A Collection of Letters Written by
Rev. Wilburn Daniel Potter
and Potter Family Members

Compiled by Bernard W. Potter
Saranac Lake

I sit in the morning sunlight,
And bathe in its cleansing rays:
I wonder at all the glory.
As the mountains meet my gaze

A village stretches before me,
A place of familiar name;
And while on the heights I ponder,
I think of its growing fame

In this heart of the Adirondacks,
Pioneered by the brave and true,
I see friends of the sick and feeble
Trying their full duty to do.

Generously favored by nature,
Graced by institutions and men,
Here is the Mecca for thousands,
Coming from beyond our ken.

But here they've come for only a season,
With one chief purpose in view,-
To receive the help and the healing
Which fit them life's work to pursue.

So today, my vision is hopeful,--
Calmly I wait on the mountain side,
Knowing I shall be again with
The loved at home, whatever betide.

-- W.D. Potter

[Written on the mountain side, Saranac Lake, N.Y., Aug. 12, 1909.
Published in the "Cortland Daily Standard" Tuesday Aug. 17, 1909.
Copied here by self Jan. 15, 1917, Canton, N.Y.--W.D.P]
acknowledgements

This collection adds much more information to our family history. Therefore I have titled it, “A Firm Foundation II” as a follow up to my “A Firm Foundation” of 1995.

When we began assembling this work we had what seemed to be all of our information. Brothers Carleton and Willard and myself discovered other jewels: i.e. Grandpa Potter’s outline autobiography in his own handwriting. We also found his poetry, music compositions and lyrics. Now we believe it is complete!!

It’s hard to measure in words the super encouragement which my family has provided. Everyone needs a push sometime or other--and you did just that! Thanks Pat, Brenda, Bill, Joyce, Nancy, George, Joanne, Lee, Bernice, Mark. You’re all so special. “Just do it” seemed to be your cheer!.

Countless friends have commented on how lucky our family is to have this information, so they too have encouraged me in compiling this second edition.

Love you all -- God Bless
Dad

June 10, 1999
Truxton, New York

About the Covers:

Front---Rev. Wilburn Daniel Potter---Marion Esther Herrick Potter
Married July 29, 1891, North Orange, Mass.
Pictured in Canton, N.Y., August 19, 1891

Inside front--- “Saranac Lake”. -- this poem written shortly after
Grandpa went to the Adirondacks--to be cured of tuberculosis
A panorama of the village and lake beneath the poem

Inside back--- Potter-Farmer---Herrick-Harrington family tree

Back---North Orange, Mass., the Herrick family church, c 1890
Marion Esther Herrick age 5 years. Pictured October 9, 1875
A picture of loveliness--curls and all
dedication

to Margaret Bell Smith Potter, my dear life partner since June 10, 1944. You gave me the encouragement, support and much needed advice to bring this work to fruition. Thank you, Margie for your love and patience and for all our happy years together.

Happy Anniversary.
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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.
Grandparents

In these times grandparents are as common as the sun coming up in the morning. This was not true for generations past. With the advances in, medicines, surgeries, improved diets, etc. the now generation lives much longer than its forefathers. As I watch my grandchildren and enjoy their fun and growing, I am a bit envious of them in that I was not able to know my grandparents.

Grandma Marion E. Potter, my paternal grandmother, was the only lineal grandparent which my brothers and sister and I was privileged to know. Her husband Rev. Wilburn Daniel Potter died in 1917. He was only 54 years old.

Maternal grandmother Annie Harmon Bean died in 1910, the same year her daughter Florence, my mother, graduated from high school. Grandfather William Jay Bean passed away in 1918 four years before I was even a twinkle in mother's eye.

Fortunately for the grandchildren of Annie and W.J. Bean, he remarried in 1912 to Emma Gilbert---who became our grandmother of record and was as real and perfect and beautiful as any grandmother could ever be. Her love for us and ours for her, was boundless.

As a youngster I can't remember asking questions about those three grands that never knew their grandchildren. Oh, yes, Grandpa Bean was a fine farmer above Lorings Crossing on the back road to East River in Cortlandville. Annie was a homemaker. Wilburn D., a Universalist pastor who played the violin and clarinet with skill, went to the Passion Play in Oberomergau, Germany in 1900 and later died of TB. What I wish most is to have known each one's personality.

When brother Willard and dear Jane moved from the home farm on Cheningo Drive, a cache of letters which Grandma Marion E. Potter saved was discovered. The first group of those letters, were those written by Wilburn and Florence to Grandma Marion E. Potter and which I have recorded in "A Firm Foundation".

This second collection are these written to Grandma from her husband, Grandpa Rev. Wilburn Daniel Potter. The initial letter was written from Huntingville, Quebec, Canada. It is a love letter to his future wife, Marion Esther Herrick, the daughter of Merrill D. Herrick, and Mary Jame Harrington Herrick of North Orange, Mass. Great Grandpa Herrick was a farmer, businessman, and Selectman.
Huntingville, Moes River and Lennoxville was Grandpa Potter's first charge as an ordained Universalist minister.

Most of Rev. W. D. Potter's letters are written from Saranac Lake and Ray Brook where he resided as he struggled with tuberculosis, --1909, 1910 and 1914. Although he had much recovery, from our information he was never able to again assume a full and working life. He and Marion returned to Canton, New York, his birthplace, on Upper Judson Street, until his death in June 3, 1917. He was the son of John and Catherine Farmer Potter who were farmers in Canton.

After reading these treasures, I can, with my eyes closed, see him and with my ears I can hear this remarkable man speak. I do not pretend to be deep into genealogy, however I sought a feel for a personality that may have some bearing on the personalities and lives of we who are descendants. Thru that search I have found a closeness in our lives, our values, our concerns as a family with those of Rev. Wilburn Daniel and Marion Esther Herrick Potter.

It is indeed unfortunate that the letters which were written to Rev. Wilburn D. Potter from Grandma Marion were not saved. So one has to imagine the questions which were written in his direction. That imagination gives us much freedom to dream and speculate about those writings. Also there are large gaps in letter writing because of the years they were together as a family, quite naturally there would be no letters written.

I have divided the story and letters of Wilburn D. Potter into two manuscripts. This first one will deal with his courtship of Marion Esther Herrick and marriage; his battle with tuberculosis and his death in 1917. Later I hope to put together a complete recounting, also in his own words, of his European trip in 1900.

I will interject some comments, which have been passed down to me, at the appropriate stages. Let your imagination run loose and read about my grandfather, Rev. Wilburn D. Potter; his wife Marion, my grandmother; my father and mother, Wilburn H and Florence Potter. Also, a bit about Merrill D. Herrick, my maternal great grandfather. Grandpa Potter often refers to his writings as “visits”!

At the outset I wish to make it perfectly clear that these letters are visits or communications between a husband and wife. Some of these “visits” are written in
very frank words as only a family might say to each other around the supper table. I have chosen to print the letters in their entirety, with no offense wished upon any descendants, if there be any, of those mentioned.

Moreover perhaps this brings out a piece of personality that is a part us, and that is the directness of our thoughts. I know that it has happened with myself and perhaps others in our “tree”. Grandpa was no shrinking violet. His integrity and forthrightness is attested many times throughout this collection. So, read and enjoy!
1889 Orange, Mass. Graduating Class picture and program. standing, 2nd left---Marion E. Herrick-----seated, 1st left, her cousin Lucy J. Harrington. Grandma's speech was titled--"Silence is Golden". She had the mumps and couldn't speak!!
Wilburn Daniel Potter
Biographical Outline

Parents — }
John Spaulding Potter, 1823-1913
Elizabeth Bowers Potter, 1836-1889

Born — }
June 15, 1863, Canton, Ohio, Tom's Ferry Farm, two miles from the village, school district No. 11

Neighbors — }
Eli Mead, Abner Tracy, John S. Southworth, Alice Andrews
James A. Jones, Leonard Farmer, James Randall

Early Teachers — }
Vinie Sherman, Isabelle Woodworth, Delia Farmer;
Mary A. Redfield, the two last leading in singing. All the village Sunday School, Addie Conkey and the July; Julia
Graves were held in reverence.

Accidents — }
Drowning of Tom Logan at Little River bridge. The
near drowning of self, just below the Bend, about 1868,
rescued by father. The near drowning of Erwin Bastian
at the Bend about 1871. Running of cow and horse broad
forenoon of Sept. 23, 1873. Runaway, by man and self,
cow, horse, rake, summer of 1873.

Music — }
Natural. Both parents sang well by nature. Father
played the clarinet. Brother Wendell and self sang
at a temperance meeting in the Congregational Church
Feb. 19, 1875. Attended singing school at Bagnallville
during winters of '75 and '76. Used a prayerbook;
rarely learned to read and sing by note. Haskell O. Houston, Teacher.

Academy — }
In the village on Pearl Street. First term in the Spring of
1875 under Principal A. B. Stowell. Second term in Autumn
of '76, Rev. S. W. Bead, Principal. Union school under 
Prof. J. S. Fletcher, 1870-1872. Member of teachers class.

Entered 8th grade, without examinations, Sept. 1876. Mr. A. S.
Barnes, President. Taught at N. Canton, winter of 1882-3.
attended, school, Canton, Simons, trustee, graduated with de-
gree of B. E. June 30, 1886. Began $2,500 to endowment
fund in June '86. Paid $100 to college expenses by play-
ing the clarinet in Livingston's orchestra.

College — }
Auburn, Ill., 2 years, Sept. - June '88. Taught the ele-
cmentary of singing to the whole school Tuesday afternoons.
Boarded with Dr. O. Beckwith. Named in the faculty of
Auburn College. W. H. Long in the M. S. Church choir.

Principal — }
With Rev. Wendell in Chicago August '88. Returned by
westerly to Buffalo, 8 days on the Alva storms. With
relatives in Rochester, Wellsville, Fairfield Sept. 1-14, 188.
Outline, Continued

Theology

- Holden lecture, upper room, School of Singing, at a camp of young people.

1st Pastorate

- Drove 50 miles a day, June 1, 1893.
- Attended several of the American Expositions, Buffalo, 1893.
- One week at New York, June 24, 1891.
- At St. Anne's, July 31, 1898.
- At St. Luke's, Aug. 25, 1898.
- At St. Paul's, July 31, 1898.

2nd Pastorate

- At Barre, Mass. Jan. 1, 1893 - June 1, 1893.
- At St. Luke's, Aug. 25, 1898.
- At St. Paul's, July 31, 1898.

3rd Pastorate

- At Barre, Mass. July 15, 1893 - June 1, 1894.
- At St. Luke's, Aug. 25, 1898.
- At St. Paul's, July 31, 1898.

4th Pastorate

- At Barre, Mass. July 15, 1893 - June 1, 1894.
- At St. Luke's, Aug. 25, 1898.
- At St. Paul's, July 31, 1898.

5th Pastorate

- At Barre, Mass. July 15, 1893 - June 1, 1894.
- At St. Luke's, Aug. 25, 1898.
- At St. Paul's, July 31, 1898.

6th Pastorate

- At Barre, Mass. July 15, 1893 - June 1, 1894.
- At St. Luke's, Aug. 25, 1898.
- At St. Paul's, July 31, 1898.
Early, Early Days

From what I can learn from my brother Carleton Wilburn Potter, the line of Potters from which we are descended arrived in Rhode Island from England about 1638. I have been asked, "Why did they come to America?" I have no answer except to ask a question, "Why did others come to America?" Many ideas could be given:-- Were they debtors; was it for religious freedom; was it for the thrill of coming to a new land? The list could be almost unending.

To the best of my knowledge they were farmers and wanted to make their way in a new surrounding. Some fought in the Revolutionary War. It seems that they traveled from Rhode Island up into Herkimer County in the Mohawk Valley of New York. Perhaps they received a military tract of land up there. They must have lived there a number years as some Potters are buried in a cemetery north of Herkimer village.

Next we find them in Canton, St. Lawrence County on a farm. It was there that the children of John and Catherine L. Farmer Potter were born. There were four. Wendell Gilbert, the eldest, followed by Wilburn Daniel, Bernard Ulysses, and the youngest, a sister, Veva. I wished we had some information about the Potter family in middle 1800 hundreds. Such is not the case.

Our grandfather, Wilburn Daniel Potter, was born on the 13th day of June, 1863. After graduating from Canton Academy he attended St. Lawrence University and later on, St. Lawrence Theological School. As a theological student he preached in Van Hornesville and Springfield Center, N.Y. In Van Hornesville he became friends with a young lad named Owen D. Young and encouraged him to enter St. Lawrence University. Owen D. Young later became Chairman of the board of his alma mater and also of General Electric.

Wilburn D. Potter took his first pastorate in Huntingville, Quebec as a Universalist pastor in 1890. He was engaged to Marion Esther Herrick at that time. The following are two love letters written, from Huntingville, to his soon to be bride.
Dear Marion:--

I can hardly wait till Wed. ere writing to you, so please accept a word at this time.

The clock has just struck two; and it is true, as you will note, that I am alone in my study room thinking deeply of you whom I love most dearly---you, the one who, ere many months glide by, will be continually by my side to cheer and be cheered, to bless and be blessed. This, to me, is a most happy thought. It indeed fills my heart with profound joy and gratitude. And may God prosper and bless us bountifully, as the days flit by, is the earnest prayer of my heart.

This is a beautiful day!

Returned from Moes River this forenoon, having preached there yesterday P.M. and here at 10:30 A.M. It may surprise you when I say that many compliments pertaining to the sermon were forced upon me at both places. But I must not boast! Excuse me this time, please.

Am going to try hard to attend singing school at Lennoxville tonight. Will then mail this to you. One of our members, a Mr. Williams, is teacher, and he has given me a special invitation to be present and help sing. My cold is much better, yet is severe enough at present.

Marion, please do me a favor. As we have no "Climax" (singing book), will you look on page 91 and send me the title of that greeting song together with the composer's name?

Am anxiously looking forward to good news from you on Wed. morning. Good bye for this time. With love sincere, Wilburn
My Dear Marion:-

I am going to Lennoxville as soon as I can get ready, for the sole purpose of getting my new suit. Will probably go to Sherbrooke, also, and get the invitation cards, then I shall be all ready for my journey next Monday. I look forward to Monday evening with great anxiety, yet mine, I dare say, is not greater than yours.

It is perhaps the wisest plan to postpone the narration of my recent experiences till I see you, which time I hope will be Monday evening. If no one meets me at the depot I will go directly to Lucy's as you advise.

With fond expectation and love sincere, I must close.

Wilburn

Grandpa Wilburn's command of the English language touches us. Wow!

Wilburn D. Potter and Marion E. Herrick were married July 29, 1891. A son, Wilburn Herrick Potter, was born April 23, 1892. Dad, always the joker, joked that he and Shakespeare were born on the same day!
Dearest Marion:-

It is time that I began my epistle to you, hoping to mail it as I pass by the P.O. during the day. It is now 9 o'clock, have just finished a hearty meal and having had sound slumbers during the night. I am ready for a busy day. The morning is perfect, so beautiful and inspiring, how can one help but rejoice!

Am now seated in the parlor of Mrs. Horace LeBaron, and of course you know where that is, about 1 1/2 miles from Massawippi. Fred is out drawing corn, Mrs. LeBaron is finishing the morning’s work while I am preparing for mine. And so there is perfect rhyme when everything is in its time. Mrs. LeBaron is going to Mass. in two or three weeks. She wants us to be sure and visit her, she wishes to see little Wilburn so much. She goes first to Clinton and then to Springfield.

I got home safely on Tues. eve, and after a sweet rest I arose amid the breezy chilling zephyrs of a new morn. After some busy steps I left for No. Hatley at 10:30. It was 12:15 when I arrived at the home of Mrs. A.P. LeBaron’s. They had already gone to the late home of her brother 3 1/2 miles distant, having left word for me to follow as soon as I arrived. So on I went, but when within a half mile from the house I met, to my great surprise, the procession which had started for the church. I then wheeled about and led them on to the church. It was a large funeral, the church being comfortably filled. He was an atheist, and so everyone was anxious to hear what I had to say. We got to the grave about 3:30.

After the burial service a man came to me asking me to perform another burial service in the same yard. I consented to do so, of course. The little coffin had already been lowered and a crowd was around the grave as I uttered the last burial rite. These were briefly the facts:— The parents used to live near Capelton but had moved to Lawrence, Mass; with their three small children, about Sept. 1. While there, their little one, a boy of 12 months, died of summer complaint and was brought back for burial. They arrived on the morning train, and hearing that I was to be at the yard they decided to ask me to officiate. After their arrival, some of their relatives from Coaticook etc, arrived during the day, and so our service was quite impromptu. Sad indeed were the hearts of both father and mother!

It was just 7 o’clock when I arrived at the home of Mr. Perkins. All was in readiness. The best bib and tucker were exquisitely set in their respective places. The bride was adorned in white silk and satin. With one exception only members of the bride’s and groom’s family were present, thus making a company of about 15. The legal yet solemn words were pronounced, and then we sat down to a bountiful repast—7 kinds of cake, enough to upset anyone’s stomach. 12 o’clock came, some had gone to their homes when the rest, pastor included, sought their cozy beds in response to drowsy eyes. W.D.P. ------- Thursday morning dawned bright & clear. We visited late at Mr. Perkins. The wedding couple left for Vt. after dinner. I then went to an auction at the nearest neighbor’s--Mr. Harry Kesar’s, what a large crowd! Saw many that I knew. All well. Good bye, Will
Sunday Morning, Mar. 26, '93

Dear Mr. Herrick:-

It is now 9:15 A.M. and I will write just a few lines for Marion ere I start for church.

Marion has been ill since last Tuesday (Mar. 21), and has been confined to her bed most of the time since Thursday. The trouble seems to be of the nature of Grippe, and not till yesterday did the doctor decide what to call it. We do not call her dangerous, although she is in considerable pain at times. The location of her pains are chiefly in her thigh and knees, sometimes extending to her back and stomach. She has no fever or sore-throat, only the bare pains which occasionally very piercing.

She is getting some nervous, and her limbs rather tender. She is easier today, though she seems much worse at night. We now feel that she will be all straight in a few days at most. Don't worry about her.

This is a glorious day overhead, yet hard traveling by team as it is neither sleighing nor wheeling. Sugaring is the chief topic here, all bushes are tapped.

Mrs. Henry Hunting is very ill, yet is easier this morning. She is threatened with pneumonia. I go to Hatley to-day (to preach).

With congratulations to you and yours, I am,

Sincerely yours,

W.D. Potter

Baby (Wilburn H.) is as good as he can be. He sleeps with Charlotte nights. When we get to Shelburne he is coming out to see you. W.D.P.

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The word "congratulations" bothers me. Gr. Grandpa Herrick married Charlotte M. Chapin some time after Gr. Grandmother Mary Jane Herrick died April 4, 1891. I have no record of the wedding date--perhaps this letter was written right after that marriage.
Huntingville, Aug. 23, 1893 (Tuesday)

Dear Marion:-

Here it is almost 9 o'clock, and I must stop a moment and visit with you. Mrs. Leonard just brought me three letters of which one was from you.

I gather you wrote Bro. Kendall, so I will not. He will know that I am on my way to Chicago. I start tomorrow (Wed) at 4:20 P.M. from Sherbrooke. The N.E. Pass. Agent said that the agent at Sherbrooke would no doubt fix my ticket. Will call at the Lathrops before I take the train.

The check from the P.O. Savings Bank has come and I will get it cashed at Sherbrooke tomorrow. The parish here gave me $62.65. Had a good visit at Henry Hunting's last night. Charlie is at home and Mrs. Giroux was there.

Had a fine time at Moes River. The church was crowded. Saw most everyone that I knew in this section. Will tell you about them later, have no time now. As soon as I get in Chicago will send you my address so that you can write. Presume that I shall go to Gideon's in his private home, fine, fine.

Everyone asks me to visit them, will make a few calls here today, and finish packing etc. Am having a busy time, indeed, and so it will be till my return.

Good bye for now, with love and kisses----Will

Huntingville----Wed. morn, Aug. 23, 1893

Dear Marion:--

It is nearly 8 o'clock, have just eaten breakfast. It is bright and clear. I failed to mail my letter on yesterday, so will insert this.

You will find inclosed the notes which Mr. Leonard signed this morning. Got my things packed yesterday and carried them to the station---7 packages and the chair---970 lbs. The freight to Greenfield is $5.50.

I shall call at Aunt Lucy's and Mr. Woodward's and start for Lennoxville at about 9:30, take dinner at Mrs. Elliotts, call at the Lathrop's and then take the 4:20 train for Chicago.

I must now close with a good bye----W.D. Potter

Wed. morn 8:50, Aug. 30, 1893

Am about to start for the fair, from the old stand---Bro. Gideon's. Perhaps I shall stay here right through. Took in Midway Raisance yesterday, and happened to run across Mrs. Maxam of Shelburne Falls. Today at 10 o'clock I am to meet Mrs. Pratt at the administration building. Expect a fine visit. Very smoky and dry here, also cold for this season. I keep very hearty and fully absorbed in the business before me. Bye-Bye--- Will

8:30 A.M., Thursday morn, Aug. 31, 1893

Dear Marion:--

Just a word ere I start for the fair. I wrote you a postal yesterday morning, and when I got home at night behold! my postal was still in my pocket. Will send it along with this.

Met Mrs. Pratt and Anna Swan as planned, and what a fine visit we had!. I lost track of them, however, at about 3 o'clock. Unless you cling right on to one, such is to be expected.

I go into the city this A.M. Shall see about exchanging my ticket, visit some of the large buildings, like the art palace, and get back to the grounds about noon.

Have lots to say but I feel that you will thank me to keep quiet till I get home. Answer all letters that need to be, i.e., those which are sent to Shelburne Falls. Shall expect a letter from you soon, just one. Address__________, Cor. 93rd Street and Clark Avenue, So. Chicago, Care of Gideon Clark

Good bye---Will

South Chicago, Ill, Sept. 1, 1893

Dear Marion:

Today is Friday and the hour is 2:30. Smoky, dry, warm, and windy, characterizes the weather here. I am now in the home of Bro Clark, Cor. 93rd street and Clark Ave, being compelled by prudential necessity to take a day off. It is extremely hard to attend the Fair every day, so I am preparing for a big day tomorrow. Slept an hour or so this morning awaking just in time for dinner, and presume another short nap will be in order in the course of an hour or more.

I got here last eve at about 7 o'clock, and your letter gave me hearty greeting as I entered my room. No supper, I assure you, until the contents were gone over. I am glad that you are keeping up the parish work so well. "Let the good work go on." You will surely need the pocket.

The Dodd, Mead and Co's letter is all right. Put it on file along with any others that may come to hand, and answer such as need be. I will drop a postal to Dewey, saying that the registered letter will be attended to as I get home. I presume that I told you that I sent $346.40 to C. W. Hawks of the Shelburne Falls Bank, and then gave him orders to send a draft for $99 to Funk and Wagnall's of N.Y.
No, Charlotte did not put up my lunch, and I would not let her do so. As I was to start from the Lathrop's, Bertha put up one for me. By leaving Huntingwille a day later than first planned, your letter reached me on the day I left, Mr. Abbott giving it to me at Lennoxville. So much good for my delay!

I will write Bro. Jenks a line in regard to the bible so that he will feel better. I forgot to say, however, that I have already written about it to Bro. Swan, so, in fact, it is not necessary to write again.

Mrs. Adams was not so authoritative in the matter of visiting Conklins as she seemed. More wind than sense!

I shall be out early in the morning (Sat). Will probably go to hear Moody on Sunday. Have not sold my ticket yet, because I could not get the one I wanted. Of course will try again, Direct letters here in care of Gideon and then if I should change he can send them to me. Good bye, with love and kisses to you all. Will try to write again Sun. or Monday---Will

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Clark Mansion, So. Chicago, Ill.
Th. Sept. 7, 1893

Dear Marion:--

I am going to write you a short letter ere I start for the Fair. But wait! This very moment (8:30 A.M.) Mrs. Clark hands me a letter from you, so I will peruse it gladly. Your message did me lots of good. You will need the pocket right off!

It looks as if I was going to get a ticket to Mass. via Canton! Grand indeed! If I succeed will probably leave here next Sunday Eve. If I do not succeed in finding a ticket, will probably leave about next Tuesday for home via Montreal etc. Will tell you all later.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanford, cousins of Mrs. Clark, are here. Their home is in Cornwall, Vt. We are having a fine visit. Are going to the Fair together, and as they are ready I will bring this to a close. Good bye with love and kisses.— Will
I’ll slip in this special?? piece of news that Marion passed on to her father when they were still living in Huntingville, ---

March 4, 1893---- “Will has come from church and says that Mr. Spafford was run into yesterday by a drunken man at Lennoxville and seriously hurt, the sleigh was broken and the horse badly cut up and it is thought ruined.---he is an oldish man and quite deaf, he was alone and did not hear the team behind, this man afterward ran into a load of wood and three telegraph poles”. !!!

--So what's new,-- drunken driver with horse and sleigh!

In another letter to her father, December 26, 1897, Marion writes the following::

‘Wilburn asked me tonight how long he had had his whistle. I said, “Which one?” He said, “The one in my mouth!”’

Anyone who knew my father, Wilburn H. Potter, will now understand that his shrill, strong whistle of a medley of tunes started before he was five and a half years old!!. To the uninitiated, his whistle commenced the moment he started his auto and drove down the road. In cold weather, with the windows up in the car, the passenger would wish to plug his ears!

Thanksgiving with Aunt Ida and Uncle Bernard', Holyoke, Mass. c.1900
Ida Barker Potter, Marion E. Potter, Wilburn D. Potter, Gr. Grandpa John Potter
Wilburn H. Potter
After the Quebec ministry, Wilburn D, Marion and baby Wilburn H. moved to Shelburne Falls, Mass. where they spent twelve happy years as pastor of the Universalist church in that village.

Before we go further, I want to point out that Marion E. Potter was a real pastor’s wife. She was not only a wonderful mother, she was Wilburn’s right arm in the mission he was called to do with Christ’s church. This was never more true than during his years of illness. In his letters, Wilburn D. gives her much credit for holding together the Church family in Cortland and Mc Lean. There were reciprocal lifelong friendships made in every community where they pastored.

Our story continues without letters until 1900. In that year Wilburn D. crossed the Atlantic on a freighter. In Europe he and a number of others toured England and the continent. We have a very detailed record of that journey which will be the theme of another manuscript.

The Potter homestead, Canton, New York--known as the “Sam Conkey Farm” Purchased by John S. Potter and Albert Farmer April 1, 1861, 172 acres.
Dear Wilburn:--

We have just had our supper and will write to you before the evening meeting.
We arrived here at 4:00 yesterday, in a pouring rain, found our rooms easily, it is a nice
place, front room with bay window, furnace heat, and bath, in the best part of the city
only a short distance from the Milburn house where Pres. McKinley died, also near
O. P. Gifford's church and within walking distance from the church.

    The only trouble is the cars pass the house until midnight. The lady expects
Rev. L. W. Coons to occupy the rooms opposite ours. Our landlady is one of the
leaders in the church.

    We have seen lots of people whom we knew and many others. Dr. Atwood
inquired for the "______" Mr. and Mrs. Thornton are here, I like her very much she
isn't nearly as fat as I am. Mr. and Mrs. Blackford came in the night by sleeper. I don't
know when we shall go to the "Pan", that's what they all call it, but by Sat. sure. Tell
Auntie, Mr. Barber is here.

    Buffalo is a very pretty city so far as we have seen the streets are asphalt and
the buildings are very nice. Must stop now and write to Grandpa, shall expect to hear
about your tests in your letter

            Good bye, With love, Mama

Papa is talking with that Minister whom the ________? he gave the dollar to said he
knew????

*Grandma's writing is very difficult to decipher!
Shelburne Falls, Monday eve.

Dear Papa:-

Wilburn has gone down street with his father to get shod (new shoes?) and I will write to you. We are all well and busy—finished cleaning upstairs yesterday. Bernard’s folks have a 9# boy born Oct. 15. Bernard wrote today and sent the baby’s picture taken in the nurse’s arms. (The baby was named, Manley)

Wilburn had quite an experience last Sat. He went with Will and Frank Field to Hanley to get the youngstock (from pasture). They left here at 8:30 a.m. and it was 5 minutes of 10 when Wilburn came home and I had got pretty uneasy.

There were six cattle to get, they found only four and two of those got away and ran into the woods so the three men brought two heifers. They didn’t leave Hanley until about 6 o’clock. Wilburn drove all the way alone in the dark and I guess the roads aren’t too good up in the woods.

When they got within a mile of home he came on with the team and took it up to Mr. Field and hitched it. He was about froze and so stiff, but he went to Hanley for the young stock and that’s what he has waited on all summer.

He stood the highest of anyone in his class in the Arithmetic Examinations.

To provide some diversion, I am including two letters, post marked Dec. 8, 1902. The first, written by Wilburn H. Potter (age 10, my father) and addressed to, his grandfather, M. D. Herrick at North Orange, Mass. The second, from Marion to her father, M. D. Herrick—part of one page missing. Note Wilburn H.’s interest in cattle and “Mr. Fields’s colt”. No question, he was born to be a farmer!!!

Below is more proof!! Wilburn’s record, “Driving Cows”
Dear Grandpa:

I have not written you for a long time. How are you now? Was Thanksgiving too much for you? We are all well but Auntie. She has been sick in bed two days. Are the Ward's in quarantine now? I think they have been shut up long enough.

I have a new sweater. I think it is very pretty. It is dark blue. I got it Saturday night. I was going South Ashfield yesterday but it snowed so hard that I could not go to wear my sweater. In post box Saturday I found a box which had written on it WILBUR H. POTTER. I opened it and found a nice four-bladed knife. Did you send it and if you did. Thank you.

Mr. Field has only nine head of stock now. Last Monday a man came from Buckland and said that he owned the heifer so Mr. Field let him have her. He said that he would come down and pay for keeping her. I have not any more to say so I will stop.

Yours Truly,

Wilburn H. Potter

P.S. Mr. Field's colt weighs 410 pounds.
Marion’s letter—to her father, Merrill D. Herrick

Dear Papa,

Will add a little to Wilburn’s letter, he was very much pleased with his knife, think it most too good for a work knife.

Auntie is down again, was taken in the night Friday night, had the Dr. yesterday, he thinks it is gall stones she is more comfortable today but sore and lame and weak.

We have gone to burning wood in the furnace day time and save the coal for night. There is no coal to be had in town and may not be for some time, I don’t understand what is the matter with the business.

Our sale last week was a great success we cleared $91.00 and it was a bad night and we were afraid no one would come, but they came just the same, we couldn’t have fed any more, as we had to send out for food as it was. The fancy articles were all sold cleared over $50. on them, these are all donated so it’s all profit on them.

I lost a pretty pin that night, I think in the street as I couldn’t find it in the vestry. Will & a Mr. Smith are going to Springfield tomorrow a.m. in the interest of the Vocal Club, they expect to present their Opera in January. Will, will try to call at Bernard’s a few minutes. They are getting along finely, she expects to do her work alone soon, the baby is growing fast. They call him Manley. I wonder if it was last week you were at Worcester. Bert’s wife gains very slowly if any. It don’t look now much like our coming out to the Le_r (?) I had been planning too.

(half page missing---then letter continues as follows)

Mr. Paine sold his cow to Henry Legate—so Wilburn felt better. The foot & mouth disease is affecting the shipping of cattle to Boston. Oil has gone up to 16 cts.

Will not stop to write more as it is bed time. Write soon and how you are.

With love----Marion.

In 1905 Wilburn D. and family moved to and pastored in Oneonta, New York and Cooperstown Junction. From there to Cortland in 1907 to assume the pastorate of the Cobblestone Church on the corner of Elm and Church Street and the McLean church. He also served at Upper Lisle. In 1909 he was diagnosed with tuberculosis.

He went first to a rooming house in Saranac Lake and later to the Adirondack Sanatarium at Ray Brook, NY. In those days, rest and clean, fresh air was the prescribed hopeful cure from this dreaded disease.

Wilburn H. was fifteen years old and became a junior in Cortland High School, when the family moved to Cortland. In 1909, when Grandpa went to the Adirondacks, Marion’s diary details how much she depended upon son, Wilburn. He took on the responsibilities as her strong helper—almost a dad and husband—at that young age.

The letters which follow were mostly written by Wilburn D. to his loving wife, Marion, while he was in the Adirondacks. He preached his last sermon in Cortland and McLean on July 4, 1909.
Wilburn D. and Marion--beautiful--time and place unknown
Wilburn D., Marion, and Wilburn H.---- Shelburne Falls 1900

22
Dear Ones at home:—

I have an hour in which to say a few things. There is a P.O. Box just across the way which collects at 4 on Sundays. So I will do the best I can in the time.

Mrs. Collins is just as nice as she can be, has 4 daughters, 3 at home where they are now feeding and providing for several, including her own daughter. It is so good to be here! I am just eating and sleeping! May not see Dr. Hallock for two or three days. He is recommended by Dr. Church of Syracuse (and also Mrs. Collins).

I ate three times as much for breakfast today as I have at any one meal for a week. She has all one needs and more, her girls help and all goes smoothly. I had a forenoon nap, dinner at 1, breakfast at 8, supper at 5:30. This was the menu in part: chicken soup with crackers, biscuit in broth or dry, potato, fine sweet butter, peas, beets, chicken (a leg), tea, milk, lemon pie, jello with cream, cheese,—and I ate heartily. Will be ready for supper. You ought to be here and sharing the good things. I don’t need any medicine when I can eat and sleep like that. I simply take the hypo after each meal. It is some doubtful whether there will be a place for any more “Sevetol”.

I am writing in my room, No. 15 Virginia Street, but direct all mail to No. 5 where Mrs. Collins will see to it. Your card sent on Friday eve, came today, so Mrs. C. said at noon. Leave my title off here, I told Mrs. C. and so she kindly introduces me as Mr. Potter of Cortland.

My room is about the size of ours at home, with a north and east window, beside which I am now sitting, and looking down Virginia St. It is only two houses from Mrs. C’s. My room is clean, has a hard wood floor, and two rugs, a rocker, a chair, a stand, a bureau in which to place things, an iron bed, etc.

I must tell you of my shake up yesterday. Our train collided with a freight near Floodwood, a few miles this side of Tupper’s Lake. I happened to be standing at the time and handing my chair ticket to the Conductor. I went forward several feet. No one was hurt or killed. The wrecking engine & train came and soon cleared away the caboose and crushed freight cars, allowing us to reach here at 9 or 9:15. I sent a message on my arrival, so that you might get it this morning.

I arose early this morning & went out in the sun. It then grew cloudy and we have had two or three short showers, and it is now raining. I will now mail this and than have another nap. It’s great business, this getting well, but a week like this will do wonders for me.

Now take care of yourself, go down to the Cortland House for Sunday Dinner and other days. If you would board there for a week, and you could rest the remainder of the time. Well come up here for a week and I will tell you how to live.
Speak the good word to inquiring friends, accept lots of love to self and the rest. We are having a hard shower but I will have one of the little girls take this across to the box.

Will

Shall hope to hear from you by Wed. or Th., but write anyway if you get time.

Aunt Ida (Barker) & Uncle Bernard Ulysses Potter—with son, Manley—c. 1920

Bernard W. Potter viewing Uncle Bernard's stone, Hillview Cemetery, Canton, NY Aunt Ida's stone to right. Large monument, Barker–Potter--6-21-99
Dear Ones at Home:--

I am up on the hill-top above Mrs Collins, sitting down upon the grass taking a bath of sun and pure air, and trying also to have a visit with you. This is entirely private, and not for dissemination, only as you shall cull it out.

I have learned lots today, as I visited Dr. Hallock at 2:00. I found him fine. He examined me thoroughly, and I am to visit him once a week. He said some villian has communicated the germs to me. Asked all about where I had been and what I had been doing since living in Cortland. He then said “the parsonage is probably responsible for your trouble”. The house was infected by Mrs. Kenyon as late as 1897 to 8. He said I might have taken in the germs when I first began to renovate, and only until now have they had a chance to express themselves. It always comes in some such way. I then thought how thoro we were in repairing and renovating the old “hulk”, but left the very room in which she died, with its dark and deadly closet, untouched. If I get well and come back to 5 Elm I will know the first thing which must be done.

Now I plead with you to brace up, don’t stay at home any more than you can help, live on the piazza and take six or seven course meals at the Cortland House for the next month, so as not to give a chance for the germs to break out upon you.

I am now in the right way, came none too soon, but must build slowly of course. Throwing off the parish burden is a great help. Tell the friends I am doing nicely. I eat heartily and sleep soundly, and only time will do the business. The Dr. says to be entirely free and unconcerned, cheerful, and keep in the open air and sun.

Mrs. Collins received a line from Nancy today, saying she did not go to Church Sunday, she (Mrs. C.) had her pastor. Wanted to know how I was doing etc, etc. Mrs. Collins handed me your card yesterday, Monday, at the supper table. It came right along, even as quickly as my telegram to you of Saturday night. I will send no more telegrams. That one cost 60 cts.

These dainty course meals are getting me filled up—Oh they all taste so good! I skip scarcely anything. My belly begins to bulge a little. Bowels move daily, and the amount of my urination has doubled. This is a lovely day. I will take over my violin tomorrow and see how it goes. The girls are delighted, and I hope we will gain lots of needed cheer.

I wrote Mrs. Murray a letter of thanks yesterday, and told her that I am doing all I could to win out. Be sure to return the books to her. I wish we had more “Mrs. Murrays”.

I have told you the most important news so will stop. The Dr. said to wear no cotton or pad on my breast. So have sent it to the waste basket. Wrote Wendell yesterday.

With love—Will
Dear Bernard and Ida:-

It is now 11:30 A.M., and now will have a little visit with you before going to dinner at 12.

Since I was at Holyoke matters have gone on with a rush. Sunday July 4th was the last time I preached. Went to Dr. Church at Syracuse on July 7. He looked me over. Wanted a sample of my sputum and urine. Sent sputum at once, and it was examined, and on July 10th I knew that I had tuberculosis. We worked quickly. Fixed up matters as fast as possible. The church gave me a leave of absence till Sept. 1, or till a complete recovery.

So I got here on Sat. eve, July 17th, and where I am in the great business of simply resting and getting well. I feel better already, as I eat and sleep so soundly. Did not know I was so completely used up. I weigh 130. J. Henry Hallcock, M.D. is my physician who lives only a few houses away. I will inclose one of his leaflets telling about the place.

I board with Mrs. Angeline E. Collins whose address is so written at the head of this letter. She has three girls at home and they are fine cooks and entertainers. O, how I eat! Just what I need, with the rest and fresh air!

I hope you are now whole again and at work. Shall be glad to hear from you. I brought my violin, so when I get better, we will have some music. The Collins have a piano and are only waiting.

Good bye. With love.

Will

I must now write Marion.
Dear Marion:--

It is rather windy and cloudy this morning. The hour is 9:00. Have returned to my room from a hearty breakfast. So will now keep in my room, have a visit with you, go down and mail your letter and get shaved.

I have only good news to tell. Eat hearty and sleep like a log. Last night I put in the best night yet. Did not sweat any or have a chill. Simply got up like any one else, made my toilet, and went to breakfast. Am progressing nicely.

On Tuesday, when I visited Dr. Hallock, my temperature stood at 100.5. It is less now, I know, and growing less all the time. My weight was 130 lbs. on Tuesday, about 5 lbs. less than normal, you see. It seems favorable, and I hope to be able to triumph over these tuberculin bacilli in a few days, or better in a few weeks.

I got out my violin yesterday, and we played a little after dinner. It was my first, but it went very well. Did not play but a little while as it tired my wrist so. The girls, of course, are delighted. The sickly one played the piano. But she is quite a girl now. The family came here for her sake. She sleeps on the piazza in summer. Can't recall the names. Will tell you them when I learn.

The Collins are friends of the Fowlers. And Clara and her mother are both in this vicinity for the summer. Clara works at “The Club”, Lake Placid, ten miles away. The girls have written that I was here, and so I shall hope to see them while I am here. I shall hire a team, in a few days, and try to take in the “State Sanitarium” and the surrounding country.

Glad you sent the letters. I read them all—Vira, Emma, Charlotte, Lina Waldron, Margie, and “the Blick”. I had remitted to the Blick the day before, and the receipt will probably come to you. Simply put it in that drawer to the left, along with the others.

You see by Emma’s letter that I met Bessie Halligan in the station at Syracuse on the day I came here. I told her my mission. We had a nice visit. Her husband was with her, but I can’t call his name.

Now keep out doors and enjoy yourself. Wilburn ought not to work so hard, I feel that he ought to have August for real recuperation, so as to be ready for school. It may be best for you all to journey to No. Orange early in Aug.

I must now write a word to Mrs. Cornelius Adams of Upper Lisle.

With love to all—Will
My dear Marion:--

Your letter written Thursday after supper came this morning. Glad you are getting along so nicely. You seem to be doing a land-office business; calling, keeping th home and parish in good order. Glad Auntie is with you. Don't let her overdo, and keep Wilburn with you all you can, for he must not get too grasping, his thoughts need to be diverted. Try it to McLean, or Freeville, and change the current.

How queer that I got such an impression of Rev. Mrs. Kenyon. I certainly had it when I wrote the historical address. Some time several years pass before the germs break out in a person. And some time it takes the healthy and leaves the weak.

But there is no use of speculating now. I have it, and took it from somewhere. So glad I came here early. It is just the place. I cough very little now, have no sweats at night, eat so hearty and sleep so soundly. I go up on the hill-top every pleasant day and bathe in the sun and fresh air.

The Dr. said very little, only to rest, eat and sleep, and that I would see a material change for the better. I see him again Tuesday. I do not take my temperature. He said it was bad for a patient to do so. When I go again he will tell me how much my temperature has fallen. When my temperature gets normal, I suppose that I shall be the same as well. If this should be brought about in a month how happy I should be. But it is best to fix no time or set no dates. Who knows but I shall be in No. Orange at Reunion or soon after! Wish you would write to Cora and see if she wants me (or better all of us, auntie and all) for two or three weeks at least.

I haven't much news besides that about myself. I haven't been about the place much yet. I only know it is very hilly here, and that my place is up on the hillside. I have no signs of a lake yet, but will get out one of these days and look around. I went down street this morning and got shaved, bought some shirt-studs, got my umbrella repaired for 25 cts. Got home at noon and ate a hearty dinner. Meals at 8:0--12:15--5:30.

The girls in order are: Helen, Mary (Mrs. PerLee of Syracuse), Nina, and Ruth. The last is the invalid who brought them here to live. She seems quite well, has a room on the piazza. She played my accompaniment, doing very nicely. Will try again tonight perhaps, if she is like minded. They all seem to enjoy the music, and it will help me in the way of good cheer,

Got a souvenir of the Rowley home yesterday, with a few kind words from Mr. Rowley hoping I would soon be well and again with them. It did me good.

I have sent in the Bank Book with the order for Aug. 1. A line has just come from Mr. Anderson saying it will be honored on Aug. 1st without break of interest. The burden, you see, will soon be off. I have made up my mind (in the face of $5, a week to Beach) to charge father $3.50 per week, and at least $40 for my services.
Don't omit to pay the grain bills and Mrs. Snider as they fall due. If you run short, just call on me for a check. Don't worry!

I must drop a line to Weeks of Utica, so that he may know what is up.

With love to all. ---- Will

I wish I had a little calendar. I wonder if that "Bliss" calendar would slip into a common letter?

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The grain was for "Joe", their horse.

The Potter cousins. rear---Margie, Atlee, Frances
front---Vance, Wilburn H, Manley
Tuesday 4:30 P.M. July 27, 1909

Dear Marion:--

This noon brought me a grist of letters which I cannot answer. But will send just a word to you.

"Old Joe's " death on Saturday July 24th was the great surprise. Glad he did not suffer long. Wilburn did well to have him seen to and buried promptly. It is all for the best: "he has fought the good fight". You will miss the rides; but get a rig once in a while and go just the same.

Perhaps Mr. Hazzard has room for the wagons & sleigh at a fair rate. Mr. Blair might take what little hay there was left at $13 or $14 per ton. There can't be but a hundred or two. Upon inquiry you will see what is best to do. But be sure and ask Mrs. Snider what she will for the storage left as it is. I think a dollar would be about right. Try her and see!

The Dr. forbid me to write letters to friends, as I must save all my energy. I am doing well, generally speaking, but it will take a little time. I will go down street tomorrow and put in a supply of souvenir cards to send. "Rest and build up" is his constant word. He gave me new medicine today. So it keeps me busy knowing what to take next. I take two pellets at 5. I see it is just 5, so here goes. Supper at 5:30. Busy, busy, busy, as you see.

Cards came to day from Mrs. Haskins, Ostrander, VanSickle, Baldwin, Fuller, all of McLean. And letters from you, Wendell and Bernard. It was a strenuous task to digest after a hearty dinner. I will send Mr. Hazzard a card tomorrow, if my plans carry.

No, Will Forrest has not paid his subscription on the church debt. He did not promise to pay at once. It will be gladly received any time, and I will then write in his name among the rest on the church books. You will find the subscription paper in the slot where I keep my bank book, and the receipts etc. (at the top, right of centre) in my desk.

I forgot to put in the bill for the Children's Day leaflets. I first paid 25 cents for Samples, you remember. Then we sent for 2 Doz. I think, and a half Doz. later. Look up in the slot to the left, next to top, and you may find each bill, unless it was sent direct to the S.S. secretary. A word to 30 West St. would unravel things, if it can't be done without. Remember the cardboard for the signs,—20 cents to the Aid.

I owe only ten more to the Blick Company. The notice will come all right, about Aug. 15 for $5 more. On July 6 I paid Mrs. Snider $2.00 as the rent of barn for June. So say my books.

I have eaten a hearty supper. It is now 7:40. So good night. A little girl is waiting to take this to the box.

With love,—Will.
Friday 10:30 A.M. July 30, 1909

Dear Marion:--

It is a little showery this morning, and rather sultry. Must stay inside. Will therefore improve the time by visiting with you. I sent you a card yesterday as a reminder of our nuptial day.

Your letter came to hand at noon,—inclosing lines from Mrs. Edson, the Hanfords, and Mrs. Bowen. How the friends come to light! a satisfaction indeed! But Dr. Hallock says to write no letters, only to you, send simply souvenir cards. So that will be my policy for a time at least. He says that I need every bit of my energy, and should not waste it on my friends who are kinder than they are wise.

The local “society for the control of tuberculosis” is a fine institution and doing much good. I went to the head office on Wednesday. I shall keep close to it for the best information. I inclose one of their leaflets.

When I was down street Wed. I got a fine line of cards which I am freely using. They do the business, saving me lots of energy.

Your advice about staying here until fully recovered is wise. As yet I have set no dates. I realize, more and more, that getting well is a slow matter, and that three months is very short. I shall certainly stay as long as the doctor advises, whether 3 months or a year. I keep the great end in view,—to get perfectly well and strong.

I was so hungry this morning, that is my best symptom. Eating and rest, with good medical aid, will do the business, if I only persevere and do my full part.

Weeks has written me a nice letter and he wants to see me at the earliest possible day. I wrote him that I ought not be able to spend the energy in going to Utica, as he suggested; and so he may drop in upon me, I apprehend, most any day. He wants to get the church situation, also.

Am glad the ladies keep active. It will do them good to quilt. Hope they will have a supper on Wednesday, but I wish someone besides Nancy would go ahead. It will have to work itself out, in its own way, I know.

Then the Cone child is critical, perhaps beyond hope. Sorry. Glad Mrs. Cone called. I wonder if his note to me will be taken up in August, as he promised. If he should want to pay it, I think you will find it in that lower drawer to the right where the bank books are. Simply reckon the interest from its date at 6%, receive the money, and give him the note,—that is all.

Wilburn, dear boy, don’t let him work too long. Tell him to conserve his energy for the next school year.

Wish you all could get invited over to the Fitts’ for a few days, or even for a day. Auntie, you jewel, I am so glad you are with Marion at this time. Be careful and don’t overdo.
I wish you would send me in your next, two or three blank deposit sheets, 2nd National Bank, at the upper right slip in my desk. If you need any funds, say so, and I will draw an order. I expect a draft from Mr. Andrews about Tuesday.

