potters
notes 1925

1-22-25
to DeRuyter---took Lehigh Valley train up and back
Auntie--Grandma's Aunt Esther Harrington--Grandma lived in her house
Frank---don't know him---not Uncle Frank Bean, Florence's brother
Invitation to Cuyler---sounds like fun--sleighing from Truxton to Cuyler
dinner---always at noon, supper at night
get the horses ready--Marian at nine years of age would drive our faithful team Tom
and Jerry with the sleigh to Truxton and the train depot.

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2-8-25
Rode to Roots---Bert Root farmed where Pooles are now
Beards---Benj and Addie, live where Mary Stoddard is now
Dr. Padgett--the country doctor in Cuyler

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5-4-25--note address change to 276 N. Main St.
School meeting notices---each district school had an elected trustee, who called an
annual meeting in that district to conduct necessary business.
Mr French---Oral---local undertaker in Truxton
Ivah--Aunt Ivah Snyder Bean, Walter's widow--sons Herbert (6) and Kenneth (4)
Dorothy Hazzard Giann---Uncle Edmund's sister
Florence Goddard Hazzard---Don Hazzard's wife, sister-in-law of Edmund

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6-15-25
Branded Cattle---a large T was branded on left jaw of Tuberculosis reactors.

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6-18-25
Florence and Wilburn attend the Dairymens League meeting in NYC

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7-28-25
Frank and Nellie's--Frank and Nellie Sweetland Bean
George William--Hazzard, brother of Virginia and Ruth---parents Edmund and Emma

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7-24-25
Mrs Jacobs-- helped Florence in the house

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8-20-25
from tone of letter--assume Aunt Esther has died
Dear Mother:-

Just a line this morning, enclosed the note which is due this week.

Planned to write yesterday but kept putting it off and listened to the radio.

Yes, we get Springfield and Boston often. The radio is in the dining room at the north window and you can imagine three of us at a time sitting around trying to catch the sounds out of the air. It's mighty wonderful and wish you had one as you enjoy the music so much.

Last night we heard the New York Symphony Orchestra and Walter Damrosch the leader made remarks about each piece he played, "Maybe I've used new style spelling". We haven't been able to get very far west probably because we don't wait late enough at night and the eastern stations are so active early in the evening. But there hasn't been an evening when we were not able to have a program from somewhere.

We haven't tested yet but now we are promised for next Monday which will be the first day of February. The milk truck still draws the milk not having missed a day yet.

Everyone is usually well and busy. Marian passed her midyear exams about ninety and Carleton is very busy studying Geography.

Must close with Lots of Love from all the Truxton Potters.

Wilburn
Dear Mother,

Will get this started while I am waiting for water to heat to wash my hair and am sure some one will finish it if I don't.

The children and I went up to S.S. with the team and big sleigh. It is rather hard to get started soon enough to be in time for church. We would have to have breakfast sooner than we did this morning, I am sure, for it was nine o'clock. They have so many cattle in the barn now that chores are quite extended. We have 104 cows, calves and bulls on hand at present writing.

But we tested this last week and 45 went out. Took most of our milking cows. If we had not bought in we would have only nine cows left that were milking, as it is we will only have fourteen. Of course our heifers will be coming in right along but right now nothing. I don't know whether they will come to appraise them this week or not but hope so. We are separating the cream from those cows and going to ship the cream. Sent the rest of our milk in three cans this morning. The morning he tested we bought a whole dairy from up near Cheningo and brought them in. Then a week ago he bought 7 from Tully. These of course were besides the 17 he bought last December.

The single man we had is gone and have another one in his place. Have most of our ice drawn but not packed. We are having lots of snow and plenty of cold. Now we know how cold it is and sometimes I think it is not a good idea.

Am enjoying my rubber apron very much as you know how much washing of all kinds there seems to have to be done here. Have had lamps added to the list for three weeks as the Delco has been laid up for repairs and that washing by hand hasn't been fun for my sized family.

The children are having lots of fun making Valentines. They had two boxes so they are making all they send.

Yes, we are enjoying the radio very much. But it does keep us up later than we might. Came in from a card party the other night and had to stop and listen and it was an hour later before we realized! We get so many good things. We often get Boston and Ford Hall.

Must get busy and wash my hair and then pop some corn.

Love from all

The Potters
Dear Mother:-

I expect you think we've gone to the sunny south but not so for we are still in the frozen land of Truxton. Hardly know anything but cold and snow and wood. Today has been the first warm any in a long while and our thermometer got up to forty. But generally it hasn't been above 10-12 in the morning and only a little higher during the day. The roads are terrible now with no prospects of anything better until they get to terra firma.

Well my cows are all in bologna or something else by this time. There were a few that they did not use for meat. My barn was pretty cold after they went. They appraised at an average of a little over $80.00 a piece which was very satisfactory considering heifers and everything I had. It sure cleaned up a bunch of cows that were of no good to us at a fair price. Of course some went which we would like to have kept. The other day I bought nine pure bred Holsteins at Lincklean which will be tested tomorrow. We are hoping they will pass the test O.K. for we need them in our business. We bought them very reasonable and are bound to make us some money. Our milk check has been decidedly reduced but we have not fed so much hay or grain so there's a gain. After a little we'll be getting more milk than before.

You will probably be surprised to learn that Galen has been helping us again. He is one man in a hundred for us. He is so good in the house and so interested outside. He drove the cows back from Lincklean when he came. Lloyd has been sick a couple of times lately but is well now.

I have been doing quite a bit of Vet work lately. Made two T.B. tests on accredited herds a couple of weeks ago. What would you think of my taking a County Veterinarian's job perhaps of Tioga County. Had an offer down there of $250. a month and around $85. a month to run a car on. Also an offer in Onondaga County as Ass't County Vet at around $200 and eight cents a mile for operating a car. Went down to see them a couple of weeks ago. Haven't decided anything positive yet.

Florence has been having the grippe with lots of cough. The children have managed to keep well. Leslie Schell is in bed and doesn't improve. Charlie Beattie does not improve and Dorr Kenney has had another sick spell but perhaps a little warm sunshine will help them.

Bernard is growing fast and is planning greatly on next Sunday. Wish you might see him. We are enclosing two pictures. The one of Manley and Bernard and the other of the snow, our Xmas tree and the edge of the barn.

Hope this finds you well and all the sick better. Love from all the Potters
Dear Mother,

This is a beautiful spring day here and it gives us all a better feeling. It seems as tho we had frozen all most long enough. Told Wilburn before he left Monday I would surely get this letter off this week but don't know. Will get it started anyway.

Wilburn took the job of County Veterinarian for Tioga Co. and went to work Apr. 5th. Think he will like it very much if he isn't worry about us. He goes Monday morning early and does not get back until Saturday night. It seems like a long time for us but am so busy the time slides along. Just at present we have three hired men but expect one to go in a week or so. He is the one who was in the tenant house but our new tenant man and wife are here with us now. She is helping me and am trying to get my house cleaning done before outside work begins too strong. Have had my dining room and hall papered this spring. They look real neat and fresh. Am just getting the painting in the upstairs hall finished today. Am also trying to get my ironing done but it seems to go pretty slow.

Read in the Enterprise & Journal that you were to entertain the Literary Club a while ago. Suppose you served refreshments. How are Lucy and Henry now?

Was talking with Leah a week or so ago and she said Aunt Kate did not go down to N. Jersey this winter as she had planned but has been at Mrs. Ellis' all winter.

Bernard's suit was a very good fit. Shortened the sleeves for a while but imagine when it is washed it will be just right. The children are well and very busy. Just now they are learning to roller skate and hope soon to skate to school.

Must get busy. Enclosed you will find the note to be endorsed.

Love from all

The Potters
Dear Mother:-

Just a line to let you know that I am doing County work for Tioga. The wages look the best, $250 a month and $100 a month for expenses. Last week my gas-oil-board and repairs cost me $17.95--thought that was pretty good. Went home Saturday and took in Six dollar in Vet work Saturday night and Sunday morning. Had a chance to inspect several dairies but couldn't spend the time.

After I took the job here had a chance to get the same kind of a job in Syracuse or Onondaga County at practically the same salary and eight cents a mile for expense of car. But maybe I will be more independent down here and perhaps live cheaper.

Galen is with us and we have another Seventh day man and his wife helping. Thus Florence has help and as Warner hasn't left yet there are three men outside helping catch things up.

Hate to be away from home but it is a bit easier than Vet and Farming together. This is my second week in Spencer, next week will be in Owego on Monday and perhaps in Spencer the balance of the week. Hope you are feeling well and that it is much warmer there than here.

Love from
Wilburn
Wednesday Eve.

Dear Mother:-

How do you like this writing paper? Guess there is some better around here but happened on this so will use it. Have thot of you lots the last days. Was in Truxton over Sunday didn’t get home until 6:30 Saturday night.

Bought a beef cow down here for $30.00. Hired it killed and hired a truck to take it home and sold three quarters $47.00 and had one quarter of 130 lbs left for ourselves.

Sunday was busy getting things ready for the next week. Also had quite a dinner. Mrs. Beattie and Mr. Wicks were out. Guess we haven’t written that Mr. Beattie had been very sick and finally passed out a week ago last Friday. He was buried a week ago Monday. So I didn’t come down until Tuesday. Ivah and Ada and the three children have all been to dinner on Sunday. Then with our own family, the tenant man & Mrs Walters and Galen we had quite a full house.

Last week we pressed hay. Sold about 27 1/2 Tons. We are making nearly eight cans of milk a day now. Mr. Bloomfield tested last week and lost 41 from 59 cows. Hildreth lost all but 2 heifers and three calves. The man on the Muller farm had only one cow left from 55 tested. Down here (Tioga Co) the reaction is much less.

I don’t like being away from home so much but the money is all that keeps me. Received my first check last week for $350. That was nearly a hundred more than my last milk check. So guess I must stand it. Uncle Albert Allport has been fixing the Tenant house a little this spring. The upstairs part had never been finished off so we did that and it makes a great improvement.

I have spent considerable time in Spencer and Candor this past four or five weeks. But this will soon be over with. Then I suppose I’ll be in Owego.

Hope it will warm up soon. Think all will feel better. Just seems as if every thing is so slow. This is the latest that I ever turned my cows out to pasture since I came to Truxton. One year the 29th of April.

Must close with lots of love to you. Wish I might drop in and have a visit.

Wilburn
Truxton, NY
July 6, 1926

Dear Mother,

By the above address you will know that we still live in Truxton, but the state in which we exist is busy. There seems to be so many things that must be done that most of the things we like to don't get done.

I have thought every day since the box came for Carleton that I would write but it did not get done but made up mind it wood get done today if I had to stay up until midnight. Now the suit fitted him all right but he has been wearing the coat and pant suits with blouses so long he thinks it is gong back a step to put on that style suit again.

I have kept them longer than I should have if you were to change them but thought he would change his mind. Am sorry we are not nearer and we could go in together on a lighter weight and lighter colored suit for summer for him but a blouse or anything you might think of would be fine.

Perhaps you will be coming out to bring it. It seems as tho you should come out in the summer time once so as not to freeze every nice nite. Of course Wilburn is away most of the time but he might be able to get a day off now and then.

Last week he took Carleton with him Monday a.m. as he came back to Cortland Tuesday for Veterinary Convention there that day and Wed. Then he went to Owego Thursday morning but home early on Saturday and of course did not work yesterday the 5th; left before five o'clock this morning for the rest of the week. He likes his work.

Couple weeks ago I went down on Friday morning by train and he met me in Spencer where he was testing and rode with him the rest of the day then we went on to Owego and staid at the hotel that night and I spent Saturday with a friend of mine there in Owego. He came for me late in the p.m. and we drove up reaching here about eight. It was a real outing and the change was as good as a tonic. Last week I helped entertain the visiting veterinars' wives that came for the meet. Attended a luncheon at the Country Club Tuesday noon and played bridge a while. In the evening attended the banquet that was held in the Normal. Wednesday noon they all went to Krebs at Skaneateles for lunch. Drove my car up the east side of the lake and back the west side thru Moravia and Locke and Groton. That evening there was a lawn party at the house of Drs. Moore and McAulife. Wilburn enjoyed the Convention very much so many of the men he knew were back--Dr. Hall and Adrian among them.

Just as we finished dinner on Sunday who should drive in but Howard and his wife from Richmond. They had not written they were coming so it was quite a surprise altho I had told Wilburn that morning that I would not be surprised to see them. Frank was up and our family were all together on Monday over at Dryden except for Emma and family. They had made all plans to come and the children have come down with the chicken pox. They seem to be having their share of things for one year, but the
baby is growing very well in spite of it all. She is walking now and I suppose is very cunning. I haven't seen her since Xmas. Howard and wife went out there today after dinner here to stay couple of days. On the way back they expect to visit the Exposition in Philadelphia.

It is getting very late so must stop or morning will come so soon.

Love from all

The Potters

Longtime friends, John and Isabelle Feeter--Florence and Wilburn Potter celebrate a 40th wedding anniversary on October 7, 1954

Next generation, longtime friends
John Feeter and Bernard Potter
Dear Mother,

While I am waiting for Mr. Blanchard to return from lunch will pen a few lines to you. The weather has been very warm daytimes and rather cool at night, more rain at Truxton than here. We need rain and moisture very badly in this section and I think most crops are below normal in central N.Y. at home. We are coming along very slowly. Our corn is coming slowly but it is very even on the ground and the ground is quite free from weeds and quack. We are milking about thirty four cows now. Have been drawing 12--40 quart cans. So you see we are doing just as well or better than if I were home. Never the less I dislike being away.

The work here is rather easy compared to that I have been used to. Have received three checks so far from the county. The county appropriated $4000 which is rapidly diminishing so expect when that is gone I will have to look for greener pasture but maybe they will provide more money. About a month ago I had a week off because of some mix up at Albany. Albany stopped all testing in N.Y. State that week so I was home and helped with the crops. Am not sure but that I may take some time off later to help the boys with the haying. I would rather hire a man but it seems to be difficult to find one.

Last week was also quiet. Went to Truxton Saturday getting there between 2-3 pm. Came back to Owego Monday. Didn't finally inject any cows on Monday. Carleton came down with me Monday and went back Tuesday to Cortland. Tuesday and Wednesday we attended the Veterinary Convention at Cortland. Thursday I came back here but did not inject any cattle until Saturday. Came back to Owego Tuesday morning and injected Tuesday and Wednesday. Today we are looking up new work and incidentally watching the Gentry Bros Circus parade a couple of times. Friday and Saturday I will read the cattle I injected on Tuesday and Wednesday and probably will not get home very early Saturday p.m.

Wish you might see the children and wish that you could come out in the summer time this year. Must close now and take a drive to S. Apalachin to look up new work for the coming weeks.

Love to you
Wilburn
Dear Mother,

Probably you will wonder why I am using this paper but the other day I received some samples of paper from a printing company and thus the paper. It is Sunday morning seven o'clock and I will write a few lines before breakfast. Since I wrote last just seems as if a pile has transpired. I don't have much home life anymore for I am living out of a traveling bag most of the time. Last week I came from Owego on Saturday night and then left for Syracuse on Sunday afternoon so that didn't give me very much time at home. But this week I received $125 from the Fair and saw the Fair besides. Came home Thursday night and then Galen and Florence, Carleton and Marian took me back Friday then I drove Dr. McAullife' car to Cortland yesterday Florence meeting me in Cortland yesterday. There were two herds of cattle from Franklin Co, Mass. Mr. Pratt's from Ashfield and Barnard & Son from Shelburne. There were not quite as many cattle this year as formerly but the exhibits were good. The weather was perfect for the entertainment just a little rain on Saturday but not enough to put off the racing.

This has been a very wet summer and tough on agriculture. I staid at home three weeks and I didn't earn my salt. There is lots of hay that isn't cut yet and of course never will be. We have good grain and corn if the frost will only hold off to let it develop. Our cows have milked well all summer. Have just had another T.B. test and lost eight out of 49 not quite as bad as the first. Schyler Roberts lost his entire dairy of 43. The cows I lost this time were some that didn't cost very much last winter--2 heifers that cost $45 have milked this summer and appraised for $85 each, two cows that cost less than fifty a piece went out for $110 and $75 and have given us over 11,000 lbs of milk since we had them. I bought three in Owego to take their places for $200 so I guess I am keeping ahead of the game. Two heifers I raised went out $220 but only one had given milk.

School starts Tuesday and Mrs. Smith's sister Miss Lillian Sawyer is to be the teacher this year. She comes Monday night. Marian will be in the seventh and Carleton in the third. It won't be long before Marian is in H.S. Would like to see Frances new house and I wish we were fortunate to have a good garage. We are hoping to be able to fix one in the shed before long. Hope you don't consider going to Aunt Anna's for longer that a visit anyway. I'm afraid we won't get to Mass this fall as I have had a month off from Owego this summer, now they are anxious to finish the year in good style. There is about enough money appropriated to last until the first of January but the Supervisors meet in November for another year's appropriations. Must close for tonight but will try and write oftener next time. It has rained nearly all day and now the water has started across the flat.

Love from all the Truxton Potters
Dear Mother:-

While I am waiting to see Dr. Brink who is eating dinner I will pen a few lines to you. While I don't know of much news maybe a line will let you know that we are all well.

Was home over Sunday but didn't get there until nearly eight o'clock at night. Was busy on Sunday and Monday until I left at nearly 2 o'clock. So you see I didn't get down here until after 4:00 that afternoon but guess they will think just as much of me as if I did more. We are cutting corn so we can fill silo soon. Our corn is very good but it is not developed as much as we would like it. We are feeding green stuff in the barn now until we can get the cows on the meadows.

The children are all well started in school again. Doesn't seem possible that Marian is in the seventh grade and Carleton is in the third. Bernard is very important when they are away. Did I tell you that I lost eight more cows on retest but don't let it worry for they brought me a good deal more than I gave.

This will let you know that we are all well and thankful we are in the north instead of Florida.

Love
Wilburn
Monday morning

Dear Mother,

How do you like my new stationary? (end of Wilburn's writing!)

Well, this is as far as he seemed able to get and then asked me to finish the letter. It is now Monday night and am rather weary. Have washed and done some ironing and sewing and of course cooking.

We are getting some good things over the radio tonight. Wilburn brought home a loud speaker when he came Sat. night and it is lovely for music. Think I prefer the head phones for speeches etc. But as yet we only have the radio over Sunday while the Chev. is here to use as we use the Buick battery on it and I can't spare the car all the time.

Yes we are done with silo filling and am not sorry. No--Wilburn wasn't home for it. He was home our anniversary and helped to get set up and ready but we had to solve our own problems and it seemed they were numerous. Had nine men the first day for dinner, ten the second and eleven the other three days. Began to think I could run a hotel if necessary. Mrs. Beattie helped me one day and Miss Sawyer on Columbus day when there was no school--the other days I managed alone. Thought when haying was over that I would not be so busy but it seems as tho there were no let up. Have had three men for a month and a half but now only two.

The children are taking the toxin-antitoxin treatment for prevention of diphtheria. They had the first "shot" last Wednesday and the next this Wed. and the third next week. It does not seem to cause them any discomfort--not even a redness in their arms. Last Thurs. I took Carleton down and had Higgins examine his eyes and he said he would have to wear glasses all the time. Am in hopes he won't need them for more than reading and studying.

I scarcely know what to say about the coat. If I thought I would ever get it done I would say send it on. He has to have something before very long surely. I haven't a pattern ready to send, so why don't you send it on just as it is and I believe I will get it done some way and it will be much cheaper than buying one. I priced them the other day.

Enclosed you will find the Muller note which will have to come right back to be on time--we shouldn't have waited quite so long to send it.

Hope this finds you well. We are fine and busy. Love from all

Florence
W. H. POTTER, D. V. M.
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK

Nov. 18, 1926

Dear Mother:

It is now nine thirty and I am sitting in the reading room of the Hotel Risley in Spencer. This is a small hotel but serves its purpose. I have just called Florence and found out how they were up there. Everything seems to be well I guess but we are having lots of rain. Florence said the water is the highest it has ever been since we lived there. I was out in the rain Tuesday A.M. and got soaked to the hide. That afternoon I drove to Owego and the water was over the State Road in several places but when I came home (back to Spencer) at nine o'clock my car stop in the water and I couldn't get thru and I had to go back to Candor and stay until morning. Lucky a car came along and pulled me out backwards and so I didn't have to get wet. Have been in Spencer two weeks now and it will take about two more before I finish the retests that are due up to the first of Dec.

This has been our best year financially and by another year if we can continue we will have caught up on our war time debts. It makes us feel a little easier than it did three or four years ago. I don't like to be away from home so much but "one can't have their cake and eat it". Our cattle have done well this summer. Milk check have been as large or larger than usual with my salary down here it certainly has helped a lot.

The children are fine. Wish you might see them, Marian is so large over 90 pounds now. Carleton and Bernard so busy. Bernard was down in Owego a couple of times with me. He just enjoyed it. Think I will close for tonight. Wish you might be with us Thanksgiving day. Think we will go to Aunt Carrie's at Homer.

Must close with Lots of Love.

Wilburn
Dear Grandma Potter,

We have six or seven inches of snow so we think we are quite wintry. It is still snowing and very near zero. The men have just come up for supper.

Daddy has to meet Miss Sawyer on the seven o'clock. She is our teacher. She has just been to Cortland to have her hair bobbed.

We went to Cortland yesterday and had Carleton's eyes tested to see how much longer he would have to wear glasses.

Carleton and I got Mother a cream pitcher and sugar bowl for Christmas. Bernard and Carleton are having a geography lesson.

Mother is writing a letter to Uncle Howard and Aunt Elizabeth. I got 100% in an Arithmetic test.

We have a new hired man his name is Frank Ashland. He is a Finn. Daddy got him down at Spencer.

Daddy is still testing down in Tioga County. We were sorry you could not come out this fall.

Daddy is having a hard time get out of the drive.

Grandma Bean has sciatic rheumatism and can hardly move off the couch.

I am going to try and write more regular from now on.

I am taking music lessons now. I have learned to play one piece and part of another.

I am making quite a few Christmas presents.

It is still snowing quite hard and I don't think of anything more to say, unless that it is that you must write.

With plenty of love to all

Hugs Kisses

Marian xxx 0000
Wednesday Eve.

Dear Mother:-

Just a line tonight so that you may receive this Christmas Day to give you a little Yuletide spirit. On my way home from Owego I saw several places where the red lights were decorating the green Xmas trees or the wreaths and they looked so pretty and inviting. The lodge of Elks at Owego has a very large tree all decorated in front of their Lodge Rooms and I expect that they will endeavor to help the poor and unfortunate make Xmas a more cheerful time. The Salvation Army kettles are in all the larger towns and the Santa Claus that guards them is a great attraction for the children.

Our children celebrated at school last night and then Saturday we go to 76 Lincoln for the tree. Our gathering will not be as large this year for E & E, Frank & Nellie and Howard and Elizabeth will not be there. Wish you might surprise us by being there. We would like it so much. The children are all well and so busy. Bernard is a great helper at home while I'm in Owego and the children at school.

I came home Saturday night. Went to church Sunday. Monday we went to Cortland in the afternoon and then Tuesday I went to Owego to speak at a T.B. meeting in Candor at night. Today finished my reports, did some shopping and got home about 7:00 o'clock for the balance of the week. The Supervisors have appropriated more money to carry on T.B. work so I'll have plenty of work for a time to come.

Altho I dislike to be away from home, the extra money comes so handy to pay honest debts out of the family. We are hoping for the time to arrive shortly when we can pay honest debts in the family.

May this be a Happy Xmas and coming year be a better one than those which are gone.

Lots of Love to you

Wilburn
Wednesday Evening

Dear Mother,

Wilburn says it is time for bed but informed him that this was one more letter to write and then I am afraid it won’t reach you for Christmas. It seems as tho I had jumped every minute for weeks but guess I shall have to continue a while longer. We mailed you a package yesterday a.m. and do hope that reaches you for Christmas. Knowing how you enjoyed our wool filled comfortable we tho't you might like one of your own. Marian did the towel herself.

Her package came thru nicely and she was very pleased. Think she will write for herself before long. Am ashamed to think I haven’t written since the package came for me but have been thinking I could write and tell you how Carleton’s coat looked when done but it hasn’t reached that state yet. It is going to be lovely. Was very delighted with my apron as I surely did need it.

I finally cashed your two checks and put some more with them and bought Carleton a new suit. It is gray mixed goods and very pretty. He is quite grown up when he wears it. It has a vest and a belt--real mannish!

We have been having some real cold weather, but for two days quite mild and we have had a chance to catch our breath before the next spell. We bought some storm windows this fall and have them on and we find it makes a great difference with the inside comfort. They surely will save their cost in a short time on fuel.

Last night were the exercises up at school. Daddy wasn’t here but Bernard and I went up and enjoyed them. All three of the children spoke and Marian and Carleton were in little plays. They had a tree and popcorn and a real good time. School closed tonight for the rest of the week and then have a longer winter vacation.

Remember us to Frank and the rest of the cousins there. Will you be up to Lucy’s or Bert’s for Christmas. Hope you have a Happy Christmas. Wilburn and I may have duplicated some things but you won’t have to read that part.

Love from us all
Florence
1-25-26
haven't tested yet---cows for tuberculosis---T.B.

2-9-26
45 went out--reacted or positive to the test for TB
come to appraise them---the testing program was funded by the state and the reactors
were slaughtered--the state paid the farmer an appraised or fair market value
know how cold it is---Florence and Wilburn have a new outside thermometer!

4-21-26
Enterprise & Journal---newspaper from Orange--which Grandma mailed to F & W

7-5-26
Normal---now SU.C.C or Cortland College

7-8-26
Mr Blanchard---Tioga County Farm Bureau agent--now Extension
read the cows---it took 72 hours from time of injection for a reaction to show--then the
cows were looked at or "read" at the point of injection

12-7-1926
out of drive---the lower driveway from the barn to the road was always slippery in the
winter

Miss Sawyer--Lillian Sawyer taught in our Wicksville district school. The teacher
always lived in the home of a family in the school district.

Finn--Finnlanders--lived in Spencer, Tioga County, NY.
Uncle Howard and Aunt Elizabeth---Howard Bean, youngest brother of Florence.
Later on they separated, no children
Truxton, N.Y.

January 8, 1927

Dear Grandma Potter,

Are you living in snowbanks? We are but they aren't very deep. I have been going with the milk for two or three weeks.

Hope you had a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I got lots of things for Christmas. I got a bedspread, a sweater, middy blouse, five bottles of perfume, umbrella, four books, pocket book, blue silk for a dress, a picture, dish, longeray and beauty pins, a towel, washcloth and can of powder. Two pair of stockings and a set with powder, perfume, soap and toothpaste. I hope you got a lot of things for Christmas.

Mother is going to have some people up to play cards to-night.

The boys are making a snowfort. Our examinations come in two weeks. Last night we went out and made tunnels in the snow.

Carleton found two eggs this morning. I made a cake and a loaf of brown bread this morning. Wish you were here to eat some of them.

I don't know of anything else to say so I will close.

Marian
Truxton, NY

Greetings Mother,

Galen has his battery on the radio tonight and it is coming in just splendidly. Last night we could get nothing—so it goes. Have written one letter tonight but it has taken longer than it should have because I couldn’t get my mind on it. How is your cold? I came down with a hard cold yesterday but am feeling better. Think I shall have to prescribe cod liver oil for you. We are all taking it and I surely think it helps to keep us well. The children are fine and walk back and forth to school thru all the snow and cold. They are to have their exams this week and are wondering how they are coming out. Marian received your letter the other day.

Wilburn and I hope you won’t go to any effort to get a box off to us for the children surely had all they needed for Christmas. Perhaps later you can come out and bring them a little something then. Carleton is having such a good time with his Erector set and has built several things with it and Bernard thinks his train is wonderful.

Last week was Veterinary Conference at Ithaca. Wilburn attended. I met him at Dryden Wednesday p.m. and he took me to the banquet over there that night. Came back and staid the night at lvah’s then I drove the car home the next morning. Did some shopping in Cortland on the way. Sent the car back to Cortland Friday a.m. and he got a ride over with another Dr. Friday night and came up home and staid over night and back to Owego in the morning. He expected to get there so as to catch the train home but couldn’t make it so was not home over Sunday. We are hoping that won’t happen again.

Just now we have three hired men so our family is eight all the time and sometimes nine. It surely keeps the food moving. We killed a beef last week and have a quarter of that which helps out immensely.

Enclosed you will find the note to endorse. The month is slipping by so fast. But don’t mind having the cold go.

Must go to bed for morning comes so soon.

Love from us all

Florence

Tuesday evening
Sunday Afternoon

Dear Mother:-

Expect you will be surprised to find me in Owego today but our circumstances did not permit otherwise. Came down here last Monday night and staid until Wednesday afternoon when I met Florence in Dryden and that night we went to a banquet in Prudence Risley Hall given to the Alumni by the original faculty of the Veterinary College. The alumni has had painted each year a picture of the original faculty and presented the portrait to the University at Conference time. There were over two hundred present and a very fine time for all concerned.

We went back to Dryden that night and then the next morning Florence drove the Buick back home and I went back to Ithaca to attend the two day conference. Friday afternoon I came back to Cortland and then to Truxton. Saturday morning I intended to take the train back to Truxton last night but didn't finish in time and the roads are too bad to attempt a night trip. So thought it was better judgment to stay in Owego over Sunday and what time do you think I woke up this morning. Well it was nearly 12:00 so you see I am getting lazy by the minute. Yesterday was a terrible day one of the worst yet of this winter.

I have not been working very hard of late as it is so difficult to get around but my salary comes just the same and we are hoping that we can do enough to keep it coming to the first of May anyway. Then I can make pretty good at home. I don't like being away from there so much as there are so many problems coming up all the time and so many things I can attend to. We are busy drawing ice and wood these days and the chores have to be done so the fellows don't have much time to get into mischief.

