

Just look up reply, pls excuse

Willow Springs, Mo.

March 1st, 1916.

My dear old Sister,

Your dear letter of Feb 13-14 just arrived and I will answer at once as I have wanted to write you for a week or two but if it had gone into training you might have moved near his camp, but am glad to hear he is still with you and I hope the works can't spare him. I think they will hang on to a man of his calibre. and oh! darling I'll be so delighted if only he is left with you, in spite of other dark clouds this will be a bit of silver lining.

You speak of Harold as tho he was not 19 yet, he must be 20 as our Harold was 20 last Oct. and they are the same age to a few weeks. However I see Group 1 was called up for the 21st so I expect he has joined the ranks by this, as I doubt

Think They will be permitted to evade
service for education. I hope They
will allow Basil to stay home
with his Mother now Burton isn't
there to take care of her. The girls
dont seem to worry much, but I
think that is assumed, so I wont
see that it hurts, bless 'em. They are
brave girls and Loyal to their country
Ethel is like you she gets mad at me
and gives me a good Lambasting.
The others make allowance for my
ignorance of conditions.

I was worried when I read of
that Japp raid, when Lincolnshire
& Derbyshire were included it was
getting close home, it is barbarous
warfare on defenceless noncombatants
and should be abolished by international
agreement whenever The Nations can
get together again. Oh! I'm so glad
you escaped but it must be a big
strain on all of you. —

I mailed you some magazines a

couple of wks ago but doubt if they get by the Censor) as 'The Literary Digest' is pretty outspoken at times. but I like it better than any other magazine I take, as there is no Fiction in it. I hope they ^{will} let them come through, as there was a little piece in the Digest about an old friend of mine, Bob Reeves, a Conductor who used to run one of our trains into Fort Scott. I used to see him nearly every day and his hearty grip & genial face was always welcome.

Our winter has been about normal 6° below once and lots of near zero weather but no extraordinary severe weather, for the past two weeks the days have been bright & warm and we have done some plowing for Spring seeding but today we are having another kick of winter, snow & ice. March is coming in like a lion.

I almost forgot to tell you the big Family event. Frances has a big boy, born Feb 17. - sure enough a Eugenic baby, 9½ lbs, largest one in about 20 at the Maternity Hospital where she was at. Lil is the only one who doesn't keep up the family record, and like most women with children she's crazy over them. I think she has made most of this baby's layout, she's hardly been to bed since it came. has written us every day advising conditions, & several times it's been after midnight. Frances returns to her home tomorrow she got along fine, never looked or felt bad Lil says. -

Well! bye bye, dear old Sis & mine and a good hearty 'shake' for Hubert hope the Co. cant run without him Fondest love & a long Kiss.

Bro Sam.