Sorry the Wattles have gone. Glad you could care for them the last night. I must mail this, and then it will be time for dinner.

Try for the razor again. It is too bad to be put off so long! 25 cents will be his due, if properly repaired.

I sent Mr. Hazzard a card. He may show it to you.

Good bye. With lots of love---Will
Dear Marion:--

I lay down after dinner and had a nap. Before going on the hill-top I will write a few lines, for the evening is a poor time to write.

Your last of Friday eve was brought to me Sunday noon by a Mr. Jones who takes dinner at the Collins. He usually inquires for them on Sunday morning. The peas came, a little wilted, but now they look fine, to the delight of all, and their fragrance fills the room.

Glad of all the news. Can hardly realize the ladies are so busy. But it will do them good. Sorry you missed Mrs. Fitts call.

What a boy Wilburn is to get money! Am glad you kept one of the chickens for yourself. We have chicken here three or four times a week, I should think, but always for Sunday dinner. It is so good.

I inclose two letters which are of interest,—one from Mrs. Adams of Upper Lisle, and the other from Mrs. Tucker of McLean. You will want to read Mrs. Tucker’s to Mrs. Rowley or Mrs. Fitts.

You ask for me to tell more about myself, and wonder if I am doing all I possibly can? This I have tried to do. The doctor tells me not to worry, not think of myself, to eat and rest all I can, and I shall win. Dr. Hallock is an expert in this line, says I am doing well, to trust him. He does not answer half my questions, but tells me all I ought to know. So my answers to you must be quite general, more especially to my friends for they could not understand even tho I told them. Dr. said he would be very liberal with me and doctor me at half the usual price. I don’t know just how much this is, but will know when his bill comes to hand, which, he said, would be sent to me monthly.

It is 3:15. Now for the hill-top. Good-bye---Will
Dear Marion:--

Your fat letter came just before dinner bringing lots of news, the deposit slips and Inette's card. Inette is trying to outdo herself. What will she say when she gets your letter? Adon looks as spruce as can be.

I am so glad that the Hazzards are to give you an outing on Thursday to Glen Haven. It will do you lots of good. Go as often as possible.

I am glad that you and Auntie and Wilburn are keeping the parish work going. That only encourages me here to have as enviable a record. Auntie was very brave to call on Mr. Davis. She deserves a crown.

I don't know about writing to Mr. Phillips. I may later, as they are not really able to write. I have written to no one yet who has not written to me, save Mr. Hazzard & Dr. Knapp, and these were only short souvenir cards.

All is going well with myself. Am leaving nothing undone that I think ought to be done. Yesterday was my regular day at the doctor's. We had a fine visit, going some into details. He said everything is encouraging, eating, sleeping, bowels, etc. but that a month was a short time in which to see much gain with such a disease. My temperature keeps about the same, slightly lower. He tests my lungs and looks me over carefully each time. I take 4 pills in midforenoon and afternoon, and powder at bedtime. I cough, and raise some, early each morning as at night. To raise is what the Dr. wishes. But, on the whole, I do not cough as much as when I first arrived. I have two windows in my room, one at the side and the other at the foot of the bed, and both are wide open all the time. I am on the hill-top, a few rods above the house, some portion of each fair day. The Dr. does not think Sevetol is necessary. Says to eat raw eggs instead. This I do. But I may finish the bottle of Sevetol in course of time.

Now for business, and I want you to weigh every word. It is in connection with father's affairs, and I hope the removal of that useless burden, as it has proved.

Take my bank book, close the Orange draft which I have indorsed, also the deposit slip, and hand it in at the bank window. The entry will be made by Mr. Smith, the Cashier, or by the one receiving the book. Then hand the receiver my check, No. 90, as inclosed, asking him to issue a draft on Boston or New York payable to the order of John S. Potter. Send the last to me, which, with the bank book in my possession, I will send to father.

Don't tell anyone about it excepting Auntie. Perhaps some Levy or other person from Newpost, might drop in upon you, but, if so, be careful and not know too much. But I trust nothing of this sort will happen.

It may be best to make up a package for me soon, and send by express. That pepper and salt coat & vest, older yet better than the one I was wearing daily would
be fine for me to lounge in here. But wait a little and there will be more to put in which we will think of.

With love, ---Will

P.S.---Ask the bank for another check book, which they will gladly give you. I see that my envelopes are getting low. There are several packages of them off my study closet. But it would not pay to send any, unless you make up a bundle to me soon or later. Did Mr. Weeden send rent for July?
Dear Marion:--

I got your nice letter this morning. It was called for at the office last night by some from our ranch, and so I am digesting it today instead of tomorrow.

I will write what I can now, but may add more during the day and mail my letter tonight.

As for “business” you are certainly in the swim. So many callers! And you did finely at the bank. The draft and book to father will be sent by registered mail tomorrow. I inclose a copy of the letter which has been thought out very carefully. I will date and direct it from here, as by so doing, the “Portsmouth trio” can appreciate it the more. I have so worded it, omitting net amount and details of account, that I do not implicate myself: and by emphasizing my side of the matter I do not expect any after clap. I most confidently hope that the matter is closed forever.

I am very sorry about the razor. The agreed price was 25 cts. for concaving and sharpening. Tell him so, and do not accept it unless it is right. It is ashamed to be imposed upon so. It has been a great inconvenience to me. But if you have paid the money for a broken razor, you are simply swindled, unless he is man enough to make it right. Talk straight to him and let me know the results. Go yourself.

Glad to know about the supper and that many inquired for me. Thanks to the callers, Mr. Cooper included. Mrs. Murray is the stuff. Not everyone would have called. She is surely interested and is a friend indeed. I think, too, that I will come out all right, but that it will take time and patience to conquer.

Be sure in your talks, to set no dates, for nobody yet knows how long I must be here, not even the doctor himself. I have ceased to worry over the matter. I am in a good place, perhaps the best possible. The air is fresh and invigorating, altho quite hot just at present. There is a fine water supply, pure and fresh from the mountains. The doctor’s bill for July came Friday. It called for $5.00. At that rate his charges will be about $2.50 per visit (Tuesdays), or $10.00 per month. This, I assume, is one half rate. He gives me medicine, and examines me more or less at each visit. I go to his house only a few rods away. All is fine so far and I like him very much.

I am glad that you had such a fine time at Glen Haven. Just what you needed. So good Wilburn and Auntie were included in the load. The cards you sent from there were duly received and did me lots of good.

Miss Dayton is a gem, as is shown by her fine letter. Was glad to read it. $8.00 is a very substantial evidence of her appreciation, along with the other kind friends. They can never forget what we did,—how we repaired the property and made it secure by deed to the Convention. It pays, after all, to do something definite and worth of the cause we love.

Wilburn and Florence show off fine. Edmund did well. Am glad Wilburn has put things in the barn in order. He ought to go in and shake out the buffalo and blankets each week, especially in hot weather. But the poor boy has lots to do. He
ought to break off from his other duties, while I am away, and help see to things at home. He will have to do so soon when school opens, but I wish he would before.

We have diversions here. Last Tuesday a strange dog took shelter on the cot on Mrs. Collins' piazza and brought forth a litter of puppies, and to the great wonder of the children and the vexation of Mrs. C. and her family. The police saw that matters were cared for, but it was lots of work and annoyance for Mrs. C.

They are putting down cement walks on our street, and so there is constant entertainment.

Ruth and I drilled again last night with the music. This is the third time, only a little while each time, and it goes very well, delighting the entire household.

I must now close, With love, Will

I read in the Syracuse Standard that Frederick J. Smythe of Rochester was killed by the capsizing of his own auto. He was Vice Pres. of the State Convention, my friend with whom I corresponded so much. He was 42. A great loss.
Wed. 10 A.M.
Aug. 11, 1909

Dear Marion:-

When I went to supper last night at 5:30 I found your letter on the table waiting for me. I ate first, then read it; and I had scarcely finished it when Weeks walked in. He sat down and ate, and then we visited heartily until he left for Utica at 7:50. I went to the station to see him off. To get the inside, he went to see Dr. Hallock for a short conference.

This is the result: good all round, no discouraging note. My stay here will be indefinite, but it will be longer than Sept. 1. Weeks will supply for me on Sept 5 at Cortland and McLean, and will bring to the people all the word about me that is best for them to know. He will speak the word of hope which at this time is so necessary. You can talk it, also, but be sure and set no date, or probable date for my return. The doctor will see to that and will give me the needed information when he knows himself, and then I will tell you and the rest in due time.

I was glad he came. He was surprised that I had so much color. He went away encouraged. He is to be in Gloversville tonight, and says that it is now probable that they will settle a pastor all their own. Milburn may be left on the strands in Oneonta, on his return from Europe, and Mrs. Hawley may still need to support him. Bingham of Bradford, Pa. has been called to Herkimer and Weeks is in hopes he will accept.

Got a line yesterday from Wendell in the same good strain. He is busy with the bees. Atlee is up with the Woods at Old Forge and having the time of his life. He sent me a card from there. Wendell said he had not taken off much honey yet, but expected to this week. The girls have been up to Kasts Bridge. They said Web's folks were well, but that Mabel was very poorly. Sorry. Anna is busy weaving to keep up with orders.

Am glad you liked my letter to father. I trust it will do the business. Be sure and keep the copy of it. I mailed by registered letter, for I knew he would not answer. Now I know I will have his receipt, and which make me feel more secure.

It is dry up here, we need rain. And yet a fair shower came last night a little before six. Yesterday was quite cool and cloudy. Today is clearer and some warm.

Glad to know that the garden is doing well. Hope it will continue by the help of rain.

Then Mary and Grace have gone to So. Dakota ere this. Very proper. How kind the PerLees are!

Hope Wilburn's new tire will prove all right. The one I got was "nit".

Will be glad to get the "Convention at Work". The "Leader" came yesterday noon, and which I have only partially read.
Mr. Elmer was kind to write such a good letter. How interested they are! The lightning striking their house was indeed a freak. The turpentine remedy may have been good, but I am not yet decided to try it. Perhaps I will later. Will ask the doctor first.

You ask about my friends. They are included in the Collins family, Ruth of course preferred, and a Mrs. Mittenthal and two young children who are boarding there. I room with a family named Selfridge. They have two girls of 15 & 11, and a boy of 8. She does my washing. Pd. 25 cents the first time and 35 cts the next. Expect it will be 35 cts, this week. A Mr. and Mrs. Adler live up stairs. He runs a meat market on Broadway.

I have bought me some elastic tape and made a pair of stocking holders. They work fine. I got a pair of new scissors, also some cheesecloth for handkerchiefs to burn after use. I get today some needles and thread to sew on my loose buttons. You see I am right in business.

I am cutting out some good scraps from the Republican which I have addressed to come here. Read some good stories in it, also.

Think I have told you all the news, so will close for this time.

With Love, --Will

I will use one of the envelopes you sent. Do so some more, as long as it takes no extra postage. Hope you enjoyed the band. Keep out as much as you can. W.

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---Weeks--Rev. Weeks was in charge of placing pastors in the Universalist church

---letter to father--"father" refers to Great Grandfather John Potter (Wilburn D's father). There appears to have been some conflict with him by the tone of the writing.
Sunday 7 A.M. Aug. 14, 1909

Dear Marion:--

I arose at six have made my toilet and shaved, now will write to you. Perhaps I can tell all I have to say before breakfast at eight. It is a fine morning. The sun shines into my room from the east and is reviving. But it is very dry here. Hope it will rain soon.

The razor came all right. Was glad to get it, and have used it this morning with great satisfaction. How much better it is than to go to a barber shop and spend so much time and the ten cents besides. Have been seven times since I came, spending 70 cents or enough to pay for repairing the razor.

Your letter came last night. It was a good fat one, too fat, for I had to pay 2 cts postage due. That, I suppose, was owing to the extra envelopes, inclosed. But they are worth it. You ought to have some scales! Ha! Ha!

Mrs. Murray is the stuff! It shocked me to know that she took my wife and aunt out in her auto. You must hold on to yourself while I am away! Perhaps she will drive up after me when I am ready to come home. Who can tell!

The death of Mr. Morris was no surprise. They were good to notify us. Glad you wrote Mrs. Morris.

Cora did well to write. Now I wish we were all there together for a month! But this is out of the question this year.

I was pleased about renting the spare room. Shall be surprised if they take it, but hope they will. It would be all extra, nearly, and good to do while I am away.

It was fine that Mr. Allard called. Shall hope to see him later. Trust he will be a good man for "Fred". How thoughtful the Halligans are!

So the fair is on next week! I did not realize it came so early. Hope you all can attend, and that the pass will be good for all. But you will see.

Then it is Milburn and marm Kellogg! It may be thus for a time, but who will be the next? I wonder who attended Mr. Morris' funeral? Dr. Russell, I presume.

Sorry to hear of the fire at the barrel shop. Hope they will catch the firebug.

I sent a short poem to the "Standard" on Thursday, and I wonder if they will print it. Keep on the lookout. I hope it will appear. It may be in today's issue, Sat. Aug 14th. We will see.

A letter from Veva came also yesterday, after remaining in the office here nearly a week. It was written before father got mine. It is so apologetic, giving herself entirely away, as if now she was guilty and trying to make up. I will enclose the letter. As you will see, she lay the blame on the brothers' "wives", by implication at least. I want to tell her that her letter was uncalled for at this time, without
warrant or basis, and accomplishing the very opposite of what she intended—peace. I wish she hadn’t written it. But I will say nothing,—only send a brief card today. The matter will now rest, I hope. They have the money, and let them revel in their selfish content. Save the letter, with the rest.

I do not think of any more this time. I am doing finely, slow and sure, I trust. Will now go down street. Mr. and Mrs. B. Woodward wrote cards.

Good bye. With love. Will

Grandpa’s watch has gone back on me. It has stopped and I can’t make it go. I was about taking it to the jewelers to get fixed, when I was offered one by Mrs. Collins. It was Mr. Collins’ and they are keeping it in his memory. She said that he would be glad to have me wear it all the time I am here. This I will do. So the old “Geneva” is laid aside till I get home. It is nearly 10. Will

Copy of card to Veva.

Aug. 14, 1909

“Your letter recvd. yesterday. Thanks. The barriers you speak of are largely imaginary. Please do not dwell on them. I trust you are happy now, and father too.

I am gaining slightly, I think, but it is a hard and long fight.

Write. Your loving brother.—Will”
Dear Marion:--

I recvd your postal yesterday noon and the letter at night when I went to supper at 5:30. You are certainly doing a land-office business, and so have much to write about.

I am wondering how the fair is getting along with the rain. It was cloudy here all day yesterday, raining a little, rained thru the night and is now sprinkling. The outlook is bad.

That letter of Clark's is one one of the best I have ever read from his pen. There is no excuses, as usual, and he gets down to business. It is so much better to do so. I shall expect a line from him soon.

Was glad to read Mrs. Woodward's letter. She always writes nicely. Cards have come so far from she and Mr. Woodward, Mr. Amsden and Mr. Bowen. the tone of each is about the same, most kindly. I have sent cards to each in return. I wrote Charlotte a short letter yesterday. Thought it best to do so, as she was so good to write.

Mrs. Collins showed me the Reporter which contained my letter to Mr. and Mrs. Adams, and she seemed much pleased that I mentioned her name. As you know, it was hardly right or courteous to publish a private letter without permission from the writer. But it is all the same, now it is done. It appeared word for word as written, and perhaps its publication has done good.

I got a fine letter from Ida yesterday. She says Bernard is having quite a rest out there, as he is waiting for developments so he can do his part. That is just what he needed. She hopes he will be able to give you a call on his return. She wants to know what my daily program is, and wonders how I keep busy. Will have to tell her, I guess.

Yesterday, 2 P.M., was my regular visit to the doctor's. He looked me over carefully. Said I was doing well and to keep right on. My temperature was only 99, the lowest yet. Weight 129 1/2. Said to keep right on with my eggs, one after each meal. These are extra, as I learned yesterday from Mrs. Collins. I was surprised but it is the rule here. Strictly fresh eggs are now 38 cts. a dozen here. The doctor gave the same medicine as before, and on my leaving said: "keep out of doors, don't worry, and be happy". He gave me a circular which I will inclose. This, as you see, tells me to fight it out on the lines begun if it takes all summer. Patience, after all, is the greatest virtue of this disease.

Ruth and I drilled last night, and the rest of the family listened and applauded. We are constantly improving, get much good cheer, and it makes me glad that I have the violin with me. So much for your suggestion and foresight. Wish the violin case was only here, but will get along just as it is. I think of good Mr. Foster nearly every time I play.
A baby of 7 mo. died across the street yesterday of cholera infantum. The crepe was put upon the door this morning.

I can hardly decide about your making up a bundle and sending by express. I think it best for the present not to send it. I will add a little to what the express would be, 75 cts., and buy a cheap light collared coat to go with my tennis pants, simply to lounge in on the hill-top. I will need it at home. Unless you think of some other things which I ought to have, we will let it go this way for a while. I have the razor, you see, and the only other thing which I must have by Sept. 1 is the check book. When I next hear from you, we may think differently. So don't worry. We will decide for sure in due time.

If my stay is prolonged I may want that other violin and piano music which I bought in Syracuse and which contains the “Flower Song” etc. But wait and see.

I am glad the Kenyon’s are to have the benefit of a trip westward. It will do them good. Glad you and auntie called on them and the others.

It is funny that Wilburn is so restless when out of work. He don't know how to entertain himself. Wish you might get him at the clarinet again, and try to head him that way. It would be fine for him to take lessons. But! But! Wish his hens were here so I might get the eggs at a cheaper rate. But! But! If wishes were fishes, how the fish would bite. Shall be glad when his school begins, for he needs the preparation the most.

It is still raining as I write. It looks as if we were to have the other extreme.

How is your money holding out? Don't cut the corners too much. Live well,—eat fruit, Wheatina is quite a favorite at the Collins table, and have deserts and necessary luxuries. It pays in the long run. The bakeries here have a rather hard time, as home cooking is the one urgent prescription by the doctors.

I must close for this time. Good bye,—Will

3 P.M.—A nice letter came at noon from Emma H. Ah! Mrs. C. told Nancy I would be here 5 mos. I resented it plainly, and told her I was sorry she said it, as it was for the good of the parish to set no dates, when no one knows.
Sat 9:30 A.M.

Dear Marion:--

I hardly know where to begin, as I have so much to say.

Your letter came last night at five. Mrs. Mittenthal gave a party to 12 little ones in honor of her children's birthday, one 6 and the other 9. Hours 3-5. The older ones of the house were invited. they played games, had a spread and Ruth and I furnished the music. Had a pleasant time. The affair was just over as your letter was brought in.

At the noon mail two letters came, one from Mrs. Murray and one from Mr. Hazzard, besides some cards.

I am sending cards today as follows:--Mr. and Mrs. James Connell, Mrs. Stone, Francese, Mrs. Spinney, Ruth Amsden, Mabel Davis & mother, Miss Farnsworth, Helen Woodward, & Kate Day.

Of first importance is what Mrs. Murray and Mr. Hazzard say. The trustees held a meeting at the call of Mrs. Murray, and she laid before them her plan which they heartily accepted:--to extend my vacation, on full pay, to Oct. 1, or longer if necessary, the church to be kept open in the mean time, and she to pay for the cost or expense of supplies. Isn't that fine! And coming entirely at her own volition, it is especially good!

Mr. Hazzard wrote such a fine letter. It affected me deeply. They seem to want to do everything for the best; and, if possible, just as I would have it. And if they were not doing what I thought best for me to make the needed suggestions.

Mrs. Murray spoke just as feelingly. She said I ought to stay here long enough for a complete rest, that I was simply overworked, that three months here of the bracing air would be necessary for renewed health. Let me quote: "Your friends here (and you have worlds of them) want you to stay at least until Nov. 1. Please do not worry about your church work, we will take care of that". She spoke of seeing you and that you were "very bright and cheerful, and I think in her heart, she takes lots of comfort thinking you are having well earned vacation". The underscoring is hers. And then she closes her letter: "Command me at any time if necessary, or if I can be of any assistance in any way, and to believe me to be always, Yours Sincerely etc."

It is all an inspiring and helpful letter showing that she wants to see things go. She is a friend, not only of ours, but of the Church. And that is what we rejoice over, especially at this time.

Of course I will write both her and Mr. Hazzard thanking them, and telling them to go ahead, that Bro. Weeks will be on hand Set. 5, and not to worry. Ha! Ha!

Glad the "pass" worked so well, & that you all had such a good time at the fair.
I was surprised to see my poem in the Standard. Perhaps they have a heart down there after all, Mr. Parsons not withstanding. I will cut it out and label it for my scrap book. They are all praising it here, i.e. those of our household. I guess it paid for the writing, after all.

It is too bad about Gladys Stone’s husband. Shall be anxious to hear more.

Glad of the program at Assembly Park, all about Clifton Mallory & the rest. I feel honored that Mr. Whitmore should want my paper on Holland again.

Am glad that your funds are holding out. Now be sure and have all you need, some extras, and don’t err by being too economical.

I am very busy here. Of course I sit much on the piazza and mountain top, but I also read the papers, write in answer to cards and letters, play on the violin with Ruth now almost daily as my strength increases, besides visiting with new-made friends. Time does not hang so heavily on my hands as it did at first.

Perhaps you had better make up the bundle after all. Be gathering the things together, but do not send till I write again. The articles I now think of are: coat, vest and (pants), check book, violin music, one or two of my best everyday ties or bows, two of my best 14 1/2 collars. I can’t think of anything else. I have only my best brown gloves. Am afraid my next best are not good enough to send. But you can tell best.

Now, don’t worry in the least. You must try and put on more flesh. Why not try a raw egg after each meal, as I do? I am eating lots of fruit at the beginning of each meal, especially oranges and bananas. We have blackberries often, and a cup of milk at each meal. In fact, the variety is all one would wish. My appetite is as good as ever.

Weeks did not say that Milburn had had any special trouble at Gloversville, only that they were trying for a pastor, all their own.

Will walk down street and mail this after dinner.

Will close for this time.---Will
Marion Esther Herrick

Graduation from High School
1889

Middle right: District #4 School
Student or Teacher? Date?
Wed. 6:30 A.M.

Dear Marion:--

I have made my toilet and am ready for breakfast; but as breakfast does not come till 8 will try and finish a letter to you. The sun is shining in my east window and it bids fair to be a very warm day, so this is the best time to write.

I got your letter last night at supper time, 5:30, read it then ate supper.

It rather pleased me that you knew all about what Mrs. Murray and the trustees were doing, and still kept so quiet. But that was the best way after all, as I got the whole effect of the action at first hand.

[My bank book now stands at $273.82. I will draw on Mrs. Collins today for ten, so that the net will be $263.82 to date. We will not have to worry over funds for a time at least. You must be sure to get everything that you need. About a week or ten days before the tax bills are due send them to me (Aunties's also) and I will send payment by check]

I am very glad that you got over to McLean, for they need attention. You can tell them the latest concerning myself, and plan with them for the opening service on Sept. 5th. Let them do as they choose about the finances; but if they pay Mr. Weeks each time, or at all, be sure that he sees to the expense of the livery.

I somehow can't place Mr. Stockwell of whom you speak. Don't think that I ever met him. But I will look up the son, Walter, shortly. Will inquire at the post office as I go down this morning.

Glad to hear that Mrs. Edson called on Mrs Brown. In her card to me she said that it was her intention to call.

Perhaps our Cortland ladies would do well with Mr. Hubbard also. Why don't you suggest it. Have it come early, if at all. That with the old paper gathering will keep them busy planning.

Now about the express bundle. These are the items: suit, 2 good Bryson collars, a good every-day tie, checkbook, all the music for violin and piano, bunch of envelopes. You may possibly think of more. I will pay the express at this end.

Two cards came yesterday from Shelburne Falls,—Mrs. C.H. Smith, and Miss Margaret Tyler. Will answer them today. A fine letter came from Clark and which I have already answered. He would gladly supply for me at Cortland, if needed, as he hinted very strongly.

This is all for this time. So must go to breakfast. With love.—Will

Visited the doctor yesterday, but nothing new, doing well, slow but sure. No worry at all!
This little lake is almost in the heart of the village. It was made in 1892 by broadening the Saranac at this point, and is named after ex-Governor Flower. I hope to have a boat-ride on it before I return home.

How are the hens doing? Do you drill on the clarinet any? I drill on the violin almost daily. Don’t overdo. With love, Pa
15C--postmarked Aug 28, 1909, 5 Virginia Street, Saranac Lake--written by Rev. W. D. Potter to his wife Mrs. W. D. Potter, 5 Elm Street, Cortland, N.Y.

Sat. 7:15 A.M.

Dear Marion:--

I haven't much to write this time. Will scribble off a little before I go to breakfast. Your letter came last night and found me as usual. Cards came yesterday from Miss Farnsworth, Chaffee, Phillips, Welke and Lina Waldron. I will answer them tomorrow.

I was glad you went to McLean as it showed your interest. Glad also that you saw the Carrs. Yes, learn a lesson from them. Unbend a little and take life easy. That is the way I am doing now.

In regard to myself, all I can say is that there is steady progress. I asked the doctor to tell me about my real condition. He said there is noticeable change from the first to now, but so slight as to be scarcely noticeable each week. I breathe a little easier, can walk faster without exhaustion, and have no night sweats. My sputum is thinner and whiter which is a good symptom, altho my cough and expectoration is about the same in quantity as when I came. He said that the cough would be the last thing to subside. My voice has improved and I talk easier. It is all necessarily slow, but it seems that I am going in the right direction.

I hope you will go to Ithaca, as it will do you good. You may not have a better opportunity. And you will certainly want to go if Mrs. Rowley invites you.

I see by what you say Mr. Rowley said that the finances are troubling him. He probably thinks they will have to pay my salary and Mr. Weeks, or the supplies, too. Of course, I wish they would do so. But if they feel too poor, then pay Mr. Weeks and omit my pay for that time. Be sure and talk the matter over with Mr. Weeks and have him arrange definitely with the trustees when he goes there on Sept. 5th. Then they will feel better or less anxious.

About the $10 to Mrs. Collins. I pay her in check for both room and board: 7+2= 9. Eggs extra. That saves me drawing an extra check for my room.

This is a lovely morning; so was yesterday but a little cool. Today is ideal.

A new school-house is building just across the way, and watching them work is a means of diversion to me daily. Now for breakfast!

Good bye---Will
Dear Marion:--

I will start a letter to you now, write a little while, and then finish later, perhaps after dinner.

Yesterday morning was the coldest yet since I came, it bringing a frost. We had to put on more bed clothes and stir around to keep warm. But this morning is comfortable again, a fair breeze is blowing and it is some cloudy. Had a thunder storm during the night.

The express bundle came all right on Monday forenoon. They paid the express charges, 80 cts., and signed for me, at my suggestion previously given. All the things which I apparently needed were nicely packed in the box. I wore the pants and one of the ties yesterday on my weekly visit to the doctor. Will wear the coat and vest with my tennis pants as I sit on the hill-top. Will now take my brown suit to the tailor’s and have them sponged and pressed. Am now pretty well fitted out for the next two months, at least, or until Nov. 1.

I am just over a touch of the summer complaint which began on last Friday. It checked my progress a little, of course, and I coughed a little more, but now am right again. I shall steer clear of the green corn for a while, as this it was that did the business.

I hope to get over to Trudeau, two miles away, and see Walter Stockwell who is in the private sanitarium there. The stage goes over there twice daily, and is very convenient for me. I went down St. last Sat. morning to take the stage at 9, but got left as it had recently changed its time of leaving to 8:30. So, I will try again soon, perhaps on Friday or Saturday. His father has probably returned to Cortland ere this.

Letters came yesterday from Wendell, Ida, and Clark. All about the same. Ida expects Bernard soon from Titusville, Pa., and that he is then booked for the Pacific coast. She hope that she can go along too; but if not will visit you and then on to Canton for a stay.

A card came yesterday yesterday from Annie Greene, and which I have already answered. I sent a card yesterday to Veva, short but sweet, so as not to cause any worry on her part. Ha! Ha!.

Mrs Mittenthal is moving today into a four room apartment across the street. It is neat and cozy, light, two piazzas, bath, all furnished. We went in last night, at her invitation, and she is quite delighted with the outlook. It seems a fine place for her and her two children. Mr. Mittenthal is coming on from N.Y. about Sept. 15 for a short visit. I don’t know what she pays for rental.

Mrs. Collins told me this morning that she has a chance to sell out. She pays $36. a month for the house, and $18 a year for the water. If she makes a bargain she will probably go to the Rockies to live. She owns a house and lot in Whitney Point, and wants to sell. But the market in real estate is sluggish there.
A new boarder and roomer came Monday night. He is a tailor from N.Y., about 30 years old, unmarried, looks like an Italian, name seems, as he was introduced to us, like DeLeva. He pays $10. per week, eggs extra, as usual. He is quite bad off, said he caught cold last Sept., took no notice of it, grew thinner, coughed some at Xmas, but did not get on to the fact that he had tuberculosis until July. And so it goes. He is very lonesome, and has come to stay all winter.

[I will now stop for a while and take to the piazza. It is too damp for the hill-top today.]

1:15 P.M.--Have just returned from dinner. Ate heartily and feel fine. Will now finish.

Your letter came at noon, also one from Bernard and a card from Mr. Weeks. Ruth and I drilled a little while before sitting down to dinner. Mr. DeLivo (it is spelled) felt so bad that he did not come to the table, and with Mrs. Mittenthal and her children just gone it seemed a little lonesome,--none but myself besides the immediate family.

I am glad you are keeping up the calls. Sorry you were not at home when the Sniders called. I should think Bessie Park had struck it rich in Kansas.

Bernard's letter says that he expects to go back to Warren, O., from Titusville, Pa. where he now is, for two or more days, and then perhaps to Ashland, O. for a short stay, and that he hopes to be able to stop at Cortland on his way home. It looks, also, as if he was soon to be sent to Omaha and Pasadena, Cal. He plans to take Ida and Manley with him, if he goes. No other special news from him, only that he is rested & feeling fine again after his "close shave".

Mr. Weeks says he has written you that he will be with you on Saturday A.M. I wrote him Monday, and he thanks me for the news and says he will write me again after Sunday.

I trust there will be a good attendance tonight at the church supper. Wish I could stop in!

Then Bessie is to break up Oct. 1st, and is to room so near us. There will be much wailing by her aunt, I am sure.

Yes, I see sick people sitting on nearly every other piazza. It is the chief business here.

I shall not attempt to write many letters for a while. I don't know what the Doctor would say about it now.

Then Wilburn is at the helm in Sarvay's. What a worker, he is! I shall really be glad when school opens again. Guess I have told all the news. Now for the piazza! Business first!

Good bye. With love, Will
Bernard V. Potter Travels
Thousands Of Miles In 33
Years With Deane Works

For the past 33 years Bernard U. Potter has been engaged in engineer-
ing work for the Deane Steam Pump Works, now a division of the Wor-
thington Pump and Machinery Corpora-
tion, and he has traveled so many
miles throughout the different States
that he is probably the most traveled
man in this city.

His duties have taken him to all but
dfour States, North Dakota, Idaho,
Washington and Oregon, and he has
lived in everything from exclusive
hotels to shacks miles from any
civilization. Mr. Potter just com-
pleted an extensive trip in Texas
where he averaged from 200 to 300
miles a day driving along the old pipe
ilines, seeing that the pumps which
were placed at regular intervals to
"boost" the oil, were working per-
fec

There have been times when his
duties required him to work down in
the mines, some of which were 2000
feet below the earth's surface. He has
spent as many as six hours a day
down in the heart of the mines super-

One winter he was working in New
Orleans when orders came for him to
go to Winnipeg, Canada, and then his
duties were some 180 or more miles

He was so far from a city that there were no hotels, banks, etc.,
and it was necessary to live in engi-

s had a few comforts. The workmen on
the job there came from the Canadian

woods and about the only excitement
in the camp each day was when theell rang for meals.

On his recent trip in Texas, Mr.
POTTER TRAVELED FOR THE DEANE

He stopped in a small settlement
where there was no hotel, inn or
boarding house, and he obtained a
mattress and a shelter at a little house there
but the people were so poor that their
home was scantily furnished. In fact
they used benches instead of chairs to
sit on.

In 1907 Mrs. Potter began saving the
different hotel stationery that he
used on his travels so that she could
have a record of his trip. Then she
pasted them into a scrap book and as
Mr. Potter continued to travel for the
33 years, she has filled four scrap
books with the letterheads of the dif-
different hotels until it reads like a hotel
directory.

And the collection makes interesting
reading for in those years he has
worked and lived in almost 500 cities
throughout the country. The size of
the town and the ranking of the hotel
may be obtained easily by a glance at
the hotel letterheads. There are some
that are quite exclusive and lavish,
others that are frankly middle class
hotels, and others that are small inns.

When he was miles from mail-
post offices, living in engineer's
houses, there were no letterheads, of course. Just plain pieces of stationery with
the place and date. And then when
he was even further away, and sta-
tionery could not be obtained, he used
his Deane report blanks.

Some of the hotels have amusing
lines written on their letter heads.
One reads: "We pay particular atten-
tion to the comfort of ladies and chil-
ren traveling alone." Another boasts "modern with baths." One in Coffey-
ville, Kansas, has under the name
of the hotel: "We do not advertise."

Then there is another hotel, Skin-
ner's Tavern, Fairmount, W. Va., that
has the following bit: "You'll like it,
others do. You can't beat it, unless
they cheat."

Mr. Potter has been spending his
vacation at his home here. Today is
his 86th wedding anniversary of Mr.
and Mrs. Potter. They were married
in Clinton, N. Y., and came here 33
years ago. Mr. Potter is a member of
the Holyoke Canoe Club, Mt. Tom
Lodge of Masons and The Chapter.
Mrs. Potter is a member of the Hol-
yoke Women's Club, Hampden County
Women's Club, Home Club, Nature
Club and the D. A. R.
Sat. Sept 4, '09, 9:15 A.M.

Dear Marion:--

Your nice long letter came to hand last night. All you said about the church and its people made it very interesting.

We will not miss the Sheakleys very much, I guess. I wish Nancy was going too,—the rubbish must be gotten out of the way so that better and more effective work can be done. You know we have talked this before. And I trust that Mrs. Bentley has been instrumental in the needed renovation of the Aid. You must hold up Mrs. Edson's hands all you justly can, so as to ward off Mrs. C. serpent-like tactics. Enough of this.

I was glad to know of your participation in such a swell supper at Mrs. Vincents. It was very kind of her to invite you; and I hope your going will only draw her closer into church work.

I am sorry that Weeks interfered at all with the present order at McLean, as it will be better for them to keep right along in the usual way by having the evening service. So that on my return I will fit right in with no break or interruption. I hope you will do all you can to preserve the "status quo" there. It will not hurt him to stay over night and rest a little.

Yes, the "Wayside Pulpits" ought to come regularly so as to be place in the vestibule. But the trouble is that Conklin has too many irons in the fire.

I am glad, in a way, that the W.C.T.U. are to hold their meetings in our church. The income will be a little, besides the prestige, good will etc. which may result. In payment of all this they will expect you to join, of course. Ha! Ha! They are on to their job, you see. Yes, you might leave a few treats on the vestibule table, some of the old ones as it would be a good way to dispose of them. But the head officers might gather them up in a bunch and consign them to the waste basket. You might try them!

I wrote Mrs. Wheeler a short letter only, very short, in reply to hers.

Our Italian has gone, bag and baggage, went last night. He was very blue. Has gone to stay with an Italian family, which will be much better for him, I presume. But another border came last night, a Mrs. Washington from W. Va. She is about my age, is not very sick, don't know how long she will stay.

Yesterday's mail was unusually large, --two letters, 9 postals. Your letter and one from Dr. Hallock inclosing a bill for August, $6.00. Not excessive, you see. Cards from Raymond, Mrs. Hehre, Mr. Camp, Mrs. Camp and Hazel, Mrs. Hartwell, Nancy, Frank Hehre, Mrs. Cone, and Mr. Hartwell, and Miss Farnsworth. I guess that I will wait a few days before I answer these. The "Camp" cards all had on them "Birthday Greetings", and I wondered whose birthday was meant. Certainly not mine, nor could it be each of theirs. Perhaps they were old cards that they had on hand, and only thought of disposing of them regardless of the sentiment. Nancy signed her name simply.
I must tell you of my trip to Trudeau yesterday. I left by stage at 1:30, arrived there at 2, distance 1 1/2 miles. Found Walter Stockwell at once, and was most kindly received. He showed me every courtesy, visiting and looking about till 5 o’clock when I took the stage home, arriving at 5:30 in time for supper. I was delighted with the trip. The name of the institution there is “The Adirondack Cottage Sanitorium”. It was founded by Dr. Trudeau in 1885, and has 100 patients, only incipient cases of tuberculosis taken. There are some two dozen or more buildings, made chiefly of field stone and cottage-like and located among the trees on a sloping hill-side beside the Saranac River. It is a beautiful sight. Walter is doing nicely, and his tenure of 6 mo. will be up Dec. 1 when he will probably come to Cortland for a while.

I am certainly on the gain. For the last two or three mornings I have raised less than half what I usually do, and I cough less also. Time will surely do the business, if I am only careful, faithful and patient. I am certainly trying my hardest, and everything looks bright.

Tell Mrs Ashby to spruce up, get into a family to board where there is music and young people and live again. But I may have to do this when I come. I wonder if had better send her a card. Perhaps not.

Well, Mr. Weeks is just about arriving, I surmise, and I hope all will pass off smoothly. Shall be anxious to hear.

Good bye for this time. Will

That was a fine letter of Mrs. DeRonde’s, also Mrs. Morris’s. Glad you inclosed them.
Dear Marion:--

Your nice long letter came at noon, and I was glad to learn the latest.

I should have answered at once, and mailed at 5 P.M., but had to wait until our return from a trip on the lake. We left at 1:30 and got back at 5:45 and so I have just got to my room after eating supper.

Will make this short and put it in the box tonight, so that you will get it about the same as usual.

Weeks and the church are what interests me the most, and so I will begin. Glad of the outcome in general. Weeks is the stuff. Having the supplies from nearby will save expense, and at the same time will give Weeks an opportunity to visit those churches. What a medley you will have! Mrs. Murray stands right up to the rack, I see. Am so glad she was chosen delegate, along with you and Miss Day. Hope Mr. Hazzard can go too, and you will have a fine auto trip together and carry the Convention by storm. I will hope to run down from here and see you, as it is only a short distance. I am glad that the people will do a part of the entertaining.

I am not disappointed with Mrs. Learn, as she is always poor, but I would have thought more of them if they had bravely faced the music, like Cortland, as the supplies go there for nothing. But a month to them on the salary may mean much in the end, and may redound to their good by keeping them in the traces. I will look up the salary acct. to July 1, but Mr. Rowley knows exactly, if he will only reckon it up. I was glad the evening service was kept up. Wilburn will keep tabs on them, as he takes the speakers over.

Am glad Wilburn is treated so well by Mr. Saunders. I will send him a check for the amt. he wishes to send to S. Falls, if he hands it to you and deposits it. You know how. How does school start off, and does he show any interest? Trust he will do well this year.

In regard to Mrs. Ashley and the lamp. Do as you think best. But if Mr. Phillips gives his, it will not be necessary to buy any. It is probably worth some 50 or 60 cents, if needed. It might properly be referred to the trustees, I suppose.

30 post-cards came from Cortland friends, quite a shower. I will try and answer to each family until all are remembered. It it comes up in any way before you, say that I was most grateful for them.

I have lots more to say, but must close for tonight. With love.---Will

I shall look for a line from Weeks tomorrow. Now for the box, as it is eight o'clock, and it is my bed time. I sent out six postcards today. Good night.
Th. Sept. 9, '09

Dear Marion:--

It is now 9:30 A.M. and I will continue my letter of last evening. Altho a little tired, I rested well and so feel fine this morning. I coughed and raised for a few minutes about 5:30, then had a nap till 7:15, when I arose. Have eaten a hearty breakfast, watched the school-house men work for a few minutes, and now am in my room visiting by pen.

I was at the doctor's on Tuesday P.M. as usual. I told him of my card shower, and he said to answer very briefly by card, and to say to each that I was doing well. I had a touch of sciatica due to the cold weather and he used the vibrator on me. He said to not get chilly, to wear more clothing and advised a sweater. I went right down street and am now the proud possessor of a fine sweater costing $5.00. I have it on at this moment and feel like a "bug in a rug". I put on also an extra pair of thin drawers. It pays to dress according to the weather and not the month. It is now warmer, and we shall hope for warm sunny days.

Will now tell you about our boat ride. As I said we left the house at 1:30 and got back about six. Four went from our house, Ruth, Edna, Mrs. Washington and myself. I forget whether I told you that Mrs. W. is a recent comer from Charles Town, W. Va and who has come for the cure. She is very nice, about my age, has applied for admission to Trudeau Sanitorium.

Well, we wound around the small Lake Flower and Saranac river, out into Lower Saranac lake making two stops at Ampersand and Algonquin, small summer resorts on the last named lake. It was delightful. We passed many islands and camps, passed though a "lock" on the river, got a view of Mt. Marcy the highest in the region. About 25 were on board and we sailed some 25 miles and paid 75 cts. for the round trip. Wish you had been along.

Another boarder came to the Collins' yesterday,—a Mrs. Ramsay from Charles Town, W.Va. and a friend of Mrs. Washington. They are incipient cases, very courteous, and fine company. Mrs. Washington's noticeable phrase or word of emphasis is "mighty", as: "this is mighty good coffee", etc.

On Sunday afternoon Mrs. Mittenthal invited Ruth and I to come and spend an hour with our music. We stayed from 4 till 5:30, playing several pieces and having a good time.

A Mrs. Levy of Schenectady, who has been visiting at the Adler's for a few weeks, returns home Saturday. Shall miss her, and especially the two children.

Mrs. Selfridge, my land-lady, has been spending a month or more visiting in Maine. She had a fine time, returning about a week ago. I was glad to have her back, as my room work is done better and more promptly. I paid her 35 cts. for the washing this week. When there is no night-shirt it is 25. So my washing averages about 30 cents a week. And she does it very nicely too.
About choosing the delegates to Watertown, it is too comical for anything. I have read over your account of it again, and am so pleased. It must make people open their eyes. I want you to plan to go, especially if Mrs. Murray goes in her auto and carries the delegates. You will have such a fine time. Perhaps you hadn't better say anything yet about my going, but when I know for certain then it might do.

Friday, 1:30 P.M.

Will now try and finish and mail so it will go out tonight. You will get it on the afternoon delivery tomorrow.

I mailed six cards to Cortland just before dinner. Have only three or four more to answer and I will be caught up. I can then breathe a little easier. Cards came yesterday from Miss Farnsworth, Miss Chaffee and Mrs. Coleman.

Four letters came this noon.—Mrs. Murray, Weeks, Mrs. Hodges and Bert. Bert inclosed three cards of the new dam at Wendall (Mass.), with remarks, etc. I will inclose Mrs. Hodges’ letter which is so kind and thoughtful. Weeks said he had a delightful time in Cortland, and that you would give the particulars. Said the people expressed great interest in me. Wanted to know if he could be of service to me in any way, and asked to have the doctor write him a little later so that he might know if any further plans would be needed after Nov. 1st. About Oct. 1 will be time for this.

Mrs. Murray wrote so interestingly, said all were united and working, having one thought in mind, namely, the recovery of my health. She supposed I had heard who the delegates were, and asked if I thought you were able to stand the ride by auto as she would invite you. I shall tell her to let you to try it one way, and then if it proves hard you can return by train. She closes thus: “Mrs. P. is always bright and cheerful when I have seen her. In regard to your health, I have always felt you would regain your health; and with your great determination you will succeed”.

I want to say a word here about my going to Watertown. I went to the station yesterday and inquired about the rate, and find it to be $4.50 one way. The Convention rebate will make it less, 1/3 fare for return, I think. So it would cost about $6.10 for the round trip, if the reduction is granted as is usually done. Let the matter rest for the present, and we will see what is best. You must go anyway, along with the delegates from Cortland and McLean; and then if I go and meet you all there it will be heaven upon earth.

I inclose statement of McLean which you may give to Mr. Rowley if it happens right. Or, as he has the acct., you can report the salary due on July, namely, $79.50. But he probably like best the bill as I drew it. Then he paid me $5.00 on July 4th, and Mr. PerLee gave you $54.00 on July 18th, the day after my leaving, if I remember you rightly.

Be sure and inform me of any salary received, either at McLean or Cortland so that I may properly make a note of it on my books which I have with me.

A nice fragrant bouquet of sweet peas has just been placed in my room by Mrs. Selfridge. They are the first I have had here and are much appreciated.
The Standard came at noon. I wondered who wrote the nice article about the church. You, I guess!

I forgot to tell you, Walter Stockwell was over yesterday from Trudeau and made me a good call. He stayed about an hour, and then I walked down street with him and saw him off on the stage.

I shall hope to visit Ray Brook soon, also the Lake Placid Club and John Brown's grave. I find it very easy to keep busy. Now for the mail box, and then for an outing on the porch and a short walk. It is quite a little warmer today, and clouds are threatening. Did Wilburn's school begin Tuesday? With love,---Will

(over)

I wish that I had those thin black (winter) woolen mittens to put on these autumn days. Probably a two cent stamp would bring them. So you may send them if you have no use for them there, and if you think best.

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the following is a copy of Mrs Hodges letter mentioned above.

Tuesday, Sept 8, 1909

Our Dear Mr. Potter,

We have been thinking and talking of you wishing to know how you are getting along. You certainly have had our deepest sympathy & do so much hope to hear your are greatly improved. It was a great Comfort to know your were with our friend Mrs. Collins.

Not much going on with the Church, think the Botom fell out when you left. The Days and Porters leave for N.Y. next week, I believe.

Mrs. Day visited me, was saying how she had missed you and your good sermons. So say we all.

Mrs. Jenks is helping me out from a lame knee, caused from a strain. She wishes to be remembered with Sympathy.

Yours very sincerely and tenderly. hoping to hear good reports soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Hodges
Dear Marion:

Here it is the middle of September. How time flies!

It is warm and summer-like that I am arising early this morning. I go to bed so early that I am well rested by this time, but I usually lay until 7 on cold mornings as it is is more comfortable in bed. I retire at about 8.

The last two days have been as warm as August. So have removed my drawers and sit out in my shirt sleeves, etc. It is exhilarating to get up early in such weather. I rather like it and hope it will continue for a week or so. It is hard to keep the milk. At noon the milk on the table at the Collins’ was beginning to change, and tea-time none was at hand. They have a refrigerator too. It seems to be the fault of the farmer who brings it. 10 cts. a quart, the price paid ought to get the best. You see that everything is high here.

I was sorry that my letter last week was belated. My boat-trip did it. Perhaps it would be better to write but once a week,—you write Monday and I will write so that you will get it on Saturday. That will give us time. Then the Sunday news will be fresh for me.

It was queer that Mrs. Vincent should direct her card to me at Cortland, but I was glad to get it and will answer it right away.

I am glad that Wilburn is taking hold all right in school. He will have to work if he gets thru, but he can do it if he tries. It will be easier for him at Wolcott’s also. He will certainly have enough to do, but he will succeed.

Then the Hazzards have bought the Cooper farm. It is all for the best, I suppose, as they will be so independent there. I suppose they pay cash down which indicates success.

Glad the Hanfords are back. What you said about Minnie only “shows her up”. I trust the auto trip to Watertown will materialize and that the regular delegates will go. I wrote Mrs. Murray on Sunday that I thought you would be able to stand the journey, could use my fur coat if needed and return by rail if necessary. The matter, I know, will work out all right for the good of the parish.

Was glad to hear about Milburn. Just like as not Oneonta will rise to the requirement and pay him $1500, especially if “George” likes him and “Frances” too! We will see in time. It may be all decided by now, and we have not heard of it.

Yesterday was my day at Dr. Hallock’s. It was very very warm and my temperature registered nearly 100, which is some higher than usual, I guess, but I had not asked for several weeks. Found that I had gained two pounds in weight—129 1/2 to 131 1/2; and now that I have started upward will no doubt keep right on, as I eat and sleep first-class. Am very regular and my system is toning up some. Time and care and patience will certainly do the business, but no exact dates can be fixed upon.
I will not go to Watertown, in all probability. Had better keep all my energy, and then it is much farther than I first thought.