Have wondered how you are? Wonder if your cold is better. I had a cold a couple weeks ago but feel much better. Folks at home have kept well except for slight colds so guess we are fortunate. Our storm windows have been a wonderful help in keeping the place warmer but how the fuel does disappear. It's nip and tuck to keep ahead but perhaps we'll have an early spring. It'll be a good thing to look forward to anyway.

Saw Dr. Danforth of Watertown at the Conference and happened to eat dinner at his table and related to him about his wife formerly living in Shelburne Falls etc. He was well acquainted with Sidney Wood and one of the Shaw boys (I suppose one of Old Elijah's) who was at Cornell and became famous as a wrestler.

Will close with lots of love and hope that you are keeping warm and well.

Lot of Love,

Wilburn
Truxton, NY

Dear Mother,

Have just talked with Wilburn and he says he hasn’t written you this week so guess I will scratch off a few lines. Should judge that Frank must be better or we would have heard from you. It is too bad he has to have it. Strength comes back so slowly afterwards and especially to a man of his years. Who is getting the meals for the nurses? Did they get a woman to come in and work or does Maud send over? Are you staying upstairs or down with Lucy? How are she and Henry? Has Myrtle gotten over her burn?

We have had a nice mild week and snow has disappeared, roads are bare a good deal of the way and the hills are about half bare. The wind howls around the corners to beat all tonight so guess we are going to have it colder and so slippery you can’t stand.

Uncle Wendell has been with us almost two weeks. He is planning on going tomorrow morning now. He says he must get home and straightened around ready to start for Portsmouth next week. He has done a lot of odd jobs around the place for us. Seemed to enjoy doing them and being here. Had a letter from Aunt Ida last week. She doesn’t know whether she is going to wait there for Uncle Bernard. He wants her to do so.

Our school is out tomorrow for a winter vacation of three weeks. They are planning a special dinner tomorrow provided by the boys of the school as they lost in a contest with the girls in attendance. Carleton is planning a few days visit with Herbert and Kenneth and Marian is going out to my sister for a couple of weeks. She has had the promise of going ever since summer. Bernard wanted to know today where he could have his vacation!

You asked about “Little Women” and I’ll have to say she has two copies now and read it at least three times! Don’t know what to recommend in its place. Don’t worry if you don’t get anything.

Must close as I am tired and have to be up and breakfast ready for nine by seven anyway. We have three hired men now.

Love from all

Florence
Dear Mother,

When I was talking with Wilburn last night he said that he had not written you yet this week, so I told him I would last night. It seems to be the next one now. But perhaps it will reach you now by Sat.

We do hope you are feeling better now. It seems like you had better pack your suit case and come out here. Our fires burn warm and it would save your fuel for some future date. We have been very comfortable this winter. Burned a lot of wood but guess we have to do that to keep warm anywhere. Don’t you think you could stand the trip. If you couldn’t and would like to ride--one of us would come to meet you. We think if you got into this crowd here you would feel more like eating and so get your strength back sooner.

We seem to have been usually busy. The weekends go so fast we hardly know they are here before they are gone. Last Sat. night we were up to Cuyler to Kenneys. Our Jolly Ten bunch had a farewell supper for the Schells. They go next week. We shall miss them very much. They are coming here for dinner this Sunday.

Last Wednesday Carleton went down to Cortland and staid the rest of the week and Galen, Bernard and I went down Friday morning and Bernard wanted to stay, too. So Friday night I hadn’t a child at home. Wilburn, tonight then all home when he came. Marian came down from Rochester to Sayre on Friday and Daddy met her and she staid over night at Waverly with him. He is working out from Waverly now so makes that his headquarters. He looked up a Mr. Paddock who is Gertie Paddock’s son. He lives there in Waverly and he is now rooming in a place where the lady is a friend of the Paddocks. He has a very nice room.

School began this week. Miss Sawyer returned Sunday. So we are back to our old routine. We have been having a terrible day, but the wind has gone down tonight. It has blown a gale all day and the thermometer only 12 degrees but we hope this is the last of the real winter.

Am wondering if Uncle Wendell will get up to see you. He was down in Portsmouth the last we heard. Why wouldn’t that be a could time to come to Herkimer then he could look after your bag etc? Am wondering if Aunt Ida has gone back to Mass.

There doesn’t seem to be any special news so guess I had better shut off the radio and go to bed. The reception is very good tonight over the radio.

Love from all
the Potters
Tuesday Evening

Dear Mother:-

I am writing just a few lines to let you know that I am still moving around the country. Since Feb 8 I have been in Waverly and met Frank Paddock. Think he is doing quite well now. At least don't see why he shouldn't as he has a good job and no car. Of course I don't know what his past might have been. He has boy (Clark) about Carleton's age and a girl (Ethel) about Marian's only smaller in size. He is a Mason and Moose. Uncle Wendell has been visiting his people you know.

Our kiddies had a very interesting letter from him (Uncle Wendell). Think he enjoyed his two weeks at our place very much. He was tinkering at something most of the time he was there. He put a shelf back of the stove to hold our numerous gloves and mittens.

I didn't come back down here until today as Galen is ill and don't seem to get much better. We have one extra good homey fellow with us now. He came the first of March and now says he will stay a year. Hope he will this summer anyway. We are making about 700 lbs of milk a day now and should get up to a 1000 -1200 by the first of June. Our milk checks have been better and the future for this summer at least is much better. But never the less it is a long hard row as the interest counts up so fast. It's all right when it's accumulating but when it's going out it's different.

Bernard was very much pleased with his tractor which came in the mail before I left this morning. He instructed Carleton that he must not push it ahead. Yesterday Florence had a pillow in the seat of his pants when we came up to breakfast. Marian and Carleton both have bicycles to ride to School now so they come home to dinner.

Must close now and get ready for bed.

         Lots of Love

                          Wilburn
Dear Mother:—

I have been writing to you all the week but just have kept putting it off and perhaps you know that procrastination is one of my worst faults. I am all right when I get started but it is a terrible job to get me started. Was so sorry to hear that your stomach is wrong and wish I might do something to help. You didn't tell me the Doctor's name and address that you went to see. Did he say it would be best to stay out there or to come here? If you think I better come out I can just leave things and come. I do hope that it may be better shortly.

We are very busy as usual. It has not seemed much like Sunday here today as I have been catching up a lot of little things that needed doing that the fellows didn't get around to do as fixing stanchions, water buckets, exhaust pipe from engine, then one side of the ice house let some of the saw dust out and that had to be straightened out. The milking machines haven't been working just right so Mr. Cooper came out from Cortland today and we got them going better. So perhaps they can go another week.

It has been very dry here and we succeeded in getting our oats all planted before it stormed Thursday night so now that is out of the way. Hope you like this ink but it seems to be all that we have in the house. We are making a lot of milk now nearly 12 cans a day. That's the most we ever made at this time of the year. Just seems as if we might get up to 14 cans when the cows go out on grass. Milk is much higher than it has been so our income is a little better. It look as if the milk prices would be better for the next two or three years to come unless we have too keen competition from the west and Canada.

I am enclosing the Muller note which is due the 29th. We are reducing it gradually but slowly but hope by fall we'll be quite a bit ahead. Let us hear by return mail what we may plan on. Your birthday letter and contents came yesterday for which I thank you but think you did too much as I so slow.

Must close with lots of love from all the people at Truxton

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

I am stopping this noon to write you a line so that you will receive it by Mother's Day. I hope that this fine Spring weather will give you an additional bracer and make you feel better than ever. Was glad that the Orange Doctor seemed to think that the Boston Doctor was wrong. Wish I might drop in on you and let you wrestle with Bernard a while. He is wide awake alright but don't know as he has anything on the others when they were his age. They are all well and very busy. I hate to be away from home so much as I always did enjoy being at home from a small lad. We are expecting that you will come this way just as soon as possible. If you think it would be easier for you we could come out with the car when the weather is warmer.

This has been an interrupted week. Went to Cortland Monday with the intention of coming on here but due to trouble went back home that night. Tuesday I started out with the Ford and came down and injected about 75 head and on way back I took some pigs which I had bought but finally didn't get home until after midnight. The next day I did some tinkering around home and Cortland in the a.m. Then started out for here in the afternoon but didn't inject any cattle. Yesterday went to Barton and Waverly and today have been to Union and now am ready to start out again.

Just now we have three men at home trying to get things done on time and especially while the help is available. Manure to spread on the flats. Pasture fences to fix, garden to make besides all the chores. Making nearly 12 cans of milk a day and we are hoping to take in nearly a thousand dollars gross income for May and June.

I must close with the most love from us all for you.

Affectionately

Wilburn
Monday Evening

Dear Mother:-

Just a few lines before I go to bed. It has been a busy time since I wrote Friday. Home Saturday but didn't get to bed very early as a party from Syracuse came down to sell a bull and he staid and staid. Sunday I helped with the chores and then went to church after dinner we went to Cortland. Got home about five and helped with the chores again. After supper had a story and got to bed about 9:30. Didn't get up quite as early this morning but started for Cortland at 7:00 to get some castings fixed on the manure spreader. Bernard went with me but we didn't get home until nearly noon. Helped get the spreader fixed and left for down here about three. Injected about fifty head and had supper at 8:15. Have written a couple of letters and think I will soon turn in for the night.

There has been a regular cloud burst in this section today. Plenty of rain up home but not too much. Grass and oats are growing fine. Our corn ground is all plowed and so we are in good shape. Haven't touched the pasture fences but guess we'll get to it some time. The children set a hen on duck eggs Saturday night.

Hope this letter won't be too much of a shock after the other one. Hope the spring weather is agreeing with you.

Must close with Love.

Wilburn
THE AH-WA-GA HOTEL
OWEGO, N.Y.
Tuesday Eve

Dear Mother:-

Just a few lines before I go to bed. To let you know that all is well here. Wish you were feeling just as well. I've intended to write several times but kept putting it off.

Went home Saturday. Sunday we had quite a day as the Schells came from Oneonta Saturday night and staid with us. Had a full house alright but Bernard slept on the floor. Sunday we didn't go to church but Florence and the children went to Sunday School. I had two sick cows to attend to. Then we had dinner and went to Cortland in the afternoon. Helped with the chores and then went up to Beatties for a picnic supper which was nearer a dinner but it was good anyway.

Monday we were home all day. I helped fix fence. Then at night we started our garden. No, now we have peas and corn in. Will get some more in soon. I fixed up the radiator on the Buick and left for Cortland about noon. Had to buy a new suit on the way as mine was so shabby. It's the old blue one I've had so long. This is a cheaper suit with 2 pair of pants the first one I ever had with two pair.

Our flats have been covered with water but it is drying up and we will start planting corn tomorrow. The grass is growing so fast. Looks like a bumper crop. We have twenty tons to carry over.

Think I must close for night. Hoping you are much better.

Love, Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

Just a line before I leave for Spencer. Came to Owego yesterday and staid here last night. Didn't do a great lot yesterday and didn't get up very early this morning and have just been hanging around. Have just had dinner and had a visit with Mr. Smith, a wealthy gentleman of this village. He has a farm in Candor and is ready to test.

Haven't much to write about except that the weather is just lovely. Marian goes to Ithaca tomorrow on the Junior project tour. She is planning on it greatly and I imagine Florence will be rather lost with only Bernard at home. We had to plant one piece of corn over this year. Think that is the first that we ever planted over. It will be rather late but we decided that was the best thing to do.

Mr. Blanchard has gone to Ithaca. He is very busy touring the county and attending meetings. He is a mighty fine clean fellow. Doesn't believe in soft soaping.

How are you feeling today? Hope the beautiful sun is doing you good. Have you had that chicken yet? Shall I send one live or dressed? Better get some real good sirloin steak it'll do you good.

Haven't written much except to let you know we are still moving along a little.

Lots of Love

Wilburn
Florence and I are setting at the dining room table discussing our many problems. Just at present we are wondering where we are going to find another man to labor for us. We had three but two have gone and only Galen is left again with forty cows to milk. But there is one some where as there always has been before. We are still drawing our milk in fourteen cans and thus we will make four or five thousand pounds more than any month before.

This has been a very busy week as they all are. I went to Owego Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Spencer. Wednesday night I met Florence in Owego and with Mr & Mrs Irving Burdick, we went to Binghamton to the Dairymen’s League meeting and back to Owego for the night. Then we went back again Thursday for all day session. President Slocum of the League and Ex-Governor Louden of Illinois spoke in the afternoon. About 2500 were present. I went back to Spencer for Friday & Sat. Came home last night about 5:00 and then to Cortland in the evening. Today we went to church, had dinner and then went to De Ruyter to see Martin Kibbe who used to work for us. We went with Schyler Roberts and of course he had to have a flat tire in the pouring rain. We got back home at five, Galen had the milking well started.

Have wondered how you are feeling? We have been having some dandy weather but too dry. We have had a nice rain today but don’t believe it has soaked in very much as yet. Our corn looks fine on two fields but on a third the seed did not come good so think we will replant it this week. It’s pretty late but maybe late fall will be in order this year.

It doesn’t seem as if haying time is so near here but they say we should get at it after next week so I suppose we’ll have to. We have a lot of ground to cut over and think the big barn will be more than full. Just hope we can have some decent weather.

Edmund and Emma and the children were out last week and Carleton went back with them for a while. It seems a little short with only two youngsters around. E & E are planning to build a new house this summer. Marian took her first regents examination last week. It was Geography. We haven’t heard whether she passed it or not. They don’t look too well on the country pupils in Truxton but we are hoping that she may get it. I promised her a dollar if she passed.

Hope you are much improved and that you’ve had that chicken dinner. Just as soon as you can come we’ll have all you need. Must close with Lots of Love.

Wilburn

186
Dear Grandma Potter,

I thought I would write you and tell you about my trip to Ithaca. We went Wednesday and came back yesterday. It was Junior Field Days at Ithaca for the 4-H Clubs.

There were ten girls and our leader from Truxton. We stayed at Cascadilla Hall near the end of the Campus. It was a long walk from there to Bailey Hall where we assemble.

All the girls from Truxton wore blue dresses. Thursday morning we went to three different lectures. One was about music in the 4-H Clubs. Miss Fannie Buchanan was in charge of that and of the Music Memory Contest Thursday night. Thursday afternoon there was a play entitled "The Straw Man". After that one could take tours about the Campus. That night there was the Campfire supper. We had weiners, rolls, salad, cocoa and ice cream. After the supper we went to Bailey Hall and several counties put on stunts.

Friday morning there were more lectures. We took in two out of the three. 'Bob' Adams recited some rhymes for us. There were 187 motion pictures to represent a song. Then we had a group picture in front of Bailey Hall. After the picture we went down to the headquarters and played games.

We bought our supper and took it down to the lake for supper that night. When we got home we went to Bailey Hall for the Candle lighting ceremony. The four delegates from this state that were at the Washington Camp were there and gave us a report of their trip. Saturday we came home.

We went to the museum while we were there. There are all kinds and descriptions of animal there. There are lions and tigers and monkeys and skeletons of animals and birds. I had a lovely time.

When are you coming to see us?

Carleton is out to Auntie Emma's.

Are you sending me the needle craft?

Write soon.

Love

Marian

187
W. H. POTTER, D. V. M.
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK

Wednesday Morning

Dear Mother:-

It is just a little after six and will take a few minutes before breakfast to write a few lines to you. Was very glad when we received your letter to Marian.

I have been home since a week ago Saturday night and have been working somewhat more strenuously than for a long time. Our haying has progressed fine this year. We have three men beside all the children and forty three loads in the barn already. Probably have 10-12 more cut. Galen will mow again this morning. We bought a new mowing machine this year which has worked fine. We never had a haying when things have gone along any better.

George William came home with us from Aunt Carrie's after the Fourth. He has been having a delightful time. Gets to be more of a farmer and used to farm ways every year. He has been doing most everything this year. I wrote Mrs. Cowans at Huntingville a couple or week ago and received an answer last night. I wrote about cattle and evidently she thought that I was coming that way anyway but I intended to say that I should like to.

Our latest ailment in the family is a mild form of whooping cough which Bernard is entertaining. The neighbor’s children up the road have had the same thing but it seems rather mild for the real thing. Marian successfully made her first Regents in Geography getting 86% which was very good for the exam and the teacher we have marking them. Several in Truxton school didn’t make it. She is very much pleased.

How are you feeling now? Just seems as if this fine weather should help a lot. We are enclosing the Muller note which you will note is reduced little by little. We are handling a lot of money now so seems as if we should catch up some. Must close with lots of Love to you from us all

Wilburn
Dear Mother,

How are you this hot morning? Have my baking done and let the fire out-- will iron on the oil stove. Am anticipating a nice cool time! But it is great hay weather, so we are not complaining. While Wilburn is home to help we are glad of good weather.

Don’t you feel well enough to come out yet? It would be nice if you could be here while Wilburn is home. He is home so little the rest of the time.

Vance called on us one day last week. He is attending Cornell summer school. We are expecting him over to stay the weekend this week.

Would you feel more like getting started if we could get out to help you? It seems like our porch and spare room must be cooler than your rooms there. How is Cousin Lucy? Is Henry better?

Must get busy or won’t get done this morning.

Love from us all

Florence

Lucy Pollard and Grandma Marion E. Potter--cousins
50th high school reunion 1938
Dear Mother:-

The milk train is just going toward Truxton, Bernard and Matt our Finish hired man have gone with the milk while Florence and Marian are getting breakfast so it seems that Carleton is the only one who is not down stairs at 6:15 but we haven't been up a great while.

All have worked with the idea of getting something done this haying. We are drawing from the hill now which makes it a little slower and harder. Last night we had ninety loads in the barn with about thirty left to draw so you see we are getting along nicely. Generally we don't get done to way along in Aug. But this year with good weather we will finish next week. Geo. William went home Saturday after spending three weeks here.

I expect to go back to Owego next Monday but I dislike to very much. I hate to be away from here and only hope that we make our business so that it will seem best to stay on the farm. Had a letter from Mr. Blanchard the Farm Bureau Agent at Owego yesterday and he said he had arranged three meetings for next week. One at Newark Valley, Berkshire and Richford. So you see we will be on the lecture platform next week.

Vance drove in here Sunday night and staid over night leaving at 6 in the morning for Ithaca where he is taking summer school. He has had two or three more weeks over there. He said all the family was coming to Herkimer in a couple of weeks. He said Frances came up in a Marmon car. While Atlee has a Dodge. Vance an old Ford and I have an old Buick. Quite a variety. Uncle Bernard has a Rickenbacker. So you see there is a diversity of likes & ideas.

There doesn't seem to be much to write about. We received another milk check on the twenty fifth showing that we made over a 1000 lbs a day for May & June but they are shrinking just now so it won't make so much difference in the check.

We are wishing you many happy returns of the twenty-ninth and that you may come this way soon. Wish we might drop in and see you.

Love to you from all here

Wilburn-
1-16-27
Ivah’s---Aunt Ivah Snyder Bean, widow of our Uncle Walter Bean, moved to Dryden with two sons Herbert and Kenneth and lived with her parents.

6-3-27
Mr. and Mrs Irving Burdick---farmers in Cuyler, where Crains Mills Road meets Rt 13. Good friends and good farmers. Mrs. Burdick’s name was---Wayva (sp)

7-16-27
let the fire go---the kitchen range was a wood stove and it heated up the entire kitchen. oil stove---3 burner kerosene in the back room--Florence heated the irons on it in the summer time for ironing

7-27-27
Milk train---we could watch the train go up and down the valley from the kitchen window

Finnish hired man--Wilburn met Finladers in Spencer and hired some to work on the farm---this man’s name was Matt Matson

Lecture platform---The Farm Bureau agent arranged information meetings in the various towns and the veterinarian explained the Tuberculosis disease and the testing program as sponsored by New York state. Wilburn had to be a salesman for the program and did very well.

Vance’s family---Children of Uncle Wendell and Aunt Anna--first cousins of Wilburn. another of this family, was Margie, who died as a young woman.

Wilburn’s only other first cousin was Manley, son of Uncle Bernard and Aunt Ida. His widow, Edna, still lives in Gettysburg, Pa--has two sons--Carl and Alan. Manley was a favorite of us all and a great piano player.
Sunday Evening

Dear Mother,

Had thought Wilburn would have time to write tonight but he has gone to Lincklean to take our new hired man, or rather boy, over to get his clothes. He is just a young lad but hope he will be of some help.

It is a real snappy night out and with just enough snow to look even colder. Did not get out to church but did for Sunday School. Guess I was just too lazy about crawling out in the morning.

Wilburn finished the inspection work for the Dairymen's League on Wednesday. He had been gone almost every day for a week doing it. It took him over on the Scott Road and way up thru Sempronius and to Lake Como. Monday I went as far as Homer with him and spent the day at Aunt Carrie's. Ada washed and waved my hair, then took me to Cortland to do a few errands. After that we all went over to Arnold's Greenhouses to see the chrysanthemums. They were gorgeous and thousands of them all colors. They supply trade in Syracuse, Auburn and some in other places. They surely were a sight worth seeing.

Got home that night and found Carleton had had an accident on the way home from school but came out of it with only a slight bruise. So guess he sails under a lucky star. He fell off from a load of wood and the back wheel passed over him. Can't see why it did not hurt him terrible but I guess he is tough. He did not go to school the next day but has been every since and feels fine.

Thursday I was in Cortland all day to a Home Bureau meeting, went up and had dinner with Mother Emma. Was down again yesterday buying clothes for the boys--a new suit for Carleton, shoes for both of them and over shoes for Carleton. It was a rather strenuous afternoon.

We are expecting to go over to Aunt Clara's for Thanksgiving. Have invited my family here for Friday evening. You got back to Orange the day you left almost as soon as we got back to Truxton. We shopped, did not get back until quite a bit after five.

Marian has tests again this week. Bernard is fine and for couple days they had a grand time sledding. Mrs. Smith is fine. A friend brought her back this afternoon so did not have to meet the bus. School seems to be going right along with Duane still having his share of troubles.

It is getting late so will get the fires fixed up and think Wilburn will be here.

Love from all,

Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother:—

The clock has just struck eight so will have time to pen a few lines before we go to bed. This has been a real cold windy day, mercury down to sixteen nearly all the time. It takes the wood but we have it to take. Hope to get in the woods this week to start cutting some more. About all we have been doing is regular chores, cutting cabbage refuse but that is nearly over as we have it all under cover. We sold our cabbage directly from the lot for $22 a ton, the red brought thirty while we didn't have such a heavy crop still they netted more than usual.

The children are very well and busy getting ready for Christmas. All of us except Marian went to Cortland yesterday to shop and get some work done on the old coupe. Carleton and Bernard had wonderful time looking over the toys but think they made their heaviest buys at Woolworths. Bernard had fifty cents when he started out and still had money left when he came back. Marian is growing just as fast as ever and seems to be getting along nicely in school with her music. She stays down Thursday night as the milk truck does not get her there in time for her music.

The ladies of the church had their sale and supper this week netting something over a hundred. Mr. Hunter is very active in the social end and likes to sing and talk. Friday evening they had an Epworth League social. Marian attended and we went over to Carley and Anna's and played cards. The Ladies weekly card party came off again Tuesday night. They have six tables this year.

I see all stocks are down. Came pretty near writing and telling you to sell when it was up to 146. If we had, the other fellow would be taking the loss, but they say you can't lose what you never had. Did you ever get those figures from that Commission House in Boston?

I've look at a lot of Sedans but have not found just exactly what we are looking for. They are either too heavy or too light or too old or too young. Too high or too low in price so we keep right on driving the coupe and now it has one window broken out in the door. Guess that's for ventilation but must have it in this week. Yesterday saw a dandy Buick Sedan only a year old for $900. One that you would feel proud to ride in.

The clock has just struck nine so I must stop and go to the barn and feed the calves and give the cows a few cabbage. Hope you are all improving and that it is a lot warmer there than here. Will close with Lots of Love.

from the Potters at Truxton.
Dear Mother:-

This letter is to wish you a very Happy Christmas for all of us at Truxton. We are sending by Express a small package which you are to use a lot. It has much work it can do for you so let it work. Better let Henry help you get it in working order. This has been a very busy Christmas for those in the house. Florence is sending a couple of papers in the box so don't overlook them.

We are all well and so busy. Last night there were 84 down at school to the exercises. I was in Syracuse yesterday. Florence at the card party evening before and so you can see we are still going.

Must hasten this for the mail so you will get it in time for Xmas.

Love from all Truxton Potters

Cousins all play croquet at the farm in Truxton--c. 1928
rear: George Hazzard, Marian Potter, Gerald Bean
middle: Virginia Hazzard, Carleton and Bernard Potter, Herbert and Kenneth Bean
front: Joan Bean and Ruth Hazzard
Dear Grandma,

I got your package you sent me for my birthday all safely. The stockings and the beads were lovely. So was the dollar bill.

The bloomers and the pin is what I need. I thank you very much. I got 3 pins, (all different), 2 pairs silk bloomers, 5 hankerschieves, a towel and wash cloth, writing paper, a book bag, a regular brief case, book ends, cloth for kimona, a dish to put my beads in, a compact, weekend set and a powder can all decorated up to look like a flower. I think I got well remembered.

Daddy had a Christmas present but he isn't going to keep. When he got home he found a little baby calf. Its mother was two years old the same day. Our Sunday School Class went out and sang Carols the night before Christmas. The church didn't have a tree this year. They had a free supper.

We went over to Aunt Carrie's for Christmas. There was only fifteen of us.

Our 4-H Club is going to have a party New Years eve and see the the old year out and the new year in. Bernard was down to John's all the morning. Daddy forgot him when he came home and had to go back after him.

The sun is trying to shine but it can't get out from behind the clouds.

It's almost dinner time so will close.

Love
Marian
notes 1928
As these 1928 letters did not start until November, am assuming that Grandma Potter had spent some time in Truxton and therefore no letter writing. I also believe this was the year that Wilburn spent much time in Onondaga County testing for tuberculosis as he did in Tioga County---bwp

11-26-28
Dairymen’s League---Cooperative owned by farmer’s to market milk
Ada--Aunt Ada Bean--lived with Aunt Carrie Allport at 87 S. Main St, Homer and operated a beauty parlor there.
Home Bureau---In the beginning an organization of rural women for the purpose of helping them improve their skills in home making. This is the first of many references of Florence’s involvement.

Duane--- ?
12-10-28
Carley and Anna’s---Carley and Anna Feeter--neighbors and friends
Stocks--referring to investments in Kennecott Copper

12-22-28
Henry---Henry Pollard, husband of Cousin Lucy. Grandma Potter lived in an upstairs apartment in Pollard’s home--after Aunt Esther’s death
down at school---district school Wicksville

12-29-28
John’s---John Feeter, John and Isabelle’s son, buddy and lifetime friend of Bernard, lives in Lockport today
Dear Mother:-

I have been writing this letter for several days to acknowledge and thank you for all our nice Xmas presents. We have been just as busy as ever and now we have taken on another task, that of drawing the milk from Truxton to Homer. We purchased a G.M.C. truck and started drawing Jan. 1st. I have new help all the way around. McIntyre got thru the third of January and a young lad I had went a few days before so now we have two very good fellows. Help is very plentiful. We have a newly married couple who will move into the house as soon as McIntyres leave which we hope will be soon. They are in our home now.

I have watched Kennecott Copper with interest lately. Spoke to Mr. Alley the President of the Second National the other day. He said copper has been very active and whether they'll go higher one guess is as good as another. He said anyway you've made a excellent commission if you sell now. I see it topped 163 Saturday. I asked him what he thought of General Motors(____) at its present price. He said it had been a very good buy and expected it to continue. It is quoted at around 80 now. According to that mining paper, Kennecott dividends are issued in Jan. or Feb. so perhaps it might be a good policy to hold until after that. Probably if we don't let it go we will wish we had. The next time I'm in Cortland I'll find out more.

We are wondering if Mrs. Hazzard has written you at all and what their decision and yours are. Our old coupe quit entirely the other day so now we letting our friends use their cars. We either stay at home or go with them.

It is now Monday noon. The washing is done, milk drawn, chores all done and the wind blowing a gale, mercury down to 12 above. Last week we made a double door for the south stable door so that helps it wonderfully. Last night Schuyler was down drove his car with the old license on. I bought a used Delco plant which operates so much better than ours that we are having quite good lights. Think perhaps this will put us thru the winter. The men have worked in the woods quite a bit and I have bargained for some slabs so may be we get by. As it is now dinner time will stop, hoping you are feeling fine.

Love to all
Wilburn
Monday P.M.

Dear Mother,

Wilburn has written all the news, I guess, but want to say thanks for the lovely things you sent for Christmas. 'Ts seems as tho' you did too much.

The package containing the bedspreads came today in the mail. Many thanks. They are very acceptable.

The children are all in school again today. They are keeping very well and am in hopes they will keep it right up. Guess they will if I keep a supply of cod liver oil on hand.

Made Marian a dress the week before Christmas. It is rose colored flannel and very becoming to her.

There is a postponed Home Bureau meeting this afternoon at Nellie Woodward's. Grace just called me and said Bernice would come for me so guess I shall have to hurry.

Wonder if you have decided to come out when Mrs. Hazzard's sister leaves. You haven't said how you were feeling but judged you were out by the places you have been going. Must get the dishes done.

Love from All,

Florence
Dear Mother and Lucy:-

It is very cold this morning 10 below at seven o'clock at our north window--16 at the neighbors. But the mercury has gone up twenty degrees now. We have had a time with our water again this year. It froze in the cellar wall but now that is going again. The truck started good this morning so that was in our favor.

We all were so sorry to hear that you had caught cold this winter but trust that you will gain rapidly. Lucy will do you so much good and if you need anything from us don't hesitate to tell us.

The McIntyres moved yesterday to East River. So now we will have a different man in soon. Marian went on the truck this morning and guess she will stay down until Friday night. Here's hoping your feeling better and that Lucy will keep us posted.

