

Willow Springs, Mo.

Dec 9th, 1913.

My own dear Sister & Hubert,

Have been holding back on my letter writing so it would strike you about Christmas, and a Happy Christmas we wish you both. we shall follow this letter in mind and shall think of you and wish you all good wishes when the day comes. Suppose there will be High Mass or some special Musical Festival at the Cathedral, that is where I should like to go with you and hear music of worth, instead of which I expect to be with a crowd amongst whom only one other appreciates good music, and fortunately she is a good Pianist and so you old like myself so we shall get toward the edge of the crowd and monopolize the Piano & enjoy ourselves. we were all together on Thanksgiving Day. (always the last Thursday in Nov) 24 of us sat down to dinner together for we celebrate with feasting & friends just like Christmas and we

arranged to all be together again on  
Christmas Day, we are a sociable crowd  
haven't much to do just now except  
try to have a good time, Mr & Mrs Davis  
own & live on a farm half way between  
here & Willow Springs & as I came back  
from town Saturday I called in to have  
a chat. Mrs Davis said she was getting  
hungry for Music, so Mr Davis said "put  
on your wraps & go along & I will come  
early in the morning." so I brought her  
home with me and we had some good  
music that evening and Mr Davis came  
early Sunday morn and we had an enjoy-  
able Sunday playing & singing, altho  
she is 60 she is as young in her ways as  
if she was but 40, and Mr D is just  
as young & he & I were doing "stunts"  
like a couple of boys, such as kneeling  
on the carpet with your hands behind  
you & picking up a pin with your teeth  
and all such fool things to show how  
young & active we were, while the women  
cooked dinner. —

Just think—you have your mail deliv'd  
at 9.30 p.m. we think we do well to get  
it over a day, your country is all right—

you returned the pictures before receiving  
my permission to keep what you wanted  
so I intended to return you the two Daus  
and the swimmers which you seemed  
to like but I can't find the two Daus  
someone has mislaid it or taken it  
we have moved house since receiving  
them back so it may turn up by & by  
if not I'll get Lil to print you another  
as she has the negative I expect. yes we  
have moved. I Leased a 400 acre farm  
which joins mine so now I have 640  
acres, just a square mile of farm. &  
the house on the 400 acres is more central  
to the combined farm. so we moved into  
it. It is just across the road opposite  
to the entrance gate of my own farm  
we are going to try it for one year and  
if we find we can handle both farms  
to advantage I will buy the 400 acres  
but will try it first as we may find  
it too unwieldy, for it is a big thing. I  
started round the fence of one field  
at 9 a.m. to see if it was in good condition  
had to make a few repairs but was not  
delayed much but it was 1.p.m. when I got  
around. had about 200 acres in it.

I intended to comply with your request and keep Mrs Pankhurst, even went so far as to find a man who promised to marry her, but she slipped away before we had our plans consummated. am sorry to thus disappoint you.

Yes I remember James Barker, I always thought he was about the best & honestest one in the bunch of young preachers who used to come to Ivy Cottage.

So Hubert is learning German our nearest neighbors are Germans they are abt 1 mile away. and the Old lady & Married daughter can neither speak English so I have to sling "Scotch" at them. I used to have Germans & Swedes & Switzers & Greeks & Italians & French men work for me so I had to learn to "Cuss" in about seven languages, but had to have an Interpreter handle the gang of Greeks

I was working the greek gang clearing a wreck one dark stormy night when I got my leg broken. if I had had white men I should have escaped the accident.

Milwaukee is a City of Germans & Wis's two elder Children learn German at the Public Schools. That little boy you that

so full of fun & mischief, which he is, can talk German & sing German songs while Margaret in El Paso learns Spanish in the Public School. She writes me in Spanish occasionally, she is getting along fine. Jim speaks Spanish fluently & Alice has been trying to learn it for several years but makes poor headway. —

Do not think I have to report any changes in the family except Dorothy has moved from Fort Scott to Hoisington, Kansas. Harry got a promotion so they moved to accept it, everybody is well the Circuit letter came by a couple of days ago and the whole bunch seemed to be having a good time.

Our crops are now all harvested and we are busy sawing up trees into boards & planks. we have a saw mill, and haul up big logs & whole trees with our Traction Engine and then cut them into timber with a 50 inch Circular Saw. have been sawing today and this pen feels like a toothpick after using a Cant Hook to roll Logs all day. have a months sawing ahead, to cut enough timber to supply the farm for a year, then we cut up all waste for

Fuel and grind our own Corn so we are pretty good Machinists as well as Farmers. as we make all our own repairs on both Steam & Gasoline Engines. Have to be "Jack of all trades" out here. one day a Blacksmith, next a Carpenter then a Miller, then a Saw Mill operator and most of the time a Farmer. I tell you my boys are getting some all round experience, - They intersperse the Labor with hunting & Trapping. I seldom crowd them with work.

'Tis almost bed time I was late home tonight but this ought to be mailed tomorrow, so will say Good night & may every blessing be yours and Christmas and the coming year be the happiest to date, there is always much to be thankful for and rejoice over. The crowd around Thanksgiving dinner table were recalling the awful drought of the past season which had nearly bankrupt some of us. and tho't we had little to be thankful for this year. I arose & said in my opinion they had entirely lost sight of our blessing viz. the danger from drowning had been greatly reduced. Ha!  
Merry Christmas, Finest Corn, Big Hay & Good Kill  
Bro Dan.