It was sad about Mr. Fox's death. I saw an account in the paper just as your clipping came.

I am making me two pillows out of unbleached cotton and will fill one with spruce boughs and the other with balsam. I think they will be so nice and fragrant for the room and good for the health as well. I will put on nice covers after a while, good souvenirs of Saranac Lake. Most everyone has them here.

I received a nice letter from Charlotte yesterday noon, and will inclose it to you. Clara on crutches, the deaths of Mr. Woodward and Willie Kendall, were the most striking things of interest. I will send her a card at once.

Thursday 9 A.M.

Your letter written Monday eve. came to hand just before noon yesterday. It was good in you to write again. I will now write all I can think of in reply and mail this afternoon. I sent a card yesterday so you would not worry.

Did you read that Rev. Mr. Ball of Athol had resigned? I saw it in my weekly Republican. He is to engage in some sort of business. I had not heard about Bailey going to Montreal until your clipping from the Messenger came. It will be lonesome in Shelburne Falls without him. So the changes take place!

I would like to see Bernard and Ida before they go to Calif. Glad he has gained so much. It will be a fine trip for them. Wish they might stop over and see you. Am glad Ida liked the poem and has made copies for herself and others. Certainly it has done good, and has brought me some notoriety.

I was glad to hear about Render. I knew he would get down to the heart of things about Milburn. Would like to know what he told the Bucks about him, it must have been interesting. Render is all right if you know him. I have felt that one trouble with his sermons is that he fails to "culminate". But each one must be himself, and is he. Glad he came.

It makes me think what a treat the Cortland people are having while I am away. But the fact remains that such serving long continued will not build up a parish. If it were not what you and Auntie were doing, calling etc. as a ballast, woe would be to them.

I am glad the anti-saloon man was wound up so easily, or "wound down" Am afraid, if I had been there, he would have triumphed.

Then Mrs. LaMotte is dead. She was a fine old lady, the oldest member of our church in McLean, and their loyalty was well attested by sending for Mr. Carr to bury her. I think more of the family than before.

I think Mrs. Snider is quite small to charge for the hens. She is smaller than a pin-head. But nothing can be done. Perhaps there will be an opening soon in regard to getting a cheaper place for the vehicles. Rent, however, is high.
Since the post-card shower has passed I am not writing so much. A card, also a letter comes now and then and to answer them is not burdensome. A card came from Clark last night, and one from Mrs. Bentley at Owego the day before. To keep up now is easy, therefore.

I am going out Sat. to gather balsam for my pillows. Have to go but a short distance, just over the hill-top, and the Selfridge children will probably help me.

It rained last night and early this morning. Is still cloudy and cooler, so have put on my drawers and sweater as I am at the table writing. My sweater is gray, as you wished. Shall need the mittens soon, but hardly think it best to send the muffler.

As Miss Williams has suggested it, I presume it would be well to have Bro. Farmer supply for me at Upper Lisle. Will probably write him soon, also the U. L. people in regard to it.

I am glad you saw Mr. Blodgett about printing our articles. They need hoeing down once in a while.

How did the W.C.T.U meetings pan out, and did you attend? or join? Auntie was real brave and loyal to wash and iron all those curtains. Give her my hearty thanks, for she will get them from no one else, I'm afraid. Since our coming, the ladies have always been slow to clean up the vestry by any personal sacrifice. The example, I hope, will do them good. Sing the news around!

Now for the porch! With love. Will

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Universalist Church, Canton New York. Grandma Potter played the organ for services at various times 1910 --1917
Dear Marion:--

Your letter came yesterday, a surprise indeed, as I was looking for only one this week. But you seem to have lots of news just the same and the letters from Emma H. and Maud G. added to the sun. I will write all I can think of and mail tonight, so you will get it about Tuesday morning.

This is a perfect day. Have just come down from the hill-top. It is now 4 o'clock. It is just right to sit in the sun, though a little cold in the morning.

I am wondering how you came out today with the services, and who officiated. Am sending a card to Bro. Farmer by this mail, asking if he can help me out at Upper Lisle. Glad Wilburn went to Syracuse in such good company. They no doubt had a fine time together, if nothing else.

The Hanfords did well to give you a call, and to leave a dainty dish as a token of regard. Mary PerLee Judd did nicely to call, also glad they go west. They must have the "mun", you see.

I do not write Dr. Knapp "occasionally", as he intimated, just once, and a card at that. But, it is all the same.

I infer that Mrs. Sheakley is still at home. I thought she went when Franny did. Then Mrs. Forrest is back from Athens!

Mr. Woodward sent me a copy of the Messinger telling of Mr. Warren's death. The paper came at the same mail as your letter. Mrs. Warren is certainly having a hard time. Emma was good to send you the clipping about the burning of the Winchester church. Sorry to hear it. It will be in the Leader, no doubt.

I got a breezy line from Clark last night telling how busy he was, but, as he had a moment to spare, would write to me. He sent also a lot of mining leaflets in which his company dealt in Arizona, great opportunities for making fortunes.

The Funk & Wagnells check came all right. I will have it cashed at once.

The "Wallace slip" which you inclosed was interesting reading. They are a "fine" lot and ought all to be buried for the public good.

Well, I have my balsam pillows, i.e. the lining which holds the balsam, all made. The little Selfridge boy going with me. I now have two nice pillows in my room and the fragrance is omnipresent night and day. Will probably bring these home as souvenirs when I come.

A fine package of honey, four boxes, came from brother Wendell on Friday. He sent it up by an engineer who lives in Herkimer, and runs between Utica and Saranac Lake. He wrote a nice letter also, which brought tears to my eyes. He is a good brother. Margie wrote me a fine letter the day or so before. I wrote Wendell a letter at once, and sent Margie a card today.
Ruth and I had a fine drill yesterday. Used the Syracuse books, “The Young Artists”. She is a dear girl. Ha! Ha!

Mrs. Washington is very bad off. She and Mrs. Ramey went to Montreal on Th. to consult a specialist there, and with no encouragement. She is about my age. It is not tuberculosis alone, but a complication of diseases.

Now, don't work too hard. Take it easy as I do; and don't write too long letters to your friends. I am quite a good look man now. You won't know me when I get back, so had better prepare for an introduction!

With love, Will

P.S.--You will no doubt go to the office and get some of the Hudson Hilton postage stamps which will soon be on sale.
Dear Marion:--

I will begin a letter to you, and then finish it as my time warrants.

A letter from Ida came last night, and I have just sent a short one in return. They hope to start west on the 25th, but Bernard is held up on a jury in Boston to which he is summoned, but he is in hopes of getting excused by the judge. She will write when they start. Wish I might see them before they go! I inclosed an article about the flower contest in the Highland School. Manley won 1st prize on the flowers raised from his nasturtium seed; and 2nd prize on the citrus display. It was all interesting. 50 cts. for 1st and 25 cts. of 2nd--so Manley is quite rich! Good for him!

I have written a card this day to have my "Hibbert Journal" discontinued. I thought it best to do so, as I will be out of the traces so long.

And this leads me to speak of the outlook--concerning my stay here. Yesterday was my day at the doctor's. We talked over matters. He said the outlook was good, but that I should plan on staying here a year, in order to get thoroughly strong and well. Would then run no risks of a relapse. If I went home Nov. 1, it would mean that I would stand the work but a short time and would have to then return again, and perhaps give up for good.

Now, this is the outlook, I hardly know what is best to do about the Cortland parish. I want to talk the matter over with you and Mr. Weeks, keep it to ourselves, decide carefully and thoughtfully, and then reveal our conclusion to the parish and the world. Let us do this. Say what you think. Then I will write to Weeks, then we will decide.

I am thinking most about you and Wilburn. I sincerely wish the present plan might continue until next June; the end of the school year, so as not to interfere with his graduation. Then I might be all ready to take the work again. But, as we know, it is not good for a parish to be without a resident pastor so long. It might be necessary, from this stand point, for me to resign Nov. 1st or even Jan 1st. But this action, if my successor is chosen early, might drive you from the parsonage and thus cause much expense and inconvenience. And so, you see, it is quite a problem to know what is best to do. We will wait and see.

I wish you would write me in your next letter if Dr. Hallock has ever written you concerning the particulars of my case. He intimated as much in my visit with him yesterday. But I did not have the audacity to ask him point blank.

Now about the Collins. They have sold their interests here to a Mr. and Mrs. Phillips who are to continue in the same line. Mr. P. took the cure and is now to stay on. He is from N.Y. City. The Collins give over matters on Oct. 1. They are to pack up the few things left and ship them to Ashland, Oregon where they are to make their future home. They visit Whitney Point, their old home, and on Oct. 14 will set out for Ashland, their daughter Mary and her husband accompanying them. That is now the plan, and they are quite enthusiastic over the outlook. I am sorry to part with them.
as they are fine people. But “chance and change are busy ever” etc, etc, and we must adapt ourselves to the new conditions and make the best of them.

Wed. 3 P.M.--

Yours of Monday eve came at noon. We played pedro after dinner for a half hour or so, - i.e. Mrs. Ramey, Mrs. Kernishan and myself. Then I looked over the Leaders you sent, and now will add a few words and close.

I will send check for taxes in a day or so; also one today for the closing payment on “Blick”. I see that the taxes on home place are the same as last year, while those on wood lot are a little more, about $2. But the wood is growing, I suppose!

Glad you got along so nicely with Mr. Render. It was fine in Mrs. Page to have you there to dinner. Thanks for her remembrance and compliment. Wish there were more of her stripe. It was comical about Wilburn losing his new hat. I told the folks about it at the dinner table, and Mrs. Ramey said; “A boy who will do that will succeed”. Most boys would have let the hat gone and b'ot another. Glad Edmund and Erroll stood by him. They are chums indeed!

Yes, I like Dr. Hallock as well as ever. I will ask him about Niavi(sp) next time, if I think of it.

My balsam pillow works fine. Will put in a sprig for you to smell.

Glad the “Wayside Pulpits” came. Our Mrs. Washington went home this A.M., a hopeless complication of diseases, and no specific help held out by the experts.

Will mail this now so you will not be disappointed in getting it Thursday night. I have told all the news, I guess, so good bye.

With love, ---Will
Monday, 9 A.M., Sept. 27, 1909

Dear Marion:--

Your letter of Thurs. reached me Sat. noon. I intended to write yesterday, but did not get about it as it was chilly and I was out in the sun instead. It is rather cold and cloudy today, however, and not much better. I have my overcoat & sweater on, and am sitting by my open window as I am writing.

Well, you told of lots of news to me, and raised the same problems of what is best for us to do.

I am very sorry that the auto trip to Watertown is off, as it would have done the parish good, and it would have given you such a good outing. But you must submit if Mrs. Murray is to be in N.Y.

I am glad that my letter to you came while Mrs. Murray was there, so you might talk the matter over together. She had a right to know, above all others, and I thought of writing to her, but now will not. It seems to me that for our good you must stay in Cortland until Wilburn graduates, even if you have to give up the parsonage and hire in a couple of rooms. But if a single man comes as pastor there would be no need of moving; and perhaps a man and his wife might choose to come right in and live with you by taking the spare bedroom and study. It all depends on who is called to the pastorate.

I hardly think it would be best to rent here, as rent is even higher than in Cortland. All told, you could live enough cheaper in Cortland to pay board here with Wilburn's school thrown in. In the next house four unfurnished rooms have been renting for twenty dollars a month, and no closet room at that. It is extortionate, you see. We would have to pay here at least $20 for space to live in, and be cramped at that. The expense of getting our things here would be an important item also.

As I now think, this is my plan: to have you come up here next week or the week following, talk it over carefully, have a good visit anyway, stop at Utica and see Weeks and then announce my decision. I could go to Utica with you if need be, and Mrs. Murray might be called in also, or asked at least for her opinion before you left. Perhaps, if Mrs. M. advises, we might decide to continue the present order until Dec. 1. At any rate you had better come up, if Auntie can see to things while you are here. I shall want you to bring my fur-coat, muffler, mittens, wagon lap robe and the best horse blanket if it is whole and tolerably clean, and perhaps other things. Will send you my Central mileage.

Glad you had it out with Mrs. Parsons. She is certainly the evil one and putting on the brakes. I admire your courage for doing her up.--- Bro. Farmer has not written as to whether he will go to Upper Lisle.

The Collins are nearly ready to start. They may leave tomorrow or Wed. Go first to Syracuse, then Whitney Point. They do not think it advisable for them to stop at Cortland, but I am urging them to stop one train (or night) at least and to see you.
So, if they do, you must be ready to grant them every courtesy for my sake. I wrote last week to Francis P. Martin who lives some 5 miles away toward Lake Clear. She answered saying they charged $8 per week for board and room, no modern conveniences. I inclose their circular which was sent me with letter. It would not be best for me to go there, as it would cost so much to get back and forth on Tuesdays, and besides it would be hard with no modern conveniences in the house. I may drive up there some day and see the poultry, etc.

Another letter came from Ida on Sat. and it contained a letter (copy) by Newcomb asking the judge to excuse Bernard from Jury service in Boston, a fine appreciation of Bernard's place and service to the Deane's.

Now for the box. Good bye for this time. With love.—Will
How fortunate we are to have Grandma's diary at this point: Her entry notes that: on September 29, 1909 she received a call from Will in Syracuse that he was coming into Cortland at 11:48 A.M. Wilburn and she met him at the train. While in Cortland he did some visiting; helped Mr. T.G. Farmer with the church service on Sunday October 3rd and packed his trunk. On October 5 he left Cortland at 6:14 A.M. for Utica and return to Saranac Lake. So he had six days in Cortland with his family.

This information answers some questions raised by the wording in the next letter. bwp
Dear Marion:

Well, here I am again, at the old stand! Am sitting on the piazzas writing to you. The sun is shining in upon me, and it is a delightful day. I shall be out all the time, for it is much more comfortable even than in my room where there is no heat. Hope this kind of weather will continue for some time.

My journey was highly successful. Had no mishap and made connections, standing it first rate, did not feel over tired. On my first trip here, I was completely used up when I arrived, but how different this time, showing real gain I have made.

I did not wait in Syracuse at all, but walked across the street and took the limited trolley for Utica at 8:05. Got to Mr. Weeks’ home before ten. I paid $.75 by trolley, saving $.33, as the fare on the train is $1.08. It is good to go that way when not in a special hurry. You see I was fortunate to get my trunk checked through from Cortland, otherwise I have had to travel by steam between Syr. and Utica.

Mr. Weeks was delighted to see me, taking him by surprise, as my card said I would arrive at 10:53. He was going to meet me at the train, so I saved him the trouble. They insisted on my staying to dinner, so I did. Was to leave on the 12:45, but that train is now off, and so I left at 1:40. They phoned to the station for me, and we planned accordingly, saving them an earlier dinner.

He was very busy, of course, getting ready for Watertown, finishing his report, etc. etc. but we had a nice talk over Cortland. Said probably all that was necessary. I will not go into detail. He will read my resignation, if I decide to make it, on the last Sunday in October. If I give it before that time, the matter of my successor would probably be disposed of before he came, and would thus be taken out of his hands. He wants his finger in the fire, which is no doubt for the best. With him there it can be thrashed out to the satisfaction of the majority, laying the burden upon the parish and not on him, or any one person. It will be an interesting meeting, you see. And McLean, also, must have a hand in its solution, and must be allowed to feel that her say is just as important in coming to a decision as Cortland is. As we told the Rowleys, the two parishes stand or fall together; and they must be induced to pull together. This, therefore, might serve as a practical plan, namely:-

- Oct. 31--Resignation--Matter discussed thoroughly and left to Trustees.
- Ditto McLean.
- Nov 7, or any fixed date, previously decided upon according to notice-- Joint meeting of trustees, with the presence of Supt. Weeks and possibly Mrs. Murray.

Let me know what you think of this plan.

I made one hitch,--left my sweater at Mr. Weeks’ hanging on the hall rack. Will have to send for it at once, as I may need it. Now it is so comfortable that I can get along without it. My train got here on time at 6:50 P.M. I walked to my room, trunkman brought trunk. Found all as usual, given a hearty welcome by all, said they had missed me, etc. Nothing to tell at this point.

I saw Mr. and Mrs. Fraser at the Utica station. He will arrive in Cortland on
Sat. at 6:40, and said to write you accordingly. My visit with them was short. They were on their way to Watertown. She has aged a little but seemed well & happy. I saw there, also, Rev. Miss Morgan who was enroute for the Convention. Their train left at 2:30, mine at 1:40.

I took breakfast at the Phillips; my first. It was fair, not equal to the Collins', I am afraid. We will see.

Taking dinner in Utica, as I did, my luncheon was over abundant. It was fine however. Those eggs of the Hanfords were so fresh and good. I enjoy them so much better than the others.

I have told all the news and must say good bye.—Will

P.S.—The mailman came shortly after eleven, but no mail for me. A letter from Wendell was here waiting my arrival, also the Greenfield Gazette sent by Miss Farnsworth. Harold Crosier's wedding was marked. Nothing else caught my attention. There was no special news from Wendell all about the same there.

Had a very good chicken dinner with accompaniments. It must be now about 2 o'clock. The mailman said that a letter put in the box across the road at 5 P.M. would go south just as soon as when mailed at noon. So, having no stamp, I did not try to mail this at noon. He is to bring me some stamps at five when I will mail this.

When you go to the office in Cortland I wish you would see if any of the Hudson-Fulton stamps were on sale, and if so, buy some and use on your letters to me. You might also inclose a few unused ones in your letter.

I must now write some cards, also a letter to Mrs. Murray.

With love—Will
Dear Marion:--

It is Sunday forenoon, a most beautiful and summer like day. Am sitting in my room. It is about church time, and all is peaceful, calm and still.

I will simply start this letter to you now, and then finish it after yours will have come to hand. And thus I shall save the rush, and get in more news to you.

It has been most delightful here since Tuesday, the day of my return. It is the time of all the year. Am perfectly comfortable without extra covering in the night, and in the warmest part of the day only a vest is needed. Wish this weather condition might remain for weeks, but it is too much to expect.

I forgot to tell you that I met the new pastor at Gloversville when in Utica. He was at Mr. Weeks. His name is Tanberg (or possibly Tamburg). He is a Norwegian from Minneapolis, and a member of Dr. Shutter’s church. I had a short visit with him and liked him very much. To my notion, Mr. Render is not in it; and I presume the Gloversville church thought so too, or else they would not have called him. And so it goes. I suppose that Render held forth in Middleville and Newport today, as intimated by Mr. Weeks.

I was invited over to Mrs. McClelland’s on Friday P.M. to a quilting. Mrs. Selfridge is her daughter and she did the inviting, so I went. Took my pillow along, finished it then and there, and stayed to tea. Got home at 7 P.M. and had a pleasant time. Glad I went.

The pillow looks very good. They all admire it, and praise me above measure. I shall get vain, am afraid. Wish you had it so as to admire it also. The sentiment is so true: “For you I Pine; For you I Bal-sam”. I may work another, a little later like the one you have and give to the ladies for their sale at Xmas. What do you say?

Mrs. T.A. Ramey, one of our number, has been admitted to Trudeau, and left us this morning, bag and baggage. I shall go over soon and make her a call, along with Walter Stockwell. The latter made me a nice call on Friday forenoon, and wanted to hear from Cortland. He was here an hour and so we had a good visit. He does not improve as fast as he would like.

Mr. Grace, a young man from N.Y. who came here some three weeks ago, has been confined to his bed a week today. His digestion is poor and his temperature high. A nurse came Wed. night to care for him. When he came he looked so well, had scarcely any temperature, ate heartily and rested well. He is quite nervous, Trust he will soon be better.

Monday 2 P.M.--Your letter of Friday and card of Sat. eve came at 11:30. Will therefore write what I think of now, and mail at once. The Hudson-Fulton stamps are beautiful. I could get none here. Will use what you sent.

It was quite an idea to write on the back of Mrs. Copeland’s letter sheets. You
are a schemer, I declare. I would not have thought of it. But do so some more if you have a chance.

I got a card today from the express office here saying there was a package for me, charges 25 cts. It is the sweater, of course, and I will get it this afternoon. I have not missed it, as it has been so warm.

All you write about the church affairs is interesting. Minnie and the supper, the coming literacy, Mrs. Murray etc, make a lot of news. Weeks, it seems, let it out to some of the others and kept it from Mrs Murray, i.e. about the prospects of my returning. But he will have to answer for it. A Supt. can't tattle, if he would succeed.

I now think it best to stick to my plan and resign on Oct. 31. Weeks will be there and the parishes can do as they think best, accept it, or reject it. This may have complications. I will not worry over it in the least.

I was glad you went to Ithaca. It was kind of Mrs. Page to invite you. She is all right. The card you sent is fine, showing the University buildings. I was glad to hear, by your card also, that Abram Conklin of Munson was elected Supt. in place of Weeks. He will be a better man in the place, I feel, as he is an experienced Universalist. I hope Mr. W. will find a good parish to administer. Dr. Betts as Pres. of the State Convention is all right. I shall be anxious to read the account of the proceedings at Watertown.

A word about the Gypsy Moth Notice. Perhaps uncle Ansel might see to it for you. But if no one does see to it thru our volition, the Supt., Frank M. Jennison, will see to it and charge same on next year’s tax. If moths are on our property they must be fought by some one. The wood-lot may be infected with them, and none on the home place or the Baird lot. Perhaps uncle Ansel might look over the ground for you and see if anything is needed to be done, and if so, who would do it and for how much. Let me know what you decide in your next.

_The previous paragraph to the Herrick North Orange, Mass. property._---bwp

I wrote to Mrs. Gertrude Davis today, also to Mr. Woodard a card in answer to his recent inquiry. Will inclose Mrs. D’s. letter so you can write if you wish.

I did not visit Dr. Hallock on my return, but thought I would wait until tomorrow, my regular day. So I will tell you what he has to say in my next. Am feeling fine, however, and perhaps no Dr. is necessary.

Must now close with love.---Will
Thursday 9:30 A.M.
Oct. 14, 1909

Dear Marion:

Your nice long letter of Tuesday was shoved under the door to me this morning by Mrs. Adler before I got up. Eleanor had brought it from the office late last night, otherwise I would have got it about 11 today.

I have not changed my number. Have lived here at No. 15 all the time, and have written all my letters from here, putting No 5, the Collins' home, on as at the start. The mail carrier knows me, and whether 5 or 15, leaves them here. It makes no difference now, but my room will soon be at No. 5 probably, so it is safest to direct there.

It is interesting to read the news you write---Ithaca, Fraser, Weeks, Mrs. Murray, and the rest. Wish I had been at Ithaca with you. I will send Mrs. Page a card. I fail to see how you could spend so little as $1.10 for the trip.

It was a busy time for you, but the joy is full pay. To see and hear Mrs. F. is a benediction. Glad Auntie was a recipient of the joys also. So glad you went to McLean, for that is what they want. And Mr. Fraser said the right word to the good sized congregation.

It will be a good thing for you to go over next week and visit around. Glad they spoke to kindly of me, and that they resented Milburn's report of being dead.

Then there is dissatisfaction in Oneonta with Milburn! There was in Gloversville and Oneonta? It is not all surprising. Milburn is the last person I would went for Supt. Hope Conklin will be chosen by the State Board.

Mr. Fraser was kind to speak of the Relief Fund for ministers and show a willingness to help. I know of this fund, but had no thought of asking for help at present. It would depend on whether there were others more deserving or perhaps needy. Wilburn will be our pry, for he must be educated. We will see what is best to do, after a time.

In regard to Weeks and the horse hire. It will be all right if he turns the proceeds over to the Convention. The $10 which Mrs. Murray pays is to pay expenses of a supply, and if there is any balance it should go either to the one who supplies or to the Convention, preferably to the one who supplies, for that was its purpose. On each Sunday, the $10 should be paid direct to the supply and to none other. And when Weeks supplies it should be paid to him and applied to his expense account with the Convention. If he is not honest, then we are up against it. Only his account to the Board will decide.

I am glad that Mrs. Murray wrote Weeks about Bro. Farmer etc. Hope she will meet the trustees, as Mr. Hazzard suggested to her on Sunday. Include McLean also if possible, and then they will know the lay of the land when Weeks and my resignation come on the 31st. Certainly the church and trustees should have their say. The Supt. is only a helper or adviser.
The “picture key” will be pasted on the back where there is little or no light, and hence will not easily fade. But I will make a copy in ink if you will send it.

I had a good visit with Dr. Hallock on Tuesday. He thought I was still in Cortland as the reason why I did not report sooner. He looked me over as usual, and could see little or no change since the two weeks, and thought after a fuller examination, there was perhaps a slight reaction from my visit. My temperature stood at 99 1/2. Gave the usual medicine. Advised me to try for Ray Brook as better than Trudeau, and then, if I failed, to try Trudeau. And so I may go to see Dr. Garvin at Ray Brook tomorrow, lay the matter before him, and wait for the results.

It has been near the freezing point here since Tuesday eve, but with an extra gauze I am quite comfortable. I have an oil stove going as I write, also at morning and night. Am on the piazza the rest of the time. My sweater came Monday P.M. or just in time for the cooler spell.

Have a new main spring in my watch and it goes well so far. Cost $1.00.

My new boarding place goes very well, and yet not so nice as the Collins, but it will do. They are new, and the art of caring for others will grow. I will inclose card.

Tuesday brought a letter from Veva, and cards from Miss Farnsworth and the Collins at Whitney Point. Veva said father attended the Boston food fair all alone, And was happy in so doing. Burton has decided to stay in Portsmouth. Made $25 the day she wrote, etc. I think he had better stay at that rate, don’t you?

Must now close and take the piazza. It is cloudy and looks like snow. Guess I have told all the news, so good bye. With love--Will

P.S.--- I see that I have made a mistake in using this extra sheet. Another card from Miss Farnsworth. How faithful she is!
Monday, 2 P.M., Oct. 18 1909

Dear Marion:--

Your letter came to hand just before dinner. Have now eaten heartily, am in Mrs. Selfridge's parlor where it is warm, so we can visit with comfort. She says I can come down here anytime to write or stay, so I may keep my room here at No. 15 for some time yet, and thus save a dollar a week. It will be $3 a week at No 5 and only $2 here.

I paid the water tax to July 1, i.e. $7.50 from Jan 1. So, if the meter says there is $3.00 due from May 19 to Oct. 1, what I paid on the level rate from May 19 to July 1 will have to be deducted. I presume this they have done, leaving $3 as the net due Oct. 1.

It is thus:--

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<td>Then if the meter rate from May 19 to Oct. 1 was $4.66, to deduct $1.66 would leave $3.00 as the amount due. Their bill ought to show this deduction. Simply inquire when you pay, so as to be sure.</td>
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It is all right to sell the hay to Mr. Blair by weight. Let it go, if you think it will net as much. To hire a team will cost as much as the hay is worth, certainly a dollar and 20 cts. for weighing. So it is a question how best to do. It is up to you and Wilburn. How I wish I was there to help settle some of the problems!

I will drop McLaughlin a short letter and throw him off on Weeks.

I wrote my resignation this forenoon and inclose it to you to look over. Make such suggestions as you think best and return it in your next. Then I will copy it off nicely and send it to you ready for the 31st. I will make a separate and shorter one for McLean.

Now don't worry over my successor, but lie low and trust for results. Mrs. Murray will see it all right on the 31st. Ask Dr. Gunnison next Sunday if he knows of any unmarried pastor or student. Something may turn up, I trust, so you will not have to move till Wilburn graduates. The matter may not be settled definitely much before Jan. 1.

I wish you would ask Rhodes for the Secretary's book, turn to the page of donors to church debt and send me the total amount paid. I have put it down as $2485 just for the present. You can write in the exact amount in my provisional resignation letter as inclosed.

Yes, Mr. Rhodes sent Mrs. Murray the resolution which was adopted by the Board that afternoon. She so wrote me. Wished he had notified Bessie also, but feeling he might not do so I thought it best to write her. Am very glad she is taking the place so acceptably.

I am so glad, with you, that Mrs. Parsons is away, so that harmony may prevail. The Aid can do so much better without her. I will think of you in McLean on
Thursday to scatter the right word. I wonder if the trustees have met with Mrs. Murray yet, as she wrote me, Mr. Hazzard suggested on the 10th. Wish the McLean trustees might be there also; but this larger meeting may come later.

Now about myself. I told you in my last what the doctor said advising me to try for Ray Brook. This I have done. I got a rig and drove there on Sat. Stayed about an hour and a half, looked around some made my application and was examined by Dr. Bray. We had a fine visit and I liked him very much. Dr. Garvin, the Supt., was away for the day and I did not see him. Dr. Bray said my case might warrant admission, altho it was a little more than incipient, but that he would lay the matter before the Supt., who alone must decide, and let me know in a few days.

Generally speaking, my habits and symptoms are favorable, and I earnestly hope that fortune will come my way and that I will be admitted. To go there will be a school in itself. Even if I had to pay what I now do, I would choose to go there. It is a model place. I will send you their annual report. A large addition is under way and some 200 men are employed in the work. It takes the state to do things.

I drove on to Lake Placid, where I stopped an hour or more and took dinner at the American. I will use one of their envelopes to carry this message to you. It is quite bleak there, better for summer than winter, and the little lakes, Mirror and Placid, are enchanting. High peaks and mountains are on every side, and white with snow on that day.

From Placid it was only a step to the John Brown house and farm. I was there about an hour. The farm contains 250 acres, part of which it tillable. The house is a story and a half, wood-colored, piazza on two sides, with woodshed. A room inside was filled with relics, as tables, cupboard, chairs, etc which John Brown used. An inscription on the wall said: “Remember them that are in bonds to suffer with them”. Brown’s body lies buried in the front yard by a large boulder at his own request, his feet toward the boulder and facing the large initials, J.B., cut by his own hand. There is a head-stone with inscription, evergreens and white birches hover near, and the whole is surrounded by a heavy iron fence 7 1/2 feet high. A huge granite is just outside of this inclosure on which is inscribed: “John Brown’s Farm, donated to the people of the State of N.Y.” (and there followed 20 names and date.)

I got home just before dark, and happy over my day’s outing. I have felt fine ever since, and am ready for the doctor tomorrow. Perhaps you will hear more good news in my next. I must now close and go to the box.

With love.—Will
Dear Marion:—

I will start this now and write what I can think of and then finish when yours shall come to hand.

I have had a good night's rest and eaten a hearty breakfast. The sun shone clear until a few minutes ago, but now clouds cover the entire sky, as if it might soon storm.

I have nothing special to say. All moves along quietly. The masons across the way are laying the chimneys on the new school house, and carpenters are busy with the roof, etc. A new boarder came yesterday to No, 5. She is a Mrs. Bachman from Auburn, and her disease is moderately advanced, has a cavity, so she says, coughs, raises, etc. No fire has yet been started at No. 5, only the kitchen range, and the dining room is rather cool and chilly. But I keep warm over here at No 15, even if I go into Mrs. Selfridge’s by the coal fire. I am now in my room, oil-stove going, and will write you and Mrs. Murray, then shave, then for the piazza.

Mrs. Mittenthal has invited me to come and lunch with her this P.M. in honor of her birthday. So I suppose I will have to go, but shall try and cut my visit short.

I was at the doctor’s yesterday, as usual on Tuesday afternoons. Said I was doing well and hoped I would be accepted at Ray Brook, but not to bank upon it too much for, strictly speaking, I was beyond the incipient stage. He said to not let this discourage me, in the least, for thousands get well who are not eligible to enter Ray Brook, and that my case was especially hopeful, that my symptoms, habits, etc. were good, and that I was bound to win. But still I am waiting patiently for news from Ray Brook, hoping they will strain a point and let me in.

It may be just as well to keep this Ray Brook matter to yourself. If I am accepted, then it will be time enough to break the news. And better still, it may be best to say nothing about it until I have entered the institution, for it may be weeks after my acceptance before I can enter. This is all rather previous anyhow, but I can hardly help dwelling on it.

I did not say anything in my last about the Republican. It was simply this: Mr. Phillips did not give or hand my instructions to the Carrier, but led him to infer that I had gone home for good. So the P.M. (postmaster) ordered the Rep. changed back to Cortland. I was surprised to learn how it came about, but have to keep quiet and say nothing. If I had done my own business with the carrier all would have gone right. Will change it back just as soon as I hear from Ray Brook. You might send the last Republican with the Leader, and so on.

The sun is peeping out again as I am writing.

Thursday 2 P.M.----Your letter of Tuesday came at 11 A.M. today, so I will finish this and mail at 5 o'clock. The Leader came also, and I was glad to read about the Convention, etc. It is very interesting. Carrie Ritter did well to call on you and tell
you the latest. Wish I had been there.

    I hope you will meet Dr. Gunnison. He would interest Wilburn, I know, in telling him about the agricultural school. Perhaps he may have a young unmarried minister in mind for Cortland. Mrs. Murray ought to see him. He will get along nicely at the Edson Home.

    Then B. and I have finally gone. I shall expect a word from them soon. It took them some time to get started. (Bernard and Ida--bwp)

    Mr. Fraser’s letter is fine. He is good as he can be. Glad I saw him and her at Utica. Mrs Murray, in her letter to me, said she liked him because he was so sincere and old-fashioned.

    I am sorry that Mr. and Mrs. Hollister are to be away, but earnestly hope they will be back by the 31st so as to help gum(?) things.

    I don’t believe Mr. Weeks will get McLean to pay the horse hire, as they are so behind on salary already. But let him work. Perhaps you had better ride over with him on the 31st and keep your eye on things. Do as you think best about entertaining him on that day. Perhaps the Hazzards will. He will probably be there again the following Sunday. We will see!

    I will revise and rewrite my letter of resignation and send to you in my next. Thanks for the suggestions.

    I did not show up at Mrs. Mittenthal’s yesterday. Went down street instead. Thought it best to forego the candy and extra refreshments which such an occasion would foist upon me.

    No word has come yet from Ray Brook. I have told no one here that I have applied, save Dr. Hallock. So if I am rejected no one will know about it either here or in Cortland. But if the word is favorable they will be told at once. Any mail may bring the expected message.

    I will see that a check is sent for the insurance before Nov. 7.

    Got a card today from Mrs. Davis. I sent cards to Miss Farnsworth, and Lina Waldron. Did you get the Ray Brook report?

    A slow rain is now falling.

    Good bye for this time. With love,—Will
Virginia Street
Saranac Lake, N.Y. Oct. 24, 1909

Dear Marion:

Here it is, Sunday morning, a little after nine o'clock. I am in the parlor below at the Selfridge home. They are just finishing breakfast. I have only just returned from mine at No. 5. I ate a hearty breakfast as usual and feel well. Took my bath last evening, and had a good night's rest. So am ready for the day. Got up at 7, shaved and made my toilet, getting over to breakfast on time.

It is a cloudy, damp morning. It is half way between snow and rain, and therefore quite disagreeable. The thermometer stands at 32 degrees, or at the freezing point. So I thought it wise to stay inside for a while and visit with you.

Just as I came back from breakfast Mrs. Selfridge handed me a card from Clark saying, "we are attending the Gen. Convention". So I conclude Gertie is there also. The card had a fine cut of the "Church of Our Father" in which the Convention is held. The Paddocks are evidently on the front seat and happy as can be.

You are finishing up the breakfast dishes and getting ready for church. Wilburn has the church all warm and ready, so that Dr. Gunnison will be able to do his best, sharing the comfort with the others, save Mrs. Parsons who is away. Hope it will be pleasant for the evening drive to McLean.

I walked down street yesterday afternoon, partly for the walk. Got a bunch of new envelopes like the one you see around this letter. A few houses from here, I stopped in to see Mrs. Clench. She is from Montreal and is here for her daughter's health. She rents a whole house, then lets rooms and takes borders. All is new, and spick and span. Bath, hot-air, electric lights, and wide piazzas for sitting out. One room only was vacant, which with board was $13 a week. But it was very nice, and I could hardly keep from taking it. But a week from today if nothing new turns up, I will be in my room at No. 5, rate $10 a week with board. All modern conveniences. Think I can do no better.

I have heard nothing yet from Ray Brook. The "three or four days", as promised by Dr. Bray who examined me, are more than up. But, being so anxious, I perhaps took him too literally. We must be patient.

My two letters of resignation are done and I am quite satisfied with them. The one to McLean is nicely copied and all ready for Mr. Weeks to read, while the one to Cortland is copied as far as "the amount for debt raising" which you will send, or about half copied. Your suggestions were very helpful, as you will see by the closing words.

I will now stop, it is 10:20, and make my way to the porch for fresh air. The sky seems to be brightening a little. Let it come.
Monday 9 A.M.---

I am again in the parlor where it is warm and cozy. A nice covering of snow is on the ground. The thermometer is at 32. Mrs. Selfridge is washing and the three children are at school. He is on the section as foreman, and goes to work at 7, taking his dinner with him.

The weekly Republican came Friday from the Springfield office with my address changed back as usual to No. 5 Virginia Street. I said to the carrier one day, "If you are responsible for the change of my address to Cortland you ought to correct it." And this he has probably done, for I have given no orders to the head office, and presume you have not. At any rate, I am glad the paper is coming again, for it has so much interesting news, affording me lots of company.

A card came from Ida on Wed. and was written at Chicago; and another came yesterday and was written on train as they were passing thru New Mexico. It was immense, she said, and they were having a great time. She said that Bernard had a hard nut to crack at Los Angeles but thought he was equal to the task. I hope she will keep us informed of all that is doing. It will do us good and keep her busy.

I went up on the top of the school house yesterday and looked all around. The mason work is all done, apparently, and ready for the roof. Carpenters are at work this morning, and they are a part of my entertainment when sitting on the piazza.

That bill at McGraw and Elliot's ought to be seen to. Am afraid they will send the bill to the church treasurer; and that would look bad when I had already given the pictures to the church. Suppose you phone down and have Mr. Wedge call. Tell him I was waiting for the bill, although I knew the agreed price was $5.50. Then you can pay it if you choose, or send the bill to me and I will send check. Do as your funds demand.

2 P.M.---Your post-card came a little before noon. Glad you had been to McLean for a visit, just the thing to do. You saw most of the people, I presume. Mrs. Reniff was most kind to have you there.

I will inclose my resignation for McLean. Perhaps Wilburn can make a copy of it on the type-writer, so Mr. Weeks can read it better. Leave the copy read with Mrs. Fitts, the clerk, to record on the church books. I have a copy here for myself.

The sun is now shining brightly. I will take my exercise by walking down street and mailing this to you.

Don't worry over me. Am feeling well. The cold dining room is only for a moment, and I am so used to the cold. It is so cozy in here where I am writing. Take good care of yourself. Shall expect a letter tomorrow or Wed.

With love, Will
Dear Marion:--

Your nice long letter came to hand this forenoon and found me all O.K. at my usual task, sitting out. It was good to have the monotony broken.

I was sorry that you had overdone and was below par physically. But I hope your visit to McLean was worth the sacrifice. It is indeed work, and of the hardest kind. And all done, I suppose, for my sake. What a gauntlet you had to run to see so many, meeting you at the train, even, and seeing you off. Yet I am glad you went. 65 out to church was a good showing, a real compliment to themselves. Cortland ought to have done better than 50, but 31 at the S.S. was proportionately better than the attendance at church.

No one can help liking Dr. Gunnison who is such a ready man and easy to approach. I knew Wilburn would like him, and was glad to have him come, as a supply, on that account. Margie's case, alone, was worth his coming, and I trust it will bear fruit, in her case. I was going to write him concerning her, and may do so now, so as to help in clinching the matter.

Then Mr. Hazzard went over to McLean too, so as to see which way the wind was blowing. Am glad he went. What was said will all come out later. Am glad Dr. G. remembered me and wished to see me. He is a grand man!

Then Nancy has been hearing some news, as in her talk with Mrs. Murray. Hope Mrs. Murray opened her eyes to some of the evil conditions, past and present, but Nancy can't do any harm alone. She is too easily influenced; is a better follower than leader.

I will drop Dr. Watson a card today, as he is such a good man and so interested in the church and its work. Another card has come from Ida saying, when written, that they were nearing Los Angeles, passing through Arizona in the night.

I inclose my Cortland resignation herewith, having written in the item you sent. Why don't you phone to Mr. Rhodes asking if he will kindly make a type-written copy and some duplicates for the press. He has a girl in the office who would do it very quickly. You must send a copy to the Standard on Monday forenoon. And be sure that Mr. Rhodes places a copy on the church books.

No word has come from Ray Brook. It is doubtful if I am eligible to admission. If I don't hear soon, I will go up and see Dr. Garvin myself. It sometimes makes a difference if you are on the ground, face to face with your man. Dr. Hallock said yesterday, to not get discouraged but try again. All is about the same with Dr. H. and myself, i.e. all is fine, doing well, etc. Nothing new on the docket there.

After leaving the doctor's office I walked down street, and who should I run across was Mr. Weiler of Cortland. He is one of the head ones at the Corundum factory on Elm Street. I used to see him at the Science Club. We were delighted to meet. He walked way home with me, sat down in the parlor at No. 5, visited with Mr.
Phillips etc. I tried to have him supper with me, but he thought it not best to do so, as he had some things to see to. He has been here a week, stopping at the “Riverside Inn”, the largest hotel in the place and expects to leave for home tomorrow morning.

He and wife have been spending the summer at Star Lake, some miles S.W. of here, and he came over to look around. I am to take tea with him tonight at the Riverside. Will have more to say of him, no doubt, in my next. I will mail this at five on my down street to accept his invitation. Glad I met him, as it breaks the monotony.

I am glad you called on Walter Stockwell’s people. I think Walter is doing well, but I could see that he was not satisfied with his own condition. I will get over to Trudeau to see him soon, also a Mrs. Raney who was with us a time at No. 5.

I trust you and Auntie and Wilburn will attend the reception tomorrow night. Wish I was there to go too!

My books show that I paid the water tax on Feb. 9, Jan.1 to July, $7.50. It will make no real difference if you do not find the receipt. It may be in a letter, but I pretended to put all receipts in the drawer to the left. I will copy off the Key to Ministers at my leisure and send to you.

McLaughlin’s letter was quite apologetic. You might say to Mr. Weeks that he wrote for a chance to candidate, etc. and that will take the burden from us.

I must now close with love. The Leader came, also Republican of Oct. 14. The Rep. of Oct. 21 is at hand, so all is regular again.

Will
To the Members and Congregation of the First Universalist Church, McLean, N.Y.

Dear Friends:--

Two Years and four months ago, almost to even date, I came to this place as your pastor and entered upon the sacred duties of that office. The time intervening has passed quickly by; they have been busy days; much has been accomplished; we have been happy in our work.

We have known together, in varying measure, the joy of Sabbath worship and the blessedness of Christian experience. A Triumphant faith has comforted us in trial and sorrow, and an unfailing Love has inspired us to enlist in the higher sacrifice. A new interest in religion has been awakened in many hearts. In a commendable degree, I am sure, the work of the Lord has prospered in our midst.

All this, and much more, I now share with you in grateful memory. In its influence for good upon each life it has truly been worth the while, for to act with an elevating power upon the human soul is the greatest work in the world. Moreover, all we have shared together, along with your fidelity and friendship, gives me greater courage to fight the ravaging disease, which is upon me, here in my Adirondack retreat.

But with your help and the Divine I shall win the prize of restored health. The symptoms are favorable; the skies are bright; and only time and absolute rest will be necessary. I therefore tender you my resignation to take effect at once.

Most heartily and sincerely do I thank you for the kindly consideration shown to myself and my family, especially during the recent weeks and months. My heart goes out to you all in deepest gratitude; and I pray God’s richest blessing upon all your future labor as a Christian church, confidently trusting that peace and prosperity be yours in abundant measure.

Faithfully yours,---
W. D. Potter, Pastor.

Saranac Lake, N.Y. Oct. 31, 1909
Resigns the Pastorate of the Universalist Church of Cortland

Rev. W. D. Potter, who has been at Saranac Lake for several months past for the benefit of his health, yesterday presented his resignation as pastor of the Universalist church of Cortland and of the Universalist church at McLean. Though the resignation was received with keen regret in both cases, it was accepted because his people felt that that was the only thing to do. All are looking forward, however, with hope and anticipation to Mr. Potter’s complete restoration to health.

During the two years and over of his pastorate in Cortland Mr. Potter has brought an excellent work here. It is in part referred to in his letter of resignation which we publish in full, as follows:

To the members and Congregation of the First Universalist church, Cortland, N. Y.

Dear Friends: I was given a unanimous call to become your pastor in June, 1897, and entered upon the work of the pastorate the last Sunday of the month. Two years and four months, almost to the very date, have passed by. They have been busy days, much has been accomplished, and we have been happy in our work. We have known together in varying measure, the joy of Sabbath worship and the blessedness of Christian experience. A triumphant faith has comforted us in trial and sorrow, and an unfailing love has inspired us to enlist in the highest sacrifice. In a commendable degree, I am sure the work of the Lord has prospered in our midst.

In those same ways, also, we have earned a measure of plaudit and true reward. The parsonage, so long untenanted by the pastor, has been repainted and modernized, is not only a credit to the pastor and people but a new source of power to our cause in this city. The raising of the long standing debt in December last, followed by the jubilee in January, will never be forgotten. It was a task which at first thought seemed impossible of fulfillment. But saints of the local church, living and dead, gave liberally of their means and spoke the word of victory, and then, through incessant toil and generous co-operation, the grand result was accomplished. Twenty-four hundred and fourteen dollars passed through the hands of the treasurer on the debt account alone, and the names of those who volunteered their bountiful gifts are now enshrined both upon the church records and in our hearts.

All this, and much more, I share with you today in grateful memory. In its influence for good upon each life it gives me greater courage to fight the raging diseases which is upon me, here in my Adirondack’s retreat... But with your help and the Divine, I shall win the prize of restored health. The symptoms are favorably; the skies are bright, and only time and absolute rest will be necessary. Therefore, tender you my resignation to take effect at once.

Most hearty and sincere thanks are hereby extended for your great kindness to me and mine, especially during the recent weeks and months.

My heart goes out to you in deepest gratitude, and I pray God’s richest blessing upon all your future labors as a Christian church confidently trusting that peace and prosperity will be yours in abundant measure.

Faithfully yours,

W. D. Potter, Pastor.

The following resolutions of the two churches served by Mr. Potter were adopted on Sunday, Oct. 31, 1909:

Whereas, the Rev. W. D. Potter, for more than two years past, the confident and trusted minister of this church and parish, has, of his own free will and accord, and solely on account of impaired health, presented to us his resignation as pastor and minister with the request that the same be in immediate effect. Therefore, be it

Resolved, first, That it is with profound regret that we receive his resignation, and that only with a true sense of the merits and justice of Mr. Potter’s request, do we consider it advisable to accept the same. 

Resolved, second, That we hereby record our sincere appreciation of the genuine christian manliness which has been shown to us in the service of this minister and of the great good that has been accomplished in our church.

Resolved third, That we wish also to assure Mr. Potter and his devoted family, of our continued sympathy and earnest solicitude for the speedy recovery of our dear brother’s health, and the kindest providential protection of the household. For these things we shall not only offer our constant prayers, but extend our sympathy in every practical way within our power.

G. M. Watson,
E. J. Warfield.
F. A. Hollister.
R. E. Wright.

Trustees of the First Universalist church of Cortland, N. Y.

J. C. Pitts,
Mrs. J. C. Pitts.
D. W. Howley.
Alvin Howard.

Served Cortland & McLean Churches—June 15, 1907 to October 31, 1909
Dear Marion:--

Altho I wrote yesterday will send another word today so you will get it before Sunday. Don't know, however, as it will make any difference.

The first news is concerning Mr. Weiler. His initials are C.F. and his home is 31 No. Church St. Our visit together last evening was very pleasant, and the luncheon fine. the Riverside Inn is the largest and the best in the place. The rate is $17.50 per week and a number of sick people stay there. Mr. Weiler was examined by Dr. Brown yesterday P.M. and he has the trouble. He has not been well for some five years, and so the trouble has been lurking with him all this time. He proposes to take more leisure from his business, and come up here for a few days or weeks at a time as often as he can. But he wants to keep his business going. He is not going to tell that he has the tuberculosis to his Cortland friends, as it will bring consternation to them and do no good. He will simply let down a little and take more days off. He started home this morning and will reach Cortland at 6:40. He will probably run in and see you soon, simply for good will and to speak of our visit. He is 37 and about my size. Both he and wife are natives of Harford, and they have no children.