Love from all
Wilburn
4--Post marked February 7, 1929--written by Wilburn to
Mrs. Marion E. Potter, 276 N. Main St, Orange, Mass

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W. H. POTTER, D. V. M.
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK

Wednesday Eve.

Dear Mother:-

As the hour is late will pen a few lines that you may know of our doing
the routine work together with drawing the milk to Homer. Thought we would have a
picture of the truck so you could see what it looks like. Florence has gone to the card
club tonight at Marlea Root’s. She lives very near the M.E. Parsonage. We went to
the Grange Card Party last week but don’t know whether will go this week or not. I
drew the milk yesterday and didn’t get home until late as we had some work done on
the truck.

Florence and I were in Cortland and Homer Friday. It was a terrible day, very
windy. We have finally laid the coupe up and now the touring car doing its bit. A little
windy but always goes.

The children seem to be as well as usual, Marian comes home nearly every
night, sometimes she goes on the truck in the A.M. and then again on the Bus.
Carleton and Bernard seem to be having lots of fun in the snow, sliding, plowing and
rolling. We seem to have plenty of snow in our yard but now I suppose the sun will
begin to be higher and higher every day.

See in today’s paper the Kennecott went up to 163--another $50 or $60 day I
suppose. I also see the Gen Motor (New) is coming up a little. I am very much
interested to see what the increase of stock will do Kennecott Copper. Wonder if you
will get the same dividend this time.

Wonder how you are feeling now. Talked with Mr. Hazzard the other day.
Mrs. H. had not been feeling well. Guess Aunt Jessie stays until the middle of Feb.
Emma H. has been having quite a sick time I guess. Was in bed several days and was
pretty wobbly for a while but guess she’s much improved now.

Don’t forget that a good juicy steak will help a lot, also that lamb chops are awful
good for you and that they won’t hurt your pocketbook a bit. A little chicken will help
some.

Wish you were where you could drop in tonight maybe you will soon. Must
close and go to bed as morning will soon be here.

Love to you
from all the Truxton Potters

200
Dear Mother:—

It is about noon and while Florence and the boys are at Sunday School and Marian is in bed will pen you our doings. We are all very well except Marian and she'll be better soon. She came home Friday night with the measles and Florence has had her in bed ever since but think she acts better today. She's had quite a fever. Guess this is the longest she's ever been in bed.

Our tenant man Bennett fell last week and hurt his back while drawing the milk so I've been with the milk this week. We are now drawing eighty one cans so it makes quite a load. I just got back today a little after eleven leaving home a little before seven. Up till the first of April the milk is supposed to be in before nine but after that an hour earlier.

Yes I watched Kenn. Copper closely and our only wonder is where it will end. See today that it closed yesterday over 103. Have tho' several times how much would have been made if one had invested when it was down to fourteen. Guess if we invested in it instead of the farm we would have been quite a good many dollars ahead. I also see that General Motors and U.S. Steel have taken a climb.

Sugaring seems to be the order of the day here but the weather has been so rainy that very little syrup has been made. Last night it turned colder and today it is too cold for sap to run. Perhaps it will warm up tomorrow.

I don't know what became of the checks supposed of course that I cashed them but perhaps I mislaid them. We are still driving the touring car probably Robert had a real nice one. What kind was it? Hope Myrtle is improving.

Why don't you pack your duds and start out. You know this place has plenty going on so you don't have to think about ones self. (later) Dinner is over and it is nearly three o'clock soon time for chores again. The days pass by pretty fast but it some times seems to me as if I wasn't getting anywhere.

Don't seem to have a great deal to write so will stop for now and promise that your next will be answered sooner than this.

Love from all
Wilburn
Truxton, New York
March 20, 1929

Dear Grandma,

We're having quite a time here with measles and chicken pox. I have measles. I came home from school with them Friday night. I'm getting along very nicely. I have been in bed since I got home but the doctor said I could get up. Carleton has the chicken pox. There's quite a bit around. I had my six weeks test Thursday and Friday so I didn't miss my tests.

Mother has charge of the Easter program at the church. She's making crepe paper hats for some of the little ones in their drills. Blue, yellow, purple and pink hats with yellow pon pons on them. They're real cute.

The weather's pretty good. It rained a little this afternoon. The sap runs pretty good. One of the girls brought me a cake of sugar the other morning. Emma and Muriel Knupp came up to see me a few minutes last night before they went over to practice their dialogue. Mother had to go to drill them.

Carleton has stayed home from school yesterday and today. I went to the show last Wednesday night. I saw 'Lilac Time'. It was real good. I went with one of the girls down at school. Her name is Arla Miller.

Linus Smith is working for us now. We have Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith comes in to talk when she gets home from school. Talks about school work.

I am corresponding with a girl in Washington. Her name is similar to mine. It's Maisie Potter.

Our Easter vacation starts a week from Thursday night. I don't know just how long we have. The boys get out Monday night but neither are going the rest of the week.

When are you coming out? I think I have written enough for me so will close.

With Love
Marian
Dear Mother:-

While I am waiting for the milk truck to return from Cheningo will pen a line to let you know that we are all well except. You see we are entertaining measies and chicken pox, Marian having both. The boys only the latter. Florence had a twist with her back and was in bed a couple days but is better now but her back is pretty sore and weak. Guess that covers our troubles in the house.

Made a fellow an offer on a very nice used Jewett Sedan this past week but he sold it the next for some more than I wanted to give. Was to look at another one but they sold that before I got there. That was a Cadillac. Will find some thing that will suit me some time. This wasn't long but you'll know how we are.

Love for all,

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

I have been writing several days to let you know that we are all well and just as busy as ever. Thanks for the birthday check. It seems that the days go by so fast. Just at present we are very low on help having only the tenant man. While a week ago we had three. Started the milking machine last night, the first since last July but it got so we couldn't do it with the men I've had lately. Sunday morning I milked 21 while the other fellows only got 17. We have been very busy with the milk hauling and the social duties. I was in Syracuse one day last week. Grange card party one night and Dairymen's League meeting Saturday night. Florence took in the Bridge party, Grange and Dairymen's League. Tomorrow night is the annual school meeting as well as the district meeting of the Dairymen's League. During April, we hauled about 200,000 lbs of milk to Homer and looks like more for the next two months anyway.

You know we have been talking a good used car for a long while, well we think we have found a car that fills the bill but cost just a little more than we wanted to put in. But about the same as a new Ford or Chevrolet. It is a Studebaker Four Door Sedan 1928 model "Commander" and has been run only a few thousand miles, owned by a private party and sold only to settle an estate. While the car sells new for $1675. They have been asking $900 and $1000 but we have been able to buy for $800. Now will you take my Dairymen's League Certificates which pay 6% and send me enough cash to buy the car. Its an auto which we all can enjoy and proud to own. If you can do this please do it right away. We expect to come out to Orange soon after we get this car.

I see the Kennecott is taking a spurt again. Don't you think it might be advisable to sell if it nets 100? You have made a nice commission whether it goes higher or not. It don't seem possible that it could go much higher.

Must close and go to bed as 4:15 comes rather quickly.

Love from all

Wilburn
Sunday Eve,

Dear Mother:-

It is nearly nine o'clock but will write to let you know that we are still in existence. Time rolls so fast we can hardly keep up. We have the car and we think its fine and hope it meets your approval. I had expected to be in Mass. this week but everything is so late that we will have to put it off a couple of weeks. We wonder if you cannot come back and stay. The Hazzards are very anxious to know if you can keep Grandma G. company. She's just as well as ever but must have companionship. They drove up here the other night but we were away, so Florence talked with them when in Cortland.

At present we are making over a thousand pounds of milk a day and are drawing two big loads of milk to Homer each day. Between 9 & 10 thousand pounds. The weather has been terribly hot until today. The mercury was up to 90 on Decoration Day and tonight its about 40. We have no corn in the ground yet but expect to shortly.

We all went to church today. A student form Cazenovia spoke. It was his first attempt and we enjoyed him better the regular minister so guess he did well. Mr. Hunter has gone to Penn, his home, for a few days.

Florence and I went to Cortland last night to the Dairymen's League meeting. A program by the Virgil Local was entertaining. We expect to attend the annual meeting (at Syracuse) which comes this month. George Fitts was there in all his glory. He has grown to be an important man in the organization and he has put on a good many pounds in weight.

Must close for this time hoping that it is warmer in Mass. than here.

Lots of Love,

From all the Potters at Truxton
notes 1929

1-7-29
Schuyler---Schuyler Roberts, farmer lived on South Hill, came down many times to visit Florence and Wilburn and eat popcorn on Sunday nights!
Delco---gas engine generator for 32 volt electric power in house and barn---most rural farms still relied on lamps and lanterns for lighting
cod liver oil---vitamin A & D, we had to take it all winter long---ugh
Nellie---Nellie and Ernest Woodward, friends, he operated feed store in Truxton
Grace---Beattie, lived in Truxton
Bernice---Bernice Baldwin Lucy lived in Truxton
Mr. and Mrs. Hazzard---Uncle Edmund's father and mother---many references to them

2-7-29
M.E. parsonage---Methodist Episcopal parsonage---now, 1998, lived in by Wally Seamons, next to Brown's garage
on the bus---Marian went to Cortland high school---seven passenger car traveled regularly from Cazenovia to Cortland as a bus

3-21-29
Linus Smith---his family on South Hill---he lived with us and worked on our farm
Mrs. Smith---Gertrude, school teacher at Wicksville, boarded with Florence and Wilburn---these Smiths were not related

W. L. Bean and Grandma Emma Gilbert Bean Bean and his new Franklin auto ready for a Florida honeymoon --- Thanksgiving 1932

Honeymooning in Florida Dec. 7, 1932
W. H. POTTER, D. V. M.
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK
Sunday Evening

Dear Mother:-

It is exactly 8:00 E.S.T. by the radio and we have just returned from Baldwinsville. Today has been a little warmer but the last week has been so cold and wet that many have had to replant their corn. We went to church, then to Ernest and Nellie Woodward's for dinner. After dinner we started for a ride going to Syracuse, over Onondaga Hill past the County Farm to Fairmount, to the Airport at Amboy and then to B'ville.

Our peas are all up, grain in and five acres of corn. We will plant the rest this week. Time flies so fast for I suppose we are so busy. Monday last we drew syrup to Homer making three trips with the Brockway. Tuesday John and I drew two loads of cows for Ben Pudney who has just bought a farm at Palmyra 168 mile trip. Got a late start and then had some trouble with the Brockway so didn't get home until nearly three in the morning. Wednesday I went to Glen Haven after four heifers and it just rained all the way.

Marian has been just about as busy with all her doings. She went to 4-H Rally in Cortland yesterday and won a couple of firsts in judging. All the children have been busy with their gardens and lawn. The bicycle occupies a good deal of their time. Tonight Bernard was figuring that they only had fourteen days more of school.

Mrs. Smith (Gertrude) won honors at the Normal and goes to Owego to teach this year. Knupp and she go to church every Sunday night so I suppose he'll have to go to Owego to church now.

Saw in the paper that Dr. Conklin--75-- is dead. I remember that he used to come to our house in Shelburne Falls. Carley Feeter came from Boston by bus the other day. Also Bill Cooper, agent for the New Idea Spreader Company and four others hired ________ of the Cortland Airport to take them to Boston. The flying time took them about 1-3/4 hours and whole trip cost them $48.00 a piece. Cooper claims that the R.R. fares, Pullman etc would be about the same.

The Hazzards were up this afternoon while we were away to tell of of their trip. The Eastern States T.B. Convention meets in Albany this week.

The Dairymen's League convention is in Albany June 19 and Florence and I have been elected Delegates from this local. Think this is quite a letter so think I better stop for this time.

Will close with Lots of Love
from all the Truxton Potters

207
Truxton, New York
July 7, 1930

Dear Grandma:

I have been having measles this last week. When I came down with the measles I was out Auntie Emmas. I laid on the back seat all covered up coming home Monday morning when we came home. We left Carleton out with George William till the fourth of July. I was not able to go down to Aunt Carries for fourth of July but I got and went out doors and shot off some firecrackers. Now I've got to go down to the barn. They are unloading hay now.

Yours very truly

Love Bernard

the following is a note, on the same letter, written by Florence

We seem to be usually busy George is here with us now. Have only two men in the house here now but one in the tenant house.

Bernard is feeling quite good again but rather thin. Our early peas will be ready the last of the week. Am trying to get at the washing this morning but seem to be slow at it.

Glad you had a nice trip up country. How is Myrtle?

Love from all

Florence
Thursday Evening

Dear Mother:-

Have just finished supper and also finished haying except for the oats and peas and second cutting alfalfa probably twenty loads more. It is very dry here but our spring is still running. We have had very little rain in nearly a month but we did have too much in June and it hurt our peas, corn and oats but guess we'll live thru it. Milk has decreased so fast this year. We are drawing the Cuyler milk to Homer and it dropped off over one eighth in a week but they say that the West is a great deal worse than we.

We have seen nothing of Robert yet do hope that he does not pass us by for we would like them to stop. Wonder if Euroy (sp) and Hattie are planning to come this way this fall. Hope you will impress upon them that they better.

I am planning to come out and attend the wants at N. Orange either before silo filling or after and probably will bring some one from here to help. Don't let Galen (sp) fret you as I know that it can't be hurting him very much and its not so bad as he tries to estimate.

Just seems as if this has been a busier summer than ever. As soon as one goes another comes. George W. was here over three weeks and is getting to be a big tall boy. Also Virginia was up and so many have been here for a day or two. Marian's friends from High School and Truxton. Today Dorothy Curtis and Lillian W. have been here. Yesterday Marian went over to Knupps. Last week Elizabeth Freeman from Blodgett Mills was up.

John Rich is still here but Jack is gone. Clarence Tyler left a long while ago and last night's paper said he had been arrested and sent to Onondaga Pen for 180 days.

The Truxton church has a new roof on and all paid for. The gift of Mrs. Stacy, Mrs. Feeter's sister also the Feeter children gave a Baptismal font in memory of their mother. They had a chicken pie supper a while back netting about seventy dollars. The Home Bureau has about fifty members in Truxton this year. It so dark I can't see so must close.

With Love from all to you
Wilburn

209
Dear Mother: -

I am both ashamed and disgusted with myself for delaying writing so long only
hope you will forgive me.

We are all seated around the dining room table, Florence at my left writing to
Frank and Nellie Bean, Bernard is writing to you. Marian working on some green
paper and Carleton reading a book of puzzles and general information. Florence has
just talked with Emma at East Rochester and they called up a couple nights ago. We
just had a telephone call from Auburn telling of the death of Chas. Kingsbury a former
friend and neighbor of years gone by.

This fall has passed so swiftly and we've been so busy that it does not seem
that we are nearly to our shortest day. I have just finished retesting the accredited
herds in Truxton, that together with the milk hauling, milking, farming and many other
duties has kept us on the jump mostly.

Mother Emma and W.L. Bean were married on Thanksgiving day and have
gone to Florida for the winter, starting off in a brand new Franklin Sedan. We are to
have a very small Xmas this year as Frank and Nellie will not be there nor Emma and
Edmund. Wish you might drop in. We went to Rochester to the National Grange
meeting. It was just grand well worth the time and energy. Mrs. Hilton, Mrs. Beattie
and Mrs. Garner went with us and we certainly had a splendid time. I don't believe
Roy and Hattie would have regretted the trip if they had come.

Marian has had a most wonderful trip as girl representative of the 4-H Clubs of
Cortland County at the National Convention at the National Livestock Show in
Chicago. She was gone nearly a week and of course it was a wonderful experience.
Will try and have her write the details of the trip. Believe me she was tired when she
returned.

We had a great trip with Edmund and Emma when we went to new York. Left
home Friday morning and back Monday night. Went to Binghamton to Carbondale
then to Port Jervis then thru the Bear Mountain Park over the Bridge and down the
East side of the Hudson to Hastings for a six thirty dinner. Saturday we did New York.
Went clear down to Battery Park and the Aquarium, went to John Wannamakers, then
up town to the Chrysler Building, up 71 stories, the public library, Woolworths, out to
dinner at night to Roxy's Theater at night. Sunday we visited, went over to White
Plains, down to Yonkers to see Gerald and Lorraine (the new bride).

Monday morning we started for home at Seven, went down thru New York to
the Holland Tunnel over Jersey then looked up Aunt Jessie, then Uncle Raymond. He
wasn't home but Aunt Nollie (sp) was there. Finally we left for home about 10:20. Had
a fine dinner in Stroudsburg and got to Truxton about six. Then E. and E. drove home
after that stopping in Cortland to see Mr. Hazzard. He has been very poorly with
Brights Disease but is some better now. Mrs. Hazzard has had some trouble with her
back. But that is some better now.

We were in East Rochester for about two hours on the Seventh of October. We
took a little trip all by ourselves. Had dinner at the George Junior Republic Inn and
supper with E. and E. and home at 11:18. Ready for business the next A.M.
Everyone around here is very well and active. Think the boys have a good school
and Marian seems to be progressing rapidly at C.H. S.

We have made more milk than ever before this November and December from
less cows but the price has just been cut a cent a quart so that will mean nearly five
hundred dollars (less) for us between now and April. We have seventy head of cattle
and four horses this winter. At present only two men, Ramson and John Rich, are still
here. We are hauling nearly three ton of milk to Homer every day now and there is
more available but the League won't take any more.

The clock has just struck 9:30 so think I must close so to be ready for tomorrow.

Lots of Love from us all
Wilburn
Truxton, N.Y.
December 14, 1930

Dear Grandma:

Carleton and I have been cutting brush down by the river where we have been trying to make a skating pond. Carleton was elected secretary of the new 4-H club. We are having Christmas exercises up to school and I have 4 parts without my piece. And I am in 2 up to the church. We are going to have our play up to school a week from next Tuesday. And the one up to the church is on next Sunday night.

I must go to bed now and hope that you have a Merry Christmas.

Love

Bernard

notes 1930

6-2-30
Knupp---Sam, widower friend of Gertrude Smith, Wicksville teacher

8-8-30
spring is still running---water for the farm came from a spring on the hillside
Dorothy Curtis--now Dorothy Brooks, Truxton
Lillian---Woodward , friend of Marian’s lived in Truxton, daughter of Ernest & Nellie
Elizabeth Freeman--dear H.S. friend of Marian, known as Peggy, father Allen
Freeman, lived in Blodgett Mills

12-1-30
Mother Emma and W. L. Bean---Step Grandma Emma Bean remarried William L. Bean of McGraw--a cousin type of Grandfather William J. Bean
seventh of October, a special day, Wilburn’s and Florence’s anniversary, married 1914
Sunday Eve

Dear Mother:

Before we have lunch I will start a few lines and then finish after supper. This has been a regular March day with snow, sleet, rain, hail and wind mixed with sunshine so tonight we have three or four inches of heavy wet snow. Other ways this has been an ordinary Sunday--chores, then milking and milk hauling. We had 900 pounds this morning and had 83 cans on the truck this A.M. Have been getting along with one truck since Jan 1st but if none of our poolers pull out (canceled their contracts effective April 1) we will have to start the second truck for the milk has to be at the station at 8:00 instead of nine, April 1st.

Florence and the children went to church. Hadn't been in the house long before I had to go and take up an artery on a bull which had cut himself very badly. Had a good chicken (roaster) dinner with ice cream and cake. Were expecting the E. Rochester people out but they decided it was too stormy. John Rich wasn't here for dinner so we had a family of six. Don't know whether you remember Jack Keene. He came last spring and stayed three months. Well he came back in Dec. Ramson left us Feb 23 so since then we've only had two men. We are looking for a tenant man but haven't just found the right one. There are so many queers we are rather particular.

Have had a lot of inspection work lately going from Cuyler to Cortland then Little York to Lake Como and Sempronius. Was at Charlie Pratts at West Little York the other day. Maybe you remember of my Dad calling on Mr. Pratt's people. Was at an auction at DeRuyter the other day and bought three colts. Sold a pair that go Tuesday. You remember I had six last year and they all went, making some money.

I have watched the stock market everyday day and I see that Kennecott is going up slowly but surely. Are they paying any dividends now? Perhaps you remember Albert Haskell who was in High School. He is now president of the Cortland Trust Company. The Trust Company is a member of the Marine Midland Co. and he cannot recommend Kenn. high enough. Albert had planned to buy 200 shares if it went to 20

This week the people of Truxton vote on a Centralized school, to take in about 14 districts including East Homer, part of Cuyler and all of Truxton. To put up a school costing around $100,000. Many are very enthusiastic but we are not too hot.

The children are all very much interested in their 4-H work. Marian has been to Mr. Henderson's to help form a 4-H Council in Cortland County. Carleton and Bernard are learning how to preside at meetings and what goes with it. Carleton is Secretary of this club and Marian is Pres. of the Girls'. Think you'll be tired of reading this scrawl so will stop for now.

With Lots of Love, from all the Truxton Potters
Dear Mother:

Florence has made me take this pen in hand and write this epistle. It has been another one of those busy Sundays. We did manage to get in a couple of hours sleep by taking a little time out of chores and letting the other fellow do them. We are milking 45 cows and making up 1100 lbs a day. Many of those cows will be dry soon to start giving milk along in August again. Have been doing quite a little in horses lately. Had around ten this spring.

Our help has been bothering a little. Wonder if you remember John Keene who was here last spring. He came back here in December and staid till last Tuesday. Then I have been having quite a time to find some good milkers but guess I have it solved now. Ramson Eaton left the 22 of Feb. Our farm work has not progressed very rapidly but expect to get the peas in this week ten acres, then the oats and peas then the corn and haying etc.

Ernest Woodward has just returned from a trip to Vermont and was at Keene on Thursday. We have bought a new Ford Truck to take the place of the G.M.C. Works very nicely so far. We are hauling nearly four ton on two loads now. Was in Syracuse twice last week looking for help. There are lots of men out of work but so many don’t know a thing about country work. Had a fellow who said he could milk and he was absolutely worthless. I would rather have either one of our boys. He staid here over two nights and then I took him back to the city. Now we have an Englishman who is deaf as a result of the war. He seems to be a very pleasant fellow. John Rich is still here. Have also a lad from Buffalo temporarily.

We have watched the stock market, it just keeps on going down alright. Wonder if history will repeat itself as it has done before. If so it might be wise to invest but of course we don’t know. Have been inspecting a lot of cows lately. It brings in a few extra dollars all the while. Yesterday I made seven different calls beside the regular farm business. So you see there is no unemployment on “Money Sunk” farm. Maybe you didn’t know the name of our farm which was formerly Riverside.

The children are just as busy as can be. Wonder if the children out that way are having the craze about Yo-Yos. They all have them here. Ernest said they were in Florida and so I expect they are in Mass.

Marian is still very much interested in 4-H work. She is one of the officers in the Cortland County Council. Now she is in a play that the Council is putting on. Doesn’t seem possible that in less than two months she will be ready for her last year in High School. Florence has a busy week this week, Home Bureau, dress making, Cortland, Sunday School supper, Physical Education at Cortland, Home Bureau party etc.
I passed a busy birthday. Thanks for the check. Can you imagine that I weigh about 165 now. Have fleshed up quite a bit this winter. Think I must quit now as the clock has just struck ten.

With lots of Love
from the Truxton Potters

Harvesting oats--Carleton on seat, Galen Burdick, Bernard in front

Wilburn Potter harvesting silage corn--variety, West Branch Sweepstakes
3--Post marked June 3, 1931, Cortland, N Y--written by Wilburn to Mrs Marian W. Potter, 276 N. Main St, Orange, Mass.

W. H. POTTER, D. V. M.
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK

Sunday Evening

Dear Mother:-

The people in our dining room have been having a terrible time. Schuyler sits at the Northeast corner, Mike, our Irishman sits next with a straight pipe in his mouth. Then comes Wallace, a redheaded Englishman writing to his girl in Rochester, he is from Canada, is stone deaf from injury received in the War. He draws a pension from the English government. Then Florence next writing to Leah Day who is now in Clifton Springs after a very serious break down. I was on the couch but she made me get up and start this letter. Florence had a glass of water to make me get up and I spilled most of it on Mr. Roberts.

This has been a very wet rainy Sunday starting some time in the night and quite a bit today. It's just what we need. Have over twenty acres of corn planted and some of it is just sticking thru the ground. Finished it Friday. Have only a little more to plant, then cultivating and haying. Our grass is heavy this year. Don't think haying will be so hard this year for help is plentiful. John Rich went in May and went to work for Geo. Young but only staid a few days. We have a man in the tenant house the first since last December. They are a good couple, no children, he runs the Brockway and she makes Florence extra good help so hope they stick a while. We are milking by hand this summer, 44 now and have had over 1100 lbs this month but the price is so much less that it hurts. The hauling however has been good, drawing nearly 4-1/2 tons a day so our income isn't completely shut off yet.

Marian has been busy in school and with 4-H work. She's been in a play that the 4-H Council has been putting on in different towns. She has stayed in Cortland a couple of nights for the past several weeks. Doesn't seem as if school would soon be out for another year and then she'll be ready for her last year in High School. Carleton will take regents in Arithmetic and Geography and Spelling. The boys each have the bicycles fixed up again and have been having a great time riding in the barn today.

Edmund and Emma and family were out last Saturday and Sunday staid up here Saturday night. Edmund's business has been cut quite a bit by the depression also the value of property is a lot less. He says fellows that used to get $50-$75 a week have been cut to $25-$30 so naturally if they have obligations they don't have much money to waste. Mr. Hazzard is some better but tires easy. I wonder if the bottom has been reached. Edmund seems to be rather dubious about it.

Florence and Marian have a considerable number of flowers planted at the North and West of the house. The spireas on the east have been a regular snowbank.
this spring. The buttercups in the pasture show full blown and the daisies are just coming on. Our garden is just getting started. Twelve rows of sweet corn, 100 tomatoes, 36 peppers, 5 rows of beets, 2 carrots besides beans, squash, pumpkins, radish, lettuce etc.

Was in McLean the other day and Mr. Sweetland said that Mr. Purlee is very poorly. Talked with Charlie Hart the other day. See Mr. and Mrs. Fuller once in a while. Saw in the paper that Geo. Hanford, Jr. was visiting his aunts in McLean the other day.

Gerald and Lorraine were up from N.Y. last week. Staid with the Sweetlands but drove up here for a few minutes. Nellie and Frank have a new house and have rented their other one.

Think this has been quite a long letter. We are listening to Seth Parker just at present. Schuyler is still here. Think the night won't be very long tonight. The men have been getting before 4:30 but I haven't tried to keep up with them. Most of the time its been after five before I get up.

Must close with lots of Love
from all, Wilburn
Saturday P.M.

Dear Mother,

Suppose you will be looking for a letter but every one around here seems to be so busy. That is, every one but me and I don't have much ambition yet. Am coming fine but of course it takes time. The baby seems to be doing fine, for a couple of days now he has slept mostly which is helping him of course. We have named him Willard Harmon so will be W. H. Potter again.

He got here Wednesday night 8:45 which was 2-1/2 weeks before we expected him. Of course we are glad it is over.

Wilburn is busy in haying and now the late peas are nearly ready. They have taken in Chautauqua some this week. The boys have to go and look at baby brother pretty often. Have a very nice nurse and Marian is doing the house work.

Carleton passed all his regents but English and he did not try that. Think he did well.

Why don't you come this way back from Canada and make us a visit? Perhaps Wilburn could get you part way home from here--maybe all. Hope you are having a nice visit.

Love from all
The Potters
Truxton, New York
September 1, 1931

Dear Grandma,

While I'm waiting for the men to get ready for supper, I'll scribble an answer to your lovely letter.

When are you coming out? You want to come this fall so Willard can see you before he gets too big. Mother is putting him to bed right now. He is real good most of the time but when he wants something how he can yell. Also you should come and help in the spoiling process which has already begun.

Aunt Ida and Manley come Saturday night and stayed until Monday morning. We enjoyed their visit immensely. From what Aunt Ida said you and she must have had a gay time while you were there. Manley and Uncle Bernard may come this way on their way back. We hope they do anyway.

Aunt Cora has been up here since last week Wednesday. She came up with Uncle Edmund when he came up to get George and Virginia. George stayed up from Sunday. We had a regular family reunion all unplanned. All members of the Bean family were here but Uncles Howard and Edmund.

Last Saturday the Grange had an Old Home Day. There were two ball games. The little boys played in the A.M. and the town team in the P.M. The regular game was great. We got all excited for fear we wouldn't win but we did.

This week Sunday M.E. Church has its 110th Anniversary celebrated. Mr. Hunter has arranged quite a program. I am in the choir and we have several special numbers.

We have been canning beans, tomatoes, peaches and corn this week. We did 12 qts. of corn today. Tomorrow some more tomatoes and some pears.

Elizabeth Freeman, I don't know whether you met her or not, is coming up tomorrow and I'm going home with her and stay until Saturday. She is "My Sister" and we're quite inseparable. She is a wonderful kid. Her Mother died this last spring.

It's getting late and 5:30 comes quite early. I get up most every morning and get breakfast. We will all be expecting to see you this fall.

Love and best wishes
Marian
W. H. POTTER, D. V. M.
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK
9:30 P.M. Sunday Evening

Dear Mother:-

I am writing now before I do another thing. Time slips so fast I don't know where it goes. It just seems as if this has been the busiest and shortest summer I ever passed. Yes, the baby has grown quite well for one of ours. He has gained every week except one and that one he held his own. Think he gained from 4-10 ounces each week. He is generally very good at night. Florence feeds him at our bed time and ordinarily once in the night around 2:00 a.m. and then not again until 5 or 6 a.m..

This has been the hottest summer ever. For the last several days the mercury has been between 80-100 and we've had bumper crops of hay and corn. The big barn is full of hay as well as the first small one and also have all my pea vines (28 truck loads) to feed this winter. Generally I've drawn them back and fed them in the summer. We haven't filled the silos yet but will start this week. Think we will have a lot more corn than we can get in by refilling. It's a great crop in this section. Oats were poor here but I didn't have any to thresh and made them into hay. The cows have milked good this summer, but of course the price is low, but of course feed and labor are off some. Feed is the lowest since I've farmed for myself. Many feeds at about $20. or less a ton.

