

Paid Pencil & Blue book yesterday, many thanks.

Willow Springs, Mo.

Jan 23rd, 1916.

My dear old Sister & Hubert.

Your birthday letter reached me square on my birthday. we were celebrating when it arrived. we have a neighbor whose birthday is the same date as mine and one year we spend the day with her the next she comes to us, so this year we celebrated at our house, she lives 7 miles away so came the day before, and after breakfast we were sitting around the fire, for it was real wintery, when the mail arrived, your letter, others for the girls, also one from Anne Cutler with a dandy photo of herself. my! I felt rich. I sure had a good day and thank you for your part in making it so. I just love to have you "laumbach" me in your letters. I know I deserve

it. but I get nervous over the Cabinet  
'skindies' in Eng but I guess that's  
the way J. Bull usually goes at it.  
in the struggle with Napoleon and  
in the Crimean War I read he  
fired about half a dozen Cabinets.  
we have heard a good deal lately  
about British decadence but to  
judge by the past, when everybody  
is shaking his fist in everybody  
else's face the outlook is most  
promising and J.B. is just about  
fit to attend to the little matter outside.  
you fear we get only a one  
sided account here. but I think  
we are in a much better position  
than you to hear both sides of  
the question. I could send you  
lots of News published here but I  
don't want to put us to the bad  
with the Censor, and lose any of  
your letters. we have no friends. The  
Germans ought to love us because the  
British dislike us and the British

ought to love us because the  
Germans dislike us but it doesn't  
seem to work out that way. Ha!  
in the meantime we have troubles  
of our own, killing Americans by  
the score in Mexico. Jim used to  
travel thro Mexico but he quit,  
he went to Chihuahua (Che-wä-wä)  
last year tho' & that is right where  
they lined up the bunch of Americans  
last week & shot them. If we  
had anything to fight with I guess  
we would be fighting but fixed  
as we are we write notes instead.  
but if you British blockade all  
the coast of Europe and make it  
so we can't sell our Cotton &  
Mules why we shall just have  
to sweep your Fleet off the sea -  
i.e. when we get around to it.

We have had it 60 below zero  
a week ago but yesterday & today  
we are sitting with the doors  
open and no fire the sun is so

warm and the birds are singing like Spring. and I was sorting out garden seeds yesterday but we'll have many a cold day yet before gardening begins. but we are getting hopeful and that's a sign of Spring. we are always expecting to have good crops, at seeding time, but I do enjoy growing things, working in the damp mold and seeing the young plants push their heads up thro the ground. I wish I had been farming when I had ambition I should have accomplished something, but now I am just satisfied to raise what we need.

Well Bye bye, I am still hoping Hubert will stay home and be company suppose Harold is with his unit by now. - Write soon as you can so I'll know where you both are. wish you were both here.

Dearest love & a good kiss  
dearest sister o'mine, May I hear  
good news. Shake! Hubert Uncle Sam.