A card is just at hand from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hollister showing the house at Wellsville where they are staying. They said you had written of my intended resignation, and they said they were glad they were not at home. I am sending a card by this mail saying I hoped they would be at home on Sunday.

A card came also from Ruth Collins saying they arrived safely in Ashland and stood the trip very well. They are anxious to hear the news and ask me to write. I am sending them a card by this mail. And so it goes.

A moderate snow is falling as I write, and there is no telling how soon we will be on runners. The mercury stood at 32 when I was at breakfast.

I will drop a line to Dr. Gunnison today.

You see I have no special news to write. It seems almost foolish to send this. But here goes to the box. I shall be anxious to hear of the proceeding on Sunday.

Good bye for this time.---Will

I will inclose Key to Ministers---you might paste on both copies.
Dear Marion:--

I am writing for the first time in my new room at the above number. Took possession of the room last night at about 8 o'clock, went to bed soon after 9 and had a good nights rest. It is more cozy and comfortable here than at No. 15. It is a corner room upstairs with two windows, one facing the south and the other the west. It has hot-water heat and is about the size of our room at home. Has a good closet. We use a common bath and toilet on same floor. The house is lighted with electricity, and my room has a light suspended from its centre. I hope to pass a comfortable winter here and trust everything will prove agreeable.

I went down street yesterday for the exercise. It was a clear day. Inquired about 2nd hand piazza chairs, and found I could get a good one for $5.75. I told the man that I would think it over before buying. He said he would give me half what I paid for it in the spring. I then went into the anti-tuberculosis society room, saw Mr. Fairchild, the secretary, and inquired about chairs. And to my surprise, he said to wait a day or so, that they often favored ministers with a chair free, and that he would try and provide one for me. So much for looking around! A chair is better, especially in cold weather, for you can tuck in so much more cozily. With a nice piazza, a corner windowed off to keep out the west wind, I shall enjoy my sitting out to the utmost, or as much as one can.

I have not used the horse blanket yet, as there has been no real need for it. Have used my fur coat, the English blanket and the lap-robe for my feet, and have been comfortable. Will use the horse blanket when it gets colder.

I do not feel the cold as much as I did at the first. Am getting used to it, and my power of resistance is probably greater. My back is all right now, and hope it will remain. I cough and raise about the same as when at home, but otherwise I seem to be better, slight as it my be. It is necessarily a slow and hard fight, but every little tells and points to the way of certain recovery.

I wondered at there being no stamp on your last letter but one, and explained it by saying that it was detached in transit. But when you write that no stamp was put on in the first place, the marvel is all the greater. Such a skip could not happen once in a thousand times. We are so much in, that is all.

I was glad to hear all about the reception at the McKinney's, and so glad you all went. That is what counts in a social way. Keep right on, both for your own and for Wilburn's sake. I hardly think that I will write a letter to them, for it is quite a task and I really knew them so little. Glad you saw Mr. and Mrs. Stockwell.

As to Mr. Weiler, he has probably called by this time. He left me his Standard which came to him at Riverside that morning. His name was on the label as--Weiler.

I wrote to Dr. Gunnison the middle of the week and got a reply yesterday. I thanked him for going to Cortland and McLean, and called his attention to Wilburn
and Margie. He shows such a kindly interest. His offer to Wilburn is the best possible, and I know it will strike Wilburn favorably. I can hardly realize that Mrs. Murray should ask him to supply the desk from Canton. It was probably tentative, for she should not take the responsibility alone. The real decision must be made by the parish trustees today and in the days immediately following. I will inclose the Dr’s letter.

I am not worrying about the outcome of my resignation. I hope they will accept it and settle a successor as soon as possible. If he is a single man all the better, providing a reasonable rent is charged for the parsonage. I would be willing to pay $17 for it, possibly $18, whether the man boarded with us or not. Six a week would be pretty cheap for board and two rooms; seven would be nearer right. Just think, I am paying $3 for a room no better than either. But go slow and you will see what is best to do.

I do not play the violin much now, for there in no one to play my accompaniment. Eleanor plays a little, but it is up-hill work. So the music has almost gone by default since Ruth has gone. She sent a card saying they had arrived safely. But I guess I told you this in my last.

I must send a card to B. and Ida. A card said they arrived safely. They are to have rooms near where he works, and the address is 136 No. Vine St., Hollywood, Cal. It is 10 miles from Los Angeles. They have rented a flat of 3 furnished rooms, and will keep house.

Will now close with love and best wishes, and waiting anxiously for your next.

Will
Parsonage, 5 Elm St. Cortland, N.Y.
Wilburn H. Potter in parsonage living room---February 8, 1910
another view of living room
My Dear Marion:--

I was delighted to get your letter today at a little before noon. It came right through with all the good news.

Will answer at once, and then walk down street for exercise and mail it. it is election day, but I have no vote here.

The matter so far has come out better than I expected, as to the churches. Weeks must have been surprised over the sentiment in our behalf. But it has been finely worked up by Mrs. Murray. To have the parsonage free is more than I expected. Now, if Mr. Farmer comes, it will be all right.--he can have the rooms anyway, then you can board him if you agree to do so. Perhaps he might choose to dine elsewhere. He will be quite irregular anyhow. I think $4.50 or $5.00 a week would be about right,--or 25 cts. by the meal. But this is all previous, do as you think best when the opportunity comes.

I do hope Mr. Farmer will accept the call. And he will, no doubt, if he is not a fit in Binghamton. I am glad McLean followed up the matter so well and endorsed the plan. That Mrs. Murray raised her subscription $50 is a fine compliment to us, and I appreciate what she has done and is doing for both of us and the church.

Her asking Wilburn to care for her house during her absence is a mark of interest and confidence, and I trust Wilburn will do faithful work. $2.50 a week is not to be sneezed at; and this with his church janitorship will count up quite a little.

I read the letter to him from Dr. Gunnison with interest. Its purport (?) is the same as his letter to me. It sets for a rare opportunity for Wilburn, and I am confident he will look upon it with favor. What a fine thing if George Fitts, Leah and Edmund would go also to St. Lawrence! Wilburn’s going may influence others. I will return Dr. G’s. letter so that Wilburn may have it to refer to.

I can imagine how Render feels at Weeks, but it can’t be helped. He was altogether too anxious, and would have been called if the Buckley’s held sway as in Milburn’s time. But those happy days are past, and Render will have to try Geneva or Toad-Hollow. I sincerely hope that Weeks will take a parish on Jan 1, i.e. if he closes his work as Supt. As to his successor, I will do all in my power to keep Milburn from being elected. I would choose a man from out of the state, as Abram Conklin, for instance, and will so write Dr. Betts and the other members of the Executive Board.

I am glad you paid the water tax. With $1.95 rebate for May 19 to July 1, it would leave only $1.25 for the quarter, which is at the rate of $6.00 a year. That is dog cheap, and less than I expected. We will see how much it will be for the next quarter.

McGraw and Elliott’s bill is a poor thing, as far as system goes. I will return it with check, and then you can run in and settle, at your convenience, having the bill receipted.

Tuesday, 2 P.M., Nov. 2, 1909
Glad of Mr. Blodgett's kind words. Wish you had given him my cut to put in the paper, along with the resignation. Please send me the Standard which has the matter in, as I am anxious to see how it looks.

Mrs. Baldwin did well to call. I always thought she was fine. I don't just place her other daughter, from the west, whom you saw. Don't believe I have seen her. And yet she may have been in McLean a year ago last summer.

Anna has reason to be glad over Margie's outlook for St. Lawrence. Our influence was certainly a help to her. I owe Wendell a letter and must answer soon. I wrote to Clark and Veva yesterday, simply cards. Veva sent the 2 magazines and the Plaindealer, and wanted to know if she could do anything to make me happy.

Was sorry to hear that Mrs. Forrest had fallen, and that the Dales are moving. So it goes!

Guess I have written all the news. Am at peace with all the world, feel well, and am happy.

Good bye --- Will

P.S. --- I am sending to Pub. House for a copy of Dr. McGlaulfin's book, "What the Universalist Church is Doing?" Will send it to you after I read it, as you want to read it. Will begin on my pillow cover soon, for I will now have more time. Mrs. Murray sent me a jig-saw puzzle which came Sunday. How kind and thoughtful: Wish we had more!

The following is Dr. Gunnison's letter and a typed copy to young Wilburn, son of Wilburn D. and Marion Potter, which was referred to in Wilburn D's letter of Nov. 2, 1909. Some of the words I cannot decipher. ---bwp
St. Lawrence University

ALMON GUNNISON, D.D.
PRESIDENT

CANTON, N.Y. OCT. 29, 1909

Dear Friend Potter

I have recd. a letter from your father this morning in which he speaks of my visit to Cortland and of his wish that you might take the College Course leading to the degree of B.S. As I wrote you yesterday I think you can combine this with your Agricultural Course and get both within the 4 years. A considerable part of your Agricultural Course take studies taught in college. Eng, Psy.Chemistry, Ac..Dh.--you would not have to take in the School.

There is this distinct advantage in you getting a college course--Everything is then opened to you. You may want to be School _______. You can do that and keep _______ your ________. You may want to teach. The best positions are open to you. You have several strings to your bow. Our boys work in vacation and earn much and by the way I think you could get the Agency for Mrs. Edson's fruit preserves and could sell a great deal of it to private families.

Several of our boys sell such things during vacation and make much money. I will give you a free scholarship in the College or will give you free tuition thro. the 4 years. It is the only one I can give in your vicinity. This is what I would advise you to do.

Yours very truly

Almon Gunnison

As mentioned in a letter, Mr. Gunnison was to stay at Mrs. Edson's when in Cortland. He must have enjoyed her "fruit preserves"!
Monument Memories

Tully Cemetery, North Orange, Ma..... Gr. Grandfather Merrill D. and Gr. Grandmother Mary Jane Harrington Herrick; also his 2nd wife, Charlotte; back side: Grandpa Wilburn D. and Grandma Marion Esther Herrick Potter

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Dear Marion:--

So much has happened that I must write again and send to the office by the carrier at noon. It is now 10:20.

A letter with check for $55.16 came down from Mr. Hazzard yesterday. I have endorsed the check and return to you. Simply have it entered on the bank book as soon as you receive it. I will also enter it on my checkbook here, so as to draw upon as needed. The $5.16 was for a bill presented by me at Easter time. I wrote Mr. Hazzard a short letter today, inclosing receipt, and saying the good word.

If you need any money for current use do not deposit the whole amount, but be sure and inform me of the net amount deposited, so I may record same in my book. McLean will probably have some money for you soon. July 1 to Nov. 1 is four months or 1/3 year. The salary during that period is 1/3 of $350, or $116.66. Deduct 3 weeks in July and the am't due is $94.79; deduct 4 wks. as per Mr. Weeks agreement and it is $87.50. Mr. Rowley paid me $5.00 on July 4, and Mr. PerLee paid you $54 on July 17. Hence $94.79 less $5 is $39.79, or the am't due in that period, if regularly recorded; or $87.50 less $59. is $28.50 am't due on the Weeks' basis of that period. There was also a balance due us on July 1 of some $30 as I remember. I sent the bill to you but can look it up. Let them pay what they choose, and then I will see how it agrees with my figures. Perhaps they will ask me to make out a bill. At a guess, they now owe us $60 or more. We will see.

Dr. Hallock was so busy on Tuesday that he could not see me, and said to come Thursday. This is now my day. I paid him $8 for Sept. & Oct. My temperature stood at 99 1/2. All else the same, nothing special.

Yesterday I drove to Ray Brook and saw Dr. Garvin. He said that I must have been overlooked as I should have been notified. He apologized and gave me a good hearing, but no examination. He said that they were building a shack which I could soon occupy if accepted. He seemed to talk quite encouraging and asked many questions about my work and the early stages of the trouble. He then gave me a blank to fill out and have endorsed by the poor office of Cortland. This I have sent to Mr. Stockwell who promised to aid me when I was in his office on Oct. 2. So, if the officer signs the application, I may yet be admitted. We will see. If the poor officer calls on you, it will be for you to say that financial aid is needed. The San. will charge Cortland $5 a week for keeping me; and, if we do not care to be thus helped as a public charity, we can reimburse the city and keep my name off the list. But this matter of reimbursement need not be considered now. I want to go to Ray Brook for the great good it will do me, that is all. And I so told Dr. Garvin. So tell a straight story and go ahead.

11:00 A.M.--Some letters have just come, so must stop and read them.

2:00 P.M.---Have feasted on the letters--yours, Wendell's, and Mrs. Fitts'. It will take a long time to answer, so will not go into detail now, but finish tomorrow. Mrs. Fitts said that the resolution did not express half what they felt. Wendell is delighted over Dr. Gunnison's offer to Margie. I sold some honey here for Wendell on condition that
his supply was not exhausted. I must go and tell the grocermen that the supply is out, as revealed in brother's letter. I have lots to say, but my paper is all used up, so will say good bye for this time.

Will

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

**CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.**

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The Intentions of Marriage by the parties above named were duly entered by me in Records of the Ministry of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts according to law, this 25th day of July, A.D. 18... Town Clerk.

The parties above named were joined at Peabody by me, this 25th day of July, A.D. 18... Attest, Libbey Willard.

Certificate of Marriage
Mary Jane Harrington and Merrill D. Herrick
Sun. Nov. 7, 1909

My dear Marion:--

I have some new paper and will use it for the first time in a letter to you. Went down street yesterday afternoon and did several errands. Wendell wrote some two weeks ago that if there was any market up here for honey he would like to send up some. I found a sale for 200 lbs at the stores on condition, but in his letter of yesterday was nearly all out; so I had to inform my grocery men accordingly. I could have sold several hundred pounds, if he had had it on hand. Price 16 cts.

I also got my laundry, paid $1.50 to my liveryman for the drive to Ray Brook on Friday, and mailed my letters. The liveryman’s name is D. T. Buckley. I didn’t ask if he was any related to J.W. or his wife.

Your letter which was finished and mailed before 6 P.M. Friday reached me by the morning delivery on Sat. at about 11 o’clock. That was quick time you see. If you had mailed it at 9 P.M. it is doubtful if I had got it till Monday A.M., possibly Sat P.M. So much for Mr. Weiler. Your letter was filled with news. The clippings alone were illuminating and interesting.

I was sorry that Mr. Stockwell was defeated for the office of city chamberlain, as he is most worthy. But such is the way of politics. On the other hand, I was glad to hear that attorney Chase was defeated, as it always seemed to me that he was nothing but a stick. I remember him as he spoke at the banquet given in our church to the ministers.

I sent Mrs. Murray a card to Galen Hall, Atlantic City, last Tuesday, I think, as already reported to you. Am glad you keep in touch with her by writing and that Wilburn is at home in seeing to the fires. It is a good symptom when he takes his books along to study while the fire is coming up. Does he care for the church yet, and is he paid up to date? I trust everything is square.

It was a real surprise to learn that Nancy and Mrs. Edson were working shoulder to shoulder at the last supper. This is as it should be, and if we are at all responsible for it I am doubly glad. Now if Mrs. Parsons will keep her finger out of the pie; her tongue also, then things will go along swimmingly and the society will grow in numbers and strength. McLean is all right, and we want Cortland to be all right also.

Mr. Cone has seemed to take to us, and his words of regret were not surprising. As to the opening there for us, we will see when I get well.

The Chiropractic magazine was a mystery, until you explained. I thought Dr. Andrus sent it to you, and you to me, but did not know that Mr. Fraser was mixed up in it. I wonder if the 3 treatments helped him any? The cult is new to me. It seems much like osteophy. I have read most of the magazine and became quite interested. It might do good for you to see him. A course of treatments might do you good. Why not go to him and see what he will say. Was surprised that the Ingalls were to go to Davenport to study the cult. It is the envy of the doctors and persecutions are common, as I see by reading the magazine. Dr. Andrus was hauled up not long ago in
Cortland, I remember. Hope the Ingalls will like it. You must remember me to them when you see them again.

I remember the young Dr. Hanford well, and will be glad to see him if he comes this way. Shall expect a letter if he decides to come, but it will make no difference if he can only find me.

I am so glad that Wilburn has had a desire quickened in him to go to college. Dr. Gunnison did a good thing for Cortland if he did nothing else. He (Wilburn) will now feel the personal touch which is most valuable. With this interest aroused he will find his way and work out his own salvation. I would like to see the paper which Dr. G. sent for him to sign, or was it to Margie? If he goes to college, I wish he might be up on the clarinet, for every musician is given a fine drill in the school orchestra. That would be most enjoyable, especially if he is anything like me.

You ask how I like my board? It is quite ordinary, I must say. It is not as good as it should be for the price, not as good as that provided by the Collins. The Phillips are no entertainers as were the Collins, and this part I miss very much. I will remain here for a time, however, hoping there will soon be an opening at Ray Brook. That is the one and for which I am now working, and I am anxious for favorable news.

Yes, I remember the Baldwin’s daughter from the west, how she met Mr. Graves, etc. That was the eve of July 4, my last Sunday at McLean.

Glad my photo pleased Mrs. Murray, perhaps it was the one thing needful.

I have had venison once, given me by Mrs. Selfridge whose husband shot a deer. It was fine. Glad you had a taste. Guess I have written all the news, so will close with love to all. Will
Wed. Nov. 10, 1909

Dear Marion:

I will begin a letter to you now, 9:45 A.M. and then finish later.

It is cloudy, mercury 34, ground frozen. All is peaceful, calm and still. Mr. Grace, who has been ill in the next room for five weeks is getting better. Has had typhoid fever. Is now sitting up some. The first nurse left Sat. night for Conn., and the second will stay about a week longer. His expenses have been over $50 a month. It costs to be ill.

I have written two cards this morning, one to Bernard and one to Percy Herrick who is in Jackson, Mich. Percy's letter came yesterday, and it was a complete surprise. It was so good and thoughtful of him to write. I will inclose his letter. Glad he is doing so well.

Yesterday I sent a card each to Bessie, Mrs. Welke, and James and Lina Waldron. They all wrote so nicely and with deep regret over my resignation. Bessie's was especially regretful. She said no pastor had ever done or attempted to do what I had done in Cortland, and that you and I were especially near to her on acc't of our kindness to them at the time of her uncle's death. It was a fine word of sincere and heartfelt appreciation. I sent a card to Mrs. Fitts, also, and to Mr. Rhodes.

I judge by the reading that Mr. Rhodes formulated the resolutions which were adopted by the two churches. You probably do not know for certain who drew them. Let me know if you do. I am quite sure they are the work of Mr. Rhodes, as revealed by certain phrases and expressions. They were very good at any rate, and yet not overdone.

A nice card came yesterday from Mrs. Bowen of Shelb. Falls and she sent love from their family and the Amsden’s. She had called at the Mallory’s who wanted to know all about you and me, how we were, etc. etc. She wished you could be here with me, but that Wilburn’s last year in high school needed you there. She wished to stop in and see us all again, and hoped Auntie was with you. She wrote nicely. I will answer in a few days.

A nice letter from Mrs. Murray came Monday. She was grateful for my card. Said she kept in touch with the church thru you, that it was wise for me to resign and better both for the church and myself. She knew that I would get well in time, glad I enjoyed the puzzle, thought it would be so you could keep the parsonage, etc. etc. She thought you looked and felt better since matters were adjusted. She closed thus: “I think you did a wise thing coming home for a few days, as you could settle and arrange matters better than anyone else. And all the church are with you and yours in sympathy and love”. She is fine! I will write her in a day or so. Now for the porch!

1:45 P.M.—The mail came at 11:30 bring a letter from you, Veva, and Miss Day. I paid 2 cts. postage due on yours. But it was a fat one. I am so glad that Mr. Farmer has accepted, as you will not have to move. That, for us, is the first consideration. It will make no difference whether you board him or not. Let that work out as it will. If
you can agree, all right, and if not, let him take his meals out. The two rooms are at
his disposal. If he does not need my desk or any of the other things in my study you
can easily find a place in the hall or elsewhere. Perhaps you will want the desk by
yourself anyway. I know that I would. See that all my sermons are together in the
two boxes and kept secure.

In the new Church book write in under the terms of service of pastors adjoining
my name, “Nov 1, 1909”. And make a record of Mr. Davis’ death etc opposite his
name on the church membership list, also on the list of deacons. Then the books will
be ready for Mr. Farmer.

Miss Day wrote a very kind letter, giving deepest sympathy, and hoping that I
would be a “recuperated man” in the spring. She spoke about her recent return, the
short wedding ceremony, and the wonder of Mr. Guerney attending Mr. Davis’ funeral.
She hoped I had congenial company and a contended mind, and closed wishing for the
rapid recovery of my health.

Mrs. Forrest did well to write a letter at all. She loves the church. Am glad she
is hopeful and that you wrote to Dr. Betts to call on her, besides writing yourself. Mrs.
Brown’s letter was kind and motherly, and was glad of her interest and best wishes.
No wonder Greeley would like Wilburn to help him. He ought to have a wife and boy of
his own. I was glad Mrs. Edson called there. Greeley might make a good father for the
Edson children! Ha, Ha!

Mr. Way’s letter was too short for anything--rather perfunctory---but still he
was good to write at all.

Mrs. Murray’s, however, was the best of all, and it shows that she is in touch
with us and and the church. I hope Wilburn can please her with his care of the fires,
etc. You can go over occasionally for exercise.

I presume she has heard of Bro. Farmer’s acceptance at about the same time
as myself, it depending on when you wrote her. It was good in her to speak so well of
the supper, the church, etc and that you were still “our minister’s wife, and we all are
very fond of you” etc.----. Such words count with those who know anything at all.

In regard to McLean, I had the $11 down in my book. My last jumble to you
was necessarily mixed. I will inclose the complete statement, and then you will be
ready for anything that comes from that source.

Veva wrote a long letter, and sent two magazines and the Plaindealer besides.
She asked lots of questions concerning my illness and wanted to step in and see me.
She said father was gruff and dissatisfied as ever, and would do little or nothing to
please her. And much of her letter was given up to his tantrums and notions.

She puts up with them, but she told them to me simply for amusement and not
to fault find. You remember that I sent father what was in the Cortland bank first,
about $140. In August, I sent the Orange Bank book for a $1,000, and a Cortland
draft for about $900 or so. This latter draft, she says, is still in his pocket just as I
sent it. He won’t deposit it and when she suggests that it ought to be drawing interest
in the bank he says to her that he is going to run his own business and don't want her to meddle. So it goes. If I had seen to things, it would have all been safe in the bank and drawing interest for the benefit of us all and him too. Pig-headiness defeats itself. Had I been well he never would have had control of that money, I would have taken a legal course and been appointed his guardian.

The Hartwells are very kind to ask you to go to the theatre with them. I would like to see them.

No, the chair has not come to hand. And still I am hoping Mr. Fairchild can favor me, as he suggested.

I am now anxiously waiting for a reply from the Cortland officer as it shall come to me by way of Dr. Garvin and Ray Brook. All things come to those who wait. I must now close and walk to the office and mail this, besides getting my afternoon exercise.

With love----Will

Grandpa Potter at his desk in Shelburne Falls Mass. c-1900
It is now with gr. grandson Wilburn Harold and Joyce Potter
Many of Grandpa Potter's sermons were found in this desk.
Dear Marion:--

Since my letter of Wed. several things have happened, so will pen them to you now, and then finish my letter after the arrival of yours. This is the third nice warm day,—a regular Indian summer, and most enjoyable. Can sit out on the piazza all day without an overcoat.

I wrote two letters yesterday, one to Dr. Hanford and one to Mrs. Murray. Dr. H. wrote that he was going through here soon and would be pleased to see me. Wanted me to come to the station, and better still to accompany him to Montreal for a vacation. I have asked him to stop here over night, and that if he can not do so, I will try to meet him at Lake Clear for a ten minute visit.

Mrs. Murray sent me two post card puzzles which are very nice and entertaining to our whole household. It is very kind of her to do so, as it helps to break the monotony.

Well, my sitting out chair came on Thursday afternoon, the next day after my letter to you. It is very nice, and I shall use it with much pleasure and remember the kindness of Mr. Fairchild.

I walked down street yesterday A.M. and got a pillow cover like the one you have--Saranac Lake. I began work on it at once, and will continue until done. This is just the weather for it, so comfortable on the piazza.

I was invited to Mrs. Mittenthal’s to tea last evening, staying until nine and having a pleasant time. It was a swell supper, they are fine entertainers, her sister is with her. A young man and a young woman was there from Trudeau, his home is at Philadelphia and hers at Boston, both here for their health. It was very kind of her to invite me there. She lives just across the street.

Mr. Grace, our sick boy, is sitting up and walks around some. Eats heartily. I told you, I think, that he has had the typhoid fever. The nurse is her yet, But he will be down stairs and eating with us soon.

A nice letter came from Mr. Stockwell on Th. night saying he had placed the papers with the commissioner of charities and said the good word for me hoping all would be O.K. We will know, I hope, before many days. He said his son was in Tarrytown and would be in Cortland a day or so, just on a short leave from Trudeau. You may see him.

Copies of the Standard came telling about the death of Mr. Davis and the acceptance of Mr. Farmer. The Leader came also with its good news. Hall’s occasional sermon is great. Am glad it is to be put in pamphlet form.

2 P.M.--Your letter came at 11:30 and I will answer and take it to the office as I take my afternoon walk.
Glad you are having fine weather too. Good time to clean. Wish I was there to help. Mr. Whitmare's gift is very unexpected. You keep the money. I will send him a card tomorrow or Monday. I always liked him, and he seemed to like me. There is nothing like friends, after all.

Just like as not Weeks is going to try for Binghamton. His remark to Mr. Hartwell shows the trend of his mind. He will probably settle by Jan. 1 and I hope he will get a good place. Glad to learn that he wrote the resolutions.

You were thoughtful to send the Standard having my resignation to those named. I wrote Mrs. Bowen inclosing a copy, not knowing you had sent one to Mr. Woodward.

The trustees did well to make out resolutions for Mr. Davis.

I will inclose check for $6.00 and send to Dr. Beardsley this P.M. It is all right, and you ought to be helped thereby.

Don't clean too hard. Go slow. When Mr. Farmer comes you will know better how to arrange things.

I am surprised that there was a contest for Dr. Atwood's place as Sec. No better could be found. Mr. Henry is a young sprig, and not big enough for the office.

The No. Orange report of my resignation was very good. It was evidentially Bryant's work.

My pillow is progressing nicely. Sorry you missed the call of Mrs. Haskins, but glad you were on duty at the Aid. Perhaps Minnie can not be Sec. so easily. We will see.

Bye---Will
Grandpa and Grandma had many friends in the McLean area

A View in McLean Village

McLean Universalist Church --pastored same time as in Cortland
Dear Marion:

I haven't much news to tell, but will start a letter to you and then finish after yours shall have come to hand.

The chief news is the weather. We sit out daily with not even an overcoat on. Mid-day finds the thermometer at nearly 70. It was some cooler last night, but it is bright and growing warmer this morning. It is a veritable Indian Summer.

I expect to finish my “Saranac Lake” pillow cover today. I began it Friday, and have worked a little each day, when not reading or playing cards. I will mail to you when done and you can present them to the two Aids. Take the one you now have for Cortland and the other for McLean. Put “For you I Pine etc” on the balsam I brought and keep for yourself. Then I will work another “Saranac Lake” for you later.

I have just written a letter of appreciation to Mr. Weeks, and asked as to the future of the office etc. It will do him good, I trust. Certainly he has been a friend to us.

Yesterday I wrote a word of congratulation to Mr. Farmer, and hoping his work would be pleasant, etc. Just a brief word to urge him onward. I felt sorry that his big picture in the Standard had not been in the same issue of his article of acceptance, as it would have meant more. Now for the porch!

2 P.M.--The 11 o'clock mail brought three letters, one each from Mr. Hanford, Mrs. Murray and yourself. Mr. H. will try and call on me when he goes to Montreal, but will write again as to his decision. Mrs. Murray is as good as ever. She wants me to let her know if she can be of any service to me or mine in any way. I told her what the doctor said about my getting well in a year, and she said she was always of the doctor's opinion, and that a year soon passes. She said that my resignation was a real sorrow to the church, but they were in a measure prepared for it. She inclosed a nice booklet of Galen Hall (near Atlantic City, bwp), spoke about Fred being occupied with the amusements of the place, the delightful weather, etc. With regard to my successor, the parsonage, etc. she thought all had worked around very satisfactory, and said you were more contented by reason of it. It was all good. I will now have to write again.

Your writing paper is very generous, but it is just as well and carried all the good news just the same. You are doing a stroke of business. Glad Mr. Farmer was entertained elsewhere, but that he came to arrange matters with you in regard to the rooms. You need not furnish any more than is convenient for you. So take out all you need, books and all, especially if he needs the room. A free place to study and sleep in will be more than a parsonage to him, for he will have no bills for heat and light, and telephone, and furnishings, etc. He has every reason to be satisfied with the arrangement. He had better go over to McLean as the rest have done before him, but I have decided to allow him to solve his own problems. You spoke of some letters of his being printed, but of course, I know nothing about it.
The report of Mr. Davis' funeral was fine, so much better than the previous article. Someone interested attended to the matter at a late day, evidently.

You will be at the literary tomorrow and bountifully fed. Glad you are invited over to Mrs. Wheeler's, you will have a fine time.

A letter from Mrs. Collins came yesterday. She wants to know all the news. Their goods reached there Nov. 6. They now occupy three partly furnished rooms upstairs, waiting for the banker to move into his new bungalow Dec. 1. They stopped a week at a hotel on first arrival. She speaks of the fine air, high mountain peaks, a magnolia tree, more flowers, etc. I will have to write her. Now for my exercise by mailing this. I hope to send pillow covers tomorrow.

Bye---Will
Dear Marion:--

I have just returned from Dr. Hallock's, and it may be best to write down what news there is before I forget it.

It turned colder yesterday, snowed a little toward night, blew some through the night, and has been trying to snow all day. We now have about an inch, and it is still slowly coming, all of which is prophetic of a sleigh-ride soon.

I sent you the two pillow covers yesterday afternoon, and the mailman is, I imagine, delivering the bundle to you at the afternoon delivery today. I will start another one soon so as to give it as your Xmas present. I find that I can do the work better than at first. Experience tells. Hope they will be acceptable to the ladies for their sales. You must present them with my regards and best wishes, etc. Their cost to me, aside from the work, is about 50 cents a piece and they ought to sell for twice that amount.

I wrote a nice letter to Mrs. Collins after breakfast, telling all the latest news which I could think of. The noon mail brought a card from Ida and a letter from Mr. Weeks. A card came from Clark and Gertie at Booneville last night. The latter are on their way home from Detroit and sent best wishes of friends and admired my plucky fight. Ida said they had had two rains there, and that she would write a letter soon.

Weeks' was a type-written letter finely worded and so appreciative of my gratitude for his services. He says that he is glad there is one person in the denomination who appreciates his efforts, that he had tried to do as he did with me by all, and instead of being at least friendly they are arrayed against him. And so he could not say enough about my brotherly spirit. I asked if I could help him in any way by influence with the Board and he answered that he has asked no one to do so, but since I suggested it he would be glad if I would write briefly to Dr. Betts stating what he did at Cortland and McLean, and giving my opinion of the general value of the superintendency in our state.

He said that he intended to write me but had not yet found the time to do so. I quote: "Your name is like ointment poured forth, in all the community. The people were very jealous of your future interests and would consent to nothing but what would be for the accommodation and comfort of you and your family. That was just as I wanted it. My first motive in the settlement of Bro. Farmer was in the fact that I could induce him to share the parsonage with your family". He continues in the strain, was so happy that the people so heartily approved of the plan, spoke a fine word of my restoration to health, and closed by asking us to call on him if he can be of any further advice to myself or family. It is a fine letter and one I highly prize. I will, now write Dr. Betts just how I feel in the matter, thinking that it may do some good.

Now a word about myself, as I have just come from the doctor's. I have only the good word. It seems that I am surely gaining. Have a very little temperature afternoons, stomach and everything about normal, cough about the same. Was weighed, and what do you think, I tipped the scales at 139 lbs! I am really in good condition, even normal and quite fleshy enough for hard work. But let the good work
go on, you will hardly know me when I see you next. With the exception of my cough, I feel first rate, but the doctor says that is always the last to give way. Now for the porch to watch the snow fall!

12:20 Friday-------

It is nearly dinner time. We eat about 1 o’clock. So will hurry a word now that I am waiting. Have just finished a letter to Dr. Betts, one of four pages. It was some flowery—just as I usually write, you know!

Your letter came at 11:30, and I read it with great pleasure. You are in the storm also, but more slush. It is snowing a little today, not enough for sleighing.

Glad Mr. Rowley called and left $20.00 and you deposited $21.25 in the bank. I will now make the record so that all will be square. Glad you paid the telephone bill to Jan. 1. It will be better, perhaps, to have it paid by Mr. Farmer after that date and the phone to be in his name. He ought to be willing to pay some of the bills.

Yes, the Standards and Com. at Work came to hand. I read them all through, and with pleasure. I shall be anxious for the next Leader telling of the Detroit meetings. A large bundle of papers came from Veva yesterday. How good she is. I sent a card only in reply.

Am glad you were at the Phillips to tea. How good they are. It was fine to invite Bessie.

Someone, I fear, will have to whisper in Farmer’s ear. He must brace up! Keep your hand on the helm all you can, and be hopeful. The pillow covers are no doubt now at hand. Press them out and present.

Must now close with love,—Will
Sunday, Nov 21, 1909, 9:40 A.M.

Dear Marion:--

I will write a little now while the spell is on, and then finish at my leisure, perhaps tonight, tomorrow, or after the receipt of yours on Tuesday.

It is nice and warm this morning, the mercury standing at 50, but it is cloudy and looks like rain. Yesterday warmed and took what little snow we had away.

What exercises me most just now is the news of Chas. Wibiralske's brother's death, another victim of football. The daily Times comes here to Mr. Grace each afternoon. I was sitting on the piazza when the news boy came, took the paper and scanned it over. Almost the first thing I read was the article about Albert's sudden death. I inclose the clipping, but you may have heard of it before this. I feel so sorry for Charles.

You have no meeting today, only S.S., so it will be a little change for you. How does your class get along? Are they as good as ever?

You must be nearly done with house cleaning, I hope all done and no bad results. All ready for the new minister, I trust. Don't put on too many frills, let him do some of the work, just as I do. Perhaps the art square in the study would fit nicely in one end of the dining room. Just try it and see. I don't see why you have got to do his work for him, as the rooms only are his, you are not his scrub woman.

When I was at Ray Brook to see Dr. Garvin, he intimated that I would have to care for my own room if accepted. And so you ought to intimate to Mr. Farmer. I don't see why you are under any obligations to make his bed or furnish him a lamp. If he wants to hire those things that is all right. So don't make a slave of yourself needlessly, simply have an understanding for everything, then there will be no trouble.

Some of the leading musicians of the place are to meet at Hallock's on Tuesday afternoon when a program will be rendered. He has invited me to attend, and of course I will go. I feel very proud of the invitation and privilege.

I brought over my violin from the Selfridge home on Friday evening. It has been there since I came to No. 15 to room, and so have had no practice. I got a string yesterday and put it on and am now ready to drill. Played a little in my home room this morning, just the diversion needed. Mr. Grace is now well and so can play all I care to. His nurse went away yesterday, and he is now at the table again.

Mr. Phillips, my landlord, is ill. He caught cold, has high temperature, and will have to be in bed four or five days. The Dr. has been once, but is coming again.

I will draw a check for board etc. tomorrow. I pay for two weeks at a time. And tomorrow's check will pay to next Sat. night. Eggs are 45 cts. here, so Mrs. P. told me this morning. I eat two raw ones daily, at breakfast and supper.
Mr. Terry's $11.25 probably goes to Mr. Hazzard for the Cortland church as its share of the Crawford Income. His letter should have specified, so there could be no mistake. He prob-

(the next page of this letter is missing--, bwp)
Friday, 9 A.M., Nov. 26, 1909

Dear Marion:--

The sun is shining again and its rays are streaming into my window as I write. It seems good to have the morning ushered in with cheer. Mr. Grace, Mrs. Bachman and myself played one game of muggins directly after breakfast, and now we are all writing in our respective rooms.

We stood yesterday first rate, in spite of the turkey and many delicacies which made up the menu, and I find myself refreshed this morning. Our dinner was served at one and we got up from the table shortly after two. Mrs. Bachman was invited to a friend's. Our numbers were: Mr. and Mrs. Kernochen and daughter, Mrs. Cox from Ray Brook, Mr. Grace and myself. Mrs. Cox is secretary to Dr. Garvin. We played whist after dinner and had a pleasant time. I then played the violin a while in my room, then sat out till the call to supper at six.

In the forenoon I wrote a letter to Mrs. Murray, a Thanksgiving letter, and walked down street and put it in the box, thus getting my exercise. On my way down the hill-side I slipped down flat in the snow and half disgusted myself, but did not hurt me a particle. So my exercise was a little unusual. "Variety is the spice of life."

Two nice souvenir cards came on Wed. eve. from Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Runyan. Both sent "Thanksgiving greetings", and on Mrs. Runyan's card was written:--

"When the sun of joy is hidden
And the sky is overcast,
Just remember light is coming
And a storm can never last."

It was real kind of them to thus remember me, and I fully appreciate it.

Tuesday brought a letter from Mr. Stockwell speaking of Mr. Ryan's bereavement as the probable cause of delay with the papers, but that he promised now to take up the matter and hoped it would be favorable. I wrote back the next day telling him how anxious I was, thanking him and hoping for favorable action by Mr. Ryan.

The musical at Dr. Hallock's, Tu. from 4-6 P.M., was much enjoyed. Mrs. H. is a fine pianist and played the accompaniments to all the numbers. Their son played a violin solo nicely. The intent of the gathering was to receive a Mr. Powers of N.Y., who is a vocalist and conductor, and who is looking over the ground with the view of organizing a chorus. Dainty refreshments were served, no napkins of any kind being used. Tea, sandwiches and cake made up the menu, and they were good. She knows how to save work. As I interpreted the absence of napkins. Good for her!

Mr. Powers is a very large man, with a full round vice, and he sang nicely. It made me want to sing, too; and I shall, some day, if I keep on.

Our dinner was so late yesterday, and it being also a holiday, I did not go to the doctor's. Will go this afternoon instead.
The rigs here today are divided between sleighs and wagons. Where the roads are rough the latter will probably go the best. The mercury stands at 24. Now for the porch!

2:45 P.M.--I have just returned from Dr. Hallock’s. Had a good visit, said I was doing well, my right lung is nearly healed and my left is on the way. It is a system disease and takes a long time to get the poison from the system, he says. It would be a simple matter if only the lungs were involved. He gave me new medicine today. He hopes I will get in at Ray Brook, even tho I will do well here.

A card came from Mrs. Haskins and a letter from Clark at 11:30 mail. Mrs. H. said of the many things she was thankful for, that good report of my health was one. “We talk of you and try to send strength on the wings of the wind”.

Clark told of his enjoyable trip: by boat from Detroit to Buffalo, to Sherman, two Sundays at Girard, Pa., Booneville, Herkimer, and then home. He then philosophizes a little, saying we ought to be thankful most of all for friends while living instead of putting flowers on their graves, that he had always cherished Will and Marion more than a friendly or cousinly feeling, “and (I quote) I have wondered many a time what had caused such a seemed coldness to step in between us. So this thanksgiving season let us be thankful for one another and let us show our thankfulness by our continued friendly intercourse, Amen!” He then spoke of the generosity of the Cortland parish, wishing there were more in the world. Said they had not heard from you in a long time, but would be glad to very much.

Clark, as he had done before, spoiled what was otherwise a good letter by his insinuations which are groundless and altogether unnecessary. The fact is simply this: if I don’t answer his scrawls at once, I am “cold”. But I can’t and will not spend all of my time in writing simply nothing to him for the sake of formality. Two or three letters a year ought to be sufficient. I will now wait for a few weeks before answering, and you see if I am not “cold” again. So it goes. Poor creatures!

Good bye for this time. With love, --Will

7:30 P.M.--Am at the P.O. and have just got your letter. Glad to get it before I mail mine. Will now drop this in the office.

As there is nothing special for me to answer now, I will save it and write at my leisure.

I was glad to learn that the $11.25 was from McLean. Mr. Hazzard probably had a like amount from Mr. Terry.

Now for home and the exercise.--Will
Dear Marion:--

Your card came at 11:00 A.M. yesterday. I went down to the 6:35 train, but the Weilers did not come. So I presume they will be here today, either arriving early this morning or this evening. If they come this morning I shall expect a call some time today.

I know that you must have been very busy on Wednesday, when the sale and supper were on and you did well to send even a card. Glad the Hanfords could take the card to the office on the way.

Walter Stockwell made me a nice call on yesterday afternoon. Said he meant to have called on you when in Cortland, but was rushed for time and did not. His time is out at Trudeau on the 21st. I hope to get over to see him soon, also Mr. Grace who went there on Wednesday.

I was at the doctor's yesterday, and all was about the same, doing well. We talk about Ray Brook each time, and he hopes all will come my way yet. If I hear nothing soon, I may write to Mr. Ryan direct.

Letters came yesterday from Mrs. Adams and Charlotte, and a card from Ida. I have mailed cards in reply. Will inclose the letters to you, that you may enjoy them also. Mr. Doe always liked Mr. McLaughlin. Charlotte does well to write so much news. And is always so appreciative and sympathetic! Am glad that Mr. Farmer is doing well at Upper Lisle. Sorry the Adams are to move away, but they may go to Cortland, who can tell? Mr. Farmer will tell you all about it soon, it may be.

I am doing a little work on my pillow each morning, after breakfast and just before sitting out. I will hope to have it done in a few days. I began work on it Dec. 1.

This is a comparatively warm day, the mercury being at 26 at 8 A.M. and warming through the day. It is still rather icy and only a very little snow, not enough for sleighing. Expect snow now at any time ----Will

7:30 P.M.--I am at the office to mail this, after I see if there is any letters. No letter came from you, so I will have nothing special to say now. All well as usual.---Will

The following two letters were enclosed with this letter--one from Mr. Huntley, Lennoxville, Quebec and the other from Mr. and Mrs. Adams of Upper Lisle, N.Y. We should remember that Rev. W. D. Potter has been away from Lennoxville and Huntingville for around 17 years and to think that these people remember him with their prayers is a tribute to his impact, as a young minister, in those communities. ------bwp
Lennoxville—Nov. 29th, 1909

Dear Mr. Potter,

I received a card a long time ago saying you were improving, I hope ere this you are almost well, I saw in the Leader that you had resigned at Cortland on account of ill health so I know you are not able to preach. I feel so sorry for you and hope you will soon be well. It must be very lonely to be away from your family, and they are very lonely without you. I went up to church this morning there were a good lot there, those from a distance were Mrs. Cowans folks, Warren Smith and his wife from Johnsville, Willie Loomis and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Mallory Those people do not come every Sunday but quite often.

Mr. Adams is to stay with us another year, we are preparing now for the annual oyster supper which is to be this week Wednesday evening. We hope to have a good night and a good crowd, the roads are very good now sleighs are out--but it needs a little more snow for good sleighing. The chicken pie supper in Sept. was a success there was a crowd,—Mrs. Warren Smith entertained our Ladies Aid last Thursday at her home in Johnsville there were a good number there and we had a nice time. I think that I must have written you that Mr. Woodward passed away in Sept.--Rev. Mr. Adams officiated. Mr. L.E. Doe of Compton passed away there—Rev. McLaughlin attend the funeral at Moe's River church—I hope you will drop me a line soon telling me you are better.

I do hope to hear that you are better. Keep up the good courage and I hope and pray that you will soon be well. Sincerely, C. A. Hunting

Upper Lisle, N.Y., Dec. 1st

Dear Mr. Potter,

It has been a long time since we have heard anything from you, not since you were at Cortland. Are you a great deal better now? We sincerely hope that your are. We are usually well. Mr. Farmer comes to us the same as you did, but think that we will not have the service through the stormy weather.

Mr. Fs sermons are not like yours, more lectures than a religious service. We are not like city that can have both and so prefer the religious service. Mr. Farmer is a very interesting man and we like him very much but the hunger of the heart is not satisfied like your service. We hope that you can come back to us at some future time.

We have sold our house and lot here where we live and don't know where we will live yet. I wish we might move to some place to send Leilah to school and be near our church.---Now Mr. Potter write us all about yourself and the family at home, our hearts go out to them having you so far away from home.

There are always someone inquiring after you so send just a word on a card or anyway.

Yours in His Name
Mr. and Mrs. C.S. Adams
Friday 2:30 P.M.

Dear Marion:

Yours of yesterday came a little before noon and it was a surprise yet just as gladly received.

You will be reading my letter of yesterday today, perhaps not till the afternoon delivery at 4. I will try and put this in the office tonight, so it will reach you tomorrow.

I haven't any special news to tell today, only good news of myself. Am feeling better, altho some pain in my leg lingers on, especially in the morning, making me limp a little in getting around. But I trust in another day it will all be gone. I have been sitting out this morning and got along nicely.

I am glad you saw Mr. Ryan and told how matters stand. Glad you gave him the "report" which I sent, so he can see what the institution is doing, and how other cities do things. For the council to turn me down now, in the face of such prospects of getting good, would be almost inhuman. We will win yet, I am sure.

A card came today from James and Lina Waldron of McLean. I will write Mr. Farmer a card today for his nice letter. I must write also to Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Howard for their booklets, and to Mrs. Farnsworth for her picture.

I am glad Wilburn and Edmund are still in the ring and having such good innocent times. Their trip to Freeville and McLean was all right. Geo. Fitts did well to give him a $1. The Fitts are keeping too warm with their new furnace, and am afraid it will not pay in the end.

I trust Wilburn will enter the law, as it would be more appropriate for him. We will see how true the rumor is.

Be sure and write a word of thanks to Mrs. Adams of Upper Lisle.

The good things in the box are going fast. It is nice to have such fresh eggs, none of which were broken. I wrote the Hanfords a card, but you must thank them also when you see them.

I have received a copy of "What The Univ. Church Is Doing" by Supt. McGlanflin and it is fine. At least a copy ought to be in each Univ. home. The Ladies Aid might do well with this book, have an agent to make a canvas of the people, sell a hundred copies, pay $10. for them, sell for 25cts a piece, turn the balance into the treasury. If they did not want to take it up, you might do it and keep the proceeds for yourself. I will send you my copy a little later or else order on from the house at Boston. It would take at sight. I must get a "register" soon, also.

You spoke about the Central mileage. Yes, it is good from Syracuse or anywhere on the Central. But on the main line, as from Syracuse to Utica, it is the same price as a regular ticket.
As to your coming up in the course of a few days or waiting till spring, it will be
up to you to decide. I simply say that you ought to come sometime while I am here,
but as long as I am around and usually well to come when it best suits your own
convenience. So don't hurry, see the mayor first and visit with Bernard and Ida, and
then you can decide the easier.

With love, Will

Mrs. Phillips gave me a leather card case for Xmas.
We gave them a package of nice paper and envelopes.
Have written cards to Miss Farnsworth, Mrs. Homer, Howard and Mrs. Ashby.
Good bye---Will

right: Anna and Wendell Potter left: Marion and Wilburn Potter
Sherbrooke, Quebec, Christmas 1891
Dear Marion:-

It is pretty quick work to get a line so soon. I mailed mine Tuesday eve, and yours is just at hand by morning delivery.

I am much better this morning, got up as usual and ate with the rest of the family. Am now in the centre room, where it is nice and warm, looking over the contents of the box, and now sending a word to you.

The box was brought to my room last night at about 4:30. I could not open it when abed, so Mrs. Phillips did it for me. But the pain in my leg kept me from enjoying the box till this morning. Now I have gone over it carefully and am delighted. The robe is a dandy and I can use it to good advantage. It is not extravagant but a necessity, especially good in sickness and cold weather. The jell, candy, eggs, apples, papers, letters, are all gladly received. Bessie’s booklet, the hdkf from Fannie, the $2 from Veva, are all fine, and a most happy surprise. I will try to send a card to each, and perhaps a letter.