Carleton started school in Truxton this fall. A big bus picks up all the kids from Chening and brings them back. A brand new Reo on this route seating 36. Bernard goes to the little school and I think he is the big boy of the school anyway he is the most advanced. It does not seem possible that our girl has started her last yet in C.H.S. but such is the case. She is a wonderful girl and knows how to do things. While Florence was sick she took the responsibility of doing things. Had the breakfast ready at six o'clock when necessary. She has been riding this afternoon with Richard Space so you see she is getting along in more ways than one.

Had a good visit with Manley and Aunt Ida. Thought perhaps Uncle B. and Manley would stop on their way back to Pittsburgh but haven't seen them yet. Am a little surprised at the way you and Aunt Ida must have talked and acted while you were in Holyoke.

During August I tested 525 cattle for the State beside the regular duties. That netted a little over $200. Think that I have around 700 head to test between now and Dec. 1st. So that'll help some.
I have just reread Mrs. Miller's letter and it hasn't made me a bit excited for probably she hasn't 70 head of cattle, 6 horses, 3 hired men, two milk routes and a few other things to take up her mind. I've been fixing the old barns here some this summer. It is sure a good time to fix as labor and material are much lower. I bought shingles of $3.75, 2nd quality, best for $4.25.

I think she is just trying to force a deal and I'm not afraid that another tenant would not be easily found. In this section every available house has been rented by people desiring to get away from high rents in larger places. They have been more than fortunate to have had so cheap rent for all these years. I should tell her that we have been pleased to have them for tenants but that considering taxes, insurance, upkeep that we have realized nothing for our North Orange property. They cannot expect something for nothing. If they want to pay more rent we'll put a reasonable amount in the place. Wonder if they realized that the toilet was repaired and cost real money. If there is only one leak two shingles ought to fix it. That's one of the reason the rent has been so low so that Galen would be able to keep things in shape a little.

I thought we would be able to get out before now but haven't. I haven't given up hope yet that perhaps later I may be able. Think you better have them say how much they want to fix the dining room and put a new roof on the porch. A brand new pitcher pump costs from $2.50 $4.00, but with proper packings will last for years. I don't think I would price the place too low for it's easy enough to come down. If there are to be improved roads and lights on the hill its value will certainly not decrease. I wonder whether property is assessed 100% on the dollar or 2/3 or what in Orange. We have an assessment of only $7,000 on this whole farm but that don't make out but what it is worth more.

Hope you received Marian's letter O.K. Should have written quicker except for that. Don't let it worry you for it isn't worth it and it will work out o.k. after a little. That place is in better shape than 1000s of others and it won't go bad in a minute.

Lots of Love from Truxton Potters
Dear Grandma,

I guess you will get quite a shock when you get a letter from me. Daddy has been trying to get me to write you all summer.

To begin with I have passed all my regents to get in to High School except English. I have finally decided to go to Truxton School instead of Cortland. Up here they have lessons on any instrument, so I wondered if you would still send me the clarinet and if you will send it right along as the lessons began Monday.

In August I went to Camp Spaulding on Cincinnatus Lake. I was there for one week. The place where the swimmers went was off from a diving board was 15 ft. The shallowest it was 10 ft. I was a swimmer. A swimmer was classed as one who could swim 100 yd.

For the past 3 or 4 weeks we have had no rain.

All I have to do now is to step in a bus and ride right to school. The bus I ride in is a brand new Reo 30-35 passenger school coach.

I have started my music lessons again down to Cortland.

Willard is growing like a weed one week he gained 10 oz.

As it is almost school time I will say good by.

Carleton
Truxton, New York
September 20, 1931

Dear Grandma,

The clarinet arrived here all in good order Saturday A.M. When I get so I can handle it I’ll let you know.

I wish that you would come out again so that you can see Willard. He is growing like a weed.

With lot of love
Carleton

P.S. Daddy said I ought to write something so we have been filling silo Saturday and our tractor has not been working good and that is all the new news I know.

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notes 1931

3-11-31
John Rich and Jack Keene---hired men, lived with us

4-27-31
oats and peas--not for canning--we planted Canada field peas with oats for forage.
"Money-Sunk"--Dad’s endearing name for our farm
Dad’s birthday---4-23-1892, he joked, “Shakespeare and I were born on same day”

6-3-31
Edmund’s business--- pharmacist in East Rochester
Sweetlands---Aunt Nellie Bean’s parents in McLean
Seth Parker---on the radio--good humor--Maine like

7-18-31
Baby’s doing fine---Willard Harmon Potter born 7-15-31
Chautauqua--traveling tent show

9-14-31
school in Truxton---school centralization was approved
Chening---short for Cheningo
tested 525---for tuberculosis
music lessons down to Cortland---we all took piano lessons from Miss Louise Jones on Madison Street
Dear Mother:-

Expect that you will be glad to hear how we are progressing. Just seems as if this has been the busiest month yet. Was more than glad that the deal with Galon has been completed. Think the money will be less trouble than the place and will net full more.

Since you left I have taken over the farm of Mrs. Woodward. Have in some oats and peas as well as ten acres of corn. The fences are fixed. Our cows run clear thru in her pastures. Thus we milk them here. Was in Canada a week ago Wed. until Sunday buying a carload of cows. Finally bought 15 Ayrshires and 8 Holsteins all purebred and registered expect them about Wednesday. Ernest Woodward went with me. Cattle are scarce there. We crossed Alexandria Bay to Rockport but finally ended up 125 miles N.East of Moose Creek. Cattle will come by freight to Ogdensburg then to Watertown, Camden and down our line. Conditions in Canada are worse than here, milk 48-64 cents per cwt, pigs $1.00- $1.50 a piece, Eggs 4 doz 25 cents, butter 17 cents, one fellow bought straw for $1.50 a ton all baled, wool 3 cents a pound. Their feed prices are higher.

Florence was elected Chairman of the County Home Bureau and Sec. of the Reorganized Farm and Home Bureau. Quite an honor but lots of work. She is to go to Ithaca to confer with some of the high ups. Our Central School district had its annual school meeting the first of May with one of the largest turnouts ever known in Truxton. I happened to be unfortunate enough to be elected to fill Ed Wallace place on the board of Trustees. Some say that automatically means chairman but I hope not.

Honors were read at Cortland High School last week and Marian was in the first 10% in honors in standing. 140 in the class, 14 honors were named and Marian was 13th pretty good for a green country girl. Friday we went to Ithaca to see about work for her this coming year at Cornell. Interviewed several different people in different departments and have almost come to the conclusion that she had better work for her board and pay her room rent. Think she will be able to obtain one scholarship and possibly two. Carleton is very much pleased with clarinet. He was selected with three others to play before the District Supt. in convention in Cortland. Prof. Gage the instructor in the schools has had a concert in each centralized district made up of all the players in each school. They played at Fabius, Cincinnatus, Fabius, DeRuyter and Truxton. There were around one hundred players. We thought they did quite well for green horns.

Have our crops practically all in now but it is very dry. If we don't get rain the hay crop will be light and spring plowed land won't yield much.
It is now Monday a.m. and we are thru breakfast. The trucks have gone and everything is set for the day. Will start cultivating this morning. No rain yet but very lowly and hazy this morning. Have to go to DeRuyter this morning to see about selling a team and perhaps some cattle.

Must close for now and get on the way.

Lots of love from the Truxton Potters
Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

Hope you can stand the shock but as I have just finished making out a few T.B. test reports and Florence is writing to Marian will pen a few lines before going to bed. Will have finished testing 406 head of cattle in 12 herds without a reactor this past few days. Quite a record for a town as badly infected as we were six years ago. I have tested a few cows each month since Aug. including November. The state cut our pay nearly 1/3 but still is a lot more remunerative than some agricultural pursuits. This has been a very very busy summer and summer has just flown. We have four men now, three in the house but expect to have less shortly as Brown has moved up to the Woodward Farm and Leo Newton, another married man, is going into the tenant house as it is painted a little.

We are all very well now had just a “twist” with our stomachs the other day but now that is over. Willard is very active and full of everything. Today he got hold of the button box and dumped them all out. Then sat down in the middle of them to play. He delights to travel up and down stairs. But he's o.k. and everyone makes of him. Think he looks more like Marian than any of the others. Bernard is o.k. his arm came out alright and he is enjoying school at Truxton. No worry about walking any more as the bus picks him up and brings him home. Carleton is busy studying at the table. Think he is beginning to stretch up a bit and his voice is huskier than it used to be.

Guess Marian has told you of her doings. Think she is getting on as any her age can. She seems to be active over there as here and Cortland so she doesn't have time to be lonesome. We have been over there once and the Freemans brought her home two weeks ago and we took her back that night. The McKinneys from McLean were her for dinner that Saturday. We thought of going over today but time was too short.

The Browns start in the morning for Pennsylvania to get some more of their household goods. He hasn't missed any time since he came here before. He's always here in the morning and always willing and don't drink. She has helped Florence when wanted.

The couple that are going in the yellow house seem to be fine. Leo has lived with us for two months and is a good all round country boy, born and raised in DeRuyter. Florence is more than busy with Chairmanship of the Home Bureau and so much here at home. She is in a play that they are putting on over to church. “Two Days to Marry” is the title. We have a new minister Mr. Ernest Devine, an Englishman. Has four children a boy seventeen, one a little older than Carleton and 2 girls younger.

At present are making nearly 16 cans of milk a day. Think we have over 90 head of cattle and five horses. Figure we have considerable over 200 ton of hay and 300 ton of corn to feed them. Painted the barn this year look lots better. Think this will be all you can stand for one time so will close for now with

Lots of Love from all, Wilburn
Dear Mother

Had thought I would write a real letter yesterday but had company come so didn’t. The birthday gift was lovely but think I am getting too old for them. The stockings are a lovely color, go so nicely with my brown shoes.

Every one seems to be fine but dreadfully busy. All hoping to have a few days vacation this week. Marian comes home Wednesday afternoon. We go down to Grandma B’s at 76 Lincoln for Thanksgiving. Expecting the Hazzards out, but Geo won’t be able as he only has the day off.

Do you all out there get together for Thanksgiving? Tell Bob and Lovie we would love to see their boy. Willard is growing like a weed. Have him a little red sweater suit and he looks so cute in it. He is waiting for me in the car now so must make this short.

Love from all
Florence
Dear Mother:-

While two other members of this family are sleeping and Florence is writing to brother Howard who is in Wisconsin and Carleton is writing to Marian who is in Sage Dormitories I will pen a few lines to you.

We have had some very severe weather but the last few days have been very much like fall, the mercury going to fifty or better today and only a few days ago it was below zero. The thermometer you sent us is so handy I look at it in cold weather very often. Today the Woodward family were over for dinner. Ernest, Nellie, Florence Lillian, Carleton, Christine and five of our family sat down for the Sunday repast. Went to church this morning while Carleton staid with the baby.

The minister is an Englishman and has some brogue as he has only been over here a few years. He is very officious in his ways and caused some misunderstanding when he first arrived in Truxton.

Our Mr. Brown took our truck and moved his household goods from up near Munnsville. He has four children.

This past week has been rather busy for Florence. She has been in a play "Two Days to Marry" for the church. Practice was Monday night and the play Tuesday and Wednesday. There was a whale of a lot of hard work on the part of a few to make less than fifty dollars. Home Bureau and Emergency Relief have taken a lot of time. Sunday last she started out about six o'clock with Willard and Carleton to take Marian to Ithaca. Also Peggy Freeman was with them. Coming back they had plenty of trouble with two flat tires and didn't get here until after one. It was terrible cold but I guess they are none the worse for it now.

The Home Bureau was given $700 by the Supervisors this year, last year nothing. That will not be enough to hire a leader so I expect there will be an extra amount of work falling on the Executive board. Marian came home Wed. for Thanksgiving and staid until Sunday P.M. Thinks she comes the fifteenth of December for Xmas. George Wm. comes the tenth.

E & E were in Canton for the Clarkson game. Edmund said he drove around town and finally went up Judson St. They drove in the night getting there about three in the A.M. Think they averaged over forty miles an hour. They went up with the Principal Morgan from East R. Mrs. Burke was the Burke's daughter, he having run the old American house.

We have only one man in our house now. Just think some times we only have three for dinner. Both the tenant men go on the truck so it does rush Florence quite so much in the A.M. The trucks started going late the first of December. We are
milking about sixty cows by hand. Four milkers except when Carleton and Bernard milk some at night. One of the fellows didn't show up until after six the other morning so I had to call the boys.

Think you better send the violin for Bernard. Don't seem as if he could come along as fast as Carleton has on the Clarinet. We rented a violin for the first quarter of school. Think I'll sign off now but perhaps will write some more later.

It is now after ten a.m. Monday a little colder. Mrs. Brown is helping wash. I've been up street attending to some school affairs and Florence is ready to go to Cortland. Don't forget about the violin as we rented one for three months and the time is about up. Better let Henry put it in a light wooden box so that it will not get damaged.

Have some inspection also some T.B. testing to do. Thinking I'll go to Scranton after coal some day this week.

Love from all
Wilburn
6---Post marked December 31, 1932, Truxton, NY--Written by Florence, Wilburn and Bernard to Mrs. Marion E. Potter, 276 N. Main St, Orange, Mass.

[Bernard's letter]

Truxton, New York
December 24, 1932

Dear Grandma,

The violin arrived here safely and in good condition Tuesday the 13th. I took it to Cortland and had it strung Saturday. The case is all right and I do not have to get another case. We are out of school now out of school for two weeks. Last Sunday the tenant house burnt up. Thursday the Brockway slid off the driveway when it was coming out to go on the route and had to get tackles from down to Cortland to pull it out. Willard has had the grip for about two days. Last night Daddy came up to the house about milking time and awful sick. He went to bed and we called the doctor. He decided it was some stuff he was putting on the cows and absorbed enough of it to poison him. He is better this morning. I think this is all of the bad news. We are getting fifteen cans of milk now. There are about twelve other cans on the Ford that are not our own. So you see that we are getting most of the milk on the Ford's route. There is about seventy cans of milk altogether with both trucks. Wednesday night we down to the exercises at the school where I used to go. There is ten pupils there now. I got up at half past five and milked six cows.  

(no signature)

Friday Evening

Dear Mother,

Bernard has a letter written to you some where around here but will start a fresh one. My Christmas thank you's are very slow in being done, but now that I am feeling better perhaps they will go along faster.

Have had a good case of grippe but am feeling pretty good again. Was out this afternoon for the first for a week. Baby and Wilburn had it last week so you see we haven't had much time for writing. Your Christmas box came fine but we did not get them until Christmas day. We all thank you so much but it seems you must have out done yourself. Wonder if it would be possible to change the baby's rompers for something larger. I guess he could get them on now but am afraid after a washing or two he wouldn't be able to wear them at all. They are so pretty. However if you didn't get them in Orange don't fuss about it. He is quite a boy and seems to grow so fast.

Are Rob and Lovey home again? How is Cousin Lucy? In the store tonight? I met Miss Day, Leah was coming down for her and she was going up there for supper tonight. She was looking quite well I thought.

Guess Bernard told you in his letter that our tenant house burned a week ago last Sunday. She (thr tenant) did not know it until some one stopped and told her. She just lost control of herself. I brought her down here as soon as I could get up there but guess the mischief was done. She went up to the hospital last Friday night and when her baby came it was dead, had been several days. They are a young
couple and it was their first baby and they had made quite plans for it.

It has been good to have Marian home but it hasn’t been much of a vacation for her altho I’ve had Mrs. Brown every day this week but Monday.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year

Florence

following written by Wilburn

Guess this is a community letter. Just seems as if our business keeps up so fast. I went to Carbondale for a load of coal Wed. and didn’t get back until tonight because of truck trouble. Carleton was with me. Have been testing cows. It has been so mild here, this week that it doesn’t seem like the first of January. Every warm day makes the winter so much shorter. Bernard was more than pleased with the violin and Carleton was tickled with the Clarinet duet book.

Love, Wilburn

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------
notes 1932

6-6-32
farm of Mrs. Woodward---rented the farm now owned by Pooles--bordered our farm on the north

7-28-32
Many happy returns---Grandma’s birthday--July 29
trip to Canton---celebrating Wilburn’s 20th reunion from Canton Ag School 1912 (S.L.A.--St. Lawrence Academy)
Helen and Neil--Parker, lifetime friends from Canton days
Aunt Veva--Sister of Wilburn D, Bernard U and Wendell Potter
Fred Storrs--Veva’s husband’s family---her husband Burton Storrs taught Brown U.

10-31-32
Bernard’s arm came out alright----broken wrist, driving truck!

11-21-32
Florence’s birthday--11-9-1891
76 Lincoln---Cortland Home of Grandma Emma Bean and her sister Aunt Cora Gilbert
Bob and Lovie--Harrington cousins of Wilburn-- son Leonard is same age as Willard

12-5-32
Judson Street, Canton is mentioned---the Potter homestead may be on this street.
Marion and Wilburn D. Potter lived there after he came from the sanatarium at Ray Brook
Howard in Wisconsin--Howard Bean separated from Elizabeth in Virginia--moved to Wisconsin and worked in lumber and logging mills
Woodward family--mentioned several times--close friends in Truxton
the minister--Rev Ernest Devine

12-31-32
tenant house burned---the couple living there was Laura and Leo Newton. They were two of our favorite persons to ever work on our farms.
Sunday Evening

Dear Mother:-

If you can picture our dining room with the whole gang in it--Leo Newton on the couch, Carleton directly over the radio, Mrs. Newton on one side eating popcorn, Harold Burrows seated next reading the latest issue of Montgomery Ward catalogue, Florence at the end of the table writing brother Howard, Ted standing over the register, Bernard picking popcorn and yours truly seated in front of the (cabinet) buffet.

Willard is in bed. You speak of snapshots, well I guess we haven’t had any, but he looks and acts so much like Marian that all you have to do is to look at her picture and put on some pants and you have the real article.

Ours is some comedy or tragedy. Sometimes we’d like to get away from it all and forget. I guess if things keep going to the bow-wows perhaps it will be quicker than one would have ever thought. We’ve had so many cuts in the milk price that it continues to drop every month. Guess it don’t do any good to talk about it.

Marian came home last Sunday bringing home Roberta, her roommate, staying until Thursday noon. Wednesday a.m. before the girls were up Florence received word from Cornell that Roberta’s mother had passed away very suddenly. So Florence had a very unpleasant ordeal to perform. I took Marian to Ithaca to get some of Roberta’s wearing apparel and then we rushed her to Syracuse catching the 1:41 train for Albany. The train was in the station but she made it o.k. We haven’t heard from her but expect she’s alright.

Thursday was the first Home Bureau Banquet held in the Cortlandville Grange Hall. Of course, Florence being Chairman of the Bureau had too much on her mind but the whole thing was a grand success. They planned for 150 for dinner but the weather was terrible and we thought if 100-125 were there it would be about all we could expect--but when the final count was made 233 had eaten. Ray Snyder of the Educational Dept. in Albany was the main speaker. Wonder if you knew that Mrs. Buck is chairman of the Emergency Relief Clothing Bureau and seems to be very equal to the occasion.

This is Farmer’s Week at Cornell. Florence would like to attend the Home Bureau get together and Wednesday night Leon Atwood and Mrs. Atwood from Plattsburg are coming here to stay over night at least and then Thursday night we are to attend the banquet given in honor of the Master Farmers. Leon has been selected for one this year and also Robert Thompson of Heuvelton both graduated from S.L.A. Had hoped that the Parkers and the Smiths might be here but as yet have heard nothing of their coming.
Think we may be putting in some ice this week as we have had zero weather for several days almost the first of any length. The snow plows have been by twice in the last two days. That's the first they've been used this year. That's very unusual for this country. It is nearly 9:30 so think I have to be signing off for now.

Love from all at Truxton
Wilburn

Florence and Wilburn Potter
Bernard, Willard, Carleton  1933
July 28, 1933

Dear Mother:-

It is now 8:30 a. m. and if you are to get this tomorrow must write a few lines and take it to the office. Time flies so fast that it just seems as if we can't keep up with all our duties. So naturally we neglect much. Just at present we are running full house. Two hired men beside Geo. W. and Virginia. Two men live in the Woodward place and I have a man driving team on the West Hill Road. He lives over street. A while back I bought the table shop over street which we are taking down to sell and also get enough lumber for a tenant house and garage. The building is about 150' X 50' with two floors so it means a whale of a lot of work. We are all dried up. No rain to any amount all summer. Nearly thru haying finish first of next week weather permitting.

We hold the annual school meeting next Tuesday night. Everything seems to be running along smoothly and all seem fairly well satisfied. I have spent a lot of time at it that should have been used for something else. Wonder if you have read of the Public Works bill. It may help us to build a school. Of course sentiment has been very much against too high a priced building.

You may be surprised to know that we traded off the Studebaker and now have a very nice 1931 Buick. Didn't seem as if we could but so much had to be done to the old one it seemed the best way out. The Bean family celebration was held at Hastings with Frank. We went the morning of the Fourth and staid over one day. Took the boys down to New York and showed them many of the wonders including the Empire State Building. Came back by Rockefeller's Estate, Bear Mountain, Storm King Highway, West Point, Kingston, Ashocan Reservoir, Catskills, then to Hunters, Stamford, Oneonta and home. Then a week ago Sunday we were in East Rochester.

Florence has been head of the hospital drive in Truxton which is a difficult task this year. Hope this finds you exceptionally well and wish we could help you celebrate. Leo has come with the truck so must go up to the other place and unload hay. (Florence writes)

Will add a line and send this in the morning mail. Am afraid it won't reach you tomorrow as you probably have no p.m. deliveries either. They have none in Cortland in the residential portion any P.M. thru July and August.

Carleton took his first two degrees in Grange last night. Our Grange is growing and considerable interest is being shown.
Week after next is Cortland County Fair. The boys and Marian are planning on exhibiting various things. There seems to be quite a bit to be done for it by the Home Bureau also.

What are Walter Stone and Rodney doing? How is Cousin Annie C____? This hot weather must be hard on Myrtle. Am sorry she is not so well. We think of Bert so often. Remember us to him.

Willard is saying a few more words than he did but not talking much yet. He is too busy doing things to talk about them.

There doesn't seem to be much other news. Everyone is well. Virginia is copying over my recipe book and wants some help so will close. Best wishes for a Happy Birthday.

Love from all
Wilburn and Florence

Truxton Central School under Construction 1934
Dear Mother:-

We have just returned from a drive to Apulia, Pompey, Jamesville, Orwel, Cicero, North Syracuse, Mattydale, Syracuse University down the valley to Homer to take Aunt Carrie home and now we are here after having lunch over there. I stopped in Cicero to see some small colts that are to be sold at auction tomorrow. I have one that I'd like to let go and they are selling high. Aunt Carrie came up Thurs. Went to a Scout Supper that night also to school board meeting until 11 P.M. after that burglars broke into the school but didn't get anything. Friday night they went to a Home Bureau meeting at Cuyler and a Sunday School class social at night for Florence's boys. Sat. to Cortland to get Marian and the 4-H boys returning from 4-H Achievement day. Marian came up to supper and then we took her to Ithaca before 10:30.

The fall has just flown, had a lot of potatoes for us nearly 550 bu at home and then bought 350 more so now we have enough for a while. The meadows have been very green this fall and there was more hay harvested in Oct. than I ever saw before. Bloomfield has some dandy alfalfa. Our tenant house is progressing rapidly now. Have the first floor and frame nearly completed and this week hope to get the roof rafters up. Of course we have to tear down the other building before we can go ahead much further with the house. We are making 12-14 cans of milk daily now.

The Parkers staid over night with us two weeks ago. They came down to see James and took in the Syracuse-Cornell game. Had a good visit. Their whole family was here for dinner as well as W.L. and Emma and Cora on Sunday. Neil took James back to Ithaca and then went home Sunday night.

Mr. Freeman visited Peggy a week ago today. If we hadn't had so much on we should have come along with him but the potatoes weren't all out so 'tis best not to attempt it. Perhaps we can make it later with him. He went by Springfield to Worcester to Wellsley and back the same way. He didn't intend to make it all the way home in one day but finally arrived here when we were eating supper. Brought Willard a topcoat from Jordan Marsh Co.

Wonder how Manley is coming? Wonder if he will be coming home for Thanksgiving? Wonder if you are eating in Orange as usual? Don't know what we are going to do yet. Someone said the Hazzards are coming this way. Time will tell anyway. Will close for now with Lots of Love from all the Truxton Potters.

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

Don't be alarmed but tho' I would surprise you just once by getting a short letter off tonight. We have been having a regular winter, six below Thursday a.m. at seven with more or less snow all the while.

This has been another busy week with testing cows, board meeting etc. Monday morning had some veterinary work before testing. Tuesday took some of the Boy Scouts to Syracuse at night. Wednesday, board meeting. Thursday night Cortland with Florence. Florence has been just as busy with the Home Bureau, the big event of the week was the dinner the Home Bureau Executive Committee served the Supervisors between 25-30 eating a low cost meal 13 cents each. Sold a pair of horses and harness so went to the city yesterday, bought another new harness. George Beard went with me. The ladies met yesterday with Addie Beard for dinner and work. Had quite a large turnout. It is very slippery today. Have injected some more cattle, sold some iron water pipe and inspected one dairy.

Florence went to Cortland this afternoon to get the much needed foot wear for the boys. Had a letter from Marian yesterday. Seems to be rather busy with all her activities. Says she is to take in a formal dance in their dormitory. She will be home for Thanksgiving on Wednesday. Florence had a letter from James Parker stating he would accept an invitation to Thanksgiving.

You didn't answer my question as to your plans for Thanksgiving. Please let us know in your next. See Aunt Ida doesn't intend to go to Portsmouth. Glad Manley has a steady job again. His love affairs seem to be a little uneven and not too smooth.

It is almost nine o'clock and have a few hen feathers to pull so think I'll say good night.

Love
Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

Just a line wishing you a very happy Thanksgiving from all your Truxton folks. To be honest with you we had planned to come to Orange to help you celebrate but when we went to Buffalo with Ernest and Nellie Sunday and found the roads so slippery we decided that it would be poor judgment to undertake a 500 mile trip with our whole family so this will let you know how close you came to having a house full.

Now we will go to Aunt Carrie's. James Parker is to be with us. Marian and Jim come this morning if their plans carry out.

Ernest went to Buffalo on business and so we (alls) went, stopping at East Rochester both ways for a short visit each night. It was terrible slippery but made the trip without accident. Perhaps Florence will have a line to add.

(Florence writing)

Guess I have nothing special to add. The birthday package arrived safely. Guess you had been busy in your spare moments since leaving here. They are lovely.

Guess I have more than a full day ahead of me. Have my living room curtains ready to stretch, cleaning, baking, and take a sunshine box down to Mrs. Byrd Freeman--she has had her leg taken off nearly up to her body. Gangerine had set in in her foot and that was the only thing to do the doctor thought.

Baby talks quite a bit now. Two and three words together now. He is terribly busy. I have a girl for a few weeks now and I left him with her when we went this week. The boys are out of school at noon today.

Love from all,

Wilburn and Florence
Wednesday Evening

Dear Mother:-

Florence has been down to the Wicks school house with Bernard to attend Xmas Exercises while Carleton is playing Basket Ball over street and I am keeping watch at home. The day has been rather disagreeable, quite cold this morning then warming up a little, then mist and rain about three. We know all about it for we started to put shingles on the west side of the house today and didn't quite finish that side. Tonight it has snowed a bit so don't know whether we'll be able to go on tomorrow or not. We are putting two dormer windows on the east side so the two rooms upstairs will be more pleasant and lighter. Think we will shingle the outside instead of clapboard. Think we have a nice little house planned so much better than the other one. It should be much warmer as it is so much better constructed. Brown is boss carpenter and we are all helpers between chores. Have hired no extra help.

The days pass so fast. last week we held meetings on the school project. Tuesday night at East Homer and Friday night at Truxton. Friday afternoon we were in Cortland attending Home Bureau and School affairs. Thursday was Grange Election and Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Devine and Florence and I went to Bailey Hall to hear and see the "Mikado". It was so fine but it broke up a night for sleeping for we didn't get home until after one. Peggy Freeman came home from Wellsley last week so rode over to Ithaca to see Marian Saturday night while we were at the play. We took her home because of the dense fog and slippery roads. Sunday Mr. Freeman and Peggy came up to dinner. Then that night I went to bed and Florence went to church.

Monday was the day we voted on our school proposition. It went over with a bang. 252 for the school and 32 against. Of course we must receive Federal aid of 30% of the cost of labor and material and the Government take our bonds at 4% before we can go ahead. It is very gratifying to feel that the people have so much confidence, while at other times there had been such a division of opinion.

Florence has been more than busy with her numerous duties. The Home Bureau has taken a lot of time this fall. The Supervisors finally made an appropriation of $1,000 for the Bureau $300 more than last year. I think it's too bad they couldn't give enough so they could hire a county leader and thus take a lot of work off of those who are willing to help push the thing along.

A couple of weeks ago I went to N.Y. on school business and the Sunday Ernest and Nellie, Florence and I went to East Rochester, Tuesday to Buffalo and back.
to East Rochester and Tuesday home. Ernest wanted to go on business to Buffalo. In passing it was a fool’s errand but we had a good ride. Guess I wrote this before. So skip this paragraph.

Think Marian comes home the last of the week. We are to have the family here for Xmas. About twenty this year wish you could be here. George W. is home from St. Lawrence U. already and expect they’ll come out Sunday and stay over Xmas.