It seems so good to be better and around again. The pains were continuous on Xmas day, but Sunday was the worst, I simply had to lay and cry it out. Was in bed just four days. I will not go out today.

I hope you will talk right out to Mr. Ryan in regard to Ray Brook. They ought to be ashamed to go back on a method in vogue all over the state. I can enter, it seems, in no other way. You might send me the name and address of the county Supt. of Poor. Mr. Newcomb I think is his name. If Ryan fails me I will try the county officer. Perhaps he will not be afraid to do something.

I imagine B. and I. are with you today. I hope so, and that you are having a good visit.

Now do as you think best about coming up this winter. You ought to come some time, either soon or in the spring, as we will want to visit and you will want to see the country.

Mr. Weiler came at 10:03 from Cortland. It arrives in Syracuse 11:15, leaves Syr. 11:45, arrives at Utica 1:12, leaves Utica 1:20 and arrives here at 6:35 P.M. If you should get left at Utica, go on to Herkimer and stay overnight and come north from there the next cay at 12:15.

If I should have another attack of sciatica I would wire you to come at once. But think the matter all over, how you feel about Auntie staying at home for you, etc, etc. and then-------

rest of letter is missing
Monday, Jan. 3, 1910

Dear Marion:-

I was surprised that you did not get my letter of last Tuesday until Friday eve. It got delayed someway. I wrote again Friday, hoping you would get it on Saturday, but it may not have reached you till today.

I was very glad to get the petition for Ray Brook. You put in some good work. I am sending it by first mail to Dr. Garvin at Ray Brook, and hoping he will have a vacancy for me soon. He is now Supt. in full. See clipping enclosed.

It is now 8:30 P.M. Walter Stockwell has just been making me a nice call. Was glad to see him. He expects to get away from Trudeau about the 14th, and will come to a place yet to be decided upon here in Saranac Lake. He is doing fairly well and seems quite hopeful.

Am glad that the S.S. are to remember Mr. Hazzard, for he is worthy. We surmised right about Adelbert. If I had been at home, I would no doubt had the wedding. George Truman is as near a fool as can be, now we know it, if not before.

Don't you encourage the Crawford Dames in any way. It would be better to have something new. Minnie better think twice before giving herself away, she needs a balance wheel, I guess.

Did Mr. Farmer have a good time at Fort Plain? His girl probably came on, or else he went to Boston, who knows! That would be the natural thing to do.

Glad you saw Anna Vincent. Did not know that she lived in Syracuse. That is fine.

I was interested in the Sanders-Stockwell clipping, saying the latter holds over. It may yet go into court. But Walter said that to avoid friction his father would probably resign. That certainly would simplify matters, and give the preference to the voters who ought to decide.

It has been snowing today, but is now quiet again.

Cards came today from Leah, Margie, and Miss Farnsworth.

Now for the office and exercise! Am almost as well as ever again, limp just a little.

With love -- Will
Thursday, Jan. 6, 1910

Dear Marion:-

Your letter came to hand just before twelve. I was out on the piazza as usual when it came. Was glad to get the latest news. Sorry Auntie has such a cold.

What you hear about Rev. Harne at Minden is characteristic. I don't know what the "incense berries" are, but I doubt not that he needs some himself. That Rev. Mr. (Edith Wait) Colson goes to Binghamton is real news to me. I know him but little. Trust he will make good there. I do not know Rev. Everton who is called to Fort Plain to succeed Mr. Richards. Sorry that the latter is nervously unstrung, so as to disappoint both himself and the Baltimore people.

Glad Mr. Farmer was at home to attend Mr. Wheeler's funeral at McLean. Mr. W. told me that he wanted me to attend his funeral, which meant a Universalist minister. Mr. Farmer, with Mr. Parson's funeral also, will be very busy this week. A teacher's meeting is just the thing. Hope all the teachers will attend the prayer meeting and remain.

Tuesday at 7:30 A.M. the mercury stood at 18 below zero on the porch. It is reported at 28 below at the Riverside Inn. This is cold enough for a while.

I am going down street this afternoon to mail this and to select a new set of underwear. My old drawers are all worn to shreds. Will get some warm winter ones, and which I trust will prevent another attack of sciatica. It is bad enough now, but will soon wear away. I feel it most in the morning when I arise,

Mrs. Kernochen, who lives next door and who meals here a part of the time, said to me at dinner table- "I hear you are going to Ray Brook". I asked her how she heard, and she said thru Mrs. Cox. She took Xmas dinner with the Kernochens and spent the day there. She is Dr. Garvin's secretary. I met her at Thanksgiving time, she taking dinner here at our table with the Kernochens. So the news is out as I expected and I wonder what Mr. and Mrs. Phillips will say. But it is just as well.

I am glad you spoke about the Homiltic Review. Will order it stopped right away. This ought to have been done in Oct.

I see that the S. Falls Messenger man has assigned to Dr. Perry, and I am wondering if the paper will be continue. I will write today. Do you prefer the Messenger to the Enterprise? I think we had better get along with one. The rate of the former is $1.50, also the latter, but we have paid but a dollar for the Enterprise each year. Will do as you say, you are the doctor. I will send a $ for the Weekly Republican before the 15th, as that is my favorite, the others are yours.

A nice letter came today from Anna. Now Bernard's folks are holding out!

Must close, With Love, Will
Dear Marion:

I will begin this now and finish later, perhaps your letter comes. Your card came yesterday finding me on the piazza as usual and about the same. It is lovely winter weather just now. The mercury stood at zero this morning early, but it is now warming a little and even begins to snow.

I was sorry to hear that Mrs. Reigel was in the hospital. It was good for you to call on her, also on Mrs. Weiler. Yes, I look so well. My neck now fits tight to my collar. My eating and digestion are first class—am certainly on the right road. Have just finished my eggs, not one was broken, and all were fine, much better that those I get here. Will be glad when my sciatica is all gone. I am so glad you are feeling better:

---I see by the Plaindealer that there is a strong agitation over a tuberculosis hospital for St. Lawrence county, a hearing was held by the Board of Supervisors and a committee of investigation has been appointed. I hope it will report favorable.

Anna wrote me a letter Jan 5th., one from Margie came Sat. the 8th, and one from Wendell this morning, the 11th. All were fine. If you should decide to come up here for a visit, you had better stop at least one night in Herkimer. Margie is to write a paper on the life and services of Gen. Steuben of the Am. Revolution, hoping to receive a prize which has been offered to 4th year High School pupils of the state. I wish you would look up the address of Douglas Campbell author of “The Puritan in Holland, England and America” in “Who’s Who in U.S.” Send the address to me, and perhaps I can help Margie a little. See, also, if you can find the address of Wm. Winter, the art critic, recently of the N.Y. Tribune.

I am sending today a $ for the Weekly Republican, as it is the best of all my papers, the Leader excepted. I am not particular whether we have the Messenger of Enterprise any more. Am expecting a line from the former at each mail. But will leave it to you to decide, and you will either send yourself or instruct me in regard to the matter at the earliest.

Two letters came yesterday, one from Veva and one from Walter Stockwell. The latter has been given some light work in the workshop as assistant to the overseer, and will remain in Trudeau indefinitely. Veva wrote nicely for her. Said Berton had a new auto and that father had finally deposited the money I sent him, in the Newport Savings Bank, doing it all himself. He is a “business man”, you see, losing nearly $20 or nearly six months interest. But let him go, he won’t learn! Now for the porch!

3 P.M.—Yours of Sunday and Monday came at 11 A.M. I have just returned from a visit to the doctor. I weigh 143, gaining 4 lbs. since last time I was weighed. Had just a little temperature, and all is progressing nicely. Now, if the sciatica all goes away I will be O.K. Ida’s telegram indicates that she and Manley reached Cortland last night at 11:48. You are now visiting at a great rate, I know. If the way is clear you had better come with her to Utica or Herkimer. Come to Herkimer, only if you stay over night to rest and visit Wendell’s. Get mileage as before directed. I inclose check for $20. If you need all the coal in small bin, nut & pea, put a half ton
for the church of Hewitt and Maher, as Mr. Hazzard paid me for it, the same to taken out and carried across. But this appears was not done. It is $2.58, or $5.15 per ton, the contract for I use during the year. The stove coal is $5.50. Or give Mr. H. $2.58, the price to me.

Will now close as I will see you soon---Will
Love to Ida and Manley.

---

THE HEALTH LAND OF AMERICA
Ray Brook, N. Y.
ELEVATION 1,750 FEET—VIEWING 68 MOUNTAINS—12 MINUTES WALK FROM RAY BROOK R. R. STATION

Mountain views, streams, woods and ever-refreshing breezes, laden with health giving odors, from pine and hemlock groves, are the essential factors of an Ideal Health Resort. All are found here.

The cuisine has won a reputation for the house — every room steam heated — lighted by acetylene. Open all the year.

Correspondence solicited.

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THE MOUNTAIN VIEW HOUSE

RAY BROOK, ESSEX CO., N. Y.
Particulars, address Mrs. M. G. MacCausland

Mountain View House, Ray Brook
One of the resorts available for tuberculosis patients
Monday, Jan. 24, 3:40 P.M.

Dear Marion:-

I have just got back from Ray Brook, found your letter, so will write the latest.

I was examined by Dr. Bray, as before, took dinner, and then expected to see Dr. Garvin. But he was so busy that I could not see him, and I came away at about 3 a little disappointed. Mrs. Cox was real good to me, told me some of the routine of entrance, and said I would hear the result of my case at the earliest possible, probably in a day or so. So I must be patient and wait for the final word. Will write you as soon as I hear.

I told Mrs. Phillips where I was going today and what for, and she wished me success.

Our thaw took a good part of the snow off, but enough remains for very good sleighing. The mercury is above freezing now, but it may not take the snow off anymore, I hope not. It is so warm that Mr. Grace perspires, he can hardly stand it. It is just right for me.

Glad you had a good visit at Herkimer, and hope it will prove a restful change at least. It was good to go up "the creek:"

I am inclosing a card which came to you. Simply take it to the Cortland office and get your mail, don't know whether you will have to pay the cent or not.

Sorry to hear of Oneonta's fire. Wish I might see a local paper.

I wrote Mr. Fraser last Thursday, and Mrs. Collins on Saturday.

I am cutting out my scraps and picking up generally, so as to be ready to start for Ray Brook at any time.

I got another wrapper and pair of drawers on Friday, so am well fitted out for the rest of the winter.

Shall be anxious to hear how the ladies aid came out at their annual.

Good bye for this time.-- Will
Dear Marion:-

It is nearly four o'clock. I have just returned from Mrs. Cauch's where we have been drilling for an hour or more. I will hurry a word to you and walk to the office and mail it for my exercise.

Your letter came a little before noon, no delay. I can't see why mine of Monday was delayed. But such is the case occasionally. You gave lots of news, the best of which is that Grace Per Lee comes to Cortland to teach. Glad to hear of the aggressive work planned by the church, the aid, etc. Hope the canvass will be prompt and thorough. It is just like Minnie to get mad, but Mrs. Buck will make the best secretary. Glad you got home all right and that all were glad to see you.

I got a nice letter today from Mabel Smith. She spoke of your visit and said they would send some apples. I received and announcement of Rosa Winterhalder's marriage to a Mr. Flansburgh. I don't remember of ever seeing him. I sent a card today in reply.

A nice letter came from Mr. Fraser yesterday. He wants me to write him the process of the cure I am taking, so as to tell a friend of his who is ill with the trouble. I will do so in a day or two.

I sent my blank to the ministerial relief committee on Tuesday. A Mr. Cole of N.Y. is the chairman. The questions were all easy and straight, and I am looking for a favorable response.

It was fortunate that you were away, or else you would have bo't the Albright place. $4,000 was enough. There will be another house when needed.

Have you sold Mr. _______ the sleigh yet? What does Wilburn say. But it will cost just as much to store one as the three.

No word has yet come from Ray Brook, but things move slow there and I quite confident of a favorable reply in due season. Will certainly drop you a line when the news comes.

I am glad you saw Mr. Bingham of Herkimer. I knew he would remember me. I think he is fine.

Now for the office, so as to get back by supper time. All is about the same here. I will write Mr. Woodward a card.

You be careful and not overdo. Love to you all-- Will

I have cut out lots of scraps, lately, Bye.
Dear Marion:-

A letter from Ray Brook has just come to hand saying that owing to the difficulties which I have encountered I am admitted tentatively to the hospital for eight weeks, and that if I make satisfactory progress in that time my stay will be continued. I am to report for treatment on Monday the 31st.

This is good news indeed, and I am so happy over the outlook. I will go there Monday on the 11:17 A.M. train, the one which we took. Will try and get everything into my trunk except fur coat, grip and violin. The eight weeks will take me through the cold weather, and I will be thankful for that if nothing else. Besides it will be a good school for me, and if I learn well can hope to stay longer. It will do me good at any rate.

You will need to address your Monday's letter to "Ray Brook, Essex Co., N.Y.". For a few times you might write "care of Hospital" in the lower left hand corner of envelope. I can instruct you better after I get there.

I will go to Dr. Hallock's this afternoon, tell him the good news and pay my bill. Then I will cross over the track opposite his place and call on Jud Farmer formerly of Canton.

Let me tell you: When on my way up Broadway yesterday, after mailing your letter, I observed a man passing me and I remarked to myself, "that man looks like Jud Farmer". He walked only a few rods when he stopped to visit with another man, and as I approached them my curiosity got the best of me, and I finally said to him, "Pardon me, sir, but I wanted to say that you reminded me of a man I once knew in Canton by the name of Jud Farmer". At this, he scanned me for a moment and quickly said, "Heaven's sake, is this you, Will?" We then shook heartily, walked along together, and had a good visit.

I had not seen him since leaving Canton twenty years ago. He is probably ten years older than I and is living with his third wife. He has lived here two years, coming first to work on the new St. Regis Hotel, as he is a mason. His wife is in Burlington running a millinery store. He has built him a new house since coming here. It is just across the street from Dr. Hallock's. And more news: Jud's brother, Frank, was here on a short visit, and him I also saw. He is on a farm near Lebanon, and says he knows Beach.

It has been snowing all the day, and if it keeps on we may get blocked up.

Will now close with love and best wishes.-- Will
Ray Brook, Jan. 31, 1910

I arrived here safely at 11:25 A.M. It is now nearly six, almost supper time. Will mail this here in the San. now so it will leave here tonight and reach you tomorrow. Am getting the run of things. Will write a letter soon. Direct “care of hospital”.

Hastily -- Will

Wilburn H. and mother at Shelburne Falls, Mass...c 1898

Universalist Church pastored by Rev. W. D. Potter June 15, 1893 --Dec. 1, 1905

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Dear Marion:

This is my first letter to you from Ray Brook. I wrote you a card yesterday simply. I rather expected a letter yesterday, but will look for it today directly after dinner.

I am getting the ropes learned now somewhat so that I begin to feel quite at home. All is so neat, orderly and comfortable, the nurses and doctors understand their business and are uniformly kind. Now that I am here, I look back to the Phillips' and feel disgusted by the comparison. I don't care about seeing them again.

It is now 10:30 A.M. Am in the solarium writing, and where I can remain till 11:30, then must sit out till 12:30. We arise at 7, breakfast at 7:45, make your bed and clean room after breakfast, sit out from 9 to 10:30, then milk and eggs are given to each if desired. 10:30- 11:30 is the hour for walking or writing, either is optional. I must stay in however for the first week, so am writing. For the first week and at intervals thereafter temperature and pulse is taken thrice daily, at 9, 2 and 7. My temperature on arrival was 99.4, pulse 116, yesterday noon they at the same time 99 and 108, while this morning they stood at 96.4 and 100.

I have more to do so far with a Dr. Brayton than any other doctor since arrival. He is nice, looks like Charlie Jenks. I eat like a pig and sleep well. The food is so much better than at the Phillips, everything is better. My chair is different, stops at any angle. I use my fur coat, but not my blankets, they furnish me with much better ones.

Now for a surprise: I received a letter yesterday from Mr. Huntley saying my name was spoken at Utica, kindly, hopefully and sympathetically, and he inclosed his check for $5.00. I mailed him a line of thanks at once.

Got a line from Wendell yesterday, and all were well, yet had a time of aching all over, probably a touch of rheumatism. I will now stop and write a card to Mrs. Elmer and Frank and Mabel.

1:55 P.M.:-- Have just got my mail, a letter from you and cousin Dora &st, also the Leader etc.

I was so glad to hear from you. It seems such a long time since your last, as I have passed thru so many experiences. Will now add a word and then mail.

Wasn't it nice for the ministers at Utica to remember me so. It was a happy surprise, and I appreciate it to the fullest. I doubt not that Mr. Huntley initiated the movement, for his check speaks eloquently in that direction.

3:30 P.M.:-- Have been sitting out for an hour. It is nice and comfortable out. Can now write till 4:30, then out again. How orderly everything goes on here. I will like it better and better.

Three beds are in my room, and a Mr. Hogan of Yonkers and a Mr. Dapp of Buffalo are my two sleeping room-mates. I like it all right, but the nurse said she
might have a single room for me later. I don't care either way, for it makes no
difference with "the cure". I took an egg and warm milk as I came in the P.M. This is
optional, same as in the forenoon. I was weighed just before dinner, weight without
sweater 135 1/2 lbs.

I got a daily Republican on Saturday, the Shelburne Falls item saying that Mr
Townsend and Miss. Taylor were recently married in Florida. Quite a surprise, I
should think.

As you may need the Huntley check, I will inclose same to you. If not needed,
then deposit it as usual and inform me.

Yes, it may be best to let the matter of settlement with Mr. Ryan go as you
suggest, i.e. you pay him the cash when he gets the bill from the hospital.

Dr. Brayton questioned me at length yesterday in regard to self and family.
Among other things he said you and Wilburn should be examined by some good
physician. He spoke of it as quite customary now, so that if anything is wrong
preventive measures could be effectively applied. I wish you might go to Dr. Church,
if you happened to be in Syracuse, but perhaps you may be satisfied with some
Cortland man. Don't hurry or worry over it however.

Am glad Mr. Farmer paid the phone bill. Sorry to hear about Mrs. Woodbury.

I should say that Mrs. Buck was in the harness all around, little too much so
for the church's good perhaps.

If Miss Hill was caught napping in meeting I am afraid she will not show up
again, time will tell.

My rheumatism is all gone now. I am glad Mrs. Pinkney was at church and
remembered me.

Good bye for this time. With Love -- Will
In my search for letters from Will to Marion, I found Grandma’s diary. Thanks to Grandma’s diary—the previous nine letter dovetail with her notes. I will excerpt her notations as follows:

January 1, 1910—“Mr Ryan signed the paper for Will to enter Ray Brook”.

You will remember that Mr. Ryan was the contact man in the Cortland office.

January 13, 1910—“Pleasant, Ida and Manley left for Herkimer, and I for Saranac Lake 6:14 a.m., waited at Utica until 1:20 when I left for Saranac Lake, changed at Lake Clear, reached S. Lake at 6:35, found Will looking well.”

Aunt Ida Potter and son, Manley, had been visiting in Cortland.

January 14, 1910—“Pleasant—cold 12 below at S. Lake. Will and I went down St. and walked about town, went into the Riverside Hotel and some of the stores.”

January 15, 1910—“Will and I left at 11:17 a.m. for Ray Brook State Sanitarium, took dinner there, looked around, met Mrs. Cox and Dr. Bray. Home at 3 p.m.”

January 16, 1910—“Pleasant—Sunday. Will and I went for a walk in the afternoon and called on Mrs. Selfridge and later to Mr. Couch’s. Wrote letters in the morning.”

January 17, 1910—“Took a long walk in the afternoon, wrote letters in the morning.”

January 18, 1910—“Rainy, 40 above. Mended Will’s clothes in forenoon. Went to Dr’s in afternoon and to tea at Mrs. Mittenthal’s, after which we went down st.”

January 19, 1910—“Snowing. Ate breakfast and packed suitcase, left Saranac Lake at 11:30 a.m., changed at Lake Clear and Remsen. Reached Herkimer at 5:15. Anna at the train, a boy carried my suit case.”

January 24, 1910—“Will went to R. Brook for examination. Left Herkimer at 2:45. Anna, Margie and Frances came to the train, Uncle Wen. took my suit case down. Got home at 6:50. Auntie and Wilburn at the train.”

He entered Ray Brook o January 31, 1910. Our lettters from Will continue from Ray Brook State Sanitarium on February 6, 1910.
Dear Marion:

Your nice letter came yesterday, being given to me just after dinner the usual time. We have only one delivery a day at the San. The P.O. is about a mile away, and two of our boys go for it each day. You see everyone who is able has some work assigned to him to do. Each patient makes his own bed, and then the work increases as the patient is able. My roommates, in addition to making their beds, sweep the floor daily and smooth the same, dust off the glass stands and wipe them in carbolic solution. One helped make the ice-cream yesterday and which we are to have for dinner today, 3:30 P.M. The ice cream was good, so was the whole dinner. The chicken was done, I find my appetite here is first class, as the food is so much better than at 5 Virginia Street. You don't know how glad I am to be here. It seems as if I am gaining already.

As we do not sit out on Sat. eve we had music during the evening. A Mr. Kernan played the piano and a Mr. Meyer the violin and it was real good. Mr. Meyer & I are drilling a little in our rooms at the recreation hour. I wish that I had all my orchestra pieces here, but will try and get along with what I have.

What do you think! To my great surprise a letter came Sat. from Chas. A. Miller inclosing $33.33 as the first payment on account of the State Relief Fund. I will inclose his letter along with the check which you can deposit or use as you have need. But be sure to inform me just the amount you may deposit & date.

I sent my dues to the Foresters on Saturday, $8.49 to July 1st, Wm. Clarke, F.S. I will send my premium on life insurance policy early in March.

We had an explosion here on yesterday in the person of Mr. Welch of Brooklyn. He refused to make the beds in infirmary in response to a nurse's order. There is no insubordination here, all must move when the word is given, or get out.

It was 10 degrees below this morning, and tonight will be as cold or even colder. But I did not feel cold in my cozy bed. Tomorrow morning I give a sample of sputum and urine for examination. I have not been out of the building since I came. My temperature is taken 3 times a day. It was 98.3 this P.M. at 2 o'clock, pulse 92 (?), both about normal. Now for church service in the ladies' solarium at 4:30.

Monday 10:45 A.M.---will now finish during the walking hour, or before 11:30. It is then gathered up and taken to the office by the two patients chosen to do it.

Mr. Roberts of Saranac Presbyterian held forth yesterday at 4:30. Altho a little orthodox he did well, spoke extempo, was simple. I attended the S.S. at 11:30 A.M., about 30 present, and all passed on smoothly. They eye me closely for I am a Univ. & a minister. But I keep rather quiet at first. The Supt., a Mr. Lundy asked me my belief the day before. How distrustful!

It was 22 below this morning, but I was not uncomfortable as at Saranac. They have a little heat here, on all the time to 9:15 P.M. when the lights and heat are turned off.
Then the Buckley crowd are at the helm again. Am afraid they will run Mr. Farmer. But Mrs. Parsons’ setting on the Aid appropriation will help to open his eyes. I don’t see how they can change the time of literary to Thursday as it will “break the Constitution”, Ha! Ha!

Dr. Hallock’s bill for Dec. & Jan. is $9.50. I will draw a check for him today. The bill came Sat. A few patients are in the infirmary, some with hemorrhage, others with temperature, etc. It is a good place to get care.

It was fine sitting out this morning, 9 to 10:30. Had a cup of hot milk when I came. You need not hurry about your examination, but don’t wait too long. Perhaps you will be in Syracuse. How would Dr. Reese do? Must now close with love to you both.

Will

Picnic at Shelburne Falls, Mass. Marion and Wilburn standing left in front of railing. Wilburn H, with bow, in front. c. 1898
Dear Marion:-

I will begin a letter to you tonight, by writing until bed-time. Yours came after dinner and the card yesterday. So I have all the latest.

Was glad to hear all about the Norme social and the results. Mrs. Sheakley must feel very happy over it. "Let the good work go on." Glad you went over to see Mrs. Hollister, as it will do her good. I don't blame her for feeling so. I presume it would be best for her to withdraw from the Aid, and be as Mrs. Cone and Mrs. Hazzard are, but be sure to come to church just the same. She will have to solve it herself.

I am afraid that Mr. Farmer's boarding out so much is not good for him. No wonder his stomach is out and he feels dizzy. He is on the go so much also; it is work indeed. He will do well if he keeps up as long as I did. But perhaps Mrs. Parsons will give another boost, and help the work along. Time will tell.

Then Mr. Hazzard has his new black team ready for business, and finishes in the store tonight! It hardly seems possible. I trust the change will be best for them all. I hardly see how or why Mr. Farmer wants to go way out there to board. I would call it an unwise thing to do. But they must run their own business, just as we do ours. Must get ready for bed.

Sunday 10:40 A.M. -- It is a most beautiful morning. I am in my chair on the porch at the walking hour. Will write, however, instead of walking. Will try to use the afternoon hour today for exercise.

We rose at the usual time this morning, but had breakfast at 7:30 so that the Catholics might have service at 8. Had to hurry. I attended the mass closing at 9. Got into my chair at about 9:10. The mass was all right, I suppose, but it did not appeal to me. I only went in for the curiosity, just as we did once at Cortland. The priest's name is Burke from Lake Placid. He laid the law right down, Heaven or hell, and now is the only time to choose. I presume there are more Catholics in the hospital than Protestants.

We have S.S. at 11:30 as usual. I am taking charge of a class this morning at least, in response to Mr. Lindy's invitation, the Supt. Yesterday we met to sing, myself leading on the violin, and it went fairly good. Sang hymns only. I will not play today. A Mr. Roberts, Presbyterian, from Saranac Lake, preaches at 4:30 P.M. He was here two weeks ago. All the meetings are held in the ladies solarium on the east side. Now I must stop and get ready for S.S."

Have just got back to my room from the S.S. after a very good session. I spoke to a class of nine or ten, and they seemed to enjoy it. Some good words were said to me at the close. The first whistle, or call for dinner, has just been given; when it blows again I will stop to eat. How suspicious the people are, at first, because I am a Universalist. Some days ago the Supt., Mr. Lindy, asked me what I believed, so as to be safe. It now seems that they are getting disappointed because my horns have not yet appeared. Ha! Ha! I must be sure and walk this afternoon as it is so fine out.
Will put down the deposit of $33.33 in my check book. Will also draw a check for board here, when you hear from Mr. Ryan. It will be plenty in time when you write.

9:00 A.M. Monday: Will now finish this medley. Am in my chair on the south porch. It is cloudy, and a warm rain is falling. It began to warm last night at bed time.

I enjoyed my walk yesterday P.M. We had good meals, chicken, celery, etc. Mr. Roberts gave us a good sermon on “God is No Respec ter of Persons”. It was real Universalism, just as I would have spoken.

My room is as slick as can be. The sash curtains and those over my clothes press were washed last week, each taking down and putting up his own. So they look fine. Each has a clean pillow case and one sheet weekly. The bed spread is changed every two weeks. Each is allowed three towels weekly, one for bath and two for the hands and face. We turn them in after Sunday dinner; a record being kept of each. The clean ones are placed in our rooms Saturday P.M. Our personal laundry must be marked and handed in Monday morning. You see, there is a time for everything here, else there would be utter confusion.

You remember the little station at the railroad here. Our post-office is now in one corner of that little building. It was moved there on Saturday evening, Dr. Garvin being the newly appointed P.M. Mr Lindy, however, will be in active charge, as Dr. G’s deputy. Mr. Lindy is taking the treatments, lives in the hospital like the rest of us, but is quite recovered. The change will be much more convenient for us. The mail will be brought to the building as before, but we can now do our own mailing at the walking hour, if we choose, or do any other business with the office.

My bath comes tonight at 8 to 8:20. I thus lose a half hour of cure each Monday night.

I wrote Auntie Friday. She sent me a copy of the “Standard” and Mr. Weeks’ paper.

I must now close with Love, --Will

Will mail at the walking hour.

P.S.-- Frances’ letter, tho a little old, is so good that I will inclose it to you.

Tell Wilburn that I keep his picture set up on my chiffonier and show it to many of my friends.
Dear Marion:-

It is the walking hour, about 10:30 A.M. It is blustering outside, so I will keep in my room and start a line to you.

Yesterday, being the anniversary of Washington's birth, was a holiday. No one here was obliged to sit out and take the cure, yet I was out some three hours, divided between the forenoon and afternoon. The games were kept busy. There was a billiard tournament in the P.M. In the evening at 7:30 we repaired to the east solarium to take part in an apron and neck-tie party. Each lady made an apron and tie. the ties were given out to the men as they entered, and each found the apron that matched. It was quite merry. Then came a short program of vocal and instrumental music, a kind of music called Nantucket, a ludicrous play called, "Going to Jerusalem", a good closing march and a lunch in the dining room. The affair closed at about 9:00 and it was nearly ten before all was quiet.

The Nantucket reminded me some of "Tucker". "Going to Jerusalem" was this: a row of chairs facing each way alternately was placed across the room, first a boy and then a girl in each chair. They rise, march around the line to music and when the piano stops all sit where they happen to be. A chair from each end of the line is removed each time, so some one gets left and drops out. It finally narrows down to two, and the last one who sits wins, i.e. he arrives at Jerusalem. Only the patients take part; and Dr. Garvin and all the doctors and nurses were in to look on.

I got a line yesterday from Aunt Lina Baird of Chicago. She is quite unwell and unhappy, it appears. She scores the relatives for not writing, especially father, but writes a very good letter after all. I will inclose it to you, and you can read it and place it in the waste basket.

I enjoy my room alone, it is so neat and clean, for which I am responsible. Our sputum boxes were sterilized this morn as usual. Just before dinner we are also weighed.

I wanted to ask if the "Homiletic Review" came yet. It was about the middle of January, when you were here, that I ordered it stopped and a bill sent. Have not heard a word since.

Does the "Convention at Work" still come? If so, is it paid for another year?

I am looking for the "Leader" this week, as I need it to get my Sunday School lesson. I find it much better than the Presbyterian quarterly they give me, as it is much more reasonable and enlightening. The contrast helps me to prize my own denomination the more. Now for the porch.

3:35 P.M.-- The milk and eggs are distributed, and some have gone for a walk. I will not go out today as it blows too hard.

A nice resolution came today from the Ministerial Association. It was forwarded by Rev. Brown, Sec. of McGraw, and with his personal word. Rev. Cooper was Com. to draw the resolution, and it is fine. To remember me at all was more than
I expected. I wonder if Mr. Tanner was there when it was adopted. Will inclose it to you for safe keeping.

My weight is still the same. I can think of nothing more, so will close for this time.

With love, -- Will

Th. 10:40 A.M.-- I did not mail this yesterday, so will wait till yours comes. It was 4 degrees below zero this morning. It is a beautiful day. There is nothing new.

3:35 P.M.-- Your letter did not come so will mail this now at the walking hour. Bye
Dear Marion:

It is the walking hour, nearly 4 P.M. I did not go for exercise, so am in my chair on the piazza for a visit with you.

It is above the freezing point, unusually warm, has been so since Sunday morning. A warm rain fell all day Sunday.

Was glad of your newsy letter, it came Friday. Then your card came Sat. I sent a card to Mr. Hicks, also one to Leah, on Sat. eve.

All you said about the Aid, Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Buck, Nancy, etc. was very interesting. Let them fight it out. Mrs. P. certainly is the villain. I shall be anxious to know how the campaign for funds progresses. Mrs. Parsons ought certainly to raise more than enough having such a tongue.

You spoke of Mrs. E.E. Ellis and her nephew, a Mr. Greig, at Saranac, but I don’t happen to remember Mrs. Ellis. Sorry to hear that Frank Hanford is so poorly, nerves are bad things.

Wilburn saves at every turn. It hardly seems possible that he will have $500 by Apr. 1. I trust he is doing commendable work in school, for there is where he lacks.

Yes, it is better to have our P.O. nearer. You need not now put on “care of Hospital” on your letters, simple Ray Brook is enough.

Sorry that Mr. Walters and Mr. Hazard are having trouble. You must keep me informed how it comes out.

It is quite a complement to you that Mrs. Paige wanted you for a confidant. It might do her good, but I hope it would not overburden you. Look out for yourself at any rate. I am so glad that your trip north proved beneficial. It was probably just what you needed. Perhaps it would be well to come again at Easter! Both you and Wilburn. And yet I am afraid that we could visit but little, as you would have to stay outside the hospital. Still the trip here and back would do you good.

The clipping of Leland and Rowland Davis was interesting; so also the one about Milburn and his European trip. If I was going to Europe this year I would go with Dr. Bisbee and the delegates to the Berlin Liberal congress as outlined in the Leader. How I wish that I were able to go! It was very thoughtful for Miss. Ballou to write me such a fine letter in regard to the coming of Mr. and Mrs. Reamore to Cortland. You did well to give the name to Mr. Farmer who will call. And it may be so you can call soon also. Mrs. Bentley, or perhaps Nancy, might be chosen to call. I may have met Miss. Ballou once on a time, but I don’t seem to place her just now.

Now about myself. On Saturday at 11 A.M. I was stripped again to my waist and examined by Dr. Brayton. This is the first since admission. They examine monthly it appears and keep a full record. The sputum is examined every two weeks, the urine when entering. It appears, upon inquiring, that they tell the patient nothing about the details of his case. This is so as not to burden the patient with any worry or
care. But when I asked what I should write home, he said: “Say that you are doing as well as can be expected". I can really see no change since I came, a month ago today. And yet my rheumatism is entirely gone, also the little pleurisy pain in my left side. I cough and raise about the same, eat and sleep well, am regular, etc. The symptoms are favorable, and the condition may be a real gain. I weigh the same, 139 1/2. I don’t see, if I stick to it faithfully, why I shant win out in time.

The doctor said to be cheerful and take things easy. He said I might go into the ladies solarium and play on my violin with the piano at the walking hours, just as I wished. An so I have asked a Miss McCland, who plays in the S.S. to play with me, and she said that she would be delighted to do so at any time. Guess we will try it tomorrow for the first.

You remember the new addition that is being made to the hospital. Men are now at work again on the end next to me, i.e. the west end. So we have music all day as we sit on the porch. It breaks the monotony to say the least.

Tuesday March 1.--It is 3:00 P.M. the walking hour. No letter from you today. I will however mail this now. A nice letter came today from Wendell. All well. Margie goes to Holyoke Thursday. I inclose a sputum cup such as we use. This goes in a copper frame, as you may know, with a spring lid and handle. It will interest Wilburn.

Good Bye, Will
Dear Marion:-

This will have to be a short letter before supper and than mail at 7:00 tonight, so you will get if Friday P.M. or on Saturday.

I inclose check for $20. for my board four weeks, so you can pay Mr. Ryan when he presents the bill. Don't give him the check, but the money, taking a receipt. There is now $131 in the Cortland bank. Tomorrow I will draw $15.79 for my insurance in the Northwestern and send to the agent in Springfield.

It has been a little colder today, a little too cold to write sitting out, so I read instead. Have just finished "The Reign of Law" by James Lane Allen. Have enjoyed it very much. I got the book here in the library.

Sunday and Monday were my temperature days, but at noon each day it was a hundred, so I had to stay on for Tu. Wed. and Th. Now I am normal again. Queer how it works at times!

We had some excitement here last evening, a boy named Higgins being expelled for drunkenness. He, with two others, went to Saranac in the P.M. by permission. The saloons there were too strong a temptation, and on return Higgins was so much intoxicated that he was expelled at once, and sent home to Buffalo last evening on the 10:10 train. So it goes, but new ones are coming almost daily.

Glad you inclosed a part of Aunite's letter.

I am afraid Wilburn is overdoing. He is doing most as much as those out of school. Hold on to him all you can, so that his studied will not suffer.

I am glad you keep in touch with Mrs. Murray. Hope all will please her. I wonder if I had better write her! What is her address now?

Was glad to hear that McLean had new lights in the church. Would like to see them.

Yes, I hear from Mrs. Selfridge, besides a word from Dr. Hallock.

Must now close as my time is up.

bye, -- Will
Dear Marion:

Here it is 10:35 A.M., the walking hour, have just given our the milk and eggs, and now I will pass the hour with you.

It is trying to snow a little this morning and it is quite moderate without. I have little news to write. Will inclose Charlotte’s letter which you will gladly read, also Wendell’s. I have just answered both; so read them and put in the waste basket. A nice letter came yesterday from Mr. and Mrs. Butler of St. Johnsbury, both sending a share, and inclosing a photo of their new parsonage. They are very busy in their new field and proud of the new house. Will inclose their letter to you in my next after I answer them.

I have omitted to say before that the night or bath robe and the bed stockings come in finely here, due to the cold floors and private bath at a distance, so I think more of them now than when at the Lake. Got a nice letter from Auntie, Sat. and also some papers. She said to think of her today, town meeting, with the uncles Nelson, Ansel, etc there. So I am. Wish we might just stop in on them for a moment at least.

Yesterday I taught the class as usual. Mr. Roberts preached at 4:30, so we had a good day of it. I went walking at 10:30 A.M. Will do likewise this P.M.

In regard to Mr. Weeden’s question of renting the land and whether we will want the house, I ought to say a word. He probably surmises that owing to my health we will want the house soon, and so he wants to know about it. That land is probably secondary with him, also the hens. Guess I will write him a card saying that we have no plans, as yet, about the future, but will surely inform him when we have made any. I am thinking that the whole lot ought to be plowed, the manure put on, and then seeded down again. But I had rather do this myself, if we should decide to take a year off and stay at No. Orange. Pending this decision, it may be as well to let things rest just as they are. What do you think about it?

Now suppose you can stay in the parsonage till November, and suppose I can stay here nine months, the average time. We would both be free to go somewhere on Nov. 1. Perhaps No. Orange would be our choice for a year, say, from that date. But this is all provisional, and it is impossible to know what is best to do just now. I shall be anxious to know first whether I shall be here longer than 8 weeks. And we can make no plans until then. We will have to go slow, therefore, and the way will gradually open to us.

18cts. was a very low gas bill for Feb. Let Mr. F. pay it if he wishes, and say nothing, also the water tax. Glad he went to Killawog to see Mrs. Wattles, sorry she is so poorly.

You will have to be good at Mr. Buck’s on Wed. I will think of you. My time is up and so must close. With love. -- Will
Dear Marion:-

It is a little after 9 A.M., have just come out on the porch, and as it is so nice and warm will write here. Did not get around to it yesterday, due to the painting and getting settled again in my room. How nice it is now in my room, so neat and clean. Have a clean pillow case each week, one clean sheet and bed spread every second week. I sweep the floor each morning, and polish it every second morning. I wash my glass stand in carbolic each morning. Got my laundry this morning right after breakfast, --1 night gown and 3 collars.

I have just written a letter to Mr. Weeden saying we have made no plans for the future and to let things rest as at present. Will inclose his letter and my answer on same, a copy.

A line came from Clark yesterday which I will inclose. As you see, he thinks we had better move to No. Orange, he could then visit us and we him, a fine inducement. I don't want to move to No. Orange unless I have to do so as a last resort. But we can make no definite plans until after Wilburn graduates, anyway I wish Everett could make us a payment of at least $25. You might write to Cora and broach the question indirectly.

I am glad Mr. Farmer is getting a little independent and has an engagement when the Buck crowd want him. He's learning his lesson! Tell Wilburn to stick it out to June and then a new program will happily come. I will probably come down to see him graduate and then we will know what is best for us all to do, much better than is possible now. Perhaps we can spend July and August here in the Adirondacks together. We will see. Go slow for the present.

A check from Funk and Wagnalls will probably come Mar. 15. It will be $4.50 less 1/4 for the Hamilton Review. Send it to me for endorsement.

You told of lots of things in your letter that I was glad to hear about. The Binghamton boys must have had a novel time. I suppose Mr. Hazzard is fairly settled by now. I wonder what was done with our piano box in his barn? Was glad of the Star telling about Mr. Barnes' death. He was a member of the church. Foolish to have Dr. Russell assist.

Bye, -- Will
Tuesday 3:40 P.M.

Dear Marion:-

Both your postal of Friday and letter of Sunday came today directly after dinner. I wonder why the postal was delayed, but will never know. A postal also came from Veva who was in Boston for a day or two. She took tea with Clark and Bertie, did some shopping etc. Berton was with her to attend the auto show.

A letter from Mrs. Collins came on Saturday. They were surprised to learn I was here, and asked how I got in, as my case was hardly incipient. I will have to write them in a few days. I will inclose the nice letters of Mr. and Mrs. Butler and the photo of their new home. I wrote them on Saturday.

We had a stereoptican lecture here last eve by a Rev. Woodbury, a Baptist, on his work among the lumbermen and mountainers of this section. The slides and equipment were quite poor, and his fast talk and story telling were quite tiresome. He said little or nothing about religion, was very egotistic and unministerial. I am not attracted by his type.

A copy of the Greenfield Gazette came today, sent by Mr. Elmer. It contained nothing marked or special. Shelburne and Buckland both went no license. I noticed an ad by the Franklin Savings Institution which I will cut out and inclose. It may be best to send in your pass book about Apr. 10 so the interest can be added till Apr. 1. Tell Auntie about it also.

A nice letter came from Margie which I will inclose. This, her first visit away from home, will be a great help to her, an education of itself. Ida and Bernard will enjoy her visit, I know.

I will send a check for the bill at the Pub. House soon. Part of it is for two books for Mrs. Kernochan, she paid me. I am glad that Miss Frost is better, and I hope she is worthy. She is a member anyway and ought to be helped, it seems. The funeral is my contribution.

Wed. 11:00 A.M. -- Will now try and finish this and mail some time during the afternoon. It is a little bleak today, snowing some. I may write Everett a letter in the course of a few days. Am sorry Bessie is in trouble again with her aunt, but she will have to bear the burden. All the Crawford Dames sent me souvenir cards with best wishes. Two cards came from Frank and Clara Hanford, and the rest on Sunday. I may write them a word on cards before Easter, but have no cards at present. In one sense I am glad Wilburn is through at Wolcotts, for he will have enough to do without it and perhaps will study more. Glad you and he had such a good ride and called on Mr. and Mrs. Hicks. It seems queer that Wilburn and I should both find a fountain pen. I am using mine right along and feel proud of it.

Get what coal you need, and see that the price agrees with my contract with them, namely $5.50 for furnace and $5.15 for nut and pea mixed. About the piano box I do not know just what is best to do. It may be best to take it to Mrs. Snider's if she charges no more rent. You might ask her, then do what seems best to you.

Mrs. Curry is quite in evidence, it seems. I hope she is patient. I will put down
the $20.71 on my cash book as board.

That was quite comical about the pulpit lamp and Mr. Farmer. In the long run, it proves best not to give a notice till you know for certain, just as I did with the Aid notices.

We have a St. Patrick’s Party here tomorrow night. All are asked to mask.

This is all I think of now, so good bye with love. -- Will

3:30 P.M.-- Have just handed out the milk and eggs. Will add a word and then go for a walk and mail this. The Globe came from Auntie after dinner. The account of the Herkimer flood was thrilling. Fortunate no one was drowned.-- W
Dear Marion:

I went to the post office at the morning walking hour, getting back at just 11:30. Had a fine walk, Rev. Liebich of Albany going with me. It was so nice out, a warm south west breeze is blowing, and it seems like living. Mr. Cole’s letter, with inclosure of check for $33.33, was happily received, and the receipt is forwarded to him by first mail. His check is duly indorsed by me and is herewith inclosed. You can draw the money on it at the 2nd National, pay Mr. Ryan and other most urgent bills first, and then I will send you a check for what you now need in addition, upon receipt of your letter.

If this reaches you tomorrow by the noon delivery you can get the check cashed before three o’clock. I am guessing that Mr. Ryan will phone you tomorrow, as it was the 5th of March the last time, I believe. It will be all right anyway. Seldom would others be so prompt.

The two copies of the Standard came duly to hand, and I have read the McEvoy matter with interest. I doubt from the reading whether the case is strong enough to implicate him in wrong doing. We will see later.

I sent a card to Veva this morning, also one to Anna in answer to hers which I enclosed to you. I wrote a letter to Clark yesterday, thanking for the box of medicine. I began taking it this morning, do not find it disagreeable so far. I start in moderately and gradually increase to full dose required. You remember Seilers tablets which I have used. These are about the same only dark colored and they have a tar smell. They come sealed in ising-glass tubes. I will probably know more about them as the days and weeks go by.

We had a good day yesterday, same as usual, Mr. Roberts being here. Not much news to write. When I hear from you I will know whether it is best to put in your application for Waitress. I want to make the date as early in June as possible. You could come right away after graduation if the vacancy should be at that time. Don’t tell others just at present.

With love, Will

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BWP note 1-- apparently “Clark” is a cousin. His letter to Will is included with this letter— some excerpts: “----I am sending you a remedy under separate cover that I want you to try--- It’s “Thym-Oxyn” a perfectly harmless preparation yet one that has been used with such marked success in cases of Tuberculosis and Pneumonia that a stock company has been formed to manufacture it to use in exterminating the “white plague”--Kindly use according to directions and report to me the noticeable results as apparent to yourself. This remedy can be secured from “The Thyme-Oxine Co.”, -- - Worcester, Mass, Dr. L. Allen, Med. Adviser--price $3.00” ----BWP--sounds like a quack remedy!!

note 2--Mr. Ryan is an officer in Cortland City Welfare. Grandpa received his certified help to be admitted into Ray Brook, where he could receive extra care. However Grandpa and Grandma didn’t wish to be on the “poor” list, so they are paying $5 of the money received each month back to the city.
Dear Marion:

It is nine o'clock, am on the porch again and tho it is a little cooler I will begin my letter to you. We can expect some cool weather now, I think, as we have been having so much real summer weather.

I was some disappointed over your hesitating about whether you and Wilburn better come here for July and Aug. You certainly need the change, a kind of an outing in the mountain air. With self and Wilburn here also, you would not mind the work. On the financial side it might be as well also. 2 months would be: $32 + 60 = $92. less $20 car fare, $72 net. Wilburn could not earn more than that at home, say nothing about the board for you both, you might possibly earn that by working extra hard.

I did not ask, but Wilburn would be a general hand here, I think. He might have to care for the horses, do carting and trucking, hoe in the garden, bring in supplies, drive people to Saranac Lake, etc. etc. I think he would like it, and then besides he and you would learn how the patients are cared for and how the institution is conducted, an education in itself. This side must not be forgotten in coming to a decision. Make up your minds as soon as you can so I can put in your application.

Tell Miss Day that I know very little about the Cayuga Association. She ought to have the Secretary's book which would tell her just how to proceed. In it is the Constitution and the record of recent years which would serve as guides. She ought to write for the book, or send someone for it, as it is none too early to begin planning for the annual program. If Mr. Rider does not send the book, then he ought to see to the program as before.

1:45 P.M. -- Have just got a letter from Clark. He says Margie is there yet, wants to see more of Boston before going to Veva's. He sent me some names of those who had taken Thymoxyne. What a hand he is to write. I will have to answer at once or else he will say I have cast him off. But I will wait a while nevertheless.

I stood the hot weather all right, no cold or set-back. It is better today, more like what we ought to have this time of year. I hope you are all right by this time.

Glad Mr. F. has a new wheel, hope he will enjoy it. It ought to help him. In Mrs. Welke's Easter card she said Mr. F. had not yet called. I don't believe that the Bucks put in $25, even, say nothing of the $47, into the church treasury. He was not at church 1/4 of the time, and gave nothing regularly save at suppers. $25 would be a large estimate for them, But??

Yes I visited the Saranac school in Jan. and saw Miss. Mildrim (I think it is, not "Malgram") and knew she was from Cortland Normal. Thought I told you about her. I went out walking twice today, with Rev. Mr. Liebich both times. We are quite friendly, don't talk religion at all. A slight covering of snow has fallen during the afternoon. I first intended to mail this before 7:30 tonight, but will wait till tomorrow so it will reach you Saturday afternoon.