Willard is enjoying everything this year and he is learning so fast, talks quite a bit now and repeats nearly all we say. Puts two or three words together and so I guess it won’t be long before he’ll talk plenty. Bernard went to a school party last night and Carleton took Jane Feeter the Senior class Card Party. Marian was going to a Formal Party Saturday night so you see our family is growing older with us. Wish you might enjoy them more.

This was supposed to be a Xmas letter but guess I’ve rambled along on most everything except Xmas. A big Package came today from Orange. I wish you didn’t think you needed to do so much never the less we thank you so much. I’m going to wish you a Merry Xmas and let Florence add a line.

(Florence writing)

Guess it is late enough, I better say goodnight. Guess I have finished my last Xmas cards so can go with a clear conscience. Hope you have a happy Christmas and keep well.

Love from all
Wilburn and Florence
notes---1933

2-13-33
Ted--Ted Harmon--good worker on the farm
Mrs Newton--Laura Paddock Newton--Leo and Laura great helpers and friends
Comedy or Tragedy--much fun was had---but the depression very discouraging to all
Home Bureau Banquet---Florence was a leader
Farmers Week--for years the place for farmers to meet and learn ---was Farm and
Home Week at Cornell in February
Leon Atwood--Atwood Orchards--apples and Ayrshires--we remember the beautiful
Macintosh apples they brought to us. Leon classmate of Wilburn at Canton

7-28-33
driving team---building West Hill road, using either a slip scraper or drop bottom
wagon
Table Shop---Marshall Wood building--formerly used as manufacturing furniture---
located on what is now the new cemetery
Grandma Potter's birthday---July 29, 1870

11-6-33
Parkers---Neil and Helen, sons James and Harold, Wilton, NY. Neil managed the
Metropolitan Life Insurance farm at Wilton connected with the Mr. McGregor
sanitarium. Neil and Wilburn were classmates at Canton Ag School and played
baseball, football and basketball together. sons attended Cornell

11-10-33
George Beard---and Helen, neighbors and close friends, bought the Woodward farm
sold some iron pipe---The Marshall Wood building was steam heated with hundreds of
feet of iron pipe of different dimensions---so Wilburn marketed it at a good price.
hen feathers to pull---scald, then pick feathers from a hen for dinner the next day

11-29-33
birthday package---Florence's birthday---11-8-1891
Mrs. Byrd Freeman---another Freeman family in Truxton, active in church

12-29-33
shingles on west side---new tenant house, where Willard now lives. Most of the house
was built with lumber from the Marshall Wood building.
Balch--Jan 7, 1934

Dear Grandma,

Well vacation is over and I am now back in dear Old Balch hall waiting for the telephone to ring and announce my caller.

The folks brought me over this morning as I had to be here for work this noon. Dorothy Foster from Cortland rode with us as she worked too. It seems good to be back again although I had a lovely vacation.

We sure had a lovely Christmas. Your lovely present of a sweater to me just filled a gap in my wardrobe. I unearthed a skirt while I was home so I have a new skirt and sweater. It fits very well and I have been wearing it all vacation. The boys gave me their pictures and Mother and Daddy are getting me skates. I also had writing paper, silver jelly spoon, a set of jelly spoons, pickle fork and butter knife (evidentially for future use) vase, cold cream, stockings, bracelet and a pillow. I think everyone remembered me very muchly. I hope you had an equally nice Xmas. The Hazzards were out this year and everyone was up home. It seemed good to see George again. Did I tell you that he has a job wiping dishes in the dormitory?

Did you have a lot of cold weather between Christmas and New Years? We had all we wanted. It got down to 25 below zero up home which wasn't nearly as cold as it was in some parts of the state. Harold went up to his grandparents in Herman for Christmas and was snowed in and frozen in for a week. We had a lot of ice but little snow.

As you see it is the next morning and very spring like out doors. I had a nice time last night. We went to the movies then talked and talked. After I got in, of course I had to run around and see everyone who had arrived. It was finally 12:30 when I went to bed. 6:30 this morning seemed to come awfully quick and I hated to get up. I am afraid I'll go to sleep today because I have been having so much sleep at home.

Last Friday night I went to a basketball game. It was the first one I had seen in ages. Truxton High played South Otselic. Carleton played on the Junior team and did pretty good. He could shoot baskets better than most of them so I have hopes that maybe next year he will be on the regular varsity. He is growing up so that you would hardly know he was the same kid of last summer.

I spent about three days while I was home with Peggy. She was with us for New Years dinner at Aunt Carrie's. Peg had to go back the 3rd so I really didn't see her as much as I really wanted to. She likes Wellsley very much and I am so glad. Of course I wish she were over here but maybe we have more to talk about as it is.

My 'suite-mate' isn't here yet. I am afraid she may not be for a while either. She went home sick and has been in bed practically all the vacation. If she doesn't come today, I expect she had trouble with her ears and had to have an operation. I hope not,
as I don’t like to live alone.

There is excellent news. The toboggan slide is packed and is to be opened for the first time in three years. I hope I’m invited to try it out but probably won’t.

Tonight choir rehearsal starts again. We are going to begin practicing Mendelssohn “Elijah” to put on around Easter time. After choir there is a 4-H meeting so things are starting off with a bang.

I must close as it is time for class. Write to me.

Love
Marian
Monday Eve
7:15 P.M.

Dear Mother:

The wind is howling and the mercury stands about zero, think it has been one of the most severe days of this winter. The other time the mercury went to about 22 below here, some lower in other places but there was practically no wind. Yesterday Harold and Rose went to Lincklean but didn't get back last night so I got Frank Devine to come over and help with the milking. He and Carleton helped a lot. This a.m. had a tough time starting the Brockway this morning but finally they got it to go. The hot water in the house was frozen also the drain under the sink but everything was O.K. at the barn. We seem to be able to take care of our water system better than we used to. Know when to plug the holes to keep the heat where it will do some good.

Harold is playing the violin, Bernard is working problems, Carleton is reading his Scout book.

Well this is now Friday morning. I stopped rather quickly the other night for we had a very hot fire and finally our chimney burned out the whole length. Had the new chemical outfit from over town come over for safety. Didn't get to bed until 2:00 and then up every hour to see if everything was all right. Now the chimney works fine but it did smell everything thru the house with creosote.

We seem to be just as busy as ever. Started CWA project on the school grounds. Florence is on two committees in Cortland, the Clothing Bureau and Recreation Project, as well as Home Bureau Chairman. She has an invitation to the dedication of the new Home Economics building at Cornell. Special invitation and acknowledgement if you please. Guess we are getting along some.

Wonder if you happen to read of Prof. Smith's death also Mr. Hilton and Wm Bell of Truxton. Will not write more now but will try and write next week.

Love from all at Truxton
Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

While the rest of the family is at church will start a belated letter to you. I had planned to go to church but the chores took longer than we expected. It doesn't seem as if it is the first of May and that we've had such a hard, cold winter. We were very fortunate with our water system for it didn't happen to freeze up. One morning it came very close but we caught it just in time and then two days after the same thing happened but it didn't stop here but at the Woodward place it did freeze. We don't have that place anymore for George Beard bought it taking possession the first of April. Browns are over street and Leo and Laura will move in our new house in two or three days. It made it very handy to have the other farm but perhaps we'll have plenty without it.

Last night Florence and the boys went to the subdistrict meeting of the Dairymen's League. They played a violin and clarinet duet with piano accompaniment. Bernard and a Robbins boy played a violin duet at the school play the other night. Willard is growing so fast you'd like to see him waddling around in his new overalls. Florence bought 4 year old size. When Florence leaves him with somebody and tells him to be a good boy. The first thing he says when she comes back, "Willard good boy while Mother gone". Leo says he's a regular guy and calls him "a little man". Marian brought seven of her friends from Cornell two weeks ago and had a weekend party. Sunday Edmund and Emma and Ruth Ann came making seventeen for dinner. Yesterday I went to Ithaca to get a horse and Marian met us at the Vet College then she rode to Varna and walked back to Balch. It doesn't seem possible that she is nearly thru her second year at Ithaca.

Your letter was very newsy, very sorry that some of the things had to happen. Think that the warm sun will help every one. Don't believe we'll need a winter like this again right away. It takes a lot of vitality and energy to buck so much cold. We had very little snow this year and the frost went very deep. The pastures are very slow and the great majority of farmers have bought plenty of hay since January and February. We delivered two loads five miles the other side of DeRuyter. I could have sold a hundred ton if it hadn't been for money being so scarce. We have to be careful about letting people have things they cannot pay for.

Three weeks ago yesterday I had a carload of horses and mules shipped here from St Paul. Twenty one in all. I've sold eleven of the carload beside some that have been traded in. So we've had quite a business with all our other activities.

We have a grading job going on at school moving a lot of gravel and dirt. That will soon be done now. Friday evening we had a school play.

It is some time later now. Time flies so fast. It is terrible dry and if it doesn't rain soon our hay crop will be as short as last year.
Must close for now hoping the spring sunshine is helping everyone.
Love from
all at Truxton

(Florence writes)

We did not get your note saying you were going to Holyoke until after we had ordered the plant but perhaps Cousin Lucy cared for it until you returned. How were the Holyoke folks?

Florence

*Manley Potter as a lad*
*Wilburn's cousin--Uncle Bernard and Aunt Ida's son*
Dear Mother:-

Just a line to let you know how close you came to having one of us for a couple of days. Mr. Freeman left for Peggy today and is coming home Wednesday and if you can come with him you are to call Peggy at Freeman Hall, Wellsley College. You will have to find out which route they will want to come back and also where you are to meet them.

We are all well and very busy as usual. We'll be able to take you back after school is over.

Hastily

Wilburn

Call before Wed. Noon.

---Post marked June 11, 1934. Truxton, New York--- Special Delivery--- written by Wilburn to Mrs. Marion E. Potter, 276 N. Main St, Orange, Mass.

W. H. POTTER, VETERINARIAN
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK

Monday Eve.

Manley Potter---years later
we loved to hear him play the piano
Dear Mother:-

Just a line to let you know that we arrived home safely about seven everything o.k. here. Traffic very heavy most of the way but especially on that end. Had no car trouble and didn't roll over two or three times. Of course we were all tired but think the entire trip was quite successful. Was very glad to find Aunt Ida as comfortable as she was and rather think they were more than fortunate to come out as good as they did. Had our dinner at Cummington.

We had a severe wind, hail and rain storm Monday afternoon. It shredded our corn some but many are a great deal worse off than we. In some places the corn is twisted and rolled. On Mr. Hazzard's old farm it is terrible.

Last night we drove to Cortland and back by Homer. Stopped at Aunt Carrie's so didn't get home 'til 9:30. Had quite a shower after that.

Breakfast is ready now so will eat and go with the milk. Love from all at Truxton.

Wilburn
Sunday Afternoon

Dear Mother:

Just a few lines to let you know what we are up to. We have been working tearing down the old building lately. Could finish it completely this week but may do other things. Have some T.B. testing to do also some more haying (second cutting). Hope to start building Uncle Bernard's $2000 garage soon.

Vance is still here but worrying about that he may have hay fever. I hope the realization isn't as bad as anticipation. Marian and Bernard are in E. Rochester.

They have straightened out the Greenfield affair by saying that someone gave their address in care of me but that it had been changed to Orange. I wonder who it was?

Willard is taking a nap, also Vance. Florence is over street, also Charlie and Carleton. This isn't much of a letter but perhaps it will let you know that we are busy as usual. Hope Aunt Ida gains fast.

Love

Wilburn
Dear Grandma,

I have been going to write you for a long time but have just got around to it. Things have been going pretty thick around here. Yesterday I went to the state poultry judging contest at Ithaca. I went there after I had won the county judging contest. I suppose you heard about the results of the county fair. I am including a picture of my championship Ayrshire heifer. I went to the state fair and didn't get anything. We have been getting ready to build the garage and have gotten the wall up. Aunt Ada and Aunt Carrie are up here today. We are going to have Thanksgiving over to Aunt Carrie's. Leo has a baby boy. Aunt Ivah out at Cato has a baby boy.

Guess Bernard won't get around to finish this so will add a line and send it along. Guess he has told you the highlights. He was quite surprised as well as his family and the club agent that he should win the county poultry judging contest. He did not do too bad at the state contest considering his age and that most of the other boys were from 16-20 years.

We lost our purebred Ayrshire bull in the T.B. test couple of weeks ago. We were mighty sorry to lose him as his calves have been very fine. The one Bernard took first and also third on were some of them. Wilburn has been terribly busy. He had more T.B. testing to do this fall and there has been quite a bit of practicing. Then after Vance left we only had two men for about two months. We have another now, by name Ben Bolt. Willard thinks he is quite all right.

Last week I was in Syracuse three days as delegate to the State Federation of Home Bureaus. Yesterday had to appear before the Supervisors to ask for an appropriation for our Home Bureau. It looks more favorable this year and am hoping it will go thru.

The second week in December I am expecting to go to Niagara Falls to State Grange, as delegate from the Truxton Grange. Don't think Wilburn will go for the full time but maybe part.

As Bernard said we had the wall done for the garage and yesterday the carpenter came and we began the frame. It is going to be quite a building when we are done. Room for two trucks and a car and now we have decided to build an apartment above of four or five rooms and it may mean one less man in the house sometime. Did Wilburn write you that we had bought another farm? It is the Webster place a couple of miles below toward Cheningo. Only about 460 Acres in it!

The box of stockings came safely and it was nice to be remembered. Had
planned to buy some hosiery the very day they arrived.

Must get busy or won't do much this morning.

Love from all
Wilburn and Florence

Partys are fun times!

Wilburn celebrates as Grandson Bobby, Florence and Marian Wightman Potter enjoy 1952

Florence and grandchildren Jimmy, Patty, Billy, Bobby and Susan ready to blow!
Dear Mother:-

Florence has said she will go to bed just as quick as I finish this letter. So perhaps we can go there by eight thirty. The last three nights have been rather late. Last night Benj. and Addie Beard were down for supper and played cards until late. Night before we were over to Woodwards until late and Thursday night was Grange and it was after midnight that night so you see the nights have been a mere nothing. Have two men just at present Leo and Charlie. The third one, Ben Bolt by name has a few days off and is on his wedding trip in the North Country near Malone. He married Cammila Dennison. Half of Dana's girls are married now.

It has been terrible icy here of late. We've been very fortunate with no trouble. Our cattle are doing fairly well sent nearly 500 qts. of milk this A.M. Tested 87 head last month had three reactors but I have sold several cows lately so have only about seventy now. Nine horses. So you see we have a few chores yet,

Our garage is progressing rapidly when the weather will permit. About three days more and we would have the windows all in, the shingling all done and the doors all hung. We've decided to make a four room apartment upstairs over the garage. Will cost only a little more and will make room for another married man. Will try and take a picture of it and then you can see what it looks like.

The shirts and ties you sent are grand just what we all need. I had a new suit this fall so now I'll be well equipped. Our greatest trouble now is to keep fuel enough ahead. Just seems as if it burns away so fast. They use a pile of wood at Leo's. Guess they keep it pretty warm for their young son. Leo's sister worked here a little while but got married suddenly and only staid a little while after that.

Our school doesn't materialize very fast. Hope to be able to start by April first but that will soon be here.

Had a letter from Uncle Wendell says he's going to Herkimer but didn't say where. Vance left here for parts unknown. He didn't hitch up well here and now I'm not surprised that he hasn't gone farther up the ladder of progress. I'm afraid he'll be a lot worse than his father.

This will let you know that we are all well and busy. Went to Peggy's for dinner today. Had only twelve here for Xmas dinner.

Love, Wilburn

Many thanks for the slip and towel they are lovely--F.B.P.
Monday A.M.

Dear Grandma,

As long as Mother or Daddy have already written a line, I'll add a few and save a stamp. Then I'll write more later.

I appreciate the pillow very much and it will be a welcome addition to my room and will look lovely on my bed. Mother says she intends to hide it so she can have it.

It is below zero this morning so rather chilly. It is beautiful outside though and the sun is shining gloriously which makes up for a lot. I hope the cold continues even tho I freeze as we will have skating and tobogganing when I get back to school.

Have to go back next Sunday. Harry is coming over Saturday P.M. and take me back.

We were all down to Peg's for dinner yesterday as it was Mr. Freeman's birthday. She came up with us as we are going to the city this morning. Don't expect to get much but want to look around.

Peg and I have a grand pipe dream. Her spring vacation ends as mine starts so she is going to persuade her dad to take her back and I'd go with her--see Wellsley, Boston, you, then go on to N.Y. and stay the rest of the vacation with Rita. Sounds great doesn't it, but---

I suppose you're interested in my Xmas. Had lovely presents. Blouse, two spoons, bath set, coat hangers, clip, panties, apron, perfume, hankies, atomizer and a glass tray with a crystal atomizer and toilet water bottle to go with it. O yes and a purse. Think I fared beautifully.

Must scribble some more lines. Hope you and Cousin Lucy had a nice Xmas.

Happy New Year and Love
from
Marian
2-2-34
Harold ---Harold Burrows--family lived in Lincklean--great helper and friend.
Rose---Rose Gaines--family lived in Lincklean Center--helped Florence in home--Rose is aunt of Peggy Bartholomew, Larry's wife
C.W.A.--one of National Recovery Act public works program--"alphabet soup"

5-11-34
Leo and Laura---Newton, wonderful helpers on farm
Holyoke--Mass., home of Uncle Bernard and Aunt Ida

8-1-34
Mr Hazzard's old farm---on route 13, just before Cortland--Stoughton farm today--
Uncle Edmund grew up on that farm

11-27-34
Webster place--where Carl Hinkle owns today--Leola Hinkle lives there also

12-31-34
Dana Dennison--and Lettie--Virginia Barrows and Leola Hinkle's parents. Lynn and Virginia's farm, next to Webster place. The Dennisons had 12 daughters---then a son, who was killed in the highway at a very young age--a terrible tragedy
Dear Mother:-

Have just finished lunch of milk and popcorn and Florence says I must pen a few lines to you. If I had written as many times as I had thought of it the mails would have been busy. Just seems as if this is a busy life. A week ago Friday we opened the bids for our new school. The bids were higher than we hoped and so we have been trying to work out some plan which will be satisfactory to all concerned. Tuesday I went to Albany to see Mr. Hixson director of Buildings and Grounds at the Education Building and from there went to the Public Works Administration in New York City.

Staid overnight at Frank and Nellie's and into N.Y. in the A.M. Left New York at 5:45 and arrived in Syracuse at midnight so didn't get home until after one with the temperature below zero. Next day did some Vet work and had a school board meeting all the afternoon. Am spending a good deal more time with the school than I should but some one has to do it and as long as I took the job must try and see the thing thru.

Have sold a number of cows this winter and a few horses. At present have seventy four head of cattle and a dozen horses so you see we are busy with chores and cutting wood to keep warm with.

Florence has been more than busy with all the household duties and Home Bureau. Last Monday was a meeting of the H.B. Executive Board all day. Tuesday Pomona Grange met and Florence gave a report on part of the State Grange Program. This week is Farmers Week at Cornell and will take in some of it. Florence received a personal Invitation from Director Flora Rose of Home Ec. for Wednesday afternoon.

Don't know whether you knew that the Supervisors have appropriated $2500 for Home Bureau work this year only $700 last. The membership drive has been on and they have over 525 in the county. They had planned on 500 but now it looks like over 600.

This isn't a very long letter but will let you know that we are busy and well. The children are full of work with basket ball and some skating.

Love, Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

Time goes so fast! We've been so busy but had a fine trip to Mass. and back and so glad you enjoyed it all. Florence didn't miss me but missed Willard terribly. He's a live wire wish I could remember to tell you the things he says. Had a very successful trip home. Stopped in Shelburne Falls, saw Walter Legate and Sidney Wood. Think I picked up a few points from Sidney that will help me immensely. He was sincere and open in his visit. Had our lunch in Albany and Willard had a nap while I went into the State office building to visit Dr. Lynch. We finally got home about six.

Uncle Albert passed away two weeks ago. Edmund and Emma came out, the first time since last fall. Frank and Nellie came last week and we had seventeen here for supper last Sunday night.

I've been very busy with horses this spring. Have sold and traded between forty and fifty this year so far. Have the best bunch of horses on hand now that I ever had. Have a three year old colt fit to take to State Fair think he'll weigh nearly seventeen hundred now. Have about eighty head of cattle scattered around now. Had two reactors this last week. Cattle prices have picked up to beat all. Some classes have doubled in value. I suppose you remember about Kennecott Copper. Have noticed that we could have netted about $400. on a hundred shares since I visited Orange. Just looks as if inflation might make and lose for somebody. Milk prices have been lots better this winter.

We have been doing a lot of trading lately. Have a brand new car and truck and a new Case tractor and plow. We decided that we might better spend money for new equipment than putting so much in repairs and wasted time.

Marian made a successful trip to N.Y. and home with Mr. Kitts. She has been selected to study at the Merrill Palmer School in Detroit next fall. She'll have to tell you about it. Think there are only two selected from Cornell. So it's quite and honor as well as a privilege.

Carleton and Bernard are as busy as can be with work and baseball, tractor and truck. The St. Louis Cardinals baseball team plays Cornell next Thursday and Bernard hasn't let anybody forget about it so I suppose we'll probably be there. Had dinner with Ernest & Nellie today. Have papered the living room and hall. It looks neat and fine. Must close with Love from all at Truxton.

Wilburn

256
Dear Mother:—

I am hoping you will receive this for Thursday. You cannot guess how close we came to coming to Orange for Thanksgiving but finally decided it was a little too far for short a time. Probably you've not seen a paper to let you know that Mrs. WHP is elected first VicePresident of the New York State Home Bureau. Also she has been selected to represent the Central district at the American Farm and Home Bureau Convention at Chicago the 6-11 of December. Marian has written that she intends to write a book soon on "How it seems to be a daughter of a Celebrity" or "The Rise of Mrs. Dr. Potter". So it seems that with everything that we are jumping most of the time.

Yesterday we took Willard down and had his tonsils out. He feels pretty good today but staid in the hospital last night. We went for him this A.M. When I went for Florence last night we saw the last of the Will Rogers Pictures, " In Kentucky" another one of those good home spun pictures. I have been T.B. testing during October and Nov. Our own cattle were injected today. Think we have 104 head of cattle now. Injected about eighty head in Solon and McGraw this afternoon. We had nearly 1200 bu. of grain this year. Both silos full of corn, three barns full of hay and lots of straw.

Yes I thought many and many times about Copper that we did not buy. We certainly missed out once. The steady climb that has taken place since last spring amazes me for many times it has been up and down so much. That profit was badly needed by all concerned.

Our family seems to be busy as usual. We see Carleton once in a while. He has been home only once since Sept. and of course Marian won't be home until Xmas. Think Carleton is becoming more accustomed to Cornell and he finds that Truxton High School is pretty small potatoes. Think he has a better job than when he went to Ithaca for he was cleaning Pots & Pans but now is on silverware and glasses.

Bernard is carrying on here. Is quite interested in basket ball and all athletics in general. Knows more about those things than all of the rest of us together. Our school is progressing rapidly. Think it will be finished early in the new year.

This will let you know that we are just as busy as ever and don't eat too much turkey. Turkeys are selling for around 30 cents live here and there have been a great many this year. Must close and start the Delco so we may have lights. We may have high power this winter. They have the line surveyed out and so probably it's just a question of time.

Lots of Love,

Wilburn and family
Dear Mother,

The stockings were lovely. Wore one pair yesterday for the first. It seems that I have had to jump so fast, mentally at least, from one thing to the other. Willard is feeling rather fussy tonight but guess another day will make a great difference.

Carleton comes home tomorrow PM to stay until Sunday. It will seem good to have him home.

Two weeks ago, the Sat. of my birthday we went to Wilton and staid over night. Harold went with us too. James wanted to but thought he was fencing on Sunday. It turned out that the boy he was to practice with didn’t come. He was quite disgusted.

Have the house cleaning about done. We washed the storm windows and Charlie put them on. So we are ready for the next cold snap.

Am going to take these letters and get Willard some ice cream so must close.

Love

Florence

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notes 1935

6-1935
Uncle Albert died—Albert Allport—Aunt Carrie’s husband. Lived 87 S. Main St, Homer where Bill and Jean Cadwallader live today

11-26-35
high power—High voltage line extension by Niagara Mohawk to provide rural people with 120/220 volt power
Dear Mother:

Will write a few lines before going to bed. We are as busy as usual. Tomorrow have an all day meeting of equipment men to discuss our needs for the school which is fast nearing completion. We were up this afternoon and the contractor hopes to be out by March 1st. that will let us put our equipment in during March and hope school may be ready by Easter altho our grading can't possibly be done by that time, thus there will be lots of dirt tracked on new floors which will be just as bad. The building has already cost about $120,000. Have over $10,000 worth of equipment to buy and the Federal agreement call for an expenditure not to exceed $156,000. Enough for school.

Marian came home from Detroit last Thursday and will be home about a week and then she will start her last term at Cornell. It doesn't seem possible that four years have flown so quickly. Carleton came home to take a regents exam in chemistry week before last. I took him back Tuesday night. Florence was in Albany that week for a meeting, N.Y. State Home Bureau Executive Committee. Carrie Curtis kept house that week and it was terribly cold and how the snow did fill the roads. We had to draw the milk to Truxton with horses for two days and we didn't get all of the school children home one night. If a big storm should come again we'd be stuffed tight until spring for the drifts are way above the car tops and only one way traffic in lots of places.

Don't know whether you happened to know that we had another mishap to the truck. The Lehigh smashed it completely. Charlie jumped so he was not injured badly but has been pretty sore. We had him in the hospital for five days. It had us all worked up and just seems as if we had plenty to take care of without any additional. But that doesn't seem to be life. Just seems as if two troubles followed one all the while.

I follow the stock market all the while and it makes me so sorry that we didn't take the jump for we need the wherewith so badly. Cattle and horses are much higher. Hay is lower but potatoes and cabbage of which we have none are up.

Willard is growing and learning so fast lately. Don't seem as if he could comprehend as many things as he does. Can spell his name and write it in print. Spell butter, knows all the letters of the alphabet and numbers. He was over to school the other day and asked the teacher if she knew where Moses was went the light was out. Of course she said no. He told her "He was down cellar with his shirt tail out!"

Must close with Love, Wilburn
Truxton, N.Y.
April 2nd, 1936

Dear Mother,

Should be ironing but while I am resting my feet will practice a little typing. Carleton has been doing some but has gone to Cuyler to have some work done on the car. It's a nasty spring morning with trying to snow but ending in rain.

We are sorry Orange was hit so badly by the flood. There were plenty of disasters around us but we were not so badly hurt right here. The water was as high as it has ever been and lots of cellars full of water. Many didn't have fires for several days but we had home, lights and telephone service. The damage was pretty high to the Tapioca plant, wasn't it. They will repair it and go on with business, won't they?

The children came home from school for their Easter vacation last Saturday. Marian was not feeling very good as her side and stomach were bothering her again. She had an attack about a month ago and was in the infirm a couple of days and they ice packed her. The doctor there said it was her appendix. But she has felt very good until this past week and it had been bothering her again. We went to see Dr. Higgins Monday afternoon and he said there was no doubt as to it's being her appendix and the sooner out the better. We came home and talked it over and about 10:30 Wilburn called the Dr. and told him to make arrangements for it to be done the next morning. It was done and she is doing just beautifully. They even ordered a tray for her yesterday! Let one of her nurses go last night and another will go today and I presume the other tomorrow. John Sweet is there yet and Ethel visits him twice a day and she will run in to see Marian so I think she isn't going to mind her stay too much. Do not know how long she will have to be out of college but if she doesn't go back and work in the dining room it may not be too long.

Expect that Wilburn will be going to New York for a day soon on school business. The building is completed but the equipment is holding them up. Will be very glad when it is off our minds. It is a very lovely building and Truxton is going to be proud of it. They have played basketball in the gymnasium, which has made all the kids happy.

Bernard's package came yesterday. He will be writing you later. Willard is so busy helping everyone and learning about everything. He knows his letters and counts to a Hundred. Spells his name and lots of other words. He stands here waiting for me to put some kisses on so will put them right here. XXXX O.

Must get busy. Love from all
Florence
(over)
Dear Grandma,

I thank you for the book. I looked it over last night and thought it would be good. My chickens did well yesterday. I got 40 eggs from about 46 hens. We are having quarterly test at school now. We had our first baseball practice yesterday. We have Easter vacation week after next. I will have to sign off now and go feed my chickens.

Love
Bernard

P.S. Willard wants to write some words that he knows how to spell.

butter
cat
dog
cows
toe
Bill
Truxton
New York

Willard H. Potter

THE END
Dear Mother,

Florence has just placed this under my nose and told me to write this before I go to bed. We have been over to McLean to see the Sweetlands but found out they had left with Frank and Nellie for Hastings about two hours before we were there. Then stopped at McKinneys for a few minutes and then to the Snyders at Dryden. They are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary today. Saw Iva and her family. They were down just for the day. Herbert is to room with Carleton this year at Cornell. After that we went to Fillmore Glen for a picnic lunch. Then a drive around Owasco Lake and home shortly after five.

We have all been to the State Fair. Florence, Isabelle and I went up Tuesday. Carleton and I went up Friday and staid to the night show. Bernard was up two days. So guess we Faird quite well. Marian has been the representative from Wyoming Co. for the entire week. Goes back to Warsaw for a couple of days then to Ithaca for a couple of weeks then to Orange County at Middletown. She has had a raise in her salary but has to have a car for which she receives 4 1/2 cents a mile for operating. She has a new Ford Coupe coming this week. She seems to have enjoyed her work and apparently they have enjoyed having her there. She came with a bunch of people for the Flower show they were up here for dinner.

Edmund and Emma and F. and I went to Hastings and New York three weeks ago leaving on Sat. and coming back Tuesday. Went to Roxy's Theater, Radio City and Music hall also to Playland down on the Sound. Came back on the East side of the Hudson then across the Rip Van Winkle bridge to Schoharie then down the Cherry Valley Turnpike and home. Talked with Atlee over the phone. He said Vance was to live with Frances and Aunt Anna with him.

This has been a terribly dry summer for us. Our crops are just fair but suppose we should be thankful our ground isn't blown away (Florence starts writing) or ourselves. Guess if I should attempt to write any more it wouldn't be as legible as his. Have been canning peaches, pears, tomatoes and the usual baking etc. Aunt Carrie is spending a few days with us.

Carleton has been doing some threshing around the town but tomorrow is out to help fill silo with the tractor. School has opened in the new building and everyone likes it so much. How are Frances and Clinton? Is he pretty well and have a job?

Time for bed and so will say good night.

Wilburn and Florence.
Dear Mother:-

Just a line before bedtime. We have just returned from the Farm and Home Bureau Annual meeting at the South Cortland Grange hall. They served 194 for dinner. Before I went I injected 125 head of cattle for T.B. tests so Florence went with one of the ladies from Truxton. Willard stayed with Helen Beard and her sister who has two children younger than "Stub". They have some puppies and he certainly takes a great pleasure in playing with dogs. Our dog and he are practically inseparable.

We have a new minister by the name of Clytus Mowry. They are young and newly married but very much liked by all and the Truxton church is looking up due largely to the untiring interest of Mrs. W. H. Potter. The congregations have averaged about fifty and the weather has been anything but inviting. The last few days have given us the most icy roads ever. We've had no trouble but the papers have told too much. We were in East Rochester a coupe of weeks ago and when we came home the roads and conditions in Ithaca were so treacherous. Saw one car on its side and only by careful crawling did we climb the hill.

Our new school is working fine, Basketball, plays, dances, movies and exercises are occupying the Gym most of the time and the Senior Play last week Thursday and Friday.

Carleton played in the Cornell Varsity band Thanksgiving day at Philadelphia (quite a trip for him) so didn't get to Truxton until Friday A. M. We took him part way back and he thumbed a ride for the rest of the way. We took Marian to Sidney and there she drove her coupe to Middletown. Do you realize that she's twenty one next Sunday. It don't seem possible but evidentially time does not wait for man or beast.

We had our school dedication the very last of October and it went off very creditably seeing who was on the program. We've been rather slow with our grading project but now since the weather is bad they've started to grade.

Wonder if you had a pleasure time with Mr. and Mrs. Stone. I wrote a note at the time hope they may keep their health a long while. Helen and Neil Parker were here over night a week ago Sunday. They brought the boys down after Thanksgiving and we were glad to have them with us overnight. I hope you are not having the epidemic of colds that are doing the rounds here.

Must close with Love from all to you.
Wilburn

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Monday Evening

Dear Mother,

It is a windy night out but not too cold. We have been down to a meeting in Cheningo to promote lights down there. Looks as tho they should really arrive in the near future.

Then Wilburn had to go to Truxton to a school board meeting. Bernard is up to a school entertainment. Carleton is reading "Listen to a Lonesome Drum".

Yes the stockings arrived all right but since I came from Syracuse have been more than busy. Letters just don't get done.

Had hoped to be able to say that your package was on the way but haven't been able to get into Syracuse. We are going in tomorrow, I guess, and will try and send it right from the city. Wilburn has been testing and just haven't been able to get the car for long at a time.

The folks are coming here for Christmas. If the weather is at all decent the Hazzards may come out in the afternoon and stay over a day. Father Hazzard is feeling fine now.

Love and Merry Christmas from us all.

Florence

---Post marked Dec 22, 1936, Homer, NY--- written by Florence to Mrs. Marion E. Potter, 276 N. Main St. Orange, Mass

notes 1936

4-3-36
Tapioca---Orange, Mass. Home of Minute Tapioca---terrible floods April 1936

9-14-36
Carleton has been doing some threshing---we owned a threshing machine and Carleton threshed for several of the neighbors

12-10-36
"Stub"---Wilburn often called Willard "Stub"
Atlee---Atlee Potter, cousin of Wilburn, son of Wendell and Anna
Rev. Clytus and Mary Mowry---favorites of young folks--married Marian and Harry in 1937---living today in Lakeland, Fl--beautiful people, 61 married years---he is still playing golf! Must keep one young---!

12-22-36
in Cheningo to promote lights---to get a high power line from Truxton to Cheningo
Dear Mother:

It is nearly eight o'clock and while I am waiting for Bernard to finish Epworth League will write to you a few lines telling of our doings. Xmas has come and gone again. Seems as if we had a very good one better perhaps than the year has warranted. Your presents were very acceptable and I wore the shirt and tie to the Vet Conference at Ithaca Friday. Only our family, Aunt Carrie, Ada, Joan and Cora sat down to dinner but Edmund's people came about four and staid until in the evening and drove back to East Rochester that night. Carleton went with them staying until Monday then thumbed his way back home making the trip in about four hours. Edmund's business has been much better now that the car shop out there are running full blast.

Our activities seem to keep going most of the time. Florence has been busy with her Home Bureau work especially in correspondence etc. Bernard has 4-H Basketball etc. besides taking violin lessons each Saturday morning lately. Carleton seems to like his work at Vet better than we had hoped. He is quite busy. Bernard is growing like a weed now. His clothes are getting too small so I suppose that means another suit. For my part I've been testing a lot of cows in December bought and sold some and also a few horses. Horses are very high in price and hard to buy. Have a card every little while from Sidney Wood advertising their horses. Hope some day to go South and West but don't know when that will be. The men have cut a lot of fire wood which is all sawn up. The last two weeks have been very mild and no snow but today it is colder and snowed during the night. Willard has had a cold settling in his ear. Had the doctor Friday night but it seems better now. Marian is now located in Binghamton for a month at least don't know where she'll go from there.

Bernard's hens are laying well now think he has about 55 so we have plenty of eggs and to spare. The telephone has just rung so will have to go over street and get him. Hope you keep from having a cold and also don't slip on the ice. It has been terribly icy up here. Plenty of accidents.

Must close with Lots of Love from all the folks at Truxton.

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

It is the end of a perfect day the first in a long while. The snow has gone fast and the bare spots are beginning to show on the hills. The past week has been the most severe of the winter as far as snow is concerned. School did not run two days because of the roads and we will make them up this week Thursday and Friday. Sunday was a busy day here. The Homer folks were over for dinner and supper and Carleton and a boy friend came for dinner then we had special Easter exercises in the evening together with farm and Vet it made a full day.

I suppose you know of Leland Freeman’s passing. The paper was quite full of his doings and sickness. He seemed very popular in Ithaca and the other places where he had taught. His twin sons are in Cornell now. Guess they are very bright and are at the head of the class. His burial was in the North Country and am wondering if Aunt Ida went up. Uncle Geo. Woodward was buried here a week ago today. He had not been well for some time. Aunt Nettie did not come back yet. She don’t like the cold up here any more.

Wonder if you realize we came to Truxton seventeen years ago. It hardly seems possible but guess it is. Quite a little water has gone over the dam in that time. I suppose Marian has told you of her plans. Don’t quite seem that we are old enough to have a married daughter. Carleton likes his work better than I thought he would and think he’ll be better than I have ever been. Hope so anyway.

Mrs. Buck called me up and wanted me to write a few recollections of the days in Cortland. I haven’t as yet but may soon. Wonder if you would care to come out. Probably you’d rather have it in warmer weather. Florence saw Leah in Cortland the other day. She said her mother had been sick a lot this winter. Had a nurse and house keeper considerable of the time. Mr. Hazzard’s eyes seem to be fine now. Saw in the paper today of Mrs. James Glann’s passing. Perry and Dorothy have disbanded.

The McGraw folks are due here next week. Had hoped we might go down there this winter for a time but it didn’t work out. Maybe we can later. Florence and Jean have gone over street for a Grange drill practice. Bernard and John Feeter and Louie Burrows have gone to Cortland to hear Paul Whiteman’s Orchestra at Schine’s State. Hope this finds you well.

Love, Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

Will write a few lines before breakfast on this very nice bright Sunday morning. Your letter of yesterday made us glad that you could see the people of Canton but very sorry to find Mrs. Tupper as she is. Was surprised that you should run on to Edmund and Emma in Canton but we knew that they were taking a trip.

We seem to continue to be just as busy as ever. Haven't quite finished our haying yet. Guess we had too much and the weather sometimes hasn't helped also the peas hindered and then they didn't net much.

We are still having lots of company Virginia and Ruth have been here two weeks and we like the girls so much we wish we had a little girl. Harry and Marian are here. They go in a camp for a little while until they move to Odessa. He finished summer school Friday. Marian has bought some things for the house but think she is playing cautious. They think they will have the house they were talking about when you were here.

Two weeks ago today we had a picnic of E. and E, and family, Carl and Evelyn and Enid, Susie and Leo, Lell and Jane, Mrs. Day and Leah. Part of them came for dinner as well a supper which was the proper time.

As breakfast is ready will stop and eat. Have watched the milk situation in the North Country with interest. Have had the last Plaindealer and also the Post Standard.

It is now Monday a.m. and Louie is ready to go to Homer.

Love from all
Wilburn
notes 1937

1-11-37
car shop--M.D.T., railroad car manufacturer in East Rochester
   "Merchants Dispatch Transfer"--I believe

3-31-37
Leah---Miss Leah Day--friend of Wilburn and Florence
   ---disbanded---Perry Glann and his wife Dorothy Hazzard Glann separated. Dorothy is
   Uncle Edmund's sister
McGraw folks---Grandma Emma and W. L. Bean--coming home from Florida
Louie Burrows---brother of Harold also worked for us--nice fellow
Schine's State---Theater--Cortland Savings Bank parking lot and Cortland Hardware
   area. A new building around 1930

8-15-37
E. and E.----Edmund and Emma Hazzard
Harry and Marian---house in Odessa where Harry will teach agriculture
   ---Two weeks ago etc---all Cortland H.S. classmates of Florence and Wilburn
Plaindealer---newspaper--St. Lawrence Plaindealer, printed in Canton, N.Y.
Post-Standard--same as today--Syracuse Post Standard

Aunt Cora Gilbert, Uncle Howard Bean, Grandma Emma Gilbert Bean,
Aunt Carrie Harmon Allport, Aunt Ada Bean, Aunt Elizabeth Bean and Joan
Bean, front.
Dear Grandma,

Daddy came around this afternoon and said "you know my letter writing failings, how about writing to Grandma". So here goes. I can't do much else as I've been lying either in bed or on the davenport for the past two weeks and a half. I was over home for a week then Harry brought me over here in hopes the change would do me good and then too I'd have someone to take care of me. My stomach has been on a spree but it's getting better. I keep most of my food down and hope I'll be able to go home next week. Harry hopes so too. I guess he's getting tired of fending for himself.

The folks here are busy as usual. Dad's doing T.B. testing etc. so isn't home much. Has been dickering for a new car but hasn't made the swap yet. We traded the second week of May. Have another Chevy with all the deluxe equipment--even one of the new automatic tuning radios. All you do is push a button and the dial turns to the station. Last night the Truxton School presented an Operetta. Everyone went and said it was very good. Both boys here in it. The little kids had a special alphabet play and Bill was in the chorus. Bernard plays baseball--at least he gets in once in a while--but of course goes to all the games. He and Lloyd Holdrege gave a demonstration at a county 4-H dairy meeting last Saturday.

Grandma Bean came up last Saturday and has been here all week. It's been a help to Mother as well as nice to have her here.

My puppy dog is snoring away on the davenport beside me. She is quite a lazy dog. She sleeps on my bed most of the day. I suppose she thinks she's being company. The weather has been beautiful all week. Last night it rained but the men said it didn't do much good as it hardly soaked in. We could stand some more rain. Our garden is growing beautifully so Harry says. I'm anxious to get home and see.

On Memorial Day we had quite a succession of company. Ethel and Aunt Clara came for a couple of hours. Peg was here. The Eberlys were out picnicking and stopped in for a few minutes. They have three children--a girl and two boys. Peg and her Dad were up again Wednesday night. She has a position for next year. She has English and Library at Walworth, a small place not far from Rochester. She is going to work in Cortland Library this summer.

Mother has been to the dentist twice this week. Had a tooth pulled and another filled. How are you and all the people in Orange? Guess I've covered the news, so will sign off and let any one else add lines if they want to.

Love, Marian and everyone at "Money Sunk"
Dear Mother:-

While everyone is either sleeping or swimming I will write a few lines. Eddie Leonard came over from Ithaca last night and then he and Carleton together with Bernard and Willard have gone for a dip. They also took John Feeter and another couple of boys the sons of a former Pastor here. He has been a missionary in Western China for a long time. Ruth is here this week guess she is reading. Guess Florence is sleeping.

Marian after staying here a month went home before the 4th but was here for the annual get-to-gether. I suppose you know why she has been off her hooks. Harry is taking summer school as practically every other school teacher in this section.

Bernard returned yesterday from Cazenovia from a week in the Seminary for Epworth Leaguers. They went from here beside Mr. Mowry who was one of the instructors. Carleton came home about the twentieth of June having made all his work and now is very handy around the ranch.

We have done quite a stroke of hay expect to finish the Webster place the middle of this week and will do this here. Have drawn all the hay from the Webster place up here so far as the barns down there are practically full. Will have everything full even the barn floors and old barns but will manage to fit it in somewhere. Our peas will be ready the last of the week and they are the best in several years only four acres this year when nine would have made a good income.

I think this has been the busiest season we have ever had. Have tested a lot of cattle curing April, May and June. The income from which is needed to keep all going. Milk prices are too low to get ahead very much without plenty of other incomes. Suppose we vote on Federal Control of the milk the last of this month. We are trying to figure some way to build a barn down at the Webster place for we need it so badly.

Our school business is running along very smoothly, have the annual meeting Tuesday night. Bought a new Brockway bus to replace one of the old Reos. We, Potters, traded off the Ford and now have a new Chevrolet Two Door with trunk, black in color with red lines. It is exactly like Rena Kenney's and Albert O'Donnell's. Have sold six horses in the last few days. Plenty of opportunities to sell cows but no money in sight except out of the milk check. We have several Ayrshire calves that are exceptional nice hope Bernard can get places with some of them this year at the fair. Bought another bull calf of Leon Atwood. He consigned two heifers at the Ayrshire Breeders Sale at Cooperstown and brought this calf down at that time. B. and I went
over for the afternoon and brought Mr. Bull back in the car.

Eunice Burrows is helping here again this summer. Am glad that Florence has the help. Florence is taking a couple of lectures a week at Cornell. Alice Huddleston is taking the same work. This is the week of the state meeting of the Home Bureau Executive Committee at North Rose near Sodus so Florence meets Mrs. Harrison from West Winfield then they drive out Tuesday and back Thursday or Friday. Florence has a meeting Friday in Cortland so that's the way it goes. (The swimmers have just returned)

I have wondered how Henry is coming. I judge no news is good news. Just seems as if he has more than his share of the trouble but trouble seems to go in streaks perhaps this will clear up his ailments and he'll feel like a new man. Hope P.W.A. will be good to him. Heard the President speak from Oklahoma City last night at supper time. Suppose you have seen that our state has wiped out its deficit. Don't believe our taxes will be a cent less however.

Mrs. Potter just corrected me by saying that she hadn't been asleep and that Marian was here five weeks.

Wonder if the banks have cut your interest rate out there. Only 1 1/2% here now. Expect you have watched Kennecott go lately. One extreme seems to follow another. (Just changed pens did you notice the difference?) Guess I have told you some of our doings. Hope all are well and that you won't be too shocked to get this letter. Will try and do better and perhaps surprise you. Many thanks for birthday check. Guess you'll realize I don't write much by the way I write.

Lots of Love

Wilburn and all
3---Postmarked Aug. 1, 1938, Homer, NY---Written by Wilburn to
Mrs. Marion E. Potter, 276 North Main Street, Orange, Mass

W. H. POTTER, VETERINARIAN
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK Sunday Evening, 7:00 p.m.

Dear Mother:-

Had intended to get a letter off for your anniversary but slipped a little
matter of a couple of days. Never the less congratulations are still in order. Uncle
Bernard I suppose is seventy now. It doesn't seem possible. We had a couple of rides
while they were here. Went back in the hills looking for lumber and barns for the
Webster place but have come to no conclusions as yet.

We have just about finished haying last night only a few scatterings left to be
picked up tomorrow. It has just been raining so expect they are damp now. Think this
is the first year we finished in July.

August 8th the N.Y. Giants Baseball team plays in Truxton as a means for
raising money for a John J. McGraw Memorial. McGraw was a native of Truxton and a
Manager of the NY Giants for years. We have been drawing the bleachers from
Cornell this past week. Seventyfive hundred seats and it took fifteen trips to draw
them. So we've been busy with haying and hauling.

Tomorrow we are to draw the blood from calves for the 4-H Boys. Perhaps you
are not familiar with drawing blood but when the test for Abortion a sample of the blood
has to be sent to Cornell. Cortland Fair is only three weeks away and State Fair a
month. Fall will be here only too soon.

We have quite a lot of grain this year which we will have to start cutting this
coming week. Many pieces West of here are cut and threshed but we are quite a little
later. Our corn is good think it will be ready in September so we still have something
to keep us out of mischief. Think we shall start a wall for the barn down to the Webster
place right along.

Mr. Huddleston wants to be released from his contract to teach over here. He
has been offered an assistant Farm Bureau Agent in Franklin County. We hate to lose
them but perhaps there will be others. Johnathon Osgood from Keene, N.H. applied
for his position to teach. He certainly has a new England tongue. Florence has been
taking a couple of classes a week with Mrs. Huddleston at Cornell. Wonder if you
heard Florence over the radio.

Bernard is taking about 25 hens to the Fair also several calves. Carleton has
been busy here on the farm. Marian has been here a couple of days while Harry took
some boys on an "ag" trip. Willard went home with them tonight. Ruth went home
Wednesday after being here about four weeks. Trust this finds you well and ready for
the Reunion. Would like to take it in sometime. Love, Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

It is just three o'clock in the afternoon of a very rainy day of a rainy time. It has rained nearly every day some time in the twentyfour hours for a long time. Our corn is still standing and I only hope we don't get a hard frost if it ever stops raining. We are trying to keep all hands doing something like washing windows, sorting bags, fixing the truck racks, splitting wood in the cellar, cleaning out the shed on the Webster place and ripping out the underpinning preparatory to putting in a new sill and floor.

Louis has gone to take a horse to John Lark's above Lynn Freeman's then on with another to above Cuyler on the hill. Tho't I was going to have two more to go but it didn't materialize yet. Carleton has gone to collect some bills for threshing and silo filling. He goes to Cornell tomorrow to begin his fourth year. I shall miss him terribly but expect I'll get along as I have before. He is to have his job in Balch as before. He and we are lucky that he has the job and the scholarship. He has been great help and companion around here. Think he enjoys his Vet work and think he'll make better than I ever did.

Bernard is taking P.G. at Truxton, tho't he would go to Homer but after considering the many angles of transportation, tuition, etc it seemed as long as he could get the same courses that he could get along with Truxton. Bernard had rare success at the Cortland fair and then again at the State Fair. He won 1st and 2nd on both Junior and Senior Calves, 2nd on the little bull we got from Leon Atwood; at the State Fair he won 4th on one calf, sixth on another and 4th on the little bull. He earned over a hundred dollars at the two places most of it coming from Cortland. He doesn't know what he wants to do but he does know his stuff about cattle and hens.

Mrs. Huddleston has been here doing some of those projects that she and Florence were interested in. She came the last week of the State Fair. Yesterday they were in Polkville before that in Harford and guess they have several places yet to go but just don't know where.

Our milk business has been quite alive in this section. Most of the large dealers signed up but some of the smaller ones said they wouldn't go along but guess they have found out the it is going to be rather tough if they don't go along and pay the same as other dealers. Investigations of Hegeman's of East Homer and Mayburys have been going on and it has been found that they have been making plenty for everybody except the farmers and so it goes.

The bus has just come and discharged Willard and Bernard and gone on its way rejoicing. I think it is a wonderful service for those on the main roads. We have one new bus this year a 49 passenger Brockway with a Deluxe Steel Body costing the
Lynn Freeman and Mrs Meldrim are taking trip down thru Mass. for a few days. Had a reception for the teachers a week ago Monday night, of course it rained but about seventy five more or less turned out. We hired Miss Reese from Holyoke. She is the daughter of Aunt Ida's friend. Hired a lad from New Hampshire for "Ag". Aunt Ida and the Reese's came out on Monday and returned the same day.

Guess this has been quite a letter. Hope that the sick are improving and all will be o.k. It is nearly chore time so must sign off.

Love from Truxton
Wilburn

Elizabeth Allport with her father Albert and stepmother Carrie Allport

Joan Bean Smith and mother Ada Griffin Bean

Bernard Potter and Joan Bean--years ago!
Sunday Afternoon

Dear Mother,

It is a windy, cooler, bright Sunday afternoon. Can't you just imagine that our flat is covered with cattle over sixty at home and more at the Webster place. Reakes cattle over the fence with McCall's and Burgett's a little farther away while Bloomfield's can be seen out the West window. Bernard and Willard have gone with the car to Feeters, Florence is reading the paper and listening to the radio.

Our minds have been with you people while the floods and hurricane was on. I hope that the federal government can drop some of the money they've been wasting into Orange and vicinity. But trees will have to grow again. We had a flood no wind to bother. It twisted the corn terribly in some places and many people had to cut all their corn by hand. It was a big crop here and everybody's barns are bulging with hay and corn. Hay is so cheap that there is practically no market for it. Potatoes at 40-50 cents, cabbage at $2-$3 a ton. While milk is higher it is not so as it was last year or many times before. Horses are cheap here now as there is no demand while in the west they are relatively high because of the scarcity of them. I saw 205 head of horses sold at Unadilla a short time ago.

On the seventh we took a short trip thru the fruit country to Sodus, East Rochester then to Perry, Castile, thru Letchworth Park to Portage then to Fillmore, Houghton down to Bolivar in the oil fields, thence to Wellsville, back to Alfred, Hornell, Hammondsport, Watkins and Odessa. Stayed over night with Marian thence back to Truxton the next day.

I suppose you've watched the Stock Market go up on K.C. Do they pay dividends yet? Some of our investments have not proved so profitable. We have made a start on the barn at the Webster place. Have the wall laid up and the sills on. We are working in the woods getting out lumber so maybe after a while we'll have one. Planned for fifty cows down there.

Carleton is planning on driving down to the Cornell-Columbia football game at New York next Saturday. I think a group of five are going. Cornell has had only one upset so far this year by Syracuse 19-17. Marian was in East Rochester last week. Bernard is busy with his P. Graduate work and farm work. He draws the milk every morning from Truxton way, then with Basketball, Epworth League and Senior play, he keeps busy. Willard is the same as ever happy as a clam and growing like a weed.

Ethel Sweet and Aunt Clara have just been here and now have departed. Ernest Woodward has a new Hupmobile car. Carlton Woodward is at Morrisville Agricultural School. Christine is in N.Y. with Margaret so Ernest and Nellie are alone except for Miss. Saxton who boards and rooms there. As the men are coming to start chores will sign off until later.

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It is now Wednesday 9 a.m. a beautiful late Oct. morning. We are digging a few more potatoes today. Louie is moving a furnace for the School Garage and drawing a cow. Florence is cleaning and writing. Last night we listened at the Grange to Eileen Mahar Winchell (1910) talk about the Constitutional Amendments. It makes one wonder if they know enough to vote properly. Owen D. Young was to speak at the meeting of the School Boards at Syracuse but had a slight injury so could not come. Went to a Farm Bureau get together and dinner at the Cortlandville Grange Hall. Nearly 200 were there.

Frank Feeter has just called and wants to go and look at some cow up at Liverpool so must hustle so to be back about noon.

Must close with lots of Love from all at Truxton

(Florence writes)

Has Lucy gotten someone to stay with her now so that you could make a trip out this way soon? Think it would be good for your soul! Are they going down with Bert this winter? If so, think you had better come out and live in Cortland, don't you? Seems to be much to do most of the time as usual. Have done a lot of canning as usual and feel quite stocked up. We are getting storm windows washed and on this week.

Florence

Four generations: Marion E. Potter, Wilburn H. Potter
Marian Potter Kitts, David W. Kitts---summer 1939
6-6-38
Marian---she is pregnant---but that's a shush word in 1938!
Eberly---Rev. Paul Eberly--former pastor--father of Dr. Eberly in Cortland
7-12-38
Eddie Leonard---Carleton's college friend--our family friend for over 60 years
"suppose you know etc---"-------still can't write, "She's expecting!"
Rena Kenney and Albert O'Donnell---Truxton neighbors
Leon Atwood---Ayrshire breeder and fruit farmer in Plattsburgh---Canton Ag School
friend of Wilburn
Eunice Burrows---sister of Harold and Louie--great help for Florence
Alice Huddleston---lovely wife of Don Huddleston, Truxton Central School Ag
Teacher--he was later Extension agent in Franklin and St.Lawrence Counties
9-22-38
Lynn Freeman, Abbie Freeman Meldrim--brother and sister--solid citizens of Truxton
and great friends of our family
October 7th--Wilburn and Florence's anniversary
Carlton, Christine and Margaret--three of Ernest and Nellie Woodward's children.
Miss Saxton---Miss Anna Saxton--taught English and Library in Truxton Central
School. wonderful pianist
Owen D. Young--VanHornsville--Grandpa and Grandma Potter encouraged him to
attend St.Lawrence University--He later became Chairman of General Electric
Frank Feeter---John's father--owned farm on route 13 toward Cuyler--now owned by
Custers
Dear Mother:-

Florence has just made me sit down to this desk and start a letter I had resolved to write a dozen times. Marian said when we went to E. Rochester to get Willard, "don't you ever write anyone", for she hadn't received one in a whale of a while. My ability "to put off" I think increases with my age and as I get lazier.

This has been another busy summer don't seem as we have accomplished as much as we should. Our crops have been reasonably good. Peas not as good as last year but a long way from a failure. We had a lot of good hay so that our barns are all full. Our grain was better than usual and of extra good quality and heft. Our corn is lots better than the average. Many fields are drying up and some have started to fill silo. So all in all we have many things to be thankful for. The drouth did not harm us nearly as bad as those located on more gravelly ground. Our pastures suffered early but are greener now--have been feeding hay in the barn for quite a while.

The main cause for complaint this summer has been the very low price we have received for our milk. We haven't had a decent milk check all this year. I think the low price of milk this summer has cost us nearly a thousand dollars. But now it looks brighter and that we get a very good price until April at least. The milk strikers have been very active in this section. We didn't have any milked dumped but the Sheriff escorted us to the factory for a few days. It looks as if the C.I.O. put plenty of influence and money to help the Dairy Farmers Union.

Mother Emma has bought a lot on Little York Lake and intends to build a cottage for the summer. Emma, Aunt Carrie, Cora, and E. Alport are at Mr. Crandall's cottage across from Glen Haven. Aunt Carrie got pretty tired while trotting to the hospital to see Ada so I think she has been resting and enjoying it up there. Ada has had a severe operation, we didn't know which way it was going to turn for quite a while but she is some better now but had had three nurses for over two weeks.

Joan has been here for over two weeks now and Ruth Ann since last Sunday. Edmund and Emma brought Virginia, Ruth, George and his lady friend out last Sunday. Jean Faucette is her name and a very nice girl. She lives in Ohio and E. & E. and George took her back there last Monday and thus met the other side of the family. She is to teach out there this year. George will be in St. Lawrence until Virginia finishes. He took summer school work in Madison, Wisconsin this summer. Wonder if you knew that Ike Hall is Prof. of Farm Management out there. Think he draws down $6000 per year. Quite a change from 1910 days.

Bernard has been to the Cortland Fair and received his share of the prizes and now he has two animals at Syracuse. He gets a great kick out of it and hope it may
help him later. He has had a lot of experience that many lads never tho't of. Florence
has been busy with a couple of booths at the State Fair and will be up some this week.
She was up yesterday with Carleton completing them.

Carleton went to New York and Vicinity a week ago Saturday and just got back
Monday night. Went to the World’s Fair a couple of days and then jumped to Saratoga
and saw the races up there so he seen the Jews on Parade at that resort. Marian
came over this afternoon and will stay while Harry is at the State Fair with some boys.
David is growing so fast weighing over 20 pounds now.

I am enclosing two checks. If you will send back the Elwood note I will hand it
back to him. Maybe Florence will add a line. I am enclosing ten dollars interest for
Elwood note.

(Florence writes) Finally have my kitchen curtains made and up and like them very
much. Our family has kept pretty good size all summer and the last four weeks with the
anxiety about Ada it seems that we have had plenty. Emma said that last Sunday that
the Hazzards seemed pretty good for them.

Had a party for Aunt Carrie’s 80th birthday.

Bernard has broadcasted twice lately of WESG.

Love from all
Wilburn and Florence

(Wilburn writes) Sign Bill Turner’s note as he wrote it and then sign your name.
W. H. POTTER, VETERINARIAN
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK
Sunday Afternoon, Sept 10th

Dear Mother:-

While Florence is finishing the dishes will start a few lines. The greatest change that has happened since my last writing is the extremely hot Friday and Saturday and today the temperature is more than 30 degrees less. So we almost need a fire. The last four days we've been filling silo and the end is not yet. Will have more than the two silos full beside a good bit of millet at the other place so that I must make some kind of temporary outfit to care for the surplus which will be a great asset this year when there is such a shortage in some sections. Mr. Perry, our Farm Bureau Agent has estimated that Cortland Co. will be short 35,000 tons of silage and 1500 tons of hay. Unless we have a lot more stock will have plenty to spare.

Bernard returned from a 4-H Tour to the World's Fair last Sunday 8:30 a.m. Forty went from the county on Thurs. 1:03 and they had a wonderful time. Carleton was down for several days at Jamaica and then went to Saratoga to see how the Jews behave up there. Some of the college boys went and had a very good trip.