Friday 3:40 P.M. -- It is the walking hour and as it is a little chilly outside will stay in my room and finish this. There is nothing new or special today. Walked out this
forenoon with Mr. Liebich. A new man, named Seldon of Rochester, came Monday. He plays the violin and we have had a drill two nights in succession. He is 21 and has about my skill. After he is here a week we will try it with the piano.

Have just sent cards to Julia Per Lee, Mrs. Powers, Van Sickie and Rowley of Mc Lean; Leah day of Cortland and Aunt Ella. Have only a few more then I will be caught up. It has been snowing a little today, and will probably be colder tonight. I rather expected a letter from you today. It seems that our letters cross.

Must now close with love and a kiss. I hope Wilburn will brace up in School.

Will

GEO. W. JENKS,
FINE FOOTWEAR.

Shelburne Falls, Mass., March 24, 1874.

Rev. W. D. Potter,

Dear Sir:-

It is with much pleasure that I follow the instructions of The Universalist Society to inform you that at their adjourned meeting, held March 27th, it was voted by every one present to retain you as their Pastor for another year.

This unanimous vote was an earnest expression of their appreciation for your services in the past, which have won for you the universal regard of your parishioners, who all extend to you most cordially this invitation to remain with them.

Very Sincerely Yours,

C. W. Jenks, Clerk

An Appreciative Parish
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Dear Marion:

Your newsy letter of Thursday and Friday last came to hand on Sunday. I showed the May flowers to a number here including Dr. Garvin. It is doubtful if any can grow in this section, as it is so far north. But they are just fine and very fragrant.

I do hope you neuralgia has all gone away before now. It is too bad to be held back in this way. I have finished answering my Easter cards today, and it seems good to be caught up once more.

I was glad to hear about Milburn and Oneonta and trust he is growing in dignity as you intimate. You can decide better perhaps when you see more of him at the time of his lecture. But he will not trouble you very much I think; the Taylors and Mrs. Parsons will probably take care of him. He knows how to bid for trade in connection with his foreign tour, and you will see how he works it at the time of his lecture.

It was very kind of Mrs. Van Hoeson to give Wilburn $5.00; it seems too good to be true. I hope that will put his wheel in good order again. It is too bad that the parish are behind in the payment of current bills. And it is an imposition upon Wilburn to keep him on the waiting list so long. Mr. Farmer will have some work to do if he wakes them up a little and makes them feel their obligations.

According to your suggestion I talked with Dr. Garvin about the medicine which Clark sent. I then left it with him for testing and analysis, as he desired to know all about it. He seemed suspicious concerning its claims. I shall see him at the earliest to learn what his estimate is, and will then let you know.

Am writing on the porch, and it is a little chilly for my fingers. Have on my fur coat. A slight covering of snow is on the ground. Went out walking with Rev. Liebich this forenoon. We have good visits and are real brotherly.

We are to be treated with a musical this evening beginning at seven o'clock. Talent: Dr. Brayton, pianist; Mrs. Brayton, vocalist; Mr. White, a patient, soloist. White is nearly cured and is to return home soon. I play almost daily on my violin and find it a helpful diversion. Mr. Selden who has practiced with me a little is now down in the infirmary with high temperature. Trust he will be up again soon.

I presume Mr. Ryan has called you up ere this. At any rate don't worry over it. Suppose you got the money on the check all right. That is certainly quite a help.

I have been thinking a little for a day or two of writing Mr. Weeden that he may plow up and use the land back of the house for $18.00. He could use 1/2 the manure which is under the barn this year and then the rest next year. What do you think? What makes me hesitate at all is that we might want to move there next fall, or a year from now; and if so, I had rather see to the plowing and seeding again myself. It may be the best to put it off a year and then we can see better where we are at.

I should say that poor Bro. Richards is having a hard time. The Baltimore parish is very thoughtful, and I trust he will be able to take up the work there in due time. His successor at Fort Plain is almost as bad off as Riegel. I am quite
suspicious that Bro. R. is too opinionated and high tempered. I did not know that his wife was ordained, so much the worse as too many cooks spoil the broth.

I will put in some more of my Easter cards, so you may see them and then do what you think best with them.

Veva sent me some "Plaindealers" recently, and in the issue of Mar. 8, I notice the death of Ida's sister, a Mrs. Emma Clark, on Mar. 2nd. Strange that Ida did not write about it. Leah Smith here did not know of it till I told her today.

Guess I have told all the news so will close for this time. Think hard about coming up and let me know. Try and let me know the date of Wilburn's graduation as I may come down.

With love -- Will
Ray Brook, N.Y., Wed. Apr. 13, 1910

Your nice newsy letter was received after dinner, and as I have not time
eough to answer it so as to mail tonight will simply write this card which will do for
now. Perhaps it will be warmer on the porch tomorrow or next dy, so I may write all
the better and fuller. Yours will then be at hand, and I will have all the more to tell.
Sorry our letters cross. My waiting will stop it. I am so glad you are feeling better,
keep right on. I will put in your application at once, subject to call on June 25, and
then we can see how things will turn. I walked today both morning and afternoon. My
weight keeps just the same, 139 lbs which is very good indeed. I am certainly on the
gain. At this change of weather many here are on the sick list. Why don't you try
Dr. Andrus? I suppose Mrs. Murray is now at home again. Good bye -- Will
Motorcycle Rage!

Cousin Robert Harrington and friend—motorcycle with sidecar

Wilburn Herrick Potter—"50 miles on a quart"!!
Ray Brook, N.Y., Apr. 14, 1910

Dear Marion:-

It is just about nine, have come out on the porch, am in my chair again, the mercury stands at 44, a little warmer than yesterday,--the conditions are right to begin a letter to you. I am also feeling fine, having a good night's rest and a hearty breakfast. Made my bed, swept the floor, carbolized my glass stand, brushed my teeth, all preparatory to this hour.

I sent you a postal last night, so may wait until your next letter is at hand before finishing and mailing this. This will save our letters from crossing on the way.

I was at headquarters all last evening. Saw Miss Cleland, the matron, first and put in your application for waitress to begin any time after June 25. I then saw Dr. Garvin about what he found out relative to Clark's medicine. As I told you in my last, I gave the whole box to him Sunday afternoon for examination. And upon analysis he found it simply turpentine. He said not to take it, as it would harm rather than help the disease. It was another sell, as he said, like so many others he had seen. I then asked how so many cures came to be attributed to its use; and he said that was common: break your leg, for instance, rub salve on the head, and the salve did the cure. This is the way the average mind draws conclusions.

So I am evidently through with "Thym--Oxyn Tablets", Dr. Garvin having probably consigned them to the dump. At least he did not return them to me. I suppose now it will be in order to inform Clark of the outcome after a week's trial. This will only be just for him and myself. It all grew out of your suggestion in the letter which came to hand Sunday. So much for this "cure all".

I next went to Dr. Brayton to have him examine my nose and throat. Dr. Hallock said there was a bone that projected in the the passage-way and would have to be removed in due time. As it did not affect my breathing in the least, Dr. B. said it would not be necessary to remove it, and not perhaps advisable, but he would remove it if I so decided. We concluded to let it go as it is. He said I had catarrh somewhat, and some of my sputum came therefrom. Said my throat was in good order. He treated the nasal passage with menthol, which felt good, and said to come again Sat. eve. for a second treatment. I like Dr. Brayton more and more, as he shows so much interest in my case and is so approachable and kind. And more than all else, he said I would surely get well but would take a longer time to do it than many who come here. And so he did me lots of good.

You spoke of Mrs. Phillips. Sorry she has overdone and is suffering with the results. She is very kind to you. I have already sent her a card in reply to her Easter card. You may say to her that I had so many Easter cards that a number of days passed before I could answer all.

Friday, Apr. 15:--Will continue the epistle on this bright and warm, 9:15 A.M., in my chair on the porch. Had a fine night's rest, did not wake up till the whistle blew at 7. So am ready for a full and helpful day.
The S.L.U. blank from Prof. Hardie will not apply to me. We will not have to fill it out. The new history of St. Lawrence, however, I would like very much. But I will let it go by for the present, and then can buy it later if the conditions warrant.

If Wilburn kicks up such a row every time he (who? bwp) comes to Cortland it would be far better for the church to have nothing to do with him. Mr. F. may come to this conclusion after a time, just as I did.

I am glad that Wilburn has his wheel fixed up in good shape, hope it will serve him for the rest of the season. He deserves a good one. Glad his pay for janitor has come. It was probably due to the Easter offering. Trust the society will now be able to keep square.

I am on for examination this morning at 11:40. May then have some news to tell. Three of us, Mr. Liebich, Hurley & self, have asked permission to wander out in the woods from 2-4 this afternoon. Will now stop, then add a word after supper this evening before mailing.

4:40 P.M.---Your card came after dinner in answer to mine of Wed. Quick work! Will mail this tonight so you will get it tomorrow. Am glad you are feeling so much better, keep right on and we will be grateful.

I was examined by Dr. Eikel just before dinner. He was very careful. This was his specialty at Buffalo before he came here. He is probably supplying while Dr. Bray is away on vacation. He told me nothing new, said to have patience and keep right on as I was on the right road. This is all the good news I have to tell about myself.

The chief cook here, a Mr. Lincoln was ill with tuberculosis 2 1/2 years, confined much of the time, but is now as hail & hearty as ever. You will see him when you come up.

As already indicated, we were out wandering about from 2 to 4:30. The afternoon was warm and sunny and the slow tramp, go as you please outing, did me good. We went so slow that it did not tire us out at all. Will no doubt take similar trips often.

If you write Sunday afternoon it may reach me Tuesday after dinner. Still your postal was mailed at the office on Thursday at 1:10 P.M. and reached me today, Friday, after dinner. That was quick time.

I don’t think of anything more, so will close for this time. With love---Will

P.S.—Will put in some more postals.
Ray Brook, N.Y.
Apr. 22, 1910

My Dear Wilburn:-

The fact has been coming to my mind for two or three days past that tomorrow
is the anniversary of your birth and when you will be eighteen years old. This so
impresses me in my quietude here that I am penning you a word of congratulation
and taking this beautiful hour of morning for a short visit.

You can little realize how I miss you as I sit here from day to day doing my best
to get well and strong again. And so I am longing to see you. Your photograph adorns
the bureau in my room here, and that is very gratifying, but to see you face to face
would be still more so.

I sincerely hope, therefore, that both you and mamma can be with me during
July and August. It will not only help me in my loneliness but will prove, I am
confident, a rich experience to yourself, as you will learn at first hand the way things
are done here, an education in itself. And it will be better to you in the future than
simple dollars and cents, and the free air of this mountain region will do you both
incredible good.

Looking forward to this valuable and happy experience you will do all the better
in your work from now until graduation time in June. You can well afford to do the
very best work possible, both for your own good name and for that of your parents,
knowing also that your reward will be great.

I am reading just at present from the works of Robert Louis Stevenson. Years
ago I read his “Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde”, and have just read it again. Have now read
also his, “The Merry Men”, “Will of the Mill”, and “Markheim”, all very good, especially
the second.

I expect to roam in the woods this afternoon from 2-4:30, a Mr. Hurley and Mr.
Leibich being of my company. We go slowly, visit, and drink in the glories, just what
we need.

A very young patient of only eleven years came here yesterday from Albany.
He is cute as he can be and quite the centre of interest. His trouble is shown in a
tubercular sore of the neck. His father is dead, going with consumption and the
mother works in a candy store. But the poor little fellow seems happy and ought to
outgrow his trouble. We who are well and strong ought to be grateful, and try to take
the best possible care of ourselves at all times.

I am wondering on what day your graduation occurs, and how you are getting
along with your various subjects of study? In what subjects do you yet have to pass
in Regents? I trust your marks will be sufficiently high in each to pass with honor.
Well, you see how interested I am in all you do, and the good word and the good report
only makes me gain the faster.
I am glad that Mrs. Murray is so kind and thoughtful in your behalf, as Mamma has often written. But that you are worthy of such favor is the best of it all, however good the financial part of it may be.

How does the wheel go since you got it fixed up? Well, I trust. And can you keep up with Mr. Farmer on his new one? Wish I might see you start out for a ride together. Now enjoy yourself and accept my deepest love and hearty good wishes. Good bye for this time, and remember that I would be delighted to hear from you.

Papa

W.D.P.

WDP's granddaughter-- Marian Potter Kitts with her family----1957
L - R: father-in law Lester Kitts; son, David; daughter, Jean; exchange student from Spain; son, Lawrence; Marian; son, Harry Jr; husband, Harry Kitts
Ray Brook, NY, Apr. 23, 1910, 2:05 PM

Dear Marion:

Will begin a letter to you now, and then add to it and finish later. Yours came to hand after dinner, have just finished reading it, also the one by Mrs. Jaynes which was inclosed. The Jaynes will never forget us, will they? How I would like to see them. You must send them a letter at your first opportunity.

I was very sorry to hear about the Shakespeare reader’s failure. Hope it won’t hurt the church any, as was feared by the note in the paper the next day. You remember the matter of renting the church to outsiders for secular purposes was voted down by the trustees when I was pastor. That vote cut out a lecture on spiritualism but now they have gone back to their own decision renting to Mr. Howard, and the disgrace which he has brought is good punishment for their selfish and unstable action. We, at that time, talked it all over and decided that it would be best for the church not to rent it for any secular purposes whatever. Consult the record book and you will see just what was voted. How inconsistent people can be!

I am glad Wilburn is making the garden, a good experience for him even if you both come up on July 1. Mr. F. can use the supplies if you come. Anyway it is good to plant it and it will do somebody good. Wish I were there to work in it as I was last year. It is now so much easier to work being free from sod and stone. Don’t forget the row of sweet peas and put up the wire at time of planting.

Sorry Mr. Coleman is going to move. Remember me to him if you see him ere he goes.

I am glad that Wilburn is studying hard, so as to win for graduation in June. We want him to do well, the very best he can. He is 18 today. I sent him a birthday letter yesterday, hoping it would reach him today noon, and encourage him to do his best. I inclosed a dollar bill.

Dr. Cromwell treated my nose again last night, and I go again Monday night. I am glad you feel so well. Don’t go down to Mrs. Edson’s if you have sewing of your own to do. Just save yourself a little!

Two letters came yesterday,—one from Cora Ward and the other from Adon Dayton. Cora’s was registered and contained two five dollar bills. I wrote her at once inclosing a receipt. Please find the note, or perhaps better the one with a chattel security, and indorse the amount and date on same. But one payment has been made on that one, if I remember aright, and that was $50. This new indorsement will keep it from outlawing. The other note is newer and fresh with indorsements. I will inclose Cora’s letter. How I wish we could accept her invitation and all be there for the summer, or during July and August. I so wrote her, but thought it doubtful, although we did not know for certain just what as a family we would do. If you get time a little later perhaps you might write her.
Adon wrote nicely, & inclosed an itinerary of Wilburn's tour. He said Wilburn had asked him to join the tour, but probably would not accept. I may inclose his letter to you a little later, or after I answer it. Now for the milk and eggs!

**Monday Apr. 25**--Am in the chair again. It is nine o'clock. It is cloudy and beginning to rain. Will mail this so it will go out tonight. No mail leaves here on Sunday, so it would be useless for me to have finished this yesterday and put it in the box.

I have nothing special to tell. We passed a pleasant Sunday, my class at 11:30 as usual. Walked with Mr. Liebich in P.M. It was real sultry. Mr. L. is still pastor; has had a supply since he left Albany, but his people are in a row with him. And Mr. L is going home on Thursday to fix up things. He is not well and ought not to have the worry on his hands. But that is the way if you are pastor, the burden is on him. Am so glad that I resigned, and free for a while.

Mr. Selden, my co-violinist, has been in the infirmary for a number of days. He runs a temperature, but plays his violin in bed. He sent for me to come and play with him. I got a special permit, and was down Sat. eve and played with him to our mutual delight. He is all music. I will go down again tonight for a while, and then to the doctor's for treatment of my nose.

We all gave in a sample of our sputum this morning. This is usually done once each month. A little pasteboard box is given for the purpose the night before. We are not told of the result of the examination. Several are going home this week, each better or apparently cured, and so the change here is constant.

Plasterers are now at work on the interior of the new west addition. Scores of men are at work also on the east L. This is a busy place just now. We put up the screens here last week, each patient helping unless excused for cause. Nearly all the boys were able to assist. It took an hour on each of three days to do the work. We used the morning walking hour of rainy days, and rather enjoyed the diversion.

1:40 P.M.--A letter has just come from Clark. He is some disappointed about the medicine, and wants to know the result of Dr. Garvin's analysis, etc. But I will be unable to tell him. Margie is at Veva's now, and Gertie & Sidney were there three or four days having a big time. He praised Margie, said Veva was to come back with her to Boston, and then all were to visit Plymouth together. Gertie said father looks like a man of 60, she had not seen him since 1889. Clark was glad Wilburn was going to St. Lawrence in the fall to honor the family with Margie.

With love and a kiss,--Will

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Margie, Wendell and Anna's daughter, cousin of Wilburn H. was going to St. Lawrence U. It was hoped that Wilburn H. would go to the Canton Ag. School after high school. My recollections are that Margie was never a real healthy person. bw
The New York State Sanitarium at Ray Brook--date unknown

This was the treatment hospital for tuberculosis. It is now the Adirondack Correctional Facility. On May 10, 1999 I was permitted to tour the facility and take pictures. Supt. Gale McGuane gave me this aerial view when it was a hospital.

On the same day Margaret and I visited the Trudeau Institute at Saranac Lake. Grandpa Potter refers to Trudeau in his letters. At that time it, also, was a tuberculosis treatment center. It was founded in 1884 by Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau. It closed as a treatment center in 1954. Since then it has continued as a Research Institute in cancer, malaria, the immune system, to name several. It is expanding as of this date. The founder is the great grandfather of Gary Trudeau--“Doonesbury”! bwp 6-4-99
Dear Marion:

I was out during the walking hour, 3-4:30, and now before supper will begin a letter to you in answer to yours which came to hand after dinner. Your letter came through quicker this time, it coming in less than 24 hours when it has more often taken nearly 48 hours.

I see you keep very busy, as usual, sewing, cleaning, playing, etc. Glad you called on Mrs. Welke. You must ask Mr. Farmer to call there, and thus hold her to the church. Tell Mr. F. just how matters stand and he will gladly go. Sorry he was not at hand to attend the Jones funeral. But such often happens.

Glad you can ride out once in a while, as down to the Hazzards, eat with them, etc., & then have Dorothy with you. The $6,000 mortgage on their farm is more than I had suspected. Has the census man been to you yet? I suppose you will have to answer for me, as I will be counted there and not here.

That was a fine day's work for Wilburn to earn $2.25. It hardly seems possible. It was better than to work at Wolcotts. My ministerial friend of Albany, Mr. Liebich, went home this morning, expecting to be gone a week. His church is in a row, and they have sent for him to come and try to straighten things up. He is yet the pastor, pays for his supply, etc. but bears the responsibility. He has a wife and 8 children, the youngest about a year old, the oldest about 16. He is terribly unnerved & needs a rest. Dr. G. says he ought to stay here till at least Oct. 1. He has had shoes and clothing while here, all furnished & paid for by the State. His salary is $1,000. He is German and I like him very much so far. He preaches in German, and yet talks good English. So much for him, and probably more later. His age is 39.

I am surprised that the Widgers have another boy! You see they are up to date, and perhaps a little ahead of the date! But live while you may is the motto of progress. They may catch up with Mr. Liebich.

Mrs. Ellis, I fear, will never like any one but Wilburn. Poor woman, I feel sorry for her. If she would go right along and do her part all would be the same to her.

I will soon be on temperature again, probably about Saturday. It lasts two days, if normal. The last time I got a fine record, about normal at each test. Am hoping for good results this time, also. We will see.

A Mr. Selden & I are playing our violins nearly every evening, say for a half hour or so each time. It goes very good. We use my music. Am glad I brought it along. I play the 2nd part usually.

On my walk today I got a nice chew of gum from a spruce tree in the woods. This is the 3rd such. It is considered healthy. We will go together and gather some when you come up.
Friday 9 A.M.:--Last evening I asked Miss Smith about the sewing machine and she said there was an old one but you would not be able to use it, as it was so used up and out of repair. So don't bother yourself over the sewing. Do a little of the necessary before you come up, then buy the rest. Don't try to do too much as it will come out all right. Keep out of doors all you can.

I suppose you sent on the bank books to Athol and Greenfield.

I see by the Rochester "Outlook" that Grose did not accept his offer. Shall wonder if it was the Superintendency that was offered to him; also who has been finally chosen to the office.

Mrs. Brand assigned me to an extra job yesterday, namely, to help receive & distribute the linen on the men's side. Mr Liebich and I do it together. We go to the linen room just after dinner on Sundays where we receive the soiled linen of each patient, 5 pieces usually. One credits the same in a book to each, and the other places each piece in its proper basket for the laundry. This is very easy work, you see, and just once a week. It is in addition to my present work of distributing the milk and eggs. Really, it is a kind of play and not work.

A nice letter from Ida came on Wed. and which I will inclose. She is rushed, as you will see, much like the rest of us you see.

This is one of the finest of spring days. Must go out walking at 10:30. May have a word more to add after dinner, and will then finish & mail it, so as to reach you tomorrow & mail it, so as to reach you tomorrow.

3:40 P.M.:--Just a word more ere I go out for a walk.

A card came from Cousin Mable Smith this morn. All well. Nothing special. A letter came from Veva also at noon. She is overdoing with work. Did not speak very complimentary of Gertie, said they were in a hard way, and still planning to go and spend all the time.

Veva however, lauds Margie and is doing all she can for her. Burton takes her riding, etc, to the delight of all. She said Margie is not very strong, and she is trying to brace her up. Must now close & mail. With love--Will
Enclosed with the previous letter was one from Aunt Ida Potter, Uncle Bernard's wife. Uncle Bernard, Grandpa Potter's younger brother worked for the Worthington Pump Co. He installed and serviced pumps all over the U.S.A and even down into Cuaracus and Venezuela—so he was travelling most of the time.

Ida tells, in the letter, about her selling a motorcycle. Evidently Uncle Bernard had the agency to sell Harley-Davidson motorcycles. She also writes about Margie. Margie, the daughter of Uncle Wendell and Aunt Anna was never a very well young lady but so lovely and admired by all who she was with.

Uncle Bernard also is an inventor. Aunt Ida writes--, “Bernard is in a little worry over his stroke measuring patent. A firm in N.Y. have come out with a nearly identical meter. They are sending out circulars advertising very extensively and it seems a complete infringement. He has been looking into it a little. It may turn into our hands in the end, as it is a thing that has to create its own demand and they can do the pushing & B. can come in later and outsell them as his is superior to theirs.”

Aunt Ida, Uncle Bernard and their son, Manley, often visited us on our farm in Truxton when we were growing up. It was especially very exciting for me as I was his namesake. Manley was a wonderful pianist, having played many times over radio station KDKA in Pittsburgh. Manley played for us when he came to the farm. He graduated from Worchester Polytechnic Institute.

From reading these letters I gather that Wendell, Wilburn and Bernard were very close as brothers.
Marion Esther Herrick Potter

as a child

July 18, 1891
11 days before marriage to Wilburn D. Potter

1st gr. grandchild
David Wilburn Kitts—born 12-31-38

son—Wilburn Herrick Potter
gr. daughter Marian Potter Kitts & son, David ’39
Dear Marion:

It is some rainy today, the air is soft and warm, just the thing for this new month of May. I don't seem to have much news to write, but will start a letter and then finish it after yours arrives.

Have just written a card to sister Veva in answer to her letter of Apr. 28. I can get quite a bit of news on a common postal, and in many cases it will do just as well as a letter. Veva sent "Plaindealers" as usual, but no special news to me. She felt a pity for Gertie, intimated about their embarrassing finances (the Paddocks), and said her & Sidney's stay from Saturday till Tuesday was too long as G. would not raise even a finger to help. You know how it is. She is enjoying Margie's stay, however, and cannot say enough in her behalf. She said Margie was not very strong, and needed "bringing out and bracing up" a little. All in all it was a very good letter.

I must tell you about Mr. Henderson, a patient who came soon after I did. He is from Belmont. He made an application for his wife as waitress here. She came Sat. morning, and is now at work, and seems to enjoy it. To be with him is the main thing, so she says. They go out together at the walking hour, also see each other at other times. He acts as Supt. of the S.S. They are fine people. His condition is about the same as mine.

A letter just at hand from Mrs. Collins, extolling their new environment and saying they were all unusually well. She says that Mrs. Canfield writes how lonesome she is and that she means to visit them sometimes. I will write her again before many days pass.

Patients are coming and going. 7 new ones are coming this morning. Dr. Bray returned this morning from a month's vacation & looking well. He greeted me with much warmth and said I was looking better.

Tuesday---It is cloudy and rainy. We had a hard thunder shower during the night, the air seems better today. The boys are now mending their fur coats, each doing his own, preparatory to fumigating and putting away for the summer. Mrs. Brand says they do it even better than the girls. I have none to do, as I own my own coat.

I was very glad to learn from the clipping, under No. Orange, that the young people there have a live Y.P.C.U. Cortland, I presume, might be ripe for one. Sometimes a new thing takes like wild fire. Perhaps it is an opportunity for the right person or the right kind of a minister.

Tuesday P.M.---Your letter came after dinner, also one from Wendell. It is now about five, will be in my chair till the first supper whistle blows at 5:45. It is raining very hard, is growing colder and may finally snow.

You must not work too hard house cleaning, go slow, a little at a time. Was glad the Athol books and the one at Greenfield had been seen to, showing so good an
aggregate of interest, and that you will see to the Orange book in due time. Yes, there are two notes of Everett's, and which you will probably find in the lower right drawer of the writing desk. Be sure that the indorsement is made, as already indicated, and let me know.

In regard to Mrs. Murray's offer to Wilburn, I feel that it will not amount to anything, as she will doubtless find her man. It would spoil Wilburn, I am afraid. Would rather have him here with me, especially if you also come, so we can plan together and enjoy it as well. Then he will be ready for the agricultural course either at Canton or Ithaca. But I presume it will be hard to decide what is best to do. To put off going to college longer than this fall would not be wise, generally speaking. Perhaps I had better come down to graduation, and then we will all know what is best for each of us to do,—whether to come up here together or to take separate ways.

Mr. Ryan was very slow in notifying you of my bill, but it is just as well, it making little difference if they only get the money. 30 days is usually reckoned as cash. I will put the amount down in my cash account book.

To have Miss Williams and Mrs. Porter at church on the same day was quite a coincidence. I suppose it is Mrs. Dr. Porter from Upper Lisle.

Yes, I fear that Mr. Farmer does seem a little Kiddish, and that the people are only making fun of him in his love. Glad I am not his guardian!

Shall be glad to hear how Wilburn came out with his lecture in the three places. The missionary number of "Onward" which you sent was fine, & glad you sent it.

Impress upon Wilburn's mind, if you can, the all round value to him of a college education, and that he has money enough himself, with what he could earn vacations, to pay his way. That would no doubt be the best way possible for him to spend it.

Wendell has a chance to go on the R.R. again, but thinks he will say "no", so as to be at home more. All else about the same.

With Love---Will
Dear Marion:

Your letter came right after, and, just think on the next day after mailing. So will scribble a few lines to you, mail before 7:30, and you will get it tomorrow, i.e., if there is no delay as there was last week.

It may be just as well for Wilburn to accept Mrs. Murray's provisional offer. Do just as you think best. It will certainly be a good experience for him, perhaps as good as coming up here. I will only be the loser, and you as well, for we will see him very little if any, certainly not if you should come up. She will probably run across some one else to help her. If, however, he should be chosen it would be exceeding hard to break off in Sept. to go to school. If he isn't going to school then it will not make so much difference.

I will inclose Leah's card, also one from cousin Mabel. Charlotte was very kind to write telling of Mr. and Mrs. Mallory's deaths. Will inclose her letter which I answered yesterday. I am on temperature today and tomorrow. Today: morning, 97.4 noon 99.4; evening 99.2. Not very bad, you see.

Glad the lectures were a success, and that Wilburn called on you and imparted so much news about Oneonta. Was surprised to hear that Brainard is now a Methodist and Julia an Atheist. Hope Mrs. B. will write me.

Sorry to learn of Mr. Albright's death, and glad Mr. Farmer attended the funeral.

I presume your call to come up here will be on short notice, and yet I don't know for sure.

My time is up and so will close for this time.

With Love, Will
Ray Brook, NY, Wed, May 11, 1910

Dear Marion:

I have done up the usual morning's work and am in my chair on the porch. It is not far from 9:30, so will write until milk and egg time, and then finish before night as opportunity offers.

Yours came yesterday after dinner. As it was a cold & cloudy day I could not write on the porch, and so am writing today such news as comes to mind.

I was interested to hear about the Kenyons, the Trumans, the Albright funeral, the Buckley wedding, etc, etc, and more about you and Wilburn. Glad he is busy in his school work & planning for graduation day. His cards will be very nice at six cents apiece. The senior ball, must have been fine, and he did well to care for two girls.

Mrs. Henderson told me this morning that they were short of help here and (they) asked her if she knew of anyone to recommend. What a fine thing it would be if you could only come now, when there is a vacancy, and not run the chances later. No one can tell for sure that there will be a vacancy here on July 1, but the probability is that there will be. So all you can do is to run your chances. If I were you, I would do up the necessary sewing, so you would be free to come upon call any time after June 20, or graduation time. I may yet decide to come home at graduation time. Will first see how I feel and what Dr. Garvin says. What do you think about it?

I don't seem to have much of any news to write. All is about the same here. Mr. Liebich, my minister friend of Albany, has not returned yet. Am looking for him daily; he has been gone two weeks. Still he may not return.

A few of us met yesterday to drill on hymns for use in the S.S. It went fairly well. Mr. Selden helped with his violin. He played Sunday morning to good acceptance. We drill together almost daily. I usually play the 2nd, using my music. I like it very much as it helps break the monotony besides being a source of pleasure. Since Mr. Liebich's absence his S.S. class has united with mine. I therefore speak to about 20 each Sunday, and we enjoy it very much.

Today is weight day again, and my weight just before dinner was 138 1/2. You see I keep just the same as when I came. I will inclose two more souvenir cards received, also Adon Dayton's letter. Glad you called on Lowe's. Am wearing my fur coat today. Good bye for this time. With Love,---Will
Dear Marion:

It is the time of walking, just a little after four, have dealt out the milk and eggs, ruled a piece of paper for my linen list, and now I will begin a letter to you.

Today is cloudy and quite cool, and I am sitting out in my fur coat. Just think of it, a fur coat in the month of May! But it no doubt best to wear it if needed for comfort, whether in summer or winter.

I am learning a new game of cards called Penuncle, taking my first lesson today. A double eucre deck is required to play it, and it is much more complex than euchre. Guess I will like it when I get sufficiently learned. A Mr. Henderson, Mr. Nelson, & Mr. Kenyon were the other three. We sit near to each other on the porch.

A paper came yesterday from Ida telling about their recent campaign of money raising for the Y.W.C.T.U. of Holyoke. It enclosed also a booklet of the new organ, and which she wanted I should send on to you. This I will do at the first opportunity, perhaps today. It will not make any special difference, however, when I send it.

Sat P.M.---It is still cloudy and cold for May. Wilburn's postcard came after dinner, and he did well to write so much news on it. I was expecting a line today. Am so sorry you are not feeling well, but trust you will be all right by this time. Be sure and keep comfortable, don't let the fire go out if you are at all cold or chilly. It don't pay to get cold.

The tents are to be put up next week, so I learned today, and I have applied for one for the summer. I sincerely hope that I will be fortunate enough to have one assigned to me. We will see.

A card came from Adon Dayton, but it said nothing special only all were well.

Workmen are thick around here, busy on the new addition to the hospital. It is slowly raining as I write. Am on the porch, did not go out this afternoon to walk. Went this forenoon. On my walk yesterday I saw two woodchucks.

I will send you a check next time. About how much will I send?

Must now close, with love.

Will
The following two letters were written by W.D. Potter’s brother, Wendell, and his sister, Veva, and were included with the previous letter.

Sunday eve. Herkimer, N.Y., May 1, 1910

My Dear Brother:-

It is now just 8 o’clock and I will try and think up a short letter before going to bed. We are all well and busy and sincerely hope this will find you still on the gain, but of course you cannot be busy like myself. It seems so at this time of the year there is so much to do, and the time passes so quickly and it is night before one gets much done. I know that I ought to have written you before this but it is pretty hard to get at it when one is so tired.

Last Sunday I worked some on the bees and went to Little Falls in the afternoon to look over the barge canal work. I could see great progress in one years time. I left one year ago. I am up in the morning about 4:30 and go to work at my bee stuff—hives, frames, etc and then I get out of the shop anywhere from 4 PM to 5 PM and sometimes 6 and go to work again on the bees. I tell you I am one of the busy men now keeping the shop work a going and the bees too. Have spent over $12.00 for bee material now and about $15.00 more will have to go soon. Grass, trees and everything in general is looking fine, but it is quite cold yet.

We hear from Margie regular and her letters do us lots of good, and I am getting anxious for her to come home. She is thoroughly enjoying herself and making a good study of her trip. Berton says he will make her weight 165 lbs before she goes home. Berton and Veva sent Frances a nice Kodak for her birthday present. Wasn’t that fine in them.

How is Marion and Wilburn? The date of your last letter is Apr. 6th. How time flies! They want me again on the RR. I don’t know hardly what to do but have about come to the conclusion to stay in the shop. If I would go on the road again, would lose my good shop job that I now have and could not run the bee business well on the road. I want to go like a dog too.

Masonic meeting next Tue. eve. but don’t think I will go. Did I tell you that Burton Martindale was a Mason. He likes it.

Well dear I will close and go to bed. Write when you can and come when you can and stay as long as you can. Good night--with lots of love from Wendell.

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The letter from Veva Potter Storrs (Mrs. Burton Storrs) follows. W.D.Potter notes at the end that the date was about April 28, (1910)

Friday--

Dear Will:-

It has been sometime since I have written you a letter so now while I am alone a few minutes I will visit a little while. Burton is out in his machine and Margie is out looking for flowers. Margie came last Sat. and Gertie with her boy Sidney came too, staying till the following Tues. at 4 o’clock. I enjoyed the visit with Gertie very much but--she stayed quite long enough for she didn’t help me do my work and of course it was quite a tax on me—not being used to a lively boy too was quite wearing.
I'd prefer she came oftener and stay shorter time for she hasn't the knack of making her stay easy for one who has everything to do alone. How the food did disappear too—to get enough to satisfy us all was almost I could do, say nothing of doing the many, many other things one has to do with guests in the house. Burton took them to Newport Sun. and showed them all tobe seen this time of year.

Gertie's case is a pathetic one but nothing can be done guess at this time of life. They are in tight circumstances now and so is the daughter who is married and yet she is planning to go to Maine this summer and to Canton. I wouldn't think of going outside of Portsmouth were I in the financial circumstances they are in. It is sad—yet they are so kind hearted and would do anything to make others happy and I did appreciate the hearty welcome they gave me to their home—and I want to do as much for them, but I haven't the physical strength to keep it up and do my work the way I do it—so a short visit I can manage you see what I mean.

We are enjoying Margie very much. Burton takes her with him every time she is ready to go—she is very quiet but is talking more as she gets acquainted—she needs bringing out—she is just the age when one is uncertain what course to pursue. I am proud of her ability as a student—and I forsee a successful career for her—I wish she were a little more talkative so one could learn more from her for she certainly knows a lot. She showed me little piece of poetry you wrote since at Saranac Lake—it was fine. She is practicing on the violin now--

I took her to Newport with me on the the trolley yesterday—as I had to go to the dentist. Then we went to a silver wedding anniversary in the evening so we had quite a day of it—I feel so tired all the time that I haven't much enthusiasm to do anything outside the regular routine but as long she is to stay quite a little while, I don't need to do everything in a short time.

I haven't begun my spring house cleaning yet and I wish I could run away from it. Father is well and we haven't had a row for quite a while—I can stand it pretty well but when he gets to ranting it seems as if I will fly—He went to Newport the other day alone and bought him a new pair of patent leather low shoes—a hat and a lot of little stuff. He wanted to buy him a Panama hat—and I told him it was too expensive for a man of his means and whether he will get it I can't say—.

I wonder if you are gaining as you ought. From your cards I thot you were not—but remained as usual—I want to hear you say you are gaining.

Here it is Wed. and I began this last Fri. but was just too lazy to finish it. Mr Pearce (you remember him) was in Sun. and was inquiring for you. Margie and I are going to a chicken supper tonight and to Newport tomorrow. I am going to take her to my dentist to have some teeth filled—Has Wilburn decided to go to St. Law. yet?

I am afraid Margie will not be strong enough to stand the strenuous college life—I have had Burton fix up a tonic for her and I am going to try and get her braced up while she is here—I am so glad to have her here and Burton enjoys her too—we will miss her when she goes. Well I must change my dress before I get caught--

Lots of Love, Veva

Margie and Frances are Wendell’s and Anna’s daughters. Gertie don’t know. Burton (sometimes written “Berton”), Veva’s husband is a medical doctor. BWP
Dear Marion:

It is a nice bright morning, have finished my room work and am on the porch again. It is just nine o'clock

I sincerely hope you are much better this morning, in fact as well as ever and doing your usual work. You probably took cold. Am glad it is now warming up a little for sowing and planting and for our comfort as well.

I am feeling fine these days, did not have the least bit of a cold, eat and sleep first class. If I keep regular and persistent in the cure I am certain to win out and to get reasonably well. I look well and my weight keeps the same at 138 1/2 pounds.

Had a good day yesterday in S.S. Mr. Liebich's class came in with mine and I taught them all. We expect him back daily. Mr. Selden assisted in the singing with his violin. It was his second Sunday and it went better than the first time. We meet Tuesday at 4:30 to drill on the hymns.

Father Burke of Lake Placid celebrated mass yesterday at 8 A.M. The majority of the patients here are Catholics, it seems, and the Sunday morning he comes we have breakfast 15 minutes earlier, or at 7:30.

I missed the Leader yesterday in S.S., or in preparation of the lesson. It did not come to hand till after dinner. Try and send it a day or so earlier if you can.

I see by the Leader that good Dr. Deere is dead, a fine tribute being paid to him. It gave the places of his settlement but Shelburne Falls was not included. That omission struck me strangely, for he was there six years, did a grand work. It is all the more strange when we note the fact that the list of his pastorates is taken from his own autobiography; so said the article.

I read in the weekly Republican that Dr. Perin had resigned his pastorate to give all his time to the Franklin Square house which he founded. Thus the changes take place.

Evening --- At the walking hour this afternoon each male patient had his teeth examined. We filed into the office the three doctors doing the work. It was all done in about an hours time. The same is to be done with the ladies, I suppose. About the chief purpose of this we know not, but it probably bears in some way on our health as affected by the teeth.

Tuesday --- Here it is Tuesday 9 A.M. It is a warm breezy morning, just fine out here on the porch. Will add a word now, and, if yours comes at noon, will finish and mail this afternoon.

The census taker was here on Sat. asking the usual questions of each patient, as: age, birthplace, parentage, occupation, married or single, time lost last year, etc. I wondered if you reported for me at Cortland also; or if you answered simply for yourself and Wilburn. Please let me know in your next.
We have a very sick boy here, a Mr. Gordon from New York. He is about 35, has known that he has the trouble 4 1/2 years and yet kept at work till about a month ago when he gave up and came up here. He was so poor, his eyes stared with a look of despair, and he coughed and raised excessively. He gave up and took to his bed Saturday. In the meantime his temperature has been as high as 105 degrees, pulse 180, eats very little, and breathes heavily. It made me sorry to look at him, yet I have seen him but once since confinements. I prefer to keep away. He has special care, and a nurse to tend him nights. We don't see how he can recover. He has a wife, and two children of about 10 and 8 years.

10:40 A.M. --- We have a new mail carrier, a Mr. Hurley who went on duty yesterday. His room is just opposite mine and he sits near me on the porch. He goes down to the office three times daily,--9:00, 11:30 and 7:30. On his morning trip he brought me your letter, handing it to me at about 9:30. And I was so glad to get it, and to know you were better. So after the milk was given out I thought it best to return to the porch and visit with you, and then take my walk this afternoon. I have been out but once a day lately.

Miss Dayton's letter was fine, was very glad to receive it. They have been very kind to us. And those dear little girls -- Eloise, Helen, Clara and Claudine--how nice it was for them to each put in a word, along with your letter. How dearly I would love to see them and hear them sing again. You must tell them how glad I was over their messages and give them my love.

Glad to receive details of the Buckley--S wedding. I would try and pay but little attention to it and say as little as possible. Still, just as in the past, if someone goes ahead for a present to her, you will probably have to give a smile of approval along with five cents. I know just how you feel. But as the pastor's wife, you will try and call in due time, especially as she has invited you.

I was very sorry to learn of Mrs. Murray's illness. She certainly would have seen you if anybody. Trust she will soon be better.

I will inclose a check of $30 trusting it will serve for the present. If more is wanted, say so. How nice it is that Edmund and Wilburn are such bosom friends, a help to both.

I did not know that Mr. Farmer was musical. Am afraid he will have little time to play, either with Hazel or anyone else. I knew she played the piano very well, but not the mandolin. Hope the social on Friday evening will be a success, and that your girls will do well. You will tell me about the result in due time.

I have written this page right after dinner. Have learned of nothing new, so will close for this time.

With love. --- Will

Last Call --- It is nearly time for supper. Have just drawn the check to inclose. We drilled on some hymns for use in S.S. from 4:30 to 5:30. Will now do this up and place in box. Don't you overdo again.

Will

$81 now remains in the Cortland bank to draw upon. How much N.Y. Central mileage have you on hand?
Dear Auntie:-

It was very thoughtful of you to send me a letter as I assure you it was most gratefully received. Glad it left you well and busy and planning for further activities. Wish I were with you to take in the various reunions and anniversaries. Will think of you next Wed. at Uncle Daniel’s where you all will have a pleasant time.

The news of the arrival of a new cousin in Euroy’s family was gladly received. I trust we are all honored by the event and that mother and child are doing well.

I hear from home regularly, of course, and only once in a while does “uncle Sam” upset our plans by delaying our letters. Marion certainly needs a change, for, as usual, the parsonage is the centre of the whole church and she bears the brunt of the burden. Mr. Farmer, as yet, does not realize what that home burden is, and cannot realize it fully until he brings his wife there. You can appreciate the situation as few can.

I now hope that Marion can come up with me on or about July 1, and Wilburn also. But it will all depend on the opportunities open at the time. We can’t decide now what is best to do or what we can do, as Wilburn is an uncertainty and a place for Marion here is also uncertain. I have about decided to go home for a few days at graduation time, and then we can talk it all over together and do what seems best. I will lay the matter of my going before Dr. G. in due time, and then plan accordingly.

I am very glad over the outlook of having a tent to live in during the summer. I was assured of one yesterday by the head nurse. Two will occupy each tent, and, as there are but 15 tents for the men, only a small portion of the patients can have the privilege of tent-life. The greater number will still occupy their rooms in the main building. My tent companion is the Rev. Mr. Liebich of Albany, and we hope to be in our new abode on June first. How I wish you might step in and see us!

I like Mr. Liebich very much. He is a Lutheran minister of German birth, and has a family of eight children. His trouble, however, is not as advanced as mine, for he came here after I did and expects to return home a perfect cure about Sept. 1. If I get well in another year I will be most grateful. And yet one can never tell. Am very hopeful, am certainly gaining, and time only will solve the whole matter.

My weight on Wed. last was 138 pounds, or just about the same as when I came here on Jan. 31. In fact, I look well and feel well, eat heartily, sleep well, but still cough and raise as usual. And with so many favorable symptoms, I feel certain of winning in due time.

This is a lovely day, clear and bright, and especially marked out in contrast to the cold and rainy days of the immediate past. It is now time for seed sowing. The buds and blossoms are bringing a new fragrance to the air which is most helpful. And so, by special permit, I expect to have the afternoon off in which to wander out among the pines and balsams of our immediate environment.

With love and best wishes, --- Will
7:00 P.M. --- After I got back from my afternoon outing at about five o' clock a letter was handed me by the mail carrier from Mrs. Amsden of Shelburne Falls saying that her father died suddenly on Wed. morning. He was a fine man and will be greatly missed. You will probably see the particulars in the papers.

Will

Springfield Center (upper)  Van Hornesville (lower), N.Y.
Wilburn D. Potter preached in these churches, summer of 1889, while still a student at St. Lawrence Theological School--photos May 1999
Ray Brook, N.Y.
Tu., May 24, 1910

Dear Marion:-

It is just two o'clock, have eaten dinner, am out again on the porch. Mr. Liebich and I walked as usual at 10:30 and probably will this afternoon if it don't rain. A fine breeze is blowing from the south-west and clouds cover the sky indicative of rain.

Your letter came at about 9:30 this morning, being brought as usual by Mr. Hurley the carrier. The old carrier never brought my mail as a special favor, and so I got it after dinner. I appreciate Mr. Hurley's kindness, hope he will continue in the good order. His home is in Schenectady and he was an employee in the P.O.

Along with yours was a postal from Aunt Lina Baird of Chicago. She says that Dr. Roscoe Martindale is coming east and she hopes to come with him. Expects to visit Canton and Ogdensburg. Says that she will write me when she comes. She sends love and hopes I am better, says the warm weather agrees with her and that she feels better.

There seems to be no special news for me to write. Sunday passed as usual, with S.S. at 11:30 and preaching by Rev. Mr. Jones at 4:30. All very good. It is hinted that our first pull in putting up the tents will be this afternoon at the walking hour 3:30 to 4:30. We will see.

Margie's letter was indeed good and glad you inclosed it. She will never forget her trip.

I was glad to receive the program of the coming Association at Auburn. Yantis knew what he was about in preparing the program. Who knows but what he feels much as you and I do in regard to mission circles, etc. He has a good feast prepared, and I only wish I could be present to enjoy the sessions.

Wed., May 25 --- It is 9:15 A.M. Will continue this so as to mail tonight. It rained hard all night and is yet cloudy and slowly drizzling. They are fixing the roof on my side of the building, and the rain blocked up and run down in my room, covering the floor and then soaking through into the room below. It took me quite a while to soak up the water with a mop the first thing this morning. And so accidents will happen in the best regulated families.

The call to put up the tents came yesterday at about 3 P.M. while I was writing the first part of this to you. We responded at once and worked till about five. 15 tents, all on the mens side, were put up. I helped to fasten the ends of the many ropes, light work indeed. Those who lifted the tents and fastened them on the upper parts of the framework, worked much the hardest. Dr. Garvin said that we would move up just as soon as the stoves could be set up in each tent and things put in readiness. This may take place by Friday or Saturday. We will see.

Was glad to know that the first fruits of the garden were at hand in the form of lettuce. Wish I had some of it, or could eat some on the home table. We have had none here yet, but the first is always the best.
I do hope that your trip with Mrs. Murray to hear Dr. Hunter will materialize. Don't put off getting the truss if you have the least trouble with the breach, as it won't pay. You will have to be on your feet up here, and you must get ready for it by keeping the breach back and allowing it to heal.

It seems to me if the energy put into the boys club had been put into Children's Day it would have been much better. I can see no good reason for getting those little boys together and excluding the rest of the school. But anything new takes you know, and so let it go as it must. Don't worry over Children's Day.

I don't think of any more just now, but may add another sometime before mailing.

With love, Will

6:45 P.M.--Am ready to mail this. It has rained nearly all day, some of the time quite hard. Could not walk out either forenoon or afternoon. Selden and I played together from 3:30 -- 4:30

W.D.P.
Dear Marion:-

Your letter written on the back of Mrs. Jeans' came duly to hand yesterday. It is now about 9:30 and I will start this and mail tonight.

Am glad you are having a little diversion by going out to the Hazzards, as it will do you good. Stay as long as you can. Wilburn is all alive over it, I know, especially with Edmund and the cows. How funny!

Mrs. Jeans did well to write such a good letter. I guess they will never forget us. Would really like to see them.

A letter came from Mrs. Bowen yesterday and which I will inclose. Her heart is full and her children and grandchildren are her greatest comfort. I have just finished a letter to the Leader as she desired, and so you may be reading it before the month is out, it all depends on how prompt they are.

A post-card written from Auburn, is just at hand from Minne Chaffee. She says that a goodly number are in attendance at the Association, that there is much enthusiasm and that they miss me. It was very kind of her to thus remember me. I will inclose her card.

Mr. Liebich went to the Lake this morning to be back at noon. He is looking around for supplies as he expects his family about the middle of this month. He has rented a small house for them about a half mile on the road to Saranac. The house is now undergoing repairs, and he will be fortunate to get in by the 20th, I think, as the repairs are quite extensive.

I was talking with Mrs. Henderson this morning, and she says one table girl is going away next week, also another on the 25th. So I am quite confident there will be an opening for you at that time. I sincerely hope so. We will be patient and see. I will certainly keep you informed of the outlook. Go right ahead just as if you were sure of coming, then you will be ready for anything that may turn up.

In one of your letters you asked if the waiters washed dishes. No, for this work is done by machinery. Each waiter simply wipes the dishes of her own table. Mrs. Henderson is anxious to have you come, and hopes you will be her room-mate.

It was slightly warmer last night, but it is still cloudy and damp, and at times today the sun almost peeps out upon us. It is certainly not very favorable weather for tenting, but we keep the fire burning in our little stove and have caught no cold yet. We enjoy it up here, and trust for good results.

If the sun comes out I will plant my sweet peas this afternoon. We will see! 7:00 P.M.—Will add a word before mailing at 7:30. Am on our tent porch. Altho there are clouds, the sun has shone since about 4:00 and it looks as if it might clear off for a fair day tomorrow. I hope so, as it has been too damp and cool lately. I planted the little row of sweet peas at the afternoon walking hour, now from 3-4. Put up the bush
before planting. Did I tell you that Mildred Perkins sent me an invitation to attend her graduation from the Sargent Normal School, Cambridge, May 28? It came after the 28th. The “seal” reveals that it is a school for “physical education”.

This will be a rather cold night, but I will put on lots of covering and cuddle up warm. Will start the fire for a while before retiring.

Must close now with love and a kiss---Will
Ray Brook, NY, Tu. June 7, 1910

Dear Marion:

I have my work done for the morning, the tent in ship-shape order, and am now ready for a visit with you. It is nearly half past nine by my watch and a steady rain is falling. It rained quite hard during the night also. It seems that we are having an undue amount of cloud & rain. But am out on the tent porch, have my overcoat on, and don't mind the weather. The sides of our tent were up during the night and at times the raindrops would pat in upon my face, and to no real discomfort, it is all in getting used to it.

You will be surprised to learn that sister Veva visited me yesterday. She arrived about two o'clock and left at five. She had been to Canton to attend the funeral of Mrs. Fred Storm, Berton's sister-in-law. She then came to Malone to visit Berton's sister, and running down from there to see me. She got to Saranac Lake about 12:30, telephoned me at once, came over by team with driver, taking the 5:40 from Saranac back to Malone again. Today she is enroute for home, & will arrive in Portsmouth tomorrow forenoon.

Her coming was a perfect surprise, I can hardly realize that she has been here. Still we had a good visit. I showed her all around, and she thought the tents were O.K. I introduced her to Dr. Garvin & Mrs. Cox and Dr. Bray and others. She said I looked better than she expected to find me. We talked over father's affairs, the same old story, & she pleaded us to lay up nothing against her for it was father alone who was to blame. I told her to think no more about it, we would forgive any seeming offense, and to go ahead as if nothing had happened. This made her feel better, and I trust nothing more will be said, or need to be said.

She was hurrying back home partly on Margie's account, and hopes to keep her there until graduation time at Herkimer. She said Margie was bright in books but very oblivious in practical things, did not do things unless directed or told to do them, was very backward socially and needed bringing out. Said she was a fine girl and that she was trying to help her in every possible way.

It was the same old story about Gertie and the Paddocks. She is planning great things in the way of visits and outing as if she had her thousands. They want to settle in a parish, and hope to secure one before long, as some encouragement has been given them from a parish in Maine. She says that Frank is a regular renegade, boasts of his passions which have to be satisfied, and visits the fast houses a ready?. Clark sent me his Memorial Day sermon which he gave in Quincy before the Grand Army, it was in the "Quincy Telegram", the local daily. It was very good. He is smart enough: but oh! (you know the rest).

A nice letter came from Bernard this morning, telling how he was on the move almost continually to different places and sections of the country doing his usual work. All seemed to be well with them. They have not planned for vacation, and may take none on account of their recent Calif. trip. A circular of the "Harley Davidson" was inclosed and which I have read with pleasure. Will inclose his letter to you, either this time or next.
I am sending you by today’s mail a copy of the prize essay by Dr. Knopf of N.Y. on “Tuberculosis As a Disease of the Masses and How to Combat It”. Dr. Garvin recommends it as the best short work on the subject published. I sent for three copies at Albany,—one for you, one for Mr. Liebich, and one for myself. They were sent free by the State Board of health, Dr. Porter chairman.

Afternoon,—Your letter came Sat. I mailed mine to you Friday night, so we are crossed again. Perhaps I had better wait till your next becomes before mailing this. Glad of the clippings showing time of Central School commencement, the date of graduation on the 21st, etc. Was very glad that the Association meetings were so enthusiastic, and that Mr. Farmer has been helped along with others, for that is what is needed. I have little fears of his going to Oak Park to settle, even if he goes as a candidate, for it is a large and difficult parish. But we will see how it comes out.

I am glad the garden is so thrifty & that Wilburn is responsible for it, that is what brings one out, for doing is the secret of knowing.

We have had strawberries here for some time, a month at least, but only one short-cake, as they are generally served whole in a side dish, and the oftener we have them the better.

Was very glad that old Mrs. Fitts called on you. All are so good to advise. But we will see what is best to do after we finish the summer here. I will certainly not go unless you go with me. We might try it for one winter at least and see for ourselves. Dr. G. says that location is not essential, only rest & pure fresh air. Read especially chapter XXIII in Dr. Knopf’s book at page 63, and you will see what such an expert thinks of the matter. But we will see what is best to do a little later. With love, Will

Wed, 4:30 P.M.—Will now add a word so as to mail tonight. I looked for a letter from you today, but you are evidently waiting the same as I am, for our letters crossed.

I spent the forenoon at Saranac Lake, it being a long time since I was there. I made Dr. Hallock a call, having a good visit, said I was looking well & to keep right on, to stay here as long as I possibly could. I did not ask him to examine me, we only visited. I called on Mrs. Selfridge and found them well, children in school and he on the R.R. The Phillips have give up the boarding house at No. 5 Virginia Street and moved away by themselves on upper Broadway above Dr. Hallock’s. It was evidently up hill business with them, and no wonder for they were neither good cooks nor entertainers. They gave up about May 1. I am sorry that I stayed there as long as I did.

I bought me a light cap with forepiece to wear in my chair and around the place. Got two collars, also, and a pair of light undervests, two violin strings, and a hair cut. So I did quite a little. My weight today was 139 pounds, a pound more than last week.

It is quite comfortable today, the sun having shone much of the time. Our little chipmunk comes upon the porch and takes a nut from our hand. How cunning! We are very near to nature you see. Bye—Will
The following is the letter from Wilburn’s brother, Bernard, which was mentioned. Bernard was an installer and trouble shooter for the Worthington Pump Co. He traveled extensively not only in the USA, but also in Central and South America.

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Holyoke, Mass, June 5, 1910

Dear Brother:

As you know Ida has done the ans. and writing of letters because I am away so much and also she can think and write two (?) letters to anyone. It has been quite a while since we have heard from you direct.

A few weeks ago I went to Cincinnati, from there I went to Ludlow, Ky, then to Duluth, Minn. then to Montreal and home. I was five nights in the sleeper and had 12 meals in diner. After I got home I was sent to Bellefontaine, O., from there to Pittsburgh, Pa. and home, then I went to Boston and to Worcester. Yesterday I went to Fitchburg, Mass., got home a little after nine. Tomorrow I expect to go to Hartford, I may go on my Motor if the weather is favorable, so you see that I am on the go all the while. I have very little time to myself to write, or do my experimenting.

I have worked all day on my self starting stand for Motorcycles on which I have applied for a patent. I do wish that I had more time to myself.

Ida just kept after our landlord this spring until we got a lot of papering and painting done and a nice new bath room and fixtures so we feel at least decent and a little like living.

I hope that you are still gaining and in due course will be able to resume as usual, write often as you think best telling all the news and of your and Marion’s plans for the summer. We haven’t made any plans yet for the summer’s vacation as we feel that our Cal. trip was about as nice a trip as one could have. Ida sold one Motor this spring.

Now write often and we will try and ans. more promptly.

with Love and best wishes. Bernard
Cortland, N.Y.
June 21, 1910

Dear Will:

Wilburn & Edmund are finishing dinner, it is nearly 2 o'clock. Wilburn is nearly deluged with presents, I will not stop to enumerate only that the church or rather some gave him $10.50, this morning. The S. Falls friends sent by express a very nice traveling bag, value $10-$12. Mr. PerLee brought $5.00, he has has had $25.00 in money & lots of jewelry etc.

Your card came this noon it's too bad you can't be here. I am afraid we can't get ready to come until Sat, I am disappointed but you said a day wouldn't make any difference & I have so many things yet to do and am not sure of my time. Mrs Lane(?) is coming to call this afternoon. Mrs. Muller may and nobody knows how many others. I don't like to travel Sat. but don't think you better look for us until Sat eve, I shall be tired enough if I take things a little easier

Mr. Farmer has gone to McLean to dine with Aunt Mary Davis who isn't feeling very well today. He is a very nervous fellow.

Wilburn and I took tea with Mrs. Paige last night. I intended to have written yesterday but there were people here and I didn't have time.

It is very hot but pleasant. Mr. F.--organized a Y.P.C.U. Sun here & at McLean. We had a fine time at the Hanfords will tell you about it all soon.

Do we change cars at Saranac Lake?

With Love---Marion

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The above is one of the few letters, which we have found, written by Grandma Potter
Perhaps now would be a good spot to check up on Grandma Marion E. Potter. As you recall, there was the expectation that she would come to Ray Brook and wait on table at the Sanitarium. We have no letters that indicated this activity happened. However, we came upon Grandma’s 5 year diary and discovered new information which helps complete the puzzle.

According to the diary entry, she took the train from Cortland to Ray Brook on June 26, 1910 and on June 28 began waiting on table. She continued at this job during July. She noted that her birthday was on July 29 and was 40 years old. On that date she and Wilburn D. also celebrated 19 years of marriage.

Over a period Marion had times of illness. She left Ray Brook on August 9, 1910, travelling to No. Orange, Mass where she visited family and then went on to Boston where she entered Charlesgate Hospital, Cambridge, Mass. and had surgery on August 20, 1910. Although not mentioned, it appears that it was a tumor—the location of which is not mentioned. Her Aunt Esther Harrington stayed with her in Boston as she recuperated from the operation.

Her recuperation was slow. She spent time in Orange, Shelburne Falls, Holyoke, Herkimer and finally, nearly three months later, back in Cortland on November 14, 1910.

She started packing and spent her last night in the parsonage on Nov. 21. Son, Wilburn H. came down from Canton Ag. school to help pack.

Grandma left Cortland for Canton on November 29, 1910. During the week previous to her leaving she was entertained and stayed with her many friends in Cortland and McLean.

The letters which follow were written during that period of time.
Ray Brook, N.Y.
Aug. 15, 1910

Dear Marion:-

It is P.M.. The five o'clock whistle at the reservoir has just blown. The air is now cooler, a nice shower having just passed over us. Yesterday & today have been very warm.

I have somehow been expecting a word from you today, and it may arrive tonight. Will start this just the same and mail tomorrow, after yours shall have come to hand.

I have scarcely any news to tell. I wrote Wendell yesterday and Dr. Payson on Saturday.

A nice letter has come from Miss Day which I will enclose. She goes into detail and is quite newsy, and you will be glad to get it. She favors, you see, that we live just out of or near Cortland. Will enclose her letter.

Wilburn got a card Sunday from Mr. Saunders saying he did not answer sooner hoping there would be an opening, but now thought he could find a place for him for a time. Wilburn will drop him a card tonight or tomorrow. It is all right as it is.

The new nurse in place of Miss. Sullivan came Sat. p.m. Her name is Britton, came from Utica here but was a native of Vermont, near Burlington, she told me. She is not far from 30 years, medium in size, and has reddish brown hair. She began work this morning. Miss Copping has introduced her to us all around and she impresses us very favorably.

Wilburn and I went for a stroll from 10-12 Sunday A.M. Went up near the Cameron farm and a very good time, altho it was hot.

Last night I went into the east Solarium to get the music from Miss. McLeod. Stayed nearly the whole hour and had a very good visit. She spoke to me at noon, saying she had found it and to come over for it. Miss Gorman who was at my table went home this morning on the early train, an apparent cure.

Tuesday 9:30 A.M.--Mr. Hurley brought your letter at about 8 last night. Will now finish and send by him at 11:30.

You are certainly meeting lots of people, relatives and friends, it will keep you busy & keep your mind off from yourself. Trust the matter (surgery) has come to a focus, by this time and that the date is fixed upon, the sooner the better for you and for us all. As for another to be with you and Auntie at the time, do just as you can under the circumstances. It would be fine to have Clark, and I doubt not that he would gladly come. It will be all right either way, but don't put it off in case they can't come, do the best possible at the time.
We are going to have you back here at an early day a strong fat woman, so don't wait any longer than is possible. Wilburn was up to my tent last night just before bed-time to read your letter. Had nothing special to say. He got a letter from Florence (Bean) on Saturday. Was gathering carrots in the garden by the barn a part of yesterday, and was on duty last night.

I was just up to the reservoir for a walk. They have moved the derrick on the west end and are now at work on the second half. The Jews had a special service for themselves this morning at nine in the E. Solarium, so Miss Britton told me as she was on her morning round. I do not think of anything more so will close with Love,

Will

Grandma Potter needed surgery--on the back of the envelope she has written "Charlesgate Hospital, 350 Charles River Rd, Cambridge. bwp

Wilburn H. and Florence, daughter Marian c. 1917
Dear Marion:-

It is just three, have taken my milk and eggs, and now will visit a while with you.

I imagine, at this moment, that you are at Dr. Craig's office on Commonwealth Ave. and perhaps in the midst of your examination. I trust you find him real nice and that you have easily fixed upon a satisfactory agreement in every respect. I think also of Auntie and Clark as being with you and assisting in every possible way. Their presence will certainly give you the needed cheer and courage, besides helping in material ways perhaps. Clark's letter shows how happy he is to help you in any possible way. Dr. Craig's letter to you was short and to the point. I know that Dr. Garvin's letter to him will be helpful on the financial side to say the least, besides being an excellent mode of introduction. There is nothing like a friend in time of need.

Mrs. Brand asked about you this morning and said you would get along nicely, but she doubted they would operate before next week. We will see; but I hope Saturday, as the sooner it is done the better.

A steady rain is falling as I am writing. Am on the tent piazza with my coat on. The nastertions are blossoming very abundantly, much more than we can pick and use. I got a pint glass can of Miss Smith, and we keep it filled with fresh flowers. The sweet peas have a few buds in sight, and will probably open in two or three days. Hope they will be abundant also.

Mr. Liebich wife & two girls went to Lake Placid this afternoon by train. The girls have the afternoon off, hence the journey.

Wilburn and I are all right. I was quite domestic yesterday and mended his wrapper. I have not used the netting on my bed for three nights, and it seems good. You could enjoy it much better here now without the mosquitoes.

I received a letter yesterday from Mr. Payson hoping that we would send Wilburn to Canton this fall while fresh from school. Well, we will wait a little and see.

Mr. Hurley brought your letter with mileage last evening at about eight. Wilburn was here at the time. We shall expect another tonight or tomorrow giving your address in Boston, also the latest developments in the case. I will write to friends as you suggest in due time.

By directing this to Orange it may not reach you before Saturday morning, but I hope you will get it Friday eve.

Will now close with much love--Will
Dear Marion:-

Your letter of Friday the 19th came to hand this morning. We were looking for it very anxiously last night, but Wilburn went down to the office before Mr. Hurley and got the letter here to the tent soon after nine. We breathed easier after reading it, and more especially to realize that at the moment of reading the crisis had really passed. It does seem that you got along so nicely in going to Boston and in arranging all the preliminaries. Clark must have fitted in nicely, and with Auntie also nothing was apparently lacking. We have every reason to be grateful for the kindly Providence that has guided us thus far.

And you are so pleasantly located on the beautiful Charles River, a fine location in which to get well! I only wish that I were with you today, even for a little while. But Auntie will speak for us and will serve as best she can in our stead; and so we are sure that all will be well.

Mrs. Brand was at the tent about eleven o'clock and asked about you. So was Miss Coppin a little earlier. At the noon table Mrs. Baker asked also the latest, and I told the news to her and those near by who could hear. Then after dinner up stairs Mrs. Henderson also asked.

I am now on temperature. Stood at 99 after dinner, so hope to get off tomorrow night. Was 97.4 this morning. There are practically no mosquitoes here, and I am glad. I dispensed with my netting a week ago. Last Friday night was the coldest here this summer, almost a frost, and so I have another gray blanket for my bed. If it is also cool in Boston and Cambridge how nice it is for you.

Am just back from milk and eggs. Ate one egg and two cups of milk. We had a fight yesterday at the milk stand at this time, Bernstein and Refrigiato being the parties, and both tent boys. The former was cut quite badly in the forehead with a cup, bleeding quite profusely, and is now wearing a bandage. All is more peaceful now. No punishment was given, simply a call down by Dr. Garvin.

What do you think, another card has just come from Adon Dayton and with all good wishes etc.

A word in regard to the finances. I think Dr. Craig was real good to prefer you so highly by leaving the price with you. I presume, in the face of Dr. Garvin's letter, he really expects nothing for his services in your case. But do as you think best in the matter. I almost think myself that it would be well to give him $50.00. That would probably answer just as well as more, and might be considered generous in this special case when considering all the circumstances. But talk it over with Auntie and do as seems best. You will probably feel like giving Clark something, say five dollars.

I will write a word to Miss. Phillips this afternoon, and follow it tomorrow with others to Mrs. Edson, Bessie and Kate. Wilburn has just finished a nice long letter to the PerLees at McLean, and is now on the porch with me, writing Edmund.
I must now close with Love from us both, and at the same time anxiously awaiting the good news which we trust will come daily from your bedside.

With love also to Auntie:—Will

This sweet pea blossom is from my garden.

6:30 P.M.:— Supper over. I hear Refrigiato is going home in the morning.
Dear Marion:—

It is just 4 P.M. the close of our walking hour, and now I will sit down for a change and visit with you.

I have just picked a bouquet of flowers for the stand, and just before that was up to the reservoir to inspect the work. They are nicely started on the second half of the work.

Our turn to deal out the milk for a week began today. It is just for the tents, and is easy work, Mr. Liebich is doing the lugging of the can up the hill. We scrub out the toilet, also, for the same length of time. Mr. Liebich is to leave for home on Thursday next, Sept 1, with entire family. He takes his final examination on Monday afternoon, Aug. 29th, and hopes to be an apparent cure. A number of others will also be leaving during Sept.

Have just sent a card to Charlotte, simply about you and self. Others have been sent to Bessie, Kate, Mrs. Edson and Mrs. Phillips, Wendell and Veva. Yesterday I wrote a letter of consolation to Mrs. Chaffee. He was buried Tuesday. I did not realize that he was so bad off. He left word for them to sell the place, but guess there must first be some picking up. Leah suggested that Wilburn would be just the man to do it for them. She wrote W. a fine letter. A nice letter came to him today from Mrs. Blair wishing he were there. Mr. B. is on crutches, getting over a fall from his wheel, and he only wishes W. was there to eat pop-corn, etc, etc. How much they think of him. He has been real good since you have been away, and has stuck close to me, and we both have kept close watch of the mail.

On Tuesday W. was moved down into the building, making him feel quite blue. Another doctor has come, and of course he had to be pushed aside. But after all he does not mind it very much. He comes up on the hill often, and one or two nights we played cards.

Auntie’s last card was to Wilburn, coming to hand yesterday, and in it she said if you still keep gaining she might possibly go to Orange today, i.e. Friday. This is certainly good news, and I trust it has proven true. And how glad we will be if you can follow in the course of two weeks more, or after being in the hospital three weeks in all. Perhaps you will soon be able to write, first cards and then short letters, so we can keep good track of you. Don’t hurry: take your time.

Wilburn continues to talk of St. Law, and is so anxious to go, It almost seems a pity that he can’t. We will wait a little, and if you get fairly strong, perhaps he had better enter this fall.

We had a strong wind last night and much rain, so it is very much cooler today. But the sun is out and all is beautiful as I write. Have on my sweater to keep comfortable. Had my hair cut last eve by a Mr. Coffee. It got pretty long. Mrs. Brand just went by and inquired for you. With much Love—Will.
Wilburn always remembers his father and mother---
"Pa" and "Ma"--Oct. 3, 1910

Wilburn "the farmer" at Canton Ag School
fitting the soil--May 1911----handling the herd sire

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Ray Brook, NY Aug 29, 1910

Dear Marion:-

It is Monday, 11:20 A.M. and I will begin a letter to you and mail this afternoon. Mr. Hurley brought your card, written Sat. P.M. at a little before ten, and it was most cheering to us. You did well to write, even with a pencil, and although blurred in coming I could make it all out. I hope you got my letter of last Friday on Saturday night. No wonder you have to have a hot water bag, the well had to put on more to keep comfortable. Yet, taken all together, I can but think that it has been ideal weather for your illness, neither too hot or too cold. Perhaps a better time could not have been chosen.

I saw Dr. Garmin a moment this morning, he asked how you were doing, and was glad to hear the good news of your progress. Mrs. Phillip's letter, which Auntie sent in her last, was very fine and interesting. Did not know until you wrote that Mr. Farmer was boarding with Mrs. Edson; and of course was some surprised. I wonder what the Hazzards will think.

Yes, W. and I are getting along nicely. He wrote seven letters yesterday, you and Mrs. Murray being among the number. He was on duty also, had to get up in the night to put out the horse for Dr. Bray, on his return from a visit. We played cards a little while on Sat. eve, with two others. The morning mail brought a card from Mrs. Runyan, said she sent one to you also.

I sent Anna a short letter this morning. I am interceding for them in regard to the sale of some honey to the hospital here, and it now looks as if four or six crates would be sold. The estimate has to be approved at Albany, and so it will take two or three weeks, perhaps, before we will know for sure. The rate, if approved, is 19 3/4cts a pound, or box, delivered here. A good price.

A note appeared in Saturday's "Leader" under "Personals" as follows:-- "The many friends of Rev. and Mrs. W.D. Potter of Cortland, N.Y. will be happy to learn that Mrs. Potter is slowly recovering from a dangerous but successful operation at the Charlesgate Hospital, Cambridge, Mass., while Mr. Potter is convalescing at the Ray Brook Sanitarium, Ray Brook, N.Y." I suspect the Mr. Weeks wrote the article.

4 P.M.—Have had a little walk. Dealt out the milk & eggs at three. It is a fine day, just comfortable, but it gets quite cool nights. At noon Wilburn got a nice letter from Mrs. PerLee and which I will enclose. One also came from Auntie. She was glad to get back home and was looking forward to your coming in due time. Said Ruth told her that Marvine was recently thrown from Mr. Williams' milk wagon and hurt badly in the mouth, so he could eat liquid food only for the present. Don't know how serious it is. She will probably write you also. It was very thoughtful, as she said, for Mrs.. Edson to enclose a dollar to you for flowers. They will certainly help.

I now have a few sweet-pea blossoms at my porch front, and more in budding. The nasturtions are thick as ever. I do not think of anything more, so will close with love.—Will
Letter to Wilburn H. Potter from Mrs. PerLee of McLean--farmers and church friends. Wilburn H. was working at Ray Brook at that time.

McLean, N.Y. Aug 27, 1910

Dear Wilburn:-

We were surprised and pleased to receive you nice long letter, but very sorry to hear your father does not gain more rapidly and that mother is not well. We hope the removal of the tumor will restore her to her normal health, I know from experience that sometimes a trip to the hospital is worth a great amount. It saved me a great deal of suffering.

Do you have the Cortland Standard? If so you probably know the County Fair was held this week. Mr. PerLee attended four days and I two. It was a very poor fair--that is the exhibits aside from fake shows and races. I never saw a poorer exhibit of fruit and vegetables also the culinary exhibit was very small. Mr. P. said the cattle exhibit was very small. If we had taken the trouble to carry things we might have gotten a good many premiums.

This has been a busy summer for us and is passing very quickly. We having had company the most of the time.--------Mr. Farmer was away only two Sunday nights. I have not been to church in some time, but there has been a delegation from here, I guess, at every service. I do not think he comes to McLean very often to call or visit, at least we do not see him.

Mr. P. says tell you Lynn is getting along pretty well with his work, haying and harvesting done. Wheat threshed, 430 bu. on a little less than 11 acres--is going to sow 20 acres of wheat--has the ground half plowed, corn looking fine--potatoes fairly well--not extra. Oats great growth of straw--not threshed yet.

We hope you will not have to give up your college course. We do not know for certain but are of the opinion that at Cornell you could pay a part, at least, of your way by working on the agricultural farm. We would like to have you there where you could come and see us often. I have written to Mary what you wrote in regard to going to Canton. We think it would be nice for you and also for Mr. Judds people if you could live with them.

The old saying. Trouble never comes singly, seems to be true in you family, but we will keep hoping everything may be all right. I wish I could write you a whole lot about the young people you know in this vicinity but you see I do not know much about them myself. Geo. FITTS was here with his Auto last Sunday. ------His machine balked and without the assistance of Mr. Ford--the young man, who understands machines pretty well, think he would have had trouble to run back home with it--

Oh, I must tell you that Mr. Ford is an inventor, has something he calls "Starnook"-- a device for sleeping out of doors--for the prevention and cure of tuberculosis. You may know about it. Well I guess I have written enough for this time. I will write to your mother soon hoping she will be well enough to be interested from hearing from her old friends. With kindest regards to your father and yourself--

We remain your friends--Mr. and Mrs. PerLee

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Ray Brook, N.Y., Aug. 31, 1910

Dear Marion:

It is nearly 5 PM but I will write you a short note before supper time. Both of your cards have come duly to hand, and we are so glad you are daily improving.

I have received a letter from Clark, also from Auntie since her return, also cards from Mrs. Bentley, Miss Farnsworth and Mr. Weeks. A letter came today from Mr. and Mrs. Hosking which I will enclose. Will also enclose Mrs. Bentley's card.

All here is about the same, only several go home in the morning, Mr. Liebich's family among the number. So we will feel a little lonesome. Mr. L. is pronounced a perfect cure. But still he troubles for fear he will get down again when he goes to preaching and worrying. He is now thinking of teaching after a time.

Wilburn got his check today and feels quite proud of it, has handed it to me for safe keeping. He will go to St. Law. in a minute if we only say the word. He talked about it more today. My weight today is 139 1/2.

It began raining at 6:30 this morning and has rained at intervals all day, is yet very cloudy.

I mended Wilburn's pants and overalls yesterday. He has been helping inside today and part of yesterday, is putting down beans for pickling, a few barrels of them.

This will reach you, I trust, tomorrow night. All is O.K. at this end of the line. Must close. With Love,

Will

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The following note was enclosed with the above letter--bwp

1122 Lafayette Ave, Brooklyn, NY, Aug 29, 1910

Dear Brother Potter:

It was a good pleasure to Mrs. Hosking and myself to read the little notice in last week's Leader, in regard to your and Mrs. Potter, we were especially pleased as we had heard something to the contrary in regard to yourself, the notice was a relief to our minds, we are hoping that you will be able to leave the Sanitarium very soon & resume your career of usefulness, and that Mrs. Potter may be fully restored to health.

Mrs. Hosking & myself often talk over the pleasant time we had with Mr. & Mrs. Potter In Cortland, Mrs. Hosking says, how friendly and nice they were to me, it being the first time of my meeting them. Our earnest prayers go up for both of you.

Of course, you have noticed the changes in the Leader, the dropping of of the old employees, myself included, I am now looking for something to do, I can get canvassing in plenty, but I am tired of it, hope to get into something different very soon.

Mrs. Hosking & myself are in fairly good health, except that the sun troubled my head this summer, I am thinking that cool weather will help that.

With best wishes from Mrs. Hosking & self, I sign Yours very truly, Sidney Hosking

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Dear Marion:

Your letter of the 1st came to hand this morning at a little before ten, Mr. Hurley bringing it up. How quickly it came through! It was full of good news, your many friends all being with you. Mr. Weeks and Clark have fitted in finely. I have already written to them both. Hope Clark will get a call to Athens, so as to prove himself if possible, but I shall fear when the family arrive. Hope Frank, the smoker, will not go, neither Florence and her husband. But I am crossing the bridge before I get to it.

Those letters of Miss Dayton's and Mrs. Davis' were fine, and I was glad to read them. The interest of Mr. and Mrs. Turner and his advice to sell the church for $150 was laughable, even silly. I would give it away before belittling our cause with such an offer. The land alone is worth that amount. Mrs. Davis is just as good as can be. Hope she and some of the others at the Falls can come to Orange to see you with their autos a little later. She talks so motherly, what a fine time they must have together. I trust you can visit them on your way back.

I have just been to the office and seen Mrs Cox, thanking her for writing you. She was delighted with your improvement and said she would write again. Mr. Weeden's letter came yesterday, also a card from Coons & family. A letter from Errol Rice (Cortland) came to Wilburn, and a card from cousin Mabel.

It seems quite lonesome with Mr Liebich away. Hope I will have another mate soon. It is very cool nights here, this morning at five the mercury was 42 degrees, so Mr. Getman said. What you gave Dr. Craig was all right, he ought to be satisfied, and no doubt he was. I can imagine Bernard's folks visiting you this afternoon, and it will seem good to you, I know.

I am about persuaded that we had better move to Canton & live with Wilburn while we can, & I take the care there at the same time. Perhaps I can get quite well by the time he finishes his course then we can all go to work and earn our living as we used to do. At any rate W. will then be able to help us all the more if we need him, and will also be together the two years at least. Now, I will speak to Dr. Garmin before next Tuesday, & go a little into the details of our case and see how he advises. Then if it appear best all round Wilburn will give his two weeks notice and leave for Canton on Wed. the 21st, you and I can follow when best for us, say at Thanksgiving. We can live there just as cheaply as we can at Cortland or No. Orange & be together as well.

We have a euchre party in Solarium tomorrow eve, and on Monday, Labor Day, sports in the morning and a social in the evening. You see we keep the ball rolling. Well, it is nearing supper time and I must close.

Don't answer your letter now, don't overdo.

With Love—Will

Cousin Bert wrote me a fine letter, inclosing picture, it came yesterday.
Dear Marion:-

First Auntie's card came and then yours. Glad you had a successful journey. Ida is the stuff. Mr. Farmer has written asking for our plans, as Rev. Lloyd wants to rent the house. I wrote back saying we would vacate when he desired, and to send an early reply. If he wants the house by Oct. 1, I will have Wilburn go down next week, pack up, and store in Mrs. Snider's barn. Then he will be ready for Canton the 21. But if Mr. F. wants the house Nov. 1, you and I might go together and see to the packing the last week in Oct. What think you? I was at Saranac this A.M. Saw Judd Farmer. The S. Falls friends have sent us a stereoptican & 100 pictures of Palestine.

Will

The Farmers in Canton are related to Great Grandma Catherine Farmer Potter --- the Rev. Farmer, who preached in Cortland, was not related.
Dear Marion:

Your letter of yesterday (Sunday) was brought to me about four. Very quick transit indeed! Since I have written a line to Mr. Farmer reminding him of his promise and trusting he would now abide by it for our sake. I told him that in my last, substantially, saying also that we would move sooner if he really desired. But no answer has yet come and so I presume he will keep to his old promise. And now, with a second line from me giving our specific wishes in the matter he will surely favor us.

Wilburn wrote you yesterday and so I thought it best for me to wait a little. Your Friday's letter came Sat. eve. Glad you are doing so nicely, keep right on! The trip from Boston was quite eventful in its happy outcome. The friends are kind to send in bouquets to you. Those were fine letters which Edith Gorsch and Mrs. Woodward sent. Better friends are never had.

The Shelburne Falls friends joined in sending the stereoscope, book and 100 pictures of the Holy Land. Rufus Cevell fathered the idea, and I sent my letter of gratitude to him. All the old guard were among the number save the Bowens, Amsdens, and Stones. The pictures are the Underwood system which you have seen, they show depth, or 3rd dimension, and are very fine. My spare time is now spent looking at them, a few to time, and reading the descriptions of them in the book which came with them. Have now disposed in study the first 30 pictures, all very interesting. My tent mate and neighbors are quite ready to assist me in sharing the joy. Wilburn is on hand as well and we are much together. Yesterday we took the afternoon walking hour to fill the pillow with balsam, but we were gone nearly two hours instead of one, getting back a little before five. We gathered it up by the pond near the Ray Brook house.

I got a nice letter of appreciation Friday from Minnie Chaffee. She went into details about her father's sickness and death, said the church was very kind, etc, etc. She thought they would move from the farm, as it was so hard to find reliable help, if there was only a Wilburn to get, she said, they would be all right.

A Jewish Rabbi held a service this morning at 9:30, his name was Dr. Blum of N.Y., an old man of about 75. The service was like ours from the Psalms, in part, he (spoke) or read a very little in Hebrew, and gave a short talk on the rites, as the festival of the New Year (Oct. 4) and Day of Atonement, Oct. 13th. I was glad I went. When I was presented to him as a Universalist, he said, "fine, the belief was all right".

A number from here are practicing daily for the minstrels which will come off the last of the month. Kenyon is leading it. They are having a pleasant time drilling.

I went to the Lake on Friday, traded just a little, went to the bank, etc. Had a fine visit with Jud Farmer, and he thought we would live much cheaper at Canton than most places, said we could buy a place for a song.

The first whistle has just blown and I must stop for supper. Good bye for this time. Now don't worry over the house, it will come out all right. With Love,---Will
Ray Brook, N.Y.
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1910

Dear Marion:-

Your medley reached me yesterday at 4 p.m., one of the boys bringing it up from the office. Yes, how the problems continue! Perhaps that is the business of life. What a coward Clark was not to ask you face to face; but perhaps after all it let you out of a corner more easily. Your adroit letter to him was all right. I simply pity them that they don't know more; can see only failure staring them in the face at Athens. Hope he will go ahead until he gets enough to transport his goods and family, as you suggested to him. I hardly dare write him a line of congratulation over his new call, but suppose he will think me disloyal if I don't. Your word may suffice. But this is my problem, another one, you see!

I sent Mr. Farmer a letter last night, practically the one in outline which you returned. I changed the price to $3.00 a week, and asked for an early reply. We can remunerate Mr. Farmer (not Mr. Lloyd) when we pack up if we think best. Will now see how it comes out; all right, I sincerely hope.

Wilburn closes work here tonight. Is about packed up and ready, will take his trunk to the station tonight. Has night clothes enough to serve him till the goods arrive from Cortland. I have a pair of new pajamas and he will use one of my night shirts. He is all O.K. and will write you soon after he reaches Canton.

Ida was thoughtful to write you inclosing ad of the "Clark place" on Gouverneur Street. I saw the same notice in the Plaindealer which Veva sent Saturday. There are lots of places, and we need not worry over finding one that will suit us. Wilburn can tell better when he gets on the ground. I much prefer the other side of the village. But we will see when the time comes!

A nice letter came on Sat. from Mr. Jaynes of Oneonta and I will inclose it herewith. I was very kind of him. I answered it yesterday.

Got a card from Aunt Lina Baird who is now in Canton on a visit. She goes back to Chicago soon. Canton has changed so much since she was there. Her old friends being nearly all gone. I sent her a card in reply, giving the important news.

What do you think, and the best of all, a letter has come from Hosea Mowry. They have sold their place in Nebraska and moved to Greenfield, have bought a place out on the Leyden road and building a new house for themselves. They are living in the barn while it is building. Ray is not far from them and so they seem to be more contented. Mr. Jenks gave him my address. I will answer the letter in a day or so and then will inclose it to you in my next.

Veva has heard with pleasure, so she writes, that Wilburn is to enter St. Law., hopes it will be the scientific department, and says B. will send him his dress suit for the receptions if he so wishes. With a little fixing he might wear the suit, so Veva says, and at any rate can have them is welcome. So I will write her at once to send them on, and if they serve him, all well and good.

Wilburn wrote Mrs. Murray Sunday after we got back from Placid saying a
number of nice things and for her to send along the overcoat. So we will need a good large house in Canton if we keep on. Enjoyed the trip to Placid and John Brown's grave very much, it rained a little, got back just before noon. Was on temperature Sat. and Sun. only, all O.K. i.e. normal. I am certainly gaining in weight, put on my woolens yesterday.  

With love, -- Will

Wilburn H., seated left --- life long friend Neil Parker, seated center  
Athlete in basketball and baseball --- the Canton Aggies 1911-12
Dear Marion:

I have eaten a very hearty dinner, have got back to my tent, and now will visit a while with you. Am inside the tent and a good fire is burning. Quite a hard cold wind is blowing from the east, clouds cover the sky, and it is really a little cold for the fingers to write outside.

We had a little upset this morning. While at breakfast the wind blew our door to, knocking over Cherry's cure chair, the slop pail, and wetting his sheets some besides covering the floor. He returned first, and when I came up he had a fire going to get warm and to dry things out. The fire has been kept burning since and it is quite welcome.

Mr. Gardner, who was with Mr. Hurley, went home this morning a thoroughly arrested case. His home is in Rochester. Rev. Allen of Rome has been home for 10 days, resigned his pastorate, and is now here for the winter. Cherry had some fruit come from his home last night, peaches, pears, grapes, and he has been treating me. He also brings the wood and keeps the fire, -- quite useful you see.

Of the Palestine pictures, I have 70 looked over thus far. Leonine comes over ever day or so, reads the descriptive part from the book, the rest of us looking at them as he reads. They are very nice, will finish them, 100 in all, in a few more days.

Yes, we will need a good sized house in Canton, with these pictures and your new bag, along with the dress suit and the overcoat. Those dear people at the Falls are the stuff, and how nice to make you such a call. How I would like to have been there. You must surely call on them on your way back, if only for a day or two.

Clark's last letter to you was quite meek. I hope he will now keep quiet for a while. Poor fellow, and yet "the brightest with him for years". He is to be pitied! How different his lot from ours!

Well, Wilburn got off in due time Wednesday, the 21st. We filled his trunk full, putting in the horse-blanket, lap robe, balsam pillow, and my red pillow. And a card came yesterday saying that he reached Canton at 11:30 and boards on Judson Street with a Mrs. Forsythe. I do not know her, of course. If you remember where the Courthouse is, Judson street leads to the right or east. It is nearly a mile from the school, say 3/4, I should think, depending on which end of the street it is. Hope it is a good place. He probably sent you a word, also, perhaps a letter. I am anxious for the details of his experience there so far.

Will inclose Mr. Mowry's which you will enjoy.

I sent a check for taxes on the home place on the 15th, but have heard nothing. Perhaps they do not send receipt unless stamp is inclosed. You might step in and see, or do so when you pay the other taxes. As you know, the time limit is Sept. 30, or next Friday. Send me the amount and date, so I may enter it on my book.

You may see Everett, if so, ask if he drew out the manure under the barn.
Settle to date, and we will indorse the amount on note. Wish he would take up the small note which now amounts to about $31.00.

The last bucket of dirt was taken out of the new reservoir this afternoon, and all the work thereon will be completed next week. They have worked more swiftly the past month than before.

The new dam is done, so we now have a very beautiful lake by the station. Wish you could see it and ride on it.

Must now close with love to you both. Will

My weight on Wed. was 141 1/2

Partys are fun times!
Wilburn H. celebrates 60th birthday as grandson Bobby; wife Florence and daughter-in-law Marian Wightman Potter enjoy. April 23, 1952
Dear Marion:-

A nice warm rain is falling, Mr. Cherry & I are sitting inside our tent. Will write a while before supper, and finish later.

Mr. Hurley is packing up today and expects to leave for Schenectady tomorrow. He was examined this morning as his final, and tho not a cure gets a verdict of thoroughly arrested which is better than the average.

I got a very short letter, inclosing bills, from Mr. Ryan on Sunday. The bills were for June, July and August, aggregating $65.81: and I forwarded him a check for this amount yesterday, along with my gratitude for his kindness.

Yesterday P.M. I went up to the barn and cut down my box. Got a saw, square and hammer for the work of Mr. Sleich. The box is a little larger, perhaps, than a trunk, but it will go, just the same. Will place it in the attic, so as to be ready to pack any time. It will hold my violin box, I think. Will try and gather some more balsam and put in to fill up, as there will be room.

Our minstrels come off tomorrow night, the stage is up, & a drill is in progress thereon this P.M. It will be quite an event for Ray Brook.

I am somehow getting anxious for house-keeping again, and if you were strong enough would leave here at once. But if you get strong by Nov. it will be a good record. Perhaps I can leave here on Nov. 1, making my stay here just nine months. Suppose I plan to go to Wendell's and stay a few days at that time. Then you come along and will go to Cortland together for a week and pack up. This is just a feeler to know what you think about it; in fact, I don't know yet myself, but want to evolve a plan as time goes on. We will see what Wilburn finds for a place in Canton. Perhaps I will yet have to go there and help choose one.

Wilburn has sent me only a card as yet, but I expect a letter every day. Perhaps he has written to you in detail, and if so, you can send it to me, as I am anxious to know more of what he is doing and the people he is meeting, etc. etc.

Wed. 11:00 A.M:---Your letter reached me at 8 last eve, so I had a feast to retire on. Wilburn's experience was rich indeed, and I laughed as I read his letter. He will make his way all right, and will find work when others do not. He will see a good many "old pilgrims" as time goes on. Glad he went to the Judds. I wonder how much he pays for board? Glad he went to church, for there is found the leaders of Canton society and it will help him. From what he says, I am sure we will be able to find a desirable place. If so, it will all depend on you just when we move. Mr. Farmer will probably be glad to have the house clear at the earliest. Perhaps my rate of rental staggered Mr. Lloyd. But it is only a little matter anyway, and I had much rather have it as it is. It is now up to him.
Mr. Weedon's letter came by registered mail this morning, a little ahead of time. He is evidently well satisfied, as he has reason to be.

I expected Everett would draw out the manure before now. Tell him not to delay, to put a fair covering on the home lot, excepting the lower wet part, and if there is any left to put it on the Baird lot. I hardly think there will be more than enough to cover the home lot. I wrote him to put it on as soon as possible after the second crop was taken off by Aubrey. But it will have to do now. Perhaps you may go up there for a day or two. Perhaps the Wards can make a small payment, or take up the small note which now amounts to about $81. Give them $2., as inducement, if you think best.

Am glad that you are gaining, but go slowly. It was fine for Emma to invite you there, and I hope nothing will prevent you from going.

About your visiting Holyoke or the Falls first, it will make very little difference. The car fare would probably be less to go to Holyoke; i.e. if you have a B&A mileage and must travel west from S. Falls to Albany to Rotterdam by that line. But if you travel to Albany via Springfield, it would be best to visit the Falls first. But the difference will be but little anyway. You will figure out the best way, no doubt.

Today is cloudy, quite windy and cooler.

I was surprised that Clifford Newton had gone to Meadville. It is probably preparatory. Wish he had gone to Canton instead.

I think of you today as at Bert's, wish I could step in.

The 12 o'clock whistle has just blown. May add a word this afternoon.

2P.M.—Have seen nothing yet about Jay Johnson's marriage, except this from the weekly Republican inclosed. On account of the minstrels the mail is to be taken to the office this P.M. at 4:30. Don't think of any more for this time.

With love, ---Will

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"stay just nine months"—from the date he came to Ray Brook. His first letter, in the Adirondacks, to Grandma was dated July 18, 1909 from Saranac Lake.

-- "draw out the manure"—must have been from the barn and property at North Orange which was rented to others. bwp
Dear Marion:-

Your letter came a little before 10. It is now 11:20 and will write to both you and Wilburn to mail this eve.

It is a fine clear day, after a hard freeze this morning, and I am on my tent porch getting all the sun I can. Was just up to the reservoir. It is practically done, just putting on the finishing touches and cleaning up. Mr. Robie and I was out together yesterday P.M. to get some balsam. Will go again, and again if necessary, until I gather a 2 bu. bag full to take home with me when I leave. Mr. Cherry drove to Saranac yesterday to do some trading. He saw Will Hollister a moment who said that he expected his brother Fred last night, and that they would try and make me a call while he was here. Perhaps Fred is up for his health also, as Mrs. Edson’s P.S. said he had been ill.

All is about the same here. Coving went home last night, here 7 1/2 months, arrested case, home near Rochester. Peter Strahl, the lad of 15, went this morning, a apparent care. I shall expect to go Nov. 1, improved, or partially arrested, we will see. My weight yesterday was 143. Henderson goes Oct. 31, probably arrested. And so it goes. Mrs. Robie was examined while here and has returned to Albany. She has the con, an enlarged heart and Bright’s disease. Will come as a patient the middle of Nov.

Glad you are having a good outing at No. Orange. Hope your head will gradually become normal, as I think it will if due to the ether. Your ovaries were probably removed, and with the drain on your vitality stopped, you will now grow strong & fat. I may probably ask Dr. Garvin, but perhaps you had better drop a line to Dr. Craig, so that the cessation of periods will cause you no worry.

W.’s letter was very interesting. He is certainly making his way. Am glad Mrs. Forsythe is so kind to him. How fine it was that he could help Mat out. Perhaps Mrs. Forsythe has room for me also. Will have W. ask for me. Then we can plan together, W. & I, all the better.

If W. can’t get off before Thanksgiving we can well wait for him if he feels that he must go to Cortland. We can easily fix it up after I get there. We can go there (to Cortland) a little ahead of him if necessary. I wonder if it wouldn’t be best to ask Mr. Blair if he has a room and board for me while there; so as to be near to the parsonage. It won’t make any difference with you or W., perhaps. We will see! I ought to sleep in one place while there, and perhaps eat in one place also, so that my cough would not be annoying to others, while you and W. could board around just as well as not if the opportunity offered, especially Wilburn.

I am glad Mr. Farmer’s Hazel is so well liked, hope she will move in the parsonage Dec. 1 and begin the good work of a pastor’s wife.

I was of course surprised to learn of Rev. Milburn’s marriage, and shall be anxious to know the particulars. Yes, the old maids in Cortland can now keep still. But perhaps now the fur will have to fly, or something else!– it may be the church.
Must now stop and write Wilburn, inclosing him a check, and having a talk on the house question.

With love, Will.

Will inclose Veva's letter. The coat, you see, was not sent. But I shall not say another word. The Star came at noon and I inclose the piece about Wilburn. Maude sent it, as 71 Centre St, was on it.

Ray Brook today--1999.

upper--One of the original Sanatorium buildings  It is inside the prison fencing.
lower--Outside the prison--note the razor wire.  photos 5-10-99 bwp
Dear Marion:-

It is 4 P.M. I have just come from Dr. Garvin's office where we had a conference. We went over the matter from all sides, and it is decided to have my final examination next Wed. the 26th and leave for Canton on Friday morning the 28th. Will go from here on the 3 P.M. Thursday, stay overnight in Saranac Lake with cousin Judd Farmer. I get to Canton soon after eleven, and expect to go directly to Wilburn's boarding place, unless he writes to the contrary. I am sending him a letter by this mail.

Dr. G. thought that it would be better for me to go now to escape the confusion during the next month or more. He hopes to take the tent folks down to the building on the 28th or the 29th, and as the new part is not ready it will be necessary to use the halls etc. and all will be much mixed up until the new parts are settled, the new dining room put in use, and other transfers made. For this reason it would not be best for me to stay, or to return after my home hunting,—so he made it plain to me that "now is the accepted time". Hence the plan as above stated.