Bernard was at the State Fair for several days with two heifers and the rest of the family was up one or more times. Probably this is the last of the fifteen day fairs. The attendance was very slim over 100,000 less that last year but still the World's Fair isn't going over as big as expected.

We brought Ada from the Hospital two weeks ago today and now she is beginning to show rapid gains and act more like herself. I expect Emma has started her cottage at Little York but we have been so busy that we have not been over. She has been buying supplies as plumbing and flooring.

Don't know whether I wrote you that I went to Oneonta with the man that bought Westcott Store. He was interested in trading the store for this farm which was just East of the E.S. Hall farm just out of Oneonta. The deal is still hanging fire. We drove out East Ave. up in the country beyond where I used to work. Have just heard the announcement of the Goldman Band at the Exposition in Springfield. McDonald's cattle from Cortland are there.

Marian and family were here last Sunday. Eddie Leonard and a friend also people from Sempronius. Then Carley and Anna Feeter came down in the evening. Today is the reverse. Very quiet. Johnny Feeter went to Syracuse to school last week. He is taking aviation construction instruction in High School.

Bernard and Carleton will both start school next Thursday. Both will work at Balch and Bernard has been awarded the Kenney Scholarship. Ann Feeter has the other one. We are hoping Carleton will be able to have the one that the Wm. Jones girls had. They have discontinued their course. Of course Carleton has had his for
four years but one more would be quite acceptable, of course we won’t complain if we
don’t get it.

We went to church this morning. Mr. Mowry has had an operation for
appendicitis but seems quite like himself now. He has a new car. Mr. Bloomfield has
been quite ill for the past week but is better now.

Well this is the same time later on Sept 27th in the morning and the school bus
has just gone down. It is raining a very fine drizzle for which everyone will be thankful,
the springs are either dry or very low. Lots of people drawing water for all their cattle
and other needs. We took the boys over to Ithaca last Thurs. afternoon. Edwin
Clement (Harold’s son) is to room with Bernard at the Groom’s Cottage, 17 East Ave,
Ithaca. That is the same place where Carleton staid one year.

The ladies of the church had a very successful chicken supper last week
clearing over sixty dollars and using 26 chickens. I never saw such a crowd. It is the
end of the conference year now and the annual meeting is held in Syracuse the
balance of the week. Florence is the delegate from here. We are hoping for
Mr. Mowry’s return.

Think this is quite a letter so will close and get it agoing, then I can write again
sooner.

Love from All
Wilburn and Family

P.S. Marian says they are planning on going to Orange in October so hope you’ll be
coming back with them. I think the people will go south a little earlier this year. I’ve
heard them say in Nov. but nothing positive.

W.H.P.
W. H. POTTER, VETERINARIAN
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK

9:30 P.M. Thurs Eve,

Dear Mother:-

Just a few lines to let you know that we are still busy and guess we are lucky to be. Florence is giving some lessons to the Home Bureau units on Window Drapes etc. and the District meeting is Sat. at Marathon. Nellie was over this afternoon for the fun of it. Her sister is not well and probably will go back to Willard soon. I have been testing cows and have plenty of that line of work to keep me busy for some time. It pays well and is very welcome after the low prices of this summer. Milk prices are more than double what they were in May and June but of course feed has advanced from $4.00 to $10.00 a ton but I'll take the higher priced feed and milk. Will have our potatoes all in the cellar by Saturday. A great deal better crop than last year. Plenty for our own use and some to sell.

Yesterday Louie drew a load of lumber and material for the cottage at Little York. They've been very slow getting the thing started and now I hope they'll rush it along. I don't know what to tell you about the time they're going South but a lot earlier than last year. Tho't I'd see Emma B. and know definitely.

Probably Marian will tell you about our party on the evening of the sixth. Quite a surprise and only wish you could have been here. You and Bernard were lacking.

I am enclosing Bill Turner's check and will forward his note with addition of $205.00 on it for 2 more cows. Hope you will send me a check for $205. I have another deal pending similar to Turner for around $700. I expect will probably finance it at 6%. You might figure up Turner's amount due you and see if we agree. Will finish this in the a.m.

It is now 7:15 and Mr. Burrows is ready to set sail for Homer. A beautiful morning a little colder so we have a fire in the furnace. Hope you have a good time with baby and persuade them to go to Holyoke and perhaps to Portsmouth.

Love from All at
Truxton and Ithaca
Dear Folks at Pine Castle:-

1. Milked Cows a.m.
2. Fixed Fires
3. Showered. (Clean Shirt) (Handkerchief alright)
5. Commandeer Don Woodward to bring me home
6. Finished Chores
7. Men to woods, took dinners
8. Wrote letters
9. Otis Young here
10. Camp took Cows
11. Dinner (cold)
12. Hartnett to inject cows.
13. Freemans to inject cows
14. Dr. Crowe here
15. Acton Rigby to draw blood
16. Fix generator on truck at Lindsays
17. One case eggs G.L.F. Syracuse—expect 22 cents
18. Forty two dozen eggs Victory—24 cents
19. Four Dozen Eggs Meldrims—22 cents
20. Feed for hens, also Oyster shells
21. Milked cows P.M.
22. Supper
23. Clean eggs (156 + 38)
24. Read paper
25. Willard to bed
26. Trip to barn. Natural addition
27. Fix fires
28. Bed 10:30
29. Inclosures from Lynn Freeman
30. Hilda slow but here

Love

W.H.P. & W.H.P.
8-29-39
Ike Hall---high school classmate of Wilburn and Florence
Ellwood note---Wilburn sold cattle and horses on time and took an interest note
WESG---Ithaca radio station---Elmira Star Gazette owned, later Cornell purchased it
and changed call letters to WHCU---Home Cornell University

9-27-39
1:03---The 1:03 D.L.&W. (Delaware, Lackawanna & Western) train out of Cortland
Westcott store---where Truxton post office is today
Oneonta---Grandpa Potter pastored there prior to coming to Cortland.
McDonald’s cattle---McDonald Farms Guernsey’s--some of the best in the world. The
farm is our family’s Bean farm on Lorings-East River road. Mr. McDonald was
vice president of J.C. Penney Co. Also owned McDonald stores in the west. A
fine gentleman. His daughter is Eleanor McJunkin, wife of Reed, of Cortland.
Mr. Bloomfield---we purchased his farm at auction in 1942, from his estate---a
fine gentleman and neighbor
people go south---The Grandmas and Aunts

10-13-39
Portsmouth---Portsmouth, Rhode Island--home of Burton and Aunt Veva Potter Storrs.
Aunt Veva was the only sister of Grandpa Wilburn D, Uncle Bernard, and Uncle
Wendell Potter.
back to Willard---Willard, NY---insane asylum in those days
party of the sixth---Florence and Wilburn’s Silver Anniversary---10-7-14
Bill Turner--local farmer, Granger, Church member--fine fellow--Dad financed some
good time with baby---Grandma was visiting Marian, Harry, and baby David---
born 1-31-38

12-6-39
A.B.P.G. Co---Allport, Bean, Potter, Gilbert
Pine Castle--their Florida winter address--near Orlando
Otis Young---Senior--longtime friend and neighbor
Camp--Peter D. Camp--beef buyer--Janet Camp Young’s (Doug) great grandfather
operated Camp meat packing Co--where J. M. Murray Center is now
Lindsay---Gene, auto repair garage in East Homer--later in Cuyler
Natural Addition---baby calf born
Hilda---Hilda Bush helped Florence with housework
W.H.P. & W.H.P.---Willard and Wilburn
Dear Mother,

Arrived home at 11:40 our time after a safe uneventful trip by way of Mohawk, and Taconic Trails, 236 miles.

Picked up a Oswego Normal boy and gave him a lift.

George and Jean made us a call shortly after I arrived. Will start planting beans this a.m.

Love from Truxton.
Dear Mother:-

I have put off this letter too long until Florence has just brought the sewing table, paper and ink right in front of the radio and told me to get busy.

This has been a hot, muggy day and week, mercury at 80 at seven a.m. and at night just seems as if the sweat just rolled off of us. Yesterday we drew peas until late at night and will finish them tomorrow. Just a fair crop practically nothing left if one figured the entire labor, trucking etc. Some reason or other part of the peas didn't grow or germinate for what reason we don't know. The same ground eleven years ago grew the best crop we ever raised. Thus we gamble in agriculture. Our haying is progressing rapidly now but was very slow early because of rain, rain, rain. The crop is luxuriant but many are just starting. Our beans look fine but as they were sown on June 14 of course they are late. The canning company starts their bean picking at Erv. Bacon's tomorrow. We sure hope that they yield well.

Our family continues well and very busy. Ruth Ann has been here most of the summer and we enjoy her and she seems to like it here. Last night she and Bernard, Gerald Young and Dorothy Stoker went to Preble to an Old Home Day Dance but didn't like it there so came down to the Buckingham which they enjoyed much more. Willard is growing fast. He runs the hay hoist and does a good job. He has a tent out in the backyard and sleeps out there some time alone and sometime someone else. Bernard is busy with all kinds of farm work and trucking. He went to Canada last Monday afternoon and brought back a load of cows Tuesday but didn't get here until after midnight after traveling over 500 miles. Carleton seems very busy and seems to enjoy it. Marian, you probably know as much about as we do. Harry goes to camp this week and she is going up to East Rochester for couple of days. E. & E. were here Friday for dinner then to Cortland and back here before going home.

Your gang are summering mostly in Homer and McGraw. The cottage hasn't progressed as we thought it would. A well has been driven and eventually electricity for pumping and lights will be available. They were painting up there last week. We were over to Aunt Carrie's for dinner a week ago today. Ada is working nights at the Old Ladies Home in Homer for a time. They hope she can get on steady. Joan has been accepted at Normal, I hope she can get a job when she graduates.

I am enclosing two checks which you should have had a long time ago. Am not sending this month's so I'll have to write and forward them.

This will be one day late for your birthday celebration. I hope this may be the best year to come that you have ever enjoyed. Wish you might drop in for a few minutes. Expect Carleton will be, some of these Sundays. Maybe FBP will add a line (Florence writing) Have had a package done up for three days and it will be late in spite of it! Flies and bugs are so thick around the light that I guess we had better turn it
off and go to bed. It is a hot night but guess we will sleep if we get there. Canned peas yesterday. May do a few more tomorrow.

Love from all
Wilburn and Florence

notes 1940

6-15-40
George and Jean---Hazzard

7-29-40
Ruth Ann---Hazzard--now James
Old Ladies Home---now Elizabeth Brewster House
Normal---Cortland State today

Threshing for neighbors---Carleton did custom work to earn college money--late thirties
Dear Grandma: I got your card this afternoon and right then I determined to sit down and write to you. I'm sorry I haven't written, but I'll see if I can make up some now. Today and yesterday have been clear days with strong icy winds, they really bite when we start going out in the open of the upper Ag. campus. Last week, however, we had some warm days and lost a lot of snow, in fact here in Ithaca there is comparatively little snow, all the streets and sidewalks are bare at the present time.

Thanks for your congratulations, I guess I was kind of lucky. Exams went the best ever this term (which is none too good), but I'm on the upgrade and really beginning to use my time efficiently. Consequently I get my studies and extra activities done without the studying suffering. I think that I am really going to go places as far as marks go. I suppose you know that I am trying to get into Vet. school next year. It would mean four more years of college, but I guess it's what I want. I'm going home tomorrow and come back Sunday. It will be the first I've been home in four weeks.

I suppose you are feeling well and enjoying the sun and warm weather. How were Carrie and Ed when you saw them? Say hello to the rest of the folks in your domo. I wish I could be down there with you for about two weeks.

I haven't been over to see Harry, Marian, David, Jean in a long while, so I think I'll get my roommate to take me over next Sunday. Mother said that they were all well and Jean Pat is growing like a weed. I haven't seen her in so long that I probably wouldn't know her. I suppose the baseball teams are training in Orlando. Makes us think spring is coming and I guess it is.

When do you people plan on coming North? Don't think of it for a while yet, because it isn't exactly summer up here--but it's bracing.

Willard was good, the last time I saw him and I guess he is really topping all records for 4th grade. All I hope is that he can keep it up when he goes away to school in about eight years.

I'm still working over to Balch--20 meals a week and 6:30 comes soon, so I guess I'll call a halt. I enjoy your cards and would like more, even if I don't get an answer back to you promptly--I'll get one. Keep enjoying the sun and have a good time.

Love to all,
Bernard
I hope you can decipher my writing--Dad and I write about as bad, I guess
Dear Mother:

I am taking time out to write a few lines so that you'll receive this by Sunday. I do hope that you have returned to the good health you have apparently had all winter. I've had a little bowel trouble for the last twenty four hours but guess it has righted itself this morning. We had our first drenching rain last night. This morning the grass looks so bright and our pasture so good. Shall turn the cows out today or tomorrow as we are feeding the last of our ensilage. The cows down at the Webster Place have been out daytimes for several days. We are sending nearly twenty cans of milk a day and of course hope they'll flush up for a while after they go to grass.

Have eight acres of peas sown and some grain and we are plowing, harrowing, fixing fence, spreading lime as fast as we can. Have just finished my T.B. testing and for April ran a little over 1400 cows. So along with a few other things April was a little busy. Have good, faithful help so far. They are men a little older than I've usually had but that is the right way now. Have a very tall fellow, Henry Brown, a typical old type farm hand. Mort Hale is here, also Dick Smith and a new man at the Webster Place. The labor situation on farms is acute and we are very thankful that these fellows seem to intend to stay. We are planning to put in 10 acres of sweet corn for the canning company. Am hoping it turns out better than the beans last year.

My chickens that I bought in February are big fellows now and you'll probably be surprised to learn that I bought some more that arrived on the 18th of April so that makes over a thousand here now.

We are completing arrangements for someone to come for you people between now and when school is out. Here's hoping that Sunday finds you all just fine and we'll be thinking of you.

Love from Truxton
Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

Mrs. Potter has ordered that I take pen and ink and tell you that she is froze up. Yesterday was warm but Thursday was hot and we nearly gasped for want of air. We have not as yet used our cooler at the barn which is almost two weeks later than when we were drawing to Homer. Our milk has increased so that now we are sending 24 cans besides feeding fifteen calves.

Last weekend was a busy one around here. Friday we were in Cortland and then picked up Bernard who had been at McDonald's showing cattle to a group of Expert Judges from all over the U.S. He then took the car and went to the Navy Ball at Cornell. Saturday he was back at McDonald's. Then I took him back to Ithaca Sunday morning.

About 8:30 Friday night Carleton drove in with a Mrs. Lockwood and Miss Hazel Whitney from Claremont. Mrs. Lockwood has a son in Cornell so she came along to visit him. Miss Hazel went to the Ball and then Saturday took in Cornell and the Kitts for supper. Sunday they were all here for dinner including Mrs. Lockwood's son and Lady Friend. Marian and family were over after dinner as well as others. Carleton left for Claremont about three and a card said he arrived there about nine and Lawrence later.

Wonder if you have noticed that a new ruling has deferred all Veterinarians, Vet students and Dentists permanently. So now Carleton can make any plans he desires. Don't think he'll work for the other fellow very long.

I suppose by now you will have learned that George and Jean are coming after you. Hope that you plan on leaving or sending by freight anything that will load down the car too much. Think Florence will add a line. (Florence writes)

While I am waiting for some kindling to start my kitchen fire will add a line. Willard has just come down and is eating his breakfast. He is starting 4-H activities and so he and his father were down to McDonald's last night for a judging contest. Think he is learning cows a bit. Bernard has not heard from Vet yet. Would not be surprised if he is not accepted.

Wonder if you noticed in your Cobblestone Call that Dr. Ellis Pierce, our minister of last year, is going to the Universalist Church in Hornell Sept. 1st?

We are having wonderful attendance here now. The first Sunday this month there were 149 out and on Mother's Day Sunday 154, last Sunday about 100 I think. We put on a chicken supper this past Thursday night. Did not make much but glad of
$30.00. It was terribly hot in that kitchen but cold enough this morning to make it even!

Didn't you think the picture of the babies was splendid? Little Jeanie Pat is a dear. We had supper over there Mother's Day night and I staid until Tuesday a.m. Had dinner with Bernard at the Fraternity. About 20 boys had their parents there that day and we all had such a good time.

Haven't planted the garden yet but will in a few days. Having asparagus and rhubarb. Must get busy as the maid is pretty slow when I stop.

Love from all
Florence and Wilburn

Florence and Wilburn -- Willard and Bernard
Parents' Day: Alpha Gamma Rho at Cornell May 1941
W. H. POTTER, VETERINARIAN
RIVERSIDE FARM
TRUXTON, NEW YORK

Dear Mother:-

It is Sunday morning about 7:30. Mother and David are making some noise upstairs but have not come down yet. Bernard has gone with the milk, Dick and Henry are cleaning up the barn and I am going to scribble a few lines to you and Carleton. For the last couple of days we've been having rain. Florence has been in Syracuse attending Home Bureau Board meeting and attending to some Fair business. Have you noticed that Vera McCrea is married. Ruth has been house keeper and we men have been repairing tools etc. Haven't threshed yet so you see the oats are real wet.

After we left you Sunday had a short visit with Uncle Bernard and Aunt Ida. Then went on to New Boston seeing Aunt Anna, Frances and Bill (some Bill). Had an uneventful trip home thru Hudson and Oneonta arriving home about one. Guess we haven't saved much gas this week as the car has a little over 1100 miles in one day over a week.

Marian and Harry judged some exhibits at the St. Lawrence County Fair returning here Thursday P.M. They staid over night. Harry went to Syracuse Friday to buy some clothes then they went home after dinner leaving David here. We are taking him home today.

Anna Feeter passed away early yesterday morning. She had suffered intensely but her constitution kept her alive. The funeral is tomorrow afternoon, burial in Cortland. Carley has asked me to be one of the bearers. I think the girls would appreciate a letter from you.

Our addition to the school is nicely started. Some of the foundation is poured. The red building is down and so every (thing) is proceeding orderly.

Bought a used silo to put up on the Webster place think we'll have enough fodder to fill it and refill it. Have to sort some eggs so will close and mail this in Cortland as we go thru today.

Love
Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

Have just finished breakfast, sorted some eggs, finished a letter to Carleton so now will pen a few lines to you. Expect our letters will cross. Yesterday the Richardson family reunion was held here. Only a few were here but among those here was a man by the name of Davenport who was born and raised in Shelburne and also schooled at Arrims (?sp). He knew most everybody I could mention and their farm is just the other side of the hill from where the tower is. He is a minister preaching at Burlington Flats near Morris. Wonder if Mr. Leonard is at Morris yet.

Expect Carleton has been entertaining Miss Wightman lately. She was leaving her home to go to Lawrence Thursday and then back to Highland for school Tuesday. She was at the Cortland Fair and later went with Florence to State Fair last Tuesday.

Ruth, Joan, Willard and I went to the State Fair Friday staying until after the Ice Circus at night. Bernard came home today after two weeks at the Cortland and State Fair. Today the church folks have a picnic at DeRuyter Lake after service at Camp Crone. Ruth is going home today. Shall miss her terribly. Think she has had a good time as well as work.

You probably didn't remember that I let Sprouse have $300 at the time his father died and I want you to keep on putting the thirty five a month crediting the Starr Acc't. You may also add another $13.75 for hay I sold him making $313.75 plus interest that he will pay. The two checks are enclosed.

Have our Threshing all done and now we'll put up another silo and filling it as fast as we can. Perhaps Florence may have a line to add.

(no line from Florence)
Dear Mother:-

A few lines before retiring. Of course before now you have learned of Mr. Hazzard's passing as they said they were writing you. Wonder if you would like to have Mrs. Hazzard visit you a while. They are making some rooms over up stairs at Edmund's for her I believe.

This has been an excellent fall to accomplish things but just seems as if we had too many or that I did not get going fast enough or early enough. Had about thirty ton of sweet corn, three silos filled and refilled with corn and millet and a corn crib full of corn. Have remodeled the chicken house by putting a second floor in it for an additional flock of hens. Hope to have the pullets under cover by Friday night. They have been laying all over for the past month. We are shipping four to five case of eggs a week to Boston. Parker & Small, 1 Fanuel Hall Market.

I wonder if Carleton told you about his choice of another Marian for the family. He has given Marian Wightman his fraternity pin. She is a Home Ec teacher in at Highland and her home is Pulaski, 36 miles north of Syracuse. He was on his way here when he was in Orange. He went from here to Pulaski then back to Highland and Lawrence getting in over 500 miles besides his numerous calls.

We expect Bernard Home Sat. the first time since he went to Ithaca this fall. He has been to Baltimore with the Judging Team and hopes to be able to go to Chicago in December.

I think you better have Dr. Tenebrock attend to your glasses and then you'll know they are properly adjusted. It doesn't seem possible that it is so near the first of November but we went South the first part of Nov. last year. We haven't had only a couple of hard freezes yet this year. Have heard a thing about the southern trip yet. But expect it anytime.

Willard is busy. Has some high top boots which seem to be just right. Harry Howe ate dinner with us today--He is working for Spiegel Store, chasing up bad accounts. His family are well. One boy in Normal, another in flying school in Elmira and Edith in AAA office in Ithaca. As it is late think I better say Good night with Love from all at Truxton

Wilburn
Dear Mother:

Your letter at hand today while Florence was at Odessa with Aunt Carrie, Emma & Cora to see the family and have a cake with one candle on for Jeannie Pat. She's a perfect doll. Doesn't walk only with help. David came home with Florence tonight so now we have two boys again.

Were glad that you were able to see Carleton. It would have been too bad to have missed him. Evidently he is working fast. Hope you may meet Marian some time soon. She'll make the third Marian in our family.

Aunt Carrie was up here over Sunday. Florence took her back Monday and did some shopping. Went up on Morgan Hill Sunday afternoon and got stuck in the mud and had to get a team to pull us out. She took it in good part.

Expect the folks will want to go South soon, so if it is o.k. with you we may come to Orange the last of this week or some time next. I thought perhaps you'd like to be ready and then have a resting spell out here before we go south. Wish Carleton could bring you out.

We are putting some white asbestos shingles on the Webster Place (House) it changes the looks completely.

As it is late think we retire and possibly add a line in the a.m.

(Florence writes)

Thurs. 7 a.m.

Am glad that your glasses are an improvement and feel sure you will be fine when you are really packed up and ready. If there is anything here you would take and not bring from Orange, plan to do so. Will be seeing you soon.

Love

Wilburn and Florence
Dear Folks:

We have just remarked that winter is officially here at 6:55 tonight. My only hope is that you can be spared half the cold we have had. Now it has warmed up and the ice is nearly off other back roads but believe me we have done a lot of sliding all over the road even with chains on.

Bernard arrived home yesterday afternoon. He is growing and developing fast. He has taken the truck and gone to Interlaken for some cattle for Otis and ourselves. We have twenty-five head over at the canning company for the winter. Have just brought in the seventeen I purchased in Canada before we went to Florida.

Willard is ever so busy with Xmas and school. Last evening he was the _____? at the school play. The first four grades put on a play. The seventh and eighth and the fifth and sixth beside musical numbers both vocal and instrumental. The place was packed and everyone seemed to enjoy it. The Sunday school exercises are coming off tomorrow morning. Some of the ladies including Florence are engineering that.

Florence is all tired out from a combination of too many things to do. We have been to Cortland and Syracuse this week, School plays etc. She has written over 125 cards beside all the packages to get ready. Guess it is a good thing we don't know the things and the problems we have to decide next week.

Have just came from helping Bernard with unloading. He is eating supper now. Florence says something is wrong for now she has the packages all done up and still Xmas is a long way off.

As for myself I've just been testing cows and trying to keep agoing along with the gang. Have either injected or read cows every day except Sunday since I came home.

Our poultry continues to do well laying around 300 eggs a day. Have shipped five or six cases a week returning from six to nine dollars a case. We are making about 15 cans of milk a day and the milk inspectors like to torment us by sending back a can once in a while and also make a friendly inspection at farm. So you see it's a great life if you don't weaken.

It's been so long since Willard and I came back don't think it makes much difference whether we review the trip or not. We did enjoy the home trip by Daytona, St. Augustine, Jacksonville. Had our lunch at Kingsland, Ga. with Pecan Ice Cream for desert. Also bought Pecans for Holyoke there. We came back Route 202 thru Smithfield, Rocky Mount up to Richmond around by Mount Vernon to Alexandria into
Washington thence 240 to Mrs. Richie's Travelers Rest. Got up and started early and arrived Odessa at noon then staid there the P.M. to listen to the football game. Finally arriving home at six (twenty four hours ahead of expected arriving time) in time for a chicken dinner for the Smith Sisters and "Washburn Co."! Visited the tobaca Market and saw peanuts stacked up and the threshing machine at work in some places. Florence wants to add a line so will leave the rest of the paper for her.

(Florence writes)

He could just as well kept on, he was doing fine and I don't think I am in the spirit for letter writing. Have just opened the cards that came this morning. One from Cousin Lucy and a note on it.

Bernard and Willard got the Christmas tree last night and got it in and all trimmed and lighted. It looks so pretty. We are going to be missing Carleton for Christmas as he says that he is not coming. Doesn't seem quite right but he wants a few days at Conference time and doesn't think he should ask for so much time off. Ada and Joan are coming up and of course Marian and Harry and family will be here. They are coming Tuesday and staying until Friday.

Mother, I couldn't find a picture that I liked for the price so I had another idea. I still had feathers from that tick which you gave us quite a while ago, so bought ticking and made Peggy a pair of pillows and put your name on the card. I don't know as they were made as nicely as you could have done them but I am sure Peggy will enjoy the pillows. The material cost (I just discover that I don't know exactly) about $1.15, I think. The pecans cost $1.00 and 17 cents to send.

We did feel the earthquake. Have wondered what Carleton will have to say about it as the papers say it centered in New Hampshire.

Think that we are going to have goose for Christmas dinner. Have the bread ready for the dressing so will get it fixed up Monday if all goes well. We are invited over to Ada's for dinner tomorrow and will probably go around and call on Ethel and Aunt Clara.

Must get Willard into bed and get there myself so will say "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night". Hope our box arrives in time for Christmas. It was a little late getting off. The Hazzards were out last Sunday night for over night. They can't come Christmas.

Love to All

Florence and Wilburn

297
3-1-41
Carrie and Ed---Carrie Abbott Curtis Garner Henry and Ed Henry. Carrie farmed on W. Cheningo road where Lloyd Holdrege lives. Ed lived in East Homer and was the grandfather of Gerald Young et al. Carrie was always the good neighbor

4-27-41
gas is getting scarce---World War II rationing

5-8-41
A Mother’s Day letter

5-24-41
kindling in the stove---the stove burned wood or coal
Cobblestone Call---The newsletter from the Universalist church, corner of Elm and Church Streets in Cortland where Grandpa Wilburn D. Potter pastored.
maid---the "maid" was Florence!

8-17-41
Dick and Henry----Dick Smith worked for us many years--faithful worker and fine family, wife Myrtie and sons Robert, Gerald and Eugene. Wilburn called him “Little Dick” Henry Brown, single lived with us, a countryman, faithful
Frances and Bill--Frances Potter Platt---daughter of Anna and Wendell Potter--sister of Vance and Atlee and Margie. She and Bill adopted a boy and a girl---For the rest of the story go to Carleton
addition to school---Cafeteria, kitchen, ag room and shop
red building---old house where shop and three classrooms were at one time

9-1-41
Sprouse---Willie Paul Sprouse lived on South Hill on former Roberts farm. We purchased the farm from him, then it was sold to Carl Crispell, then to Carl Hinkle. Sprouse purchased the former Alice Atkinson farm on the Cheningo crossroad where Greg Lockwood keeps heifers today. Sprouses were the parents of Al, Ben, Nathan, Janie Hinkle, Garnet, Bucky, and one more. Hard working, God fearing family. Wilburn did some financing for them

12-21-41
Smith Sisters---Mildred, Alice, Lillian---high school friends of Florence and Wilburn--all maiden ladies
review the trip---Wilburn and Willard took the ladies to Florida for the winter and he is describing the trip home.
Dear Grandma,

You're probably very surprised to hear from me. I guess I haven't been very literary this year, but I thought tonight to be as well as any to write. Received your birthday wishes just a month ago tomorrow. Sorry I haven't written sooner—but I haven't any excuses except things just come and go thick and fast.

It has been wonderful weather up here for the past 6 days. Really warm and springy like. I was home a week ago and everything seemed to be okay. Haven't heard from Marian and Harry lately, but did hear from Marian and Carleton. I guess they are going to housekeeping as soon as school is out. We get out of school on the 22nd of May. I'm more anxious this year to get back home this time than ever before. Guess I'm feeling all the worldly cares—being so old.

I hope you have had a pleasant winter. Give my best regards to Aunt Carrie, Grandma B. and Aunt Cora. Have you decided when you're coming home this spring? I'd sure like to come down after you but it looks like gas is going to be getting scarce.

Well this is better than before—even if it is short and hoping it all finds you feeling well.

Love to All

Bernard
May 7, 7 a.m.

Dear Mother:

I am writing a few lines to wish you a very pleasant Mother’s Day. Hope the weather is sunny and warm as it has been here. This week has been more rainy but last week was very hot. I thank you for my birthday remembrances.

We have been more than busy this spring with the testing, cows, chickens, trading horses, besides school, church and minute man duties.

Florence has written quite a letter to you all’s so you will share in it. It looks now with gas rationing that it will be impossible to drive down after you but I want you and Aunt Carrie to take a Pullman and I’ll share the expense.

Carleton and Marian were in Holyoke for the weekend and also were at New Boston. Probably they’ll come this way after school is out.

Have five dairies to read in the town of Scott. A call to make on the Lincklean Road, Blood to draw at Mr. Bloomfield’s, also at John Forbes in Sempronius and several colts to castrate around here.

Two checks are enclosed. Sold Sprouse a new team and harness this spring.

Breakfast is ready so must stop.

Love

Florence and Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

It is a cooler evening than last night when we had a severe thunderstorm. The lights were off for a time and when I woke up real early several lights were on in the house.

Our haying has progressed very good this year believe Bernard said we had 166 loads in the barn tonight. Think we have about forty more so the end is in sight. Our early peas have gone and the late ones will be ready this week. Our fifteen acres of beans are loaded with blossoms and beans are showing so in a few days the Italians will be after them. The David Harum Canning Co. has around 1000 Italians signed up to pick and can beans. Our March pullets are just starting to lay, so probably we'll have plenty eggs in a short time. The cows are pretty well dried up but they've done well all winter and to July. Have sold more horses this year than last. So I guess we are O.K. All our helpers are here and seem contented.

Aunt Carrie came up and spent the weekend here. Of course you know Marian is at Fort Meade living in a trailer with all the comforts of home. Florence made a hurried trip to Malone to be with Mrs. Fay, a member of the Ex.Com. of Home Bureau. Her mother was found burned to death. Don and Alice Huddleston met Florence at Potsdam. Lorraine and Donnie Bean are arriving here next Saturday morning for a week in the country. Expect that will be the highlight of his vacation. They are returning from Chicago having been out to her people at Evanston.

Willard is growing fast and makes us think of Carleton so much. He celebrated his birthday with a cake and candles. We found a very good used bicycle and I think he must have ridden ten miles yesterday. -----Will finish in the a.m.

It is cool this morning. Breakfast is over and we are going to mowing with two teams. Willard is out in his tent. He has been busy driving truck and team for haying. That will soon be over now.

I was reelected to the school board much against my desire. Have started our parsonage campaign for funds. Ten have promised $100. a piece so far.

Must send this by the truck.

Love

Wilburn
4--Post marked October 4, 1942, Truxton, NY--written by Wilburn and Florence to Mrs. Marion E. Potter, 276 N. Main St, Orange, Mass.

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**W. H. POTTER, VETERINARIAN**

**RIVERSIDE FARM**

**TRUXTON, NEW YORK**

Friday Evening

Dear Mother:-

Well our eggs are all put up in the cases about 450 eggs today. Shipped five cases Monday and three Thursday. Monday's eggs netted 36 cents a dozen. Had a little under 1500 lbs. of milk this a.m. besides feeding 5 calves etc. Haven't anywhere near finished our silo filling. Have only three men so we are quite busy. Don't know where we could find another man. Haven't had a man on the Webster Place since Aug. Bernard went back to Cornell last Saturday and sure do miss him. Doesn't seem that this is his senior year at Cornell. Have just finished making out my occupational questionnaire for the Army.

Last Saturday went to East Homer to a Banquet celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the building of the church and then on Sunday to the Rededication services. Mr. Benton the district Supt. was the speaker. Over 150 at each service. If it had been pleasant there wouldn't have been standing room. Carrie Curtis Henry was among those in the play and she was very plump and round. Ed was fixed up to look like the old type men 100 years ago and he looked the part. Made we think of the Cranferd (?) Dames.

Did you know that Miss Day was 80 on the 28th of September? Was so glad to learn of your going to see Carleton and Marian and hope you may go again. We wonder about his draft status but (haven't) heard a word.

We have our new furnace all in and it works extra good. Have a thermostat in the living room so if there is fuel enough on the furnace it is automatically fired. That is if the temperature gets below the specified point the draft opens up and closes when it gets about that point and we can set the thermostat up to 85 degrees.

Marian and Harry arrived at Fort Sill last Saturday night with their trailer nearly sixteen hundred miles. We enjoyed having Marian and the children here for a short time at least. David is all boy and Jean is a little doll.

Am enclosing the Turner checks to date. Must close for five o'clock comes too quick and I don’t like to get up any better than used to. Florence has been in NY, Ithaca, Syracuse and Rochester in the last month. Also Albany, Wilton and Malone. She's too busy. Love Wilburn

(Florence writing)---Helen Parker said to say Hello to you for her. Harold is in Alaska but his wife is back in their ap't in N.J. James is on the farm up in Brownsville. His wife is teaching. Neil looked rather thin but said he felt good. How is Cousin Lucy and when are you coming out? No car traveling for us folks this year but glad we can do that little to help. I think 10 boys have gone from Truxton. Bed time, Florence

---
Dear Mother:—

While I am waiting for a telephone from Cortland will pen a few lines. We finally finished our silo filling and today we will help Bloomfields try and get their potatoes out. We had a very severe snowstorm the first of the week but now it is Indian Summer. We are keeping the cows in nights so have increased our chores. Florence goes to Ithaca this morning to Broadcast. Will enclose a card telling of it. Bernard was home last Friday night then to the Cornell-Syracuse game Saturday, had three fellows with him, two staid here over Saturday night. Took them back to Ithaca Sunday P.M. He is a lot larger than Carleton and much taller.

Wonder when you are coming this way. Don't think for a second that we haven't gas to go to Syracuse for (you) will come anytime. Went to the School Board Dinner Monday night. Saw Edmund. He said he felt his mother was in the best health she had been in years. Just at present she is in Homer.

My telephone call has just come and have completed arrangements to borrow $15,000 for school business.

Florence is taking Leah riding to Ithaca this a.m. Then Aunt Carrie may come up when she comes back.

Hastily

Wilburn

(Florence writes)

Your letter came in the mail but you did not say when you would be coming out. They are talking by the middle of Nov. anyway.

It is a beautiful a.m. here will mail this in Cortland on my way to Ithaca,

Florence
Dear Mother:

I expect you are close to Orlando and we are still in the cold North. The bank books all came back in this A.M. mail except Amherst. They sent a request for me to endorse the order you sent, so that I have done and it is on its way back to them. The two enclosed checks were made payable to you and thus you must endorse them and make them payable to me.

We are going to Cortland now and put the books in the bank vault and deposit the checks. Also Mr. Wood, the man on the lower place, is going to get the small baby, 23 days old. Not any change here but colder. Hope you all stood the trip well and had a good rest and visit with Frank and Nellie.

Hastily with Love
Wilburn

---

Florence Bean Potter & Uncle Frank Bean

Uncle Howard and Aunt Mildred Bean
Silver Wedding Anniversary
Dear Mother:-

Just a few lines to let you know we are all well. Florence is in Chicago since Last Friday and we are keeping house alone. Everything is going along smoothly and the help proposition is a little better

I am enclosing the Turner check as well as the receipt from the County Clerk for the recording of mortgage and deed. All the papers are in the Safety Deposit Box at Bank as well as bank books. I'm sorry you thought you were wrong about checks it wasn't your fault but the bank's. It didn't make any difference for everything came thru on time and we met in Cortland on Dec. 1st to complete everything. The mortgage is recorded in the County Clerk's office and I paid a tax of $65.00 as you will see. This isn't much of a letter but you'll know we o.k. and busy as usual.

Love Wilburn
Mallorytown, Ontario
Canada
Sunday A.M.

Dear Mother:-

Just a line to let you know I'm in Canada trying to pick up a few cows to make some more milk next summer. Cattle prices are very high and don't know as I shall buy anything. Came up late Friday night not getting here until 1 a.m. George Beard came and drove his car so Florence could have ours. Didn't plan to come until tonight but Florence has to be in N.Y. City Tuesday so that we better come Saturday and Monday returning home either Monday night or Tuesday a.m. It is quite cold up here and lots of snow and ice in the side roads. It was snowing this morning but now the sun is out and very bright.

Wish we could drop in on you for a month or so and enjoy the southern warmth and fruit. Don't know really what to write that will be of interest only to let you know that we're O.K. and have plenty to do. Hope to get out some wood between chores, also to catch up on my testing that is past due. May have a young fellow to help with farm work and testing. Don't know whether he'll come today or not.

Have just written Carleton and Marian. Hope Marian Kitts is celebrating her birthday in a big way. Expect they'll be back this way the first of January.

Hope this finds you all well and sunning yourself.

Love
Wilburn

Willard and Jane Zautner Potter on the ice with sons Bruce, Dan, Scott
Dear Folks in Florida,

Yes, I am back in Ithaca after being home three days. During this second week of vacation I intend to get in a good many more hours of work so that I may get my sheepskin in February.

After getting all the swell gifts from you folks I resolved to write as soon as I knew it was possible to thank you for them. Grandma Potter for the tie, which incidentally will help sharpen me up next spring after spending a hard day next to the soil. I guess that you, Aunt Carrie must have Superman's telescopic vision and saw my pocketbook in my hip pocket--it certainly was in tough shape and the new one is greatly appreciated, 307307 all I can say now is that I hope there'll be something to put in it. As far as the red handkerchief goes Grandma Bean I'm sure it will do a good job of wiping the sweat from my brow--about keeping the bull at bay, that is another question. Anyway I certainly appreciate all of them.

Last night when I came back I had to wait over two hours in Cortland for a bus from Syracuse; the roads were just a glare of ice. It has rained enough now to take a lot of the snow and all of the ice off from the road. The McPhersons and Lewiens were over for Christmas dinner; it seemed a lot different than in other years but maybe a change is good. Aunt Ada and Joan came over in the afternoon.

How are the airplanes coming, suppose they are still buzzing? Heard that you had some grapefruit for Christmas, sounds mighty juicy. Well, as usual I seem to run short of things to put on paper so guess I'll say good night and wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Love,

Bernard

P.S. Grandma Potter, I was talking with Harold Willman, the man for whom I worked at the Fair this past fall, and he said he had the interesting experience of meeting a man on a train a few weeks ago by the name of Bernard Potter. He was much more interested when he found out he was my great uncle. I guess they were both on their way to the North Country.

Bernard
dairies to read---checking cows that have been injected for tuberculosis test---an
enlarged skin tissue indicated a positive infection
Carleton and Marian---Carleton Potter & Marian Wightman were married 12-28-41
7-20-42
Lorraine and Donnie Bean---cousin Gerald's wife and son. another son is Alan
10-4-42
10 boys have gone from Truxton---into the armed Services
10-30-42
they are talking etc---about going to Florida
11-1942
stood the trip well---to Florida
12-10-42
receipt from County Clerk etc---that paragraph has to do with the purchase of the
Bloomfield Farm on November 9, 1942. Grandma Potter helped Dad finance
the purchase of the farm--$13,700
12-14-42
Marian Bean Potter Kitts birthday---December 13, 1915
McPherson's---Doug, Viola and son Robert farmed on Route 13 where Bob and
Mariam Arnold live today.
Lewein---Rev. John and Thelma--special folks to us in Truxton and for years to come
WILBURN H. POTTER, D. V. M.
Riverside Farm
TRUXTON, NEW YORK
-----
TRUXTON 3Y6

Dear Mother:--

A few lines to let you know that we are not washed away or frozen up or buried in the snow. However, we’ve had more than our share of water, snow and cold weather and add to it all had a man quit so with all our activities we’ve been quite busy.

Xmas and New Year’s have come and gone. We lacked the family atmosphere that we’ve usually had but Santa was more than good to us. Think Florence will enumerate the presents better than I. We appreciate the pecans and nibble away on them each day.

I have been doing some T.B. testing, inspection work as well as Vet and Farm work. The cows that I bought in Canada have not come yet altho we expect one load tonight. It has been terrible in Canada, roads blocked, telephones out of commission as well as ice. The Vet that does the testing up there is more than sixty cows behind on getting them ready to ship.

Bernard was home a few days from Thurs. to Sunday night. He finishes in Feb. He is doing extra work so he can get his degree then instead of at June time. Hope he doesn’t have to work too hard to finish.

Harry and Marian start back east tomorrow I suppose. Looks like a pretty cold rough country to sail into but guess it’ll be alright. Don’t know whether Carleton and Marian are coming for the Veterinary Conference or not. They were undecided in their last letter.

I am enclosing a check for I didn’t put the order into Sheffields for December.

I sure am glad you’re feeling so good. Think the southern climate is grand for anyone. Seems as if you could buy some oranges and grapefruit if they didn’t get any from Flemings.

Must close with Love from all.

Wilburn

Hope you get Aunt Carrie’s mail straightened out as some of the letters have come back north.

W.H.P.
Dear Mother:-

It is not quite six a.m. but will take a few minutes and catch up to you. We still are very busy and as far as I can see the future has no let up in view. Florence is in Ithaca and stays until Friday. Then next week goes to N.Y. City and possibly Albany. We are more than fortunate to have Marian who will stay until after next week.

Marian and I went to Ithaca Monday night to the Rice Debate. Bernard won second place and $25.00. He came home with us and is on the job now. Hope we can make things interesting and profitable to all concerned. Started unloading a car of feed yesterday. All our animals take a lot to keep them going. Think we had around 143 besides the horses last night. Some did not come from Canada but may come later. Expect we have a very good family for the Blomfield house. They were all down last night and said they would come. It's Charlie DeGraff's brother Jay. He has worked for B.F. Lee at Cuyler for the last eight years. Have mostly new piping for the water buckets at Bloomfields now as the old ones froze in the terrible cold snap and we found out that the pipes were nearly plugged with rust.

Lynn Freeman has been giving me valuable help lately. Don't know how I would have gotten along without him. Dr Knapp, Veterinarian in Cortland passed away very suddenly, funeral yesterday.

Awful glad you're in the warm climate for it keeps so terribly cold and icy up here. Can't hardly imagine 80 degrees above and eating outdoors, when the wind storms are blowing so hard.

Am enclosing a check but haven't taken time to go to the bank for the books yet.

Hastily with Love from all

Wilburn
Dear Mother,

It is now eight thirty Sat. morning and must stop and pen you a few lines before doing another thing. It just seems as if we have been busier and get farther behind than ever. I have had more veterinary work than ever and my T.B. work is way behind. However there is a brighter spot that we seem to have more help and perhaps thru March and April will be able to catch up a bit.

Bernard came home early in Feb. and he was immediately interested in unloading a carload (40 tons) of feed. It was pretty tough for a few days but now the regular routine is under way. The only exception is that the teachers need some attention so that is the life. We finally have a family in the Bloomfield house, moved in March 1st but as yet Bernard hasn’t staid over there. Have had quite a session with the water over there for the pipes have been so rusty and plugged. Think we have it fixed now with a new hot water tank and some new pipes and the old ones cleaned. Have a new sink and cabinet made around it. Also raised the kitchen windows twelve inches and took out the wood panels in the back door replacing then with window so you see your property is looking up.

Lynn Freeman has helped us a lot lately and hardly know how we would have gotten along without him. He’s been fixing pipe, cleaning barn, helping with testing and drawing blood so you see how valuable he’s been to me. Allen Freeman has been in the hospital but is better and we saw him in Cortland the other day. Think Peg is to be in Cortland this weekend.

We sold our hens this past week so now we won’t have eggs to clean each night. Am planning to do a lot of testing in Scott and Freetown this month so to have it cleaned up by May. Florence has had a letter started for the South for nearly two weeks but hasn’t finished it yet. Has Mary Knupp coming over this morning to help with some book work.

You will find enclosed the Turner check as well as ours. I am more than thankful that you are where it is warmer for it has been terribly cold here lately and that northend of the south wind has penetrated clear thru. Maybe Florence will add a line.

(Florence writes)

I’ll try and finish Aunt Carrie’s letter tomorrow. One of the boys from College came this noon to stay over until tomorrow with Bernard. It is a cold stormy day. In a card from Marian today she said they had zero weather there and water pipes had frozen. Must get the cleaning done so can’t write more now. Baked beans for supper.

Love to All
Florence and Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

It is nearly 11:30 P.M. but if I don’t write tonight you won’t get this until next week so here goes. Have just returned from the Nigger Jones up in Dog Hollow. He had a sick bull and so I had to attend. Started in this a.m. by treating some of our own cows, then vaccinating a whole dairy for Bangs Disease, attending a sick cow for Caleb Robbins. This has been the busiest season I ever put in for vet work. Attended a family night supper tonight at the Grange Hall. Only a few were out and a Church Ex Committee meeting was supposed to be held tonight but not enough around for a quorum. The Building Comm. for the new church met Tuesday night and discussed the possibilities for building and financing a new church with Carl Clark the architect that built the new school. He is drawing sketches of churches which we’ll look over and discuss in the near future.

Florence went to Buffalo on Sunday afternoon with Katherine Dwyer by automobile to attend the Western District meeting of the Home Bureau’s. Staid with Mildred Smith Sunday night and then into the city Monday a.m. arrived in Tully on the 10:20 p.m. bus which was quite late because of the blackout. I sat on the road between the Bloomfield place and town during part of the blackout then went to Tully afterwards to pick up Florence.

The weather is not good for farmers on the flats or on the hills either. It rains and rains some more. Water stands here and there all over the flats and so we haven’t progressed very far.

Think Florence has written most of the news so I won’t have to write so much. Thanks for the birthday remembrance. You will find check enclosed. For some reason which I haven’t found out no check came from Bill Turner thru Sheffield. Will see Bill sometime soon.

Hope this finds you O.K. and enjoy a very pleasant Mother’s Day. From all your children at Truxton.

Wilburn

(Florence writes)

Dear Mother and Aunt Carrie, Enclosed is a little check which I want you to spend for Mother’s Day. Either go out to dinner, all of you, or get the things and eat at home, or whatever you would rather. But spend it every cent for something you would like to do. Love from us all

Florence
Dear Mother:-

It is now 9:30 a.m. with plenty to do but will stop to pen a line so that you may get this before you leave for North. You will find a check for Bill Turner which is self explanatory.

We are still having too much rain. A week ago had one of the worst storms of the season. Everyone is way behind with their planting and it is very serious. Hardly any corn in yet and many, many pieces not plowed.

Florence left for N.Y. City last night. Home Thursday night. Let us know the exact time of your arrival in Cortland.

Hastily with Love

Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

It is nearly 7 a.m. and I haven't been to the barn yet, so guess I'll pen a couple of lines before breakfast.

A lot of things are happening. Yesterday had a letter from Harry saying they had sold the trailer and Marian is leaving for his brother's in Red Bank, N.J. and thence to Truxton. They're shipping their goods and expect to occupy the house where the Plummers moved out. He has had his traveling orders. We don't know where he's going but think from the wording of the letter it may be north. Will let you know where he's going when we have more information.

Tuesday Carleton and I went to Horseheads and Elmira to look the situation over and look up a place to live etc. Didn't decide anything definite as it seems as if houses are too high and none available to rent. They came back from Pulaski and the north Saturday afternoon. We got in a lot of hay Friday and Sat. but it rained late Sat. afternoon and haven't done much since.

Yesterday we unloaded a car of feed--thirty five tons.

It looks like a beautiful day today with temperature a lot cooler so we'll be at the hay on the Bloomfield place trying to clean up that which we cut last week.

J.C. is sleeping all night guess he didn't wake up until after six this morning.

Enclosed is another check. Hastily with Love from all at Truxton. Elizabeth Allport came Saturday night so now Aunt Carrie has company.

Wilburn

(Florence writes)

Letters came back here today for you that were not mailed originally until June 28th so maybe the P.O. doesn't know you are home. Am sending them back % Cousin Lucy. Cold this a.m.
Dear Mother:

It is nearly three o'clock Saturday afternoon and will stop and do that
which I should have done before. It started raining while we were eating dinner but we
drew a little hay after that. We have cleaned the barn and now one team has gone
over the the Bloomfield place, Bernard is on Trooper, the saddle horse, going over
across and two teams are mowing on the piece back of Dick's house.

Marian K. and children came over this a.m. and staid to dinner. Marian and
Carleton have gone to Homer this p.m. They are anxious to get settled and doing
business. He has applied for County Veterinarian Job in Cortland County. Dr. Moore
has been made assistant to the Commissioner of Agriculture. There are two others
after the job so only the September meeting of the Board of Supervisors will tell the
story. Edmund and Emma came by train to Cortland the other night. Staid over night
with Donald then the next night came up here for supper and we took them to the bus
at Tully at 6:42 the next morning. Florence was down to Cortland last night to the
Smiths. Don't know what time she came to bed.

Not much news except the general routine. Did you know of Dean Carl Ladd's
death. He was a McLean boy, had farms between McLean and Freeville. He and
George Fitts, Seymour Fowler were boys when we started going to McLean. Sophia
Bernard one of Florence and Mildred's college chums died and Florence and Mildred
went to the funeral. Glenn Burgett who used to work in Bingham and Miller's years
ago was found dead in bed. A neighbor across the river, was instantly killed when hit
by a truck. Don't want to tell all the dark side for we have had plenty to be thankful for.
Enclosed you will find our monthly check.

(Florence writes)

Can you hear Jimmie talking a little loud? His thumb is tied in and he doesn't
like the idea. He is growing so fast. Weighs 13 lbs. now. We surely will miss him
when he goes. Harry is coming up tonight and Marian is going in to Syracuse to meet
him. They seem to like their little apartment very well.

Go to Ithaca this next week a couple of days for board meeting. Don't see much
of Mother Emma but guess they are as busy as the rest of us.

Love from us all
Wilburn and Florence
Dear Mother:—

It is nearly eight o'clock and we are just ready for breakfast (?) will start a few lines. The most important news seems to be that Carleton has been appointed County Veterinarian of the notorious Cortland county and secondly that the B.U. Potters of Pittsburgh are on their way east arriving here some time today. Had a telephone call from Aunt Ida about yesterday noon asking if we were home etc.

Don't know whether you knew that Mrs. L.W. Kitts passed away about three weeks ago. Now Marian and the children are planning to keep house for Mr. Kitts for a while. They had planned to go today but because of the Potters coming will postpone until tomorrow. Marian P. is going to Pulaski to pick up a few things that they will move to Homer.

Guess this takes care of the important doings. Florence has been in Syracuse twice this week and the girls, Marian and Marian, canned corn yesterday. Cortland Fair is on and for the first time in years we didn't have any cattle there. Maybe conditions will be better next year.

You will find our check as well as two from Bill Turner. Mrs. Bill Turner has a job in our school this year.

Hastily
With Love
Wilburn
Dear Mother:-

It is about 7:30 a.m. but will write a few lines and mail this when I go over the street. We seem to keep very busy with all our activities. The Veterinary work is increasing with the coming of colder weather. Have over fifty dairies to test in November beside physicals for the milk station, blood testing etc. Carleton seems to be picking up quite a bit. Last Thursday he had three calls before breakfast. But it's not that way all the while although his county work is a steady income.

Wish you had been here this weekend. Mother Emma came home with me the other day. Then Aunt Carrie and Cora came up for over Sunday. Marian and children were over. Then last night Ed and Carrie Henry were up for supper. Also a lad, a friend of Bernard's was here. So you see we keep the eats from spoiling. Today is election especially for Lt. Governor a hot race is on.

I think you better be moving westward, for by the time you visit around the folks will be going south. Aunt Carrie is ready to go now. It will take two or three weeks to get reservations so if you want to get to Florida before cold weather gets you, you better start traveling.

I am enclosing two checks one from Bill Turner for the usual amount. There was no payments for the two months you mention. Our check for $60.00 plus $15.00 from Whites and $3.33 interest making a total of $78.33. Wouldn't it be a good idea to invest your surplus in War Bonds? Then your interest starts immediately and brings nearly 4% at maturity. You could make me Co-owner if you desired. You should buy Series E probably you could buy at least a $100.00 Bond which would cost $75.00 having them issue it to Mrs. Marion E. Potter, Orange, Mass or W.H. Potter, Truxton, NY.

Hope that we'll be seeing you soon and that your eyes are better.

Hastily
Wilburn
Early January 1943
Sheffield's---milk dealer and handler

late January 1943
Rice Debate---Annual speaking contest at Cornell---affirmative and negative talks on a controversial topic
Lynn Freeman---partially retired farmer in Truxton and close friend of our family--a beautiful human being

March 1943
teachers need some attention--Bernard dated one
Allen Freeman---Peggy's dad---distantly related to Lynn
Mary Knupp--high school girl, daughter of Sam--helped Florence

5-17-43
Nigger Jones---John Jones an African-American, lived by himself on a small farm on Jones road in Dog Hollow from Cheningo. "nigger' was in no way a derogatory term for John Jones, it was a manner of speech in those days. He was highly respected as a neighbor and friend and a very bright man. I believe he came to Cheningo from NYC. He was the only black man in Truxton.

building committee for new church---our historic church burned 12-21-42
Katherine Dwyer---Truxton girl--taught school in Buffalo--Eileen Kinneally's sister

7-11-43
live in house---in Truxton by Labrador Creek--now demolished
traveling orders---Harry Kitts in the Army
J.C.---James Carleton Potter, born 5-12-43
Elizabeth Allport---missionary in Cuba, Uncle Albert Allport's daughter, Aunt Carrie's stepdaughter

8-7-43
Jimmie---J.C.---James Carleton

9-3-43
Mrs. L.W. Kitts---Harry's mother, wife of Lester Kitts---lived in Govenour, New York
Dear Mother:-

I am writing especially to thank you for the fruit, it was so delicious. We opened the basket at midnight and helped ourselves to an orange a piece. We are having grapefruit tomorrow morning.

I expect you are very warm and lots of sunshine. The weather here has been just the opposite. Cold, wet snow, no sunshine, buds have not shown a bit of starting and sap buckets are still hanging on the trees. Our north pasture is beginning to green up and well it may on account of our hay mow. The flat has been covered with water but now is going down.

Ann Feeter Phelps and her son, also Jane Feeter Taber arrived home last week. Both men are in the Army and the latter in India. John Feeter’s goods came to Truxton this past week for John goes into the Army May 4th and Mary and baby are going to live with John and Isabelle. You will probably be interested to know that we have hired Irving Holden to work for us. He married Barbara Glann, Dorothy Hazzard’s oldest daughter. They have three children and expecting another. He has been working in Utica but Draft and everything caught up with him and he says he wants to farm and later have his own so he starts work next week.

Just returned this morning from Canada. Went to find a few cows. They are hard to buy and very high in price. So different from any time I’ve been up there.

Wonder if you have tho’t about coming North or are you staying down. Some say train reservations are very difficult to obtain and must be asked for long in advance. Better find out.

It is now way after the time we should be in bed so must close.

Suppose next Sunday will complete another year of my life. How little we know what the future has in store for us!

Love from All
Wilburn

Please figure Bill Turner amount due and forward in your next.
WHP
Carleton W. Potter, D. V. M.

Sunday A.M.

Dear Mother:-

It is Sunday A.M. and no church. Have scribbled a few lines to David and Jean so think I'll now pen a few more to you. The past few days have been rainy and shiny quite a relief from the drought. Many places are all burned up and corn in general is very poor. It has been so dry that they picked our beans only once and we have been feeding the refuse to the cows. Only a little over thirty ton this year and over twice that last year. The peas were very good, however. We have some potatoes this year and they are looking fine and the price apparently is going to be high selling now at 69 cents a peck. Ours aren't ready to eat yet.

Hildreth's have filled silo and we had planned to have a new harvester and loader this year to be delivered by now. Got word Friday that it wouldn't be shipped from Chicago until the week of the eleventh so guess we'll have to pick it off the ground again. We are putting up two new silos at home here. Put two hundred ten pullets in the hen house Friday night and will put some more in soon. Then some over to Bernard's and some to the Webster Place. Got over 190 eggs yesterday but the price is too low in comparison with feed. They only want to pay 14 cents for peewees up to 42 for large then 2 2/3 cents a dozen for handling. We'll probably feed them a while but it the price goes too low will sell them off. A dealer offered 25 cents a pound live for the hens and thirty two for the pullets. It might be a good idea to sell them all and have it over with.

Florence went to NY City Monday night and back Thursday night. Friday Ivah Lee from Cato was here for supper, also Mrs. Merwin Webb formerly of McLean. Last night we went over to Bernard's for a picnic supper. Carleton and Marian, Margaret's Brother and Family from Penn Yan were there. I think the Potter family is becoming very famous for its extra good cooks. We had chicken, salad, Parker House rolls, Sweet Corn, Apple Pie with lots of ice cream on top. Can't you taste it?

Aunt Carrie moved up near the Old Ladies Home. Carleton has been doing a lot of wiring and more insulating. The place has changed a powerful lot since they went in there a year ago. Expect Aunt Carrie and Elizabeth are up at Little York Lake now. He made a wise choice when he moved to Homer and the county job is steady.

(Florence writes)

Monday a.m. Went over to see Aunt Carrie and Grandma at the Lake last night. They seem to be fine. Elizabeth stays until the middle of or the last of Sept. Must go down to pick some beans for canning.

Love from all

Wilburn and Florence

This sheet of paper happened to be on top so guess I might as well use it. whp
notes 1944
mid April 1944
on account of our hay mow---winter's hay supply about gone--pasture needed to feed
the cows
8-28-44
Hildreth's---farm known to us as the Lark farm on Route 13 in Truxton. Will and Martha
Hildreth owners sold to John Lark, sold to Lloyd and Stella Harrington, sold to
Margaret Potter. We changed harvesting works with Hildreth, Bloomfield and
sometimes, Milks--the Gerald McCall farm
Ivah Lee--Aunt Ivah Bean remarried--Lester Lee of Cato--3 children--Marilyn, David
and Joan. Herbert and Kenneth Bean their older half brothers
Aunt Carrie moved---to a house on South Main Street, Homer, which was later
demolished to make the Homer Bank parking lot

The Bloomfield farm---purchased 1942

Patty Rae Potter and friends---1948
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potter-Bean Tree</th>
<th>Wilburn D. and Marion Herrick Potter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Jay and Annie Harmon Bean</td>
<td>Wilburn Herrick Potter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank / Albert / Nellie</td>
<td>Walter / Ivah / Mildred</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma / Florence / Edmund Hazzard</td>
<td>Howard / Ivah / Mildred</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerald / Joan / George, Virginia / Ruth</td>
<td>Herbert / Kennedy / Albert</td>
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The Farm, on Cheningo Road in Truxton, as pictured in the 1876 Historical Atlas of Cortland County, New York