But I am ready and anxious to go, as I am really tired of the monotony here. He advised me to be quiet, and to let you and Wilburn do the packing up and settling again. But I will be better able to decide about going to Cortland after I am in Canton for a few days. Will not cross the bridge until I get to it.

As far as I can now see your plan is all right to leave Orange next Th. or Fr. stopping a few days each at Shelburne Falls and Holyoke.

I rode over to Trudeau yesterday forenoon with Mr. Petroff and looked around a little. It was a lovely day. Had a short visit with Will Hollister at Sar. Lake. He goes home next week some improved. Petroff is about my grade, has been here the same length of time, remains about the same. He is now going to Trudeau to do slight work in the laboratory under Dr. Laird. Works only forenoons and gets his keep and a little besides.

Mrs. Heath did well to write you a card. Glad she is better.

Wilburn's last letter to you was newsy & all right. He is on to his job all right. I shall be anxious to share it with him in such measure as I am able.

It is growing dark and I must close for this time.

We had a hard wind last night, it tore one of the tents so that the two boys have been transferred to other tents.

With love,—Will
The following are portions of a long letter which Veva Potter Storrs wrote to her brother, Wilburn D. Potter. Although there was no date on it, the comments in it pertain to Wilburn’s leaving Ray Brook and settling in Canton. So, the timing was the last of October or first of November, 1910.

The words about young Wilburn H. were indicative of him and how his entire life would materialize. Veva writes, “Monday 10 A.M.

My dear Will:-

Just a few words since receiving your card—I am so glad you are feeling well enough so that you contemplate undertaking the trip to Canton, house hunting, packing, etc—. Do be careful and not do one atom more than your strength will allow. How I wish I could afford to go right with you and help pack and settle your house ready for Marion—so she would not have any hard work to do—.”

She continues “---letter from Berton’s brother—prof. in chem at the Agr. school, and this is what he says of Wilburn—Young Potter is a dandy fellow and is doing fine work—he is paying more than half his expenses besides doing his regular work well’.

---letter from Mattie and she too likes Wilburn very much and says he is so bright and quick—Mat is afraid he will work himself to death, he is so energetic. I guess there is no danger of his rusting out according to reports.

---You know I have seen Wilburn so little I feel that I hardly know him, and since he has grown to be a young man he has changed so much. Isn’t it fine you have him—for without doubt he is going to be not only a great credit to you but a strong backbone in your weakened condition.”

Wilburn D. passes Veva’s letter on to Marion with these word’s:

“Wed, 5:30 P.M.,—have just got back from a little outing for some balsam. Has been very hot today, and all are complaining. Am about the same. Bye—Will. I forgot to say that Mr. Farrington stopped me Sun. going up from supper and said to be sure and have Wilburn write him on graduation as he wanted him to run a farm of his. This is speaking quite a while ahead. Am looking for W’s next letter. I sent him $20 on Friday the 14th.”
Dear Ma:---

Your letter came to hand last Wed. and I was glad to hear from you. A letter came from Pa on Monday and was very much surprised to learning that he was coming so soon. I met him at the train Friday with Dr. Hall’s horse and we drove around a little before dinner. Mrs. Forsythe is so afraid of the disease that she wouldn’t take him but he is finally situated at Frank Barker’s. Saturday we went for a walk and ended up in Fullington and Chessman’s office. Fullington is a great talker and entertained us by talking farm. He gave me a book on farming and I am going to his house. Sunday P.M. we took a short walk, called on Uncle Albert, Margie, Rev. Horn’s mother-in-law and the Graves. He (Rev. Graves) preached in Oneonta yesterday for Rev. Milburn is on his honeymoon. Pa certainly looks fine and doesn’t cough near as much.

Friday evening we had a “hard time” party at school. Something like a hundred were there. We danced and had a great old time. Sat. I went to School in the morning and in the P.M. saw a T.B. cow opened up. I had to meet the 11:45 train that night for Mrs. Forsythe.

Sunday I studied in the A.M., went with Pa in the P.M. and in the evening went to Hilton’s. Mrs. Hilton and I talked as if we had known each other for fifty years. Harriet made some fudge and played on their Henry F. Miller piano.

Work on the farm is getting scarce so Morehouse and I have bought some traps and are going to get some muskrats. What do you think of Young Potter? What do you think of Mrs. Farrington? Pa and I are keeping track of the house question and I am also looking out for pullets for Potter & Son’s large Poultry Plant.

Must close with Love

Wilburn
Dear Marion:--

Here I am in old Canton at last. Arrived here yesterday soon after 11 A.M. Wilburn met me at the train with a rig from the Aggie School, all free, we drove around the village till after 12:00 and wound up to dinner at the Erwin House, as Mrs. Forsythe was afraid to take me in. I keep meeting old friends and acquaintances by the score. Looked around some in the afternoon for a place to board and room. Could get a small room & board at the Erwin House for $5.00 a week, large room with two windows and no closet $7.00. I have finally made arrangements to board here at the American House for $4.00 with a room at Frank Barker's nearby at $2.00. The meals here are fine, so much so that Ray Brook seems offensive. And how I do eat!

I bid good bye to friends and staff at Ray Brook as planned, thanked Dr. Garvin for us both, stopped at Saranac Lake to close my account at the bank, and got to Malone Th. eve at 7:30. I left Malone Friday morn at 8:45 and got here at 11:05.

Your table girls at Ray Brook, Mrs. Brand, Miss Sullivan, Leah Smith, and others, wished to be remembered to you, etc, etc.

My final with Dr. G. was very hopeful. He said my right lung was entirely healed and good as new, the left one was still bad and I must be very careful. So I am glad that I came away improved, and hope in time to heal my left or get it arrested. The battle is still on, and I shall win.

I shall have to go slow in the matter of selecting a house, it seems, as there are so many. To get a location near enough to the school is the chief problem. But we will do the best we can.

I have just met my cousin Mert. Farmer here in the hotel where I am writing. He is the same old fellow, coarse and rough, has a hard cold now, is undersheriff. He told me about his folks, etc. I met Dr. Payson last night, also Will Manley, Cheetham, Fullington, etc, etc, etc, there is no end. Still I rested well last night and feel quite good today.

Your letter inclosing Ws reached me Th. noon just before leaving Ray Brook. Will direct this to Shelb. Falls, hope you are having a good visit. Give my regards to Emma and Ernest and the rest. Must now close and go to the office.

With love,--Will
Dear Marion:--

Just a short visit with you this morning. Have just finished breakfast here at the hotel and am in the writing room.

All is going fine with me here, am feeling well and having a good time incidentally meeting old friends. Some know me at once and other do not, and when they study me out we have a hearty hand-shake, etc. Last night I met one of my pupils at Colton. He knew me, but I did not know him as he had changed so much. We had a good visit. He is the supervisor from Colton this year.

I see Wilburn each day. He was in last evening for a visit. He has got his pay from Mr. Hazzard and feels very happy over it. I gave him $10 yesterday, and he has invested in some chickens of a near neighbor, keeping them in his barn and caring for them daily. Says it was an opportunity, a great bargain, can make four or five dollars in the trade if he sells them at once, so he is happy.

I am on the lookout for a place, keep hearing of a new one daily, have looked at one or two, but nothing has yet come to a point. Will try and look at one today, possibly two.

I called on a Mrs. Stevens yesterday, a Universalist and an old friend. She told me about Rev. Petty and the Huntleys, etc. She said Petty had to leave because he was meddling with outside matters all the time to the detriment of the church. It all culminated by his criticisms of the lottery methods at the Masonic fair. Mrs. Stevens said Mr. Huntley was fine but that Mrs. H. stuck her nose in everywhere and was a great boss, much to the dislike of many of the old stand-bys. You see, it is just as we know her to be.

Murray Atwood preached last Sunday, but I did not go to church. No new minister is yet in sight.

Horne and his wife are here with her mother, also Graves and family. I have seen them all for short visits only. Rev. Graves preached in Oneonta Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Huntley have just stepped inside the hotel and I have had a visit with them. She is going by auto to Ogdensburg. They wish to be remembered to you. So it goes,--meeting old friends all the time.

It is a nice warm day, a hard wind is blowing. Must now close with love,--Will
So Wilburn D. and Marion are now together again at Frank Barker’s on Upper Judson Street, Canton, N.Y. and, naturally, the passing of letters ceases. Wilburn H. attends Canton Agricultural School where he was very active. He played baseball and basketball on the Aggie Team. It was here that he became friends with Neil J. Parker and J. Leon Atwood. That friendship lasted for Wilburn’s entire life. Following Wilburn H.’s graduation from Canton he was asked by Dr. Hall to manage the Borden Co. certified milk dairy farm at Earlville. Wilburn took the job. He was asked to manage another Borden’s farm at Chatham, New York in 1913.

This is also a good time to bring us up-to-date on the whereabouts of Florence Bean—Wilburn H.’s high school sweetheart, the farmer’s daughter of William Jay and Annie Harmon Bean of Cortland, N.Y. After her mother’s death in 1910, Florence graduated from Cortland High School with Wilburn H., Edmund Hazzard and others. She was unable to go to college as she stayed on the farm and kept house for her father.

In 1912 William J. married Emma Gilbert. As mentioned at the beginning of this collection, Emma became our loved grandmother until she died at an age past ninety years.

With Grandpa Bean’s remarriage, Florence was relieved of her home responsibilities and entered Syracuse University in the fall of 1912. She was very active in university life and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She studied there for two years and on October 7, 1914 she married Wilburn H. Potter.

The only record of Wilburn D.’s activities or health until 1914, was this message written on a postcard from friends in Oneonta:

Dec. 23, 1911

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Potter, Canton, New York

We are glad to know of your Improvement. Speak of you often, and hope to see you again soon. A Merry Xmas and happy New Year to you All. Our wish is you may still continue to Improve.

E.O. Jaynes

Wherever Wilburn D. and Marion E. pastored they left a multitude of friends. The above is only a small sample of the love and respect they continued to receive.
The following ten letters were written by Grandpa Potter during his return to the State Sanitarium at Ray Brook, near Saranac Lake in the Adirondack Mountains. They date from July 16, 1914 to August 2, 1914. Apparently he was there for a check-up on his condition with his continuing battle with tuberculosis. I have included them all under one document.

========

1. The Garondah on Rainbow Lake

July 16, 1914, Th. 7:40 A.M.

Dear Marion:

Breakfast is at 8, so will begin a letter.

Have not much to write anyway. No special incidents on the way, made good connections and got through on time. Dr. Emmons and Mr. Bailey were at the station, the latter coming in on my train from Malone. They showed me every attention, a man bringing my grip, etc. We are nearly a half mile from the station, and the San. about half as far. Shall go to visit the San. after breakfast and will tell you about it later. But will mail this right here now before I leave, as the P.O. is here in the hotel.

I have raised but little this morning, and I wonder if it is due to the change. I slept well and feel good. With love, Will

1A Ray Brook, N.Y., Fr. July 17, 1914, 11:30 A.M.

Dear Marion:--

I am in the big hall at the San. and Dr. Bray has just examined me. He gave me great encouragement, saying I had done remarkably, that my lung scar was more developed and of greater resistance, all to my favor. He is to examine my sputum, giving me a bottle for the specimen, and says to report to him a week from this morning at 10 o'clock.

I am staying at Wise's on the road to Saranac Lake, on the hill just around the bend. Was there last night. Got in Ray Brook at 3 P.M. from Rainbow, after stopping at the Grand Union for dinner. Visited with Dr. Bray who made my appointment for today. Saw Farrington, Mack, Katz, Krubble (I am guessing) who followed Mrs. Cox as Dr. Garvin's sec'y. Lundy and wife are here yet but have not seen them. He is P.M. but, being indisposed, was not at his post. Will see him later. The old chef is still here. Lincolns are at Plattsburg. Miss Cleland is in the hall as I sit here writing, but have not yet spoken, is as stiff and statue-like as ever, I guess.

The board is good at the Wise place, fine breezes on the nice verandah, about 15 there now.

I had a very good time at Rainbow, spent my time mostly with Mrs. Day and daughter. Mr. Bailey and family are in a shack near the station. The night before, as I arrived, Dr. Emmons said he would like to look me over, but he was busy on Thursday A.M. and did not.
It is now nearly 12 and I must mail this and start for the Wise place. Direct simply Ray Brook, then if I change places it will make no difference.

With love, -- Will

2.

Ray Brook, N.Y., July 18, 1914, Sat. 10:40 A.M.

Dear Marion:

Things are moving along about the same, am still at Mr. Wise's. Have just brought a specimen of my sputum to Dr. Bray. Visited with boys in the tents on my way across by the reservoir. My old tent is not up at present. Saw Dr. Garvin on the front steps a few minutes ago and had a word of cheer & laughter, said I was looking fine, etc. Am now at the station P.O. writing this. Am now going to the help building to see Lundy who is ill with temperature. It is cooler today, rested well last night. The food is fine. All is well, and I am having a successful trip. I raise so little each morning since my arrival that it surprises me. The change may prove helpful. Time will tell. Had a shower yesterday.

Must now close, see Lundy, then go back cross lots in time for dinner.

With love, Will

3. post card

10:30 A.M. Ray Brook, Monday July 20, 1914

Will send this today as my envelopes are all gone. Just used the last one for Wilburn, writing him the latest. Mr. Weiss was here Sat. and Sunday and we had a good visit. He is deputy state fiscal supervisor. Was over to the hospital yesterday. Sam Rapp who is here again from Albany. The new building for the help is fine, also the enlarged dining room. I looked around some. Mr. Brand's successor was very kind to me, gave me some hdk's and pocket cups. The fire-place was afire last eve and we gathered around and sang hymns and told stories. 17 are here

All well, --Will

4. Ray Brook, NY, July 21, 1914

Dear Marion:--

It is 9:15 A.M. Tuesday. Will start a letter now, but as it is raining, may not finish and mail till tonight or tomorrow. I arose at 7 and have had a hearty breakfast. Am out on the porch at this table writing. Am feeling fine. Sent you a card yesterday and after my return from the office found your letter had been brought over by one of the guests.

The good news from home was eagerly digested. Glad you tackled the hen roosts, even tho so hot, as that is just the time the mites breed fastest. I wonder if the egg production is keeping up to the standards. From the 5 doz. you took away I infer it is. Am glad that business is good with the Howe's and that Florence is going to college.
Wed. 9:15 A.M.—It is a lovely morning, have eaten breakfast and feel fine. So will finish this and then walk to the office and mail it along with one to Charlotte. There seems to be little news to tell. We have a good singer here from Brooklyn and she sung for us last evening. The rig here goes to Saranac Lake for their milk each morning at nine. I expect ride over and back tomorrow for diversion and to make a call or two, get some peroxide, etc.

Gangs of men and teams are busy here putting in state road between Ray Brook and Saranac. The rock is being blasted out for the road just back of our place, so we get some heavy noises at least twice a day. A camp for the Italians is just across the road, and watching them work is one source of amusement. Nearly everyone here has friends or relatives at the San., and so are over there much of the time.

Some of our number here climb Scarface (Mt.) today taking lunch with them. Of course I cannot go. Two Scotch ladies are here and eat at my table, so we have good visits. It was very windy yesterday, but now so nice and calm. Must now close with the usual salutation. Shall expect your second letter soon.

Will

5. Mountain View House, July 23, 1914, 4:30 P.M.

Dear Marion:—

It was raining this morning when we got up, rained hard all the forenoon, and has kept cloudy all the afternoon. Have not been out for a ride, therefore, to the Lake has I expected. The team did not go today. Have not even been for a walk, just on the piazza and around the house is all. The afternoon walking hour at the San is from 2 to 4, and Mr. Rapp of Albany and his mate Mr. Purvis of Lockport made me a call, had a good visit. This is the third time Mr. Rapp has been a patient at the San. The men on the state road did not work today, and no noise of machinery has been heard. The trains have run as usual, and we can see them pass.

I got your card of Tuesday just as I had mailed my letter at the office. Glad all is O.K. save Mr. Hannah’s chicks and our cabbage. Was surprised to hear they had rats, but I knew they were thick at Mr. Porteau’s. Hope they will not get up to our place, but if they do the small wire of the coops may keep them from the chicks. As to the cabbage worms, put on wood ashes (and salt) when the dew is on or the plants are wet. You will find some ashes in the three quart pail on the shelf near the grain box. If you need more ashes call on Mrs. Mousa for them. I hope it rained today in Canton and that the gardens laugh. I trust Mrs. Scott made you happy again, as you expected. Will add a word in the morning.

11:00 A.M. Friday:—Dr. Bray has just looked me over again, said I was a most interesting case, wanted me to come at least once more, a week from today, thought the stay here was doing me good. He said nothing about my sputum. Wanted to have a good visit with me next time. Saw Dr. Garvin a moment, told him of your condition and gratitude and he was delighted. Mr. Farrington is going to get me a new cloth covering for my chair. Now for the office to mail this, then back to “Mountain View”. The Leader & Republican came yesterday. Will
Dear Marion:--

Your newsy letter of Th. eve came Sat. morning just as I was to start for Saranac Lake. Glad you had such a good rain and that the hens, garden etc. are doing well. Hope Mrs. Howe is all right again and that the sales are good. It was indeed news to learn about Evelyn Church's future as a home-maker in Akron. Maggie Rich will have to hurry up or she will get left. Glad you called at the Hornes, that she is moved etc. Did not know he was on a new job.

This is a lovely day, just warm enough, as was yesterday. Enjoyed my ride so much and will try and go again. I called at Dr. Hallock's but the card on the door said he was out of town til Aug. 1. The Selfridge family have moved to Tupper Lake, so was disappointed as I called there also. Saw Eddie Booth, he clerks in a stationery store next to the post office. Went into Sharon and Tupins and got me a cap and a pair of socks. Got some peroxide and 4 sputum boxes (pocket) at the drug store. Also took my laundry package along. Did quite a stroke of business, but the ride was the best of it all. All looks so clean and nice in the growing village.

I sign the check of Bernard's and inclose it to yu. Simply take it to the bank at once and have it entered in my deposit book which is in the pigeon hole in the desk. Send me date of entry so I may also enter it in my check book. The amount $122.66 is about the net which we had reckoned upon. Glad it is finally closed up and Bernard will be free. I will go over to the San tomorrow and have the receipt to the Boarding duly attested before a notary and send it along to O'neil.

In my next I will send you a check to give to Mr. Agon for the rent, so as to have a receipt as usual for payment.

Mr. Weisz came from Albany Friday eve, inspected the San yesterday and returns tonight.

All is much alive here, going and coming etc, etc.

With love, -- Will
Dear Marion:--

Your letter of yesterday came to hand this noon and now I am glad that I did not write to you this morning. Something told me to wait.

All you said about Wilburn and Florence filled me with rejoicing, and all I can say is, "Sorry I was not at home". The plan outlined pleases me very much. Oct. 15 is a good date for the occasion and we ought to be in good trim by that time if we behave ourselves. I admire F. for her pluck in canvassing and to do so well financially is very gratifying. Am glad W. is so well and happy and that the outlook is so bright for them in their new home. We shall share in the good of it all. I am confident that F. did not bring along her whole wardrobe for display, like Frances, hit me as being most sensible.

You ask about my location. The picture is not of the old Ray Brook House which is on the road to Placid, but of an old house fixed over and enlarged the summer we were here and which is nearly a mile from Ray Brook toward Saranac Lake. It is on an eminence on the right side of the road and commands a fine view.

Then Clara Edson is in the soup, as was to be expected with such bringing up. "Sorry, but it can't be helped".

I see you are making up your bank calls, don't overdo. Am afraid Morgan needs watching. Glad you wrote about Mr. Dollar and that Dr. P. assisted at the funeral.

I will write to Funk & Wagnalls Co. about the dictionary when I get home.

I have a little cold today. The weather for the past week has been cool for July. My cough keeps about the same. I save all my sputum and have a box full every other morning.

If you want to you can have Mr. Cook give you a draft for your certificate payable to "Geo. W. Andrew, Treasurer", and send it to Orange with the book by Aug. 1. The amount from the estate will probably keep us going till Oct. It won't make much difference anyway. I had the receipt to O'Neil sworn to and sent on yesterday. Will send a check for Mr. Agan next time which will be soon enough. With love,—Will

-------------------
Evidently Florence came to Canton. She and Wilburn announced their engagement and wedding plans. At that time October 15 was the date for the wedding. We all know that the real date was October 7, 1914. Grandpa was sure excited and pleased!

Next to the last paragraph Wilburn D. writes about—"The amount from the estate". This must have been the estate of John Potter, Wilburn D's father.
Dear Marion:---

It is nearly 5 P.M. and a moderately warm and sunshiny day. Will begin this and finish tomorrow after I see Dr. Bray at 10 A.M.

It has been quite cool here, especially yesterday when it was rainy and cloudy and the wind came from the north. Mrs. Weiss gave me a nice warm blanket to sit out with and so I was comfortable. A blazing fire was going in the fireplace in the front room and the rest of the guests were inside most of the time.

We have good singers and players among our number and so do not lack for music. A Miss Barlow of Brooklyn plays and sings especially fine, and Miss Wise, the daughter, does well, so do others. Her lover is on from Cohoes near Albany, an embryo lawyer. Miss Barlow is over to the tent daily to see her lover who is a patient in the San.

I seem to have no news. Got a card from Wilburn yesterday. Am sending a line to Bernard today. One guest came last night and one left this morning. So it goes.

Friday:--It is nearly 12 noon, have been waiting since 10 for Dr. Bray, but it looks as if he had been called on an emergency case and is out. Saw Miss. Cleland a little while ago and she was quite chipper, altho as statue-like as ever. Mrs. Booth, nee Miss Loope, came and spoke to me and showed me around, was very nice. The east pavilion, the infirmary for girls, the new laundry, the new X-Ray instrument was shown me. A Mr. Hall is still in the laundry, he was head one when I was here. Mrs Booth is nurse. Now for Mr. Weiss's.

I will probably be home next Thursday at 7:25 P.M. I inclose the check for rent. Will mail this here in the hospital and start back cross lots in time for dinner at one.

With love--Will;
Dear Marion:--

There is little for me to write that's new, but will keep my promise and write something. It is a nice comfortable day, thunder clouds have been hovering near and it sprinkled some after one o'clock. Have had a little nap in my chair since dinner.

Made Dr. Bray a visit from ten to twelve. He looked me over and was full of encouragement as usual. It was about the same old story in regard to my case and in answer to my questions. Said my case was remarkable, a rich study for the experts, and with my knowledge and the fine care I give myself he saw no reason why I did not have a good number of years before me. He advised nothing new, but said it would be dangerous to apply any new fads, said he would let me know if anything new of importance developed, that would be helpful in my case, that he expected me improved when I came up again next year. We had a good visit and I thanked him and came away happy.

The steam drills are going today and blasts occur at intervals. The road work is progressing finely.

I got my laundry Friday, so will bathe and change tonight.

No one seems to know anything about that Belmont couple, Mr. and Mrs Anderson.

I now expect to leave Ray Brook at 1:33 P.M. Thursday and, if the close connections are made at Saranac Lake, Lake Clear, Malone and Norwood, to arrive in Canton at 7:25. So if you hear nothing to the contrary this program will be carried out.

Mrs Phillips’ letter was fine. Was surprised to learn that Mrs. Murray was Pres. of the ladies aid, but it may be just the thing to wake the parish up. Milburn may also set their spirits on fire. Let the good work go on.

With love---Will

In this letter of August 2 to Grandma Marion, Grandpa Potter seemed resigned to his future after talking to Dr. Bray. He wrote about his visit with the doctor. “Said my case was remarkable, a rich study for the experts, and with my knowledge and the fine care I give myself, he saw no reason why I did not have a good number of years before me”.

After the month in the sanatarium at Ray Brook in July 1914 there is another period of no letter correspondence as Marion and Wilburn D. continued to live in Canton. He was very conscious of the disease from which he has been unable to recover.
Dear Florence:—

Have just finished dinner, Pa is eating the last course, pumpkin pie and cheese and I will write a few lines to you so you will be sure to get it by Christmas, if not tomorrow. The trains are so late nowdays we never know when mail will go or come, the 9:43 from the south went up this morning at 11:30. Have been doing a little house cleaning today, putting fresh papers on the cupboard shelves.

How do you do today? Should like to step in and see you and take a peek at Marion, can you see that she grows? Helen Parker’s baby only weighed 12 lbs. at four months, so he couldn’t have been a very big boy at first.

We sent a package to Varna yesterday. I was disappointed in something I had started to make for you, as it didn’t suit me, so please accept the will for the deed and later it may materialize.

Think I will persuade Pa to finish this epistle, I have to leave at 3 p.m. to practice with the children at the church and have some duties to perform so will wish you a Merry Christmas and lots of good things. Write when you feel like it. Did Emma come?

Love from Mother.

Pa writes: I will also send a word to help cheer you up a little at this happy season. We are quite well for us and usually busy, and are having a good time. It is warmer today so that our nice snow is slowly leaving, but the weather flag say, “Storm and colder”. Hope we can keep our snow, and even have a little more. Shall expect a sleigh ride to come our way ere long.

You will probably not get home till after Christmas, as it is better to stay at the hospital too long than not long enough. We often think of you and Marion in your temporary city home, and only wish we might step in and see you. But be of good cheer, our opportunity will come in due time and we will have something to look forward to.

I must now go out on the piazza for fresh air and a nap, leaving this for Ma to mail when she goes down street.

With love and best wishes,— Father

We have found two letters, one was to a cousin on March 28, 1917 and, to the best of our knowledge, his last one on April 23, 1917. Perhaps it is a coincidence that his last letter was written on his son’s, Wilburn H., twenty fifth birthday. The letter was never mailed.
Upper Judson Street, Canton, New York, Wed. Mar. 28, 1917

Dear Cousin:—

Your nice long letter came duly to hand; it was, I assure you, most welcome and a very happy surprise. We are glad to know that, with the burden of the years, you are able even to write at all. But your young spirit of 90 years is an inspiration to the loving and receptive heart, and we join in most hearty and sincere congratulations to you, with the hope that many more happy days of usefulness here on earth may be granted to you.

How the light and shadow flit across our earthly pathway! Your daughter Bessie's cup of sorrow must be more than full; but it is true of her as with us all:

“Troubles never stop forever,
The darkest day will pass away.”

It was very kind of you to write some of the details concerning her family and others. Glad you were at Aunt Hannah’s recently, having a good visit there and so kindly sharing with us the news.

Yes, what a cruel war we are having! We hear and talk about little else, and now that the U.S. is being drawn into it we hope it will soon be over and the militarism of Germany will be crushed.

Personally, we have passed a very pleasant winter, even tho I am not strong and can do little but sit. I cough and raise much and walk out a very little on quiet and comfortable days. I expect to be able to get out to church much of the time from now on, it depending entirely on the weather and myself. I am thankful to be able to dress and care for myself, to read and write and visit with friends. At times I indulge in writing music and poetry; it takes up my mind and brings me much comfort. Marion, my good wife, is the burden bearer and is pretty well for her. Since my illness, it seems that she has providentially been given the necessary strength to see to our little home, which, to me, is a veritable heaven on earth. She also plays the church organ on Sunday and takes a limited part in social affairs at times. So we keep quite active and reap the joy of doing.

I am inclosing a little poem which I wrote in February when Marion was at church. “The Little Prayer” is the title of another one written nearly a year ago. This last one I have set to music which I also composed; and as it takes me back to childhood and mother I love to sing it. It has a very taking little melody, the closing words of the refrain being:— “That little prayer at mother's knee, keeps coming back to me”. Wendell was here a week in January, and Veva since then, and we sang it well together. We may have it published later.

We took dinner at Uncle Albert Farmer's one day when sister was here. Only he and Mert's wife are at home. Uncle is over 96 and is stone deaf so that visiting is next to impossible—-Mert. is sheriff and spends most of his time at the county jail.

----- Must close with sincere love and best wishes from us both.— Wilburn
Apr. 23, 1917

Dear Everett & Cora:-

At different times you have spoken about the express wagon, if we would sell it, etc. It was mentioned at $28.00. (which price we think is)*(phrase deleted)  But if you want it for your own use we will make you a special price, $18.00 net for cash. Let us know what you decide as soon as possible.

We were glad to receive your good letter of recent date. Hope you are well as usual again, and that the spring is full of cheer and glad welcome for you. We stood the long cold winter fairly well and now hope for a new lease of life. I have to be very careful of myself, sitting out for the fresh air treatment as usual. Speaking in war terms, I have joined the home guards! Ha! Ha!

Marion is washing today. She is the burden bearer for us two, and so we keep a going very well by doing little to time.

As you suggest would dearly love to come to you for a while this summer, but it is yet too early for us to decide.

This note written by Grandpa Potter on April. 23, 1917 was never mailed.

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Beginning with May 21, Grandma Marion E. Potter documents her husband's final days by writing on the reverse side of the above letter. They were living in Canton, New York at that time. Her entries follow on the next page
Marion E. Potter writes like a diary:

May 21, 4 p.m. Will has had breathing spells. Uncle Geo. Agan made long call just before. 7 p.m. called Dr. Church, Mrs Brown & Agnes called. The last time Will was down stairs.

Tues May 22, Ham. Farmer came in a.m., stayed until noon. Phoned to Lula about Tilly, sent telegrams, Vina Merrill & Anna Mathews came in afternoon, Anna stayed until Tilly came at 7:05.

Friday (25) at 7, W.F. & M. (Wilburn, Florence and Marian) came. Sat (26) they went over to see the Parkers. Sun. Parkers over here. Mr. Downey shaved Will in afternoon.

Wilburn planted garden Monday (28).

Thurs (31) a.m. Dr. Atwood called, saw Will for a minute.

Friday (June 1) 11 a.m. W. & F. & M. went home.

Will had bad night, called up Dr. C. at 3 a.m., again at-- he came at 4:40, Mr. Weirs came about 6 a.m. Will left us a little past 7 (June 2) after a night of terrible suffering.

Tilly phoned W. at Varna, Mrs. Tupper came down, Clifford Stetson came up and worked until after dinner. Viva M. up. Wilburn and F. came at midnight.

35 callers on Sunday.

Funeral Mon (4) 3 p.m. Dr. Atwood (service), Miss Bigelow sang.

Left at 7:p.m. on sleeper, reached Albany at 3a.m.--left sleeper, reached Orange 11:42 a.m. Met by relatives, went at once to Tully. Ida, Manley; S. Falls friends were there.

Burial by Rev. Mason at 2 p.m. June 5 in hemlock lined grove, beautiful flowers from relatives & S. Falls, Cortland, McLean & Canton

Thus ends the struggle by Grandpa Rev. Wilburn D. Potter, for renewed health, against the disease of that period--- tuberculosis. He is buried in the Tully Cemetery, North Orange, Mass.
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Date of Death: June 2d, 1917

A CERTIFICATE OF DEATH of Wilburn Daniel Potter

having been presented to me containing the above stated particulars, and, after careful examination, the same appearing to be COMPLETE, CORRECT, AND SATISFACTORY AS REQUIRED BY LAW, I have accepted the same for registration, have recorded it in my Local Record with the above stated Registered Number, and on the basis thereof I HEREBY GRANT A PERMIT

to

Undertaker

(Inter, remove, or otherwise dispose of [state how])

Dated: June 4th, 1917

Signature of Local Registrar

This Permit is sufficient for the Removal (and Interment or Cremation) of a body to any part of the State (subject to local cemetery or other regulations), provided, that where removal is by common carrier, the above Permit must be included in the Transit Permit.

11-20-1855,000 (11-1876)

TRANSIT PERMIT

Form VS No. 42

NEW YORK
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ALBANY

A Transit Permit and Transit Label issued by the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics must accompany each dead body transported by a common carrier.—Rule 1.

UNDERTAKER'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the accompanying dead body of Wilburn Daniel Potter who died in the Village of Canton, County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, on June 2d, 1917, Sex Male, Color or race White, Age 53 years, 13 months, 20 days, and Cause of Death PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS has been prepared for transportation strictly in accordance with RULE, TWO, as printed with this blank. Date of shipment June 4th, 1917, Route of shipment Canton, N.Y. to TULLY, Massachusetts, Point of shipment Canton, N.Y., Point of destination TULLY, Mass.,

Dated: June 4th, 1917

Signature of Undertaker

Address

PERMIT OF LOCAL REGISTRAR

Dist. No. 4420

Registered No. 21

Date of issue: June 4th, 1917

A satisfactory Certificate of Death for above decedent having been filed and recorded in my office, PERMISSION IS HEREBY GRANTED FOR THE REMOVAL AND SHIPMENT OF THE BODY.

Signature of Local Registrar

Local Registrar of the Village of Canton, County of St. Lawrence, State of New York.

[Note: Only the Local Registrar (Deputy or Subregistrar) can issue a Burial, Removal or Transit Permit]
Postmarked Varna, N.Y.----Wilburn H. and Florence write his mother Marion E. Potter relating their trip home after the funeral of his father, Wilburn D. They closed with the firm hope that she, "get rested" and "Stop Worrying". Wilburn Herrick Potter continued as his mother's strong support until her passing, January 15, 1948.

Cortland, N.Y., June 9, 1917

Dear Ma:--

Just a few lines to let you know that we arrived safely in Cortland at 6:40 last night making all the trains in fine order. We arrived safely in Shelburne Falls at 1:03 then hired a rig from Walter Legate and drove around town stopping at Mr. Wilders, Grandma Legates, Henry Legate, Susie Wilders, Fosters, Willis Johnsons, Will Fields, Amsdens, Hallijans, Woodwards, Stones, Grandma Wards. Saw Mr. Stone and Howard Amsden at the shop; then caught the four o'clock train for N. Adams. Stopped at Stones for a time and then she rode down street with us and went to the depot. Henry L. gave us a gallon of syrup which we gladly lugged home.

Took the trolley from N. Adams arriving in Pittsfield about 6:30. Went to the station and left our baggage and then learned that the next train left for Chatham at 9:18. Then called up 179 Elm St. for Robert (Harrington) but he was not in so then went directly to the Y.M.C.A. They said he had just been there but that they could not find him then. So I left my name and address but missed seeing him. We then went to the vaudeville and thus passed away a couple of hours. When we were ready to get on the train found that there were no day coaches on that train so we had to ride in the chair car for fifty cents extra. Went to the Chatham House for the night.

Got up at six, went to the farm (Borden), Hartigans, Reynold, Grays and had a good but short visit. Saw Mr. and Mrs. Holford on our way to the station. Arrived safely in Albany at 11:50, left there at 12:10 arriving in Syracuse at 3:35. Called Emma (Step grandma Emma Bean) from Syracuse to have them meet us at the 6:40 train which they did. Will go to Varna at noon today.

Dad (Bean) said he would be sure that all papers are payable to you or rather see if there are any that Pa had in his own name. After ascertaining that he thought it would be well to write to Cook stating just how matters stood and what we wish to do and probably he would be in position to advise us the best method to pursue. He said that in regard to the transfer of the bankbook it would depend almost entirely on the bank whether they would be able to give the advice necessary.

Baby (Marian) is just fine and weighed a little better than 29 lb. this morning. The first thing she said last night was "Ma-ma" and then "Pa-pa". Seemed awfully glad to see us. They've had lots of rain, since we left but the sun is shining bright this morning.

Well, this will let you know that we are alright and that we'll be in Varna at noon. Hope you are getting rested and have stopped Worrying.

Will close with Lots of Love, from all the Children
Dear Mrs. Potter:

Your letter announcing Wilburn's going came to us this morning just at Church time. This afternoon I had written out a telegram telling you I would go to North Orange and was about to phone it to the office when Tillie's letter came informing us of the change in arrangements.

Tillie had written us that she was with you and that Wilburn couldn't keep up the fight much longer. So we were somewhat prepared for the sad word of his going. But we are never ready to accept such a decree. And a great company of us are unreconciled to his being called to go when there was so much he could do so well right here.

He has made a remarkable fight and even when the foe was getting the better of him, he was patient and sweet. He manifested a most wonderful poise of character in his struggle with a dread disease. It speaks of great inner strength to meet such an enemy face to face; but to keep up the conflict through long years and never lose courage and never become sour is a genuine victory. His was a victory of sublime faith.

Will it help you just a bit to be assured that Loraine and I are sympathizing sincerely with you. And we trust that you will not work nor worry so much that illness will come to you.

Loraine joins me in Love and sympathy.

Faithfully,

L. W. Coons

At the time of Grandpa's passing there were many messages of sympathy sent to Grandma. I have chosen to copy this one, hand written, from a fellow colleague pastor of the Universalist church.
The Reverend Wilburn Daniel Potter
Class of 1886

Wilburn Daniel Potter was born at Canton, N.Y. July 13, 1863. He was the son of John S. Potter and his wife Catharine L. Farmer. The father was one of the leading farmers of the vicinity in which he lived and died only four years before the son at the advanced age of 85 years.

Mr. Potter was prepared for College at the Canton Academy, entered S.L.U. in 1882 and graduated in 1886. He paid most of his college expenses by teaching school winters and playing the clarinet in J. B. Livingston's orchestra.

In September after graduation he engaged as principal of the Colton High School. He taught here two years--taught--singing to the whole school, worked in the P.O. and sang in the church choir.

In September 1888 under the advice of Dr. I. M. Atwood, the Vice President of the Theological School, Mr. Potter entered the ministry graduating in the class of 1890, preaching during his course at Herkimer, Vanhornesville and Springfield Center.

His first pastorate was at Huntingville, P.Q. and he preached alternate Sundays at North Hatley and Moes River and at the latter place a new church edifice was built. He was ordained here--and served as minister from June 1890 to June 1893.

On July 29, 1891 He was married to Miss Marion Esther Herrick daughter of Selectman Merrill D. Herrick and his wife Mary Harrington Herrick of North Orange, Mass. One son Wilburn Herrick Potter was born to them on April 23, 1892 and who is now a veterinary surgeon located in Rochester, N.Y.

In June 1893 he was called to become pastor of the Universalist Church in Shelburne Falls, Mass. where he served 12 years--and which service was most fruitful and enjoyable.

In 1900 he went to Europe traveling in seven different countries--using his experiences, on his return, to great advantage in lectures and sermons.
From Dec. 1905 to June 1907—he rendered much active service as pastor of the Universalist church at Oneonta, N.Y. removing from here to Cortland, N.Y. in June 1907—where he was in the midst of manifold and much enjoyed activities when he became a victim of tuberculosis which compelled him to retire from his active ministry.

He spent much time in the Adirondack region making a most cheerful and earnest fight to regain his health—and so convinced was he that he had won that he returned to Canton the home of his early life. For six years he cheerfully and hopefully waged the battle but finally died June 2, 1917,

The funeral was held at his home in Canton June 4th and interment was in Tully Cemetery, Orange Mass. June 5th. The final resting place of 6 Universalist ministers.

Mr. Potter was a splendid type of man. There was no blot or spot on his record. He was a faithful and useful minister in the Church of Christ. He was social, genial and lovable and at the same time a man of high principle. He was a musician of some ability—playing both the clarinet and violin well and the tedium of his last struggle with disease was relieved by composing songs and arranging appropriate tunes.

Those who knew him prized and loved him. In his death the College and church lose a faithful and profitable servant.

This short biography was mailed to my grandmother, Mrs. W. D. Potter, 145 S. Main St, Orange, Mass from Portsmouth, R.I. (after June 1918, date illegible). The writer's name is not mentioned. I believe, because of the handwriting, that the writer was Veva Potter Storrs, sister of Rev. Wilburn D. Potter. It is a magnificent tribute to the memory of this remarkable gentlemen who showed the highest quality of character in a human being—truly a child of God.

Here ends our travel with grandfather Rev. Wilburn Daniel Potter, with a few "sidetrips" added. It has been truly enjoyable and revealing. I now have a closeness to this gentleman, which I cannot explain. Perhaps I should not try—just leave it with, I'm very proud to be able to say, "I'm his Grandson".

Bernard W. Potter, 1999
Woodbridge cemetery, a short distance east of Canton, NY, is the resting place of Great Grandfather John Spaulding Potter and Great Grandmother Catherine Farmer Potter. As the etching is hardly readable I have copied:

JOHN S. POTTER DIED FEB. 12, 1913 AT 85 YRS
CATHERINE L., HIS WIFE DIED APR 3, 1889 AT 55 YRS.

pictured June 21, 1999 Carleton Wilburn Potter, left and Willard Harmon Potter, right
Rev. Wilburn Daniel and Marion Herrick Potter
son: Wilburn Herrick Potter. circa 1896

Dr. Wilburn Herrick Potter and Florence Bean Potter
Bernard, Willard and Carleton  1933
At the farm in Truxton—note the milk strainer and milk pails
We are fortunate to have some of Grandpa Potter's poems, lyrics and music which he wrote and composed. I thought it would be a fitting end to this collection to copy some for us to reflect upon.

This first one was written at the time of his mother's death, April 13, 1889. The lines are in memory of Catherine L. Potter, wife of John S. Potter and he entitles them

Gone

Gone! But only from this world of strife
To a fairer realm of Eternal Life--
To a land of bliss and joy divine
Where Angelic hosts in glory shine.

Gone! But only from scenes here below
To far brighter ones in Heaven to know--
To the brighter scenes by our Maker given
Which draw us nearer Our Father in Heaven.

Gone! But only from dear ones below
To a Heavenly Home of loved ones to know--
A Home of peace on that Golden Shore
Where God, THE FATHER, dwells evermore.

Grandpa Potter sent this next poem to the "Universalist Leader" with these words:

"Dear Editor: The past six years of poor health has given me much time for meditation; and when recently my mind went back again to the old home, a new and inexplicable gratitude came to me and I could not help setting it down thru the inclosed lines. Please use them or not, just as you think best. The memory of my 20 years in the active work of the Christian ministry is especially dear to me now. Faithfully yours,---W.D.Potter

March 6, 1916

A Growing Faith

My mind goes back to when I was a boy;
To innocent childhood, the freedom and joy:
To a humble home-life, its rapturous thrill;
And gratitude wells up my bosom to fill.

My mind goes back to when mother was near;
To scenes of delight, the gladness and cheer;
To a sweet home-nurture, its watchful care:
And my soul sends forth the incense of prayer.

My mind goes back to when I was a man;
To fields of rich soil, the fruitage to plan;
To companion toilers, a ministry of love:
And faith grows strong in a Father above.

Rev. W. D. Potter Feb 27, 1916
A Winter Reverie

I sit on my porch in the winter time,
Fair breezes from the north blow o'er and o'er
I hear the words of a by-passing friend,
“He's nearer the Pole than ever before.”

I sit on my porch in the winter time,
Am bundled up tight, am cozy and dry;
I catch the words of a murmuring friend,
“Fore sitting like that I'd go in and die.”

I sit on my porch in the winter time,
Inquiring friends oftimes keep me busy;
The hovered remark floats in to my ear,
“An excellent time he’s having, how easy!”

I sit on my porch in the winter time,
The white-robed earth is posing in beauty;
I see how nature tries her lesson to teach,
By aiding the practice of love and duty.

These many voices seem almost sublime,
When out on my porch in the winter time;
For good or for ill, they’re always well meant,
I simply use them, my heart is content.

—Wilburn D. Potter

Upper Judson Street,
Canton, N.Y.
Feb. 6, 1917
That Little Prayer

Dreams of childhood, so free from care,
Home and Mother, the little prayer:
These come often to cheer my heart,
And help me choose the better part.

Refrain:
'Tis ever thus! So let it be!
And thus it seems to me:
That little prayer at mother's knee,
Keeps coming back to me.

Happy school days, so fair and bright,
Books and teachers, precepts of right:
These come often to chase dull care,
And growing out of that first prayer.

Refrain:
Sound the Gospel! Hear ye the Call!
Words of wisdom, God over all:
These come often in hours of need,
The fruit of early planted seed.

Refrain:
Looking backward thru all the years,
Sun and shadow, the hopes and fears:
The little prayer at mother's knee,
Is now by far most dear to me.

Refrain:

--W.D. Potter
Mar. 9, 1916, Canton, N.Y.

Published in the Empire State Universalist, May 1916.
A time to Remember

Wilburn Harold Potter at his Great Grandfather's desk. It was passed from grandma Marion E. Potter to grandson Bernard W. Potter and now is in the home of Joyce and Wilburn Potter, Strasburg, Pa. It is beautifully refinished. photo 1999

Grandson Willard Harmon Potter and wife Jane Louise Zautner Potter at front porch of farm home in Truxton, NY. Jane holds 6 month Daniel. Scott (4), Bruce (5) stand on the steps summer 1976
Wilburn D. Potter's Grandson, Bernard William Potter, with his family
l-r: Nancy Bell, Wilburn Harold, Patricia Rae, Bernice Margaret, Joanne Ruth
wife, Margaret Bell Smith Potter
photo at N.Y. State Fair, 1970

WDP's Grandson Carleton Wilburn Potter and family--- 1976
standing: James Carleton, Robert Wilburn, Mary Jane, CWP, Thomas Edmund
front: Gr. son Robb, son-in law Larry and daughter Susan Florence Potter Newman
holding Gr dau. Julie Kay, Gr. son Mark; wife-- Marian Wightman Potter, Janet Marion
228
The grandchildren of Wilburn Daniel and Marion Herrick Potter
Bernard William, Marian Potter Kitts, Carleton Wilburn, Willard Harmon,
We have many happy times! 7-4-93

Carleton, Willard and Bernard at memorial service for sister Marian.
Truxton, N.Y. cemetery. We look better in long pants! 7-4-98
Rev. Wilburn D. Potter was ordained here in 1891. It was his first charge. Photo, May 8, 1999. Margaret Potter reads the inscription on a tablet beside the church. The words, in part, as follows:

**Huntingville Universalist Church**

This was the first Universalist Church in Canada. It was built in 1844 and for more than a century it welcomed its Universalist parishioners from the surrounding areas. With its white, slope-wood facing, the church is typical of the style of New England churches. From 1870 until 1951, it had an adjoining meeting hall with carriage sheds for about 20 teams. These annexes were demolished after the church closed in 1951. In 1976 the church became the property of Heritage Quebec.
Potter, Farmer--Herrick, Harrington

a brief family tree

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<tr>
<th>Erastus B. Potter</th>
<th>Daniel Farmer</th>
<th>Marshall Herrick</th>
<th>Abram Harrington</th>
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<td>Jane Dickey</td>
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<td>Deborah A. Cook</td>
<td>Esther Goddard</td>
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<th>John Spaulding Potter--Catherine Louise Farmer</th>
<th>Merrill D. Herrick--Mary Jane Harrington</th>
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<th>William Jay Bean--Annie Harmon</th>
<th>Wilburn Daniel Potter--Marion Esther Herrick</th>
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| Florence Mae Bean | Wilburn Herrick Potter |

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<tr>
<th>Marian Bean</th>
<th>Carleton Wilburn</th>
<th>Bernard William</th>
<th>Willard Harmon</th>
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<tr>
<td>Harry W. Kitts</td>
<td>Marian Julia Wightman</td>
<td>Margaret Bell Smith</td>
<td>Jane Louise Zautner</td>
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<th>David</th>
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<td>Harry</td>
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David--- Joan Mutschler

Rebecca---David Shaull
Margaret---Joe Widman
Marie---Marc Hone
Natasha

Jean---William Cadwallader

Beth---Kent Horsager
Aaron, Janet, Philip
Blake---Judi Sher
Parry, Mollie, Allyson Lawrence
Debbie---Harrison Taylor
Harrison Hayes

Harry--- Martys Otis
Larry--- Jackie Gonder Stead
Todd Stead

James---Diane Conforti

Travis
Justin

Susan---Larry Newman

Mark
Robb---Canadice Stein
Julie

Robert
Thomas---Gretchen Poelma
Kristen
Megan

Mary Jane
Janet---Rich Newman

Jill
Lori
Susan

Patricia---Brenda Moulton

Wilburn---Joyces Crawford
Michelle
Christopher

Nancy--- George Gull
Joanne---Lee Meinicke
Bernice--- Mark Mastler

Adrienne
Alaina
Erica
Gregory

Bruce---Debbie Butler

Douglas
Matthew
---Carole Kirkland
Nicholas

Scott---Caroline Huxtable
Kelsey
Connie
Tracey

Daniel---Stephanie White
Andrew

July 15, 1999

bwp