

Willow Springs, Mo.

July 23rd, 1916.

My dear Sister & Hubert.

Your good letter of June 11th and it received July 6th. and should have been answered a week ago but we have so much company in this small house of six rooms that it's almost impossible to get a quiet minute at my desk, especially as I have two little Kiddies to play with. Lillian and Husband have been & gone again, stayed 2 weeks. and Frances & Husband and baby boy have been here 10 Days Frances & baby are going to stay with us until September cool breezes arrive. Lawrence will return to biz in another week I think. Jo' and daughter are still here until Fall. It is hot! hot!!! and we spend a part of each day

in the water and do no kind
of work that can possibly be
avoided. wish we could trade
for a little of the cool weather
you mention. we had splendid
prospects for crops but have
now had 5 weeks without any
rain and 100° or more every day
so we are suffering badly for
rain and crops are dying. we
seem to have a spell every year
like this. then after crops are
ruined it rains again and we
have to raise a second crop of
inferior quality. but we always
manage to pull thro'.

We have eagerly scanned our
papers the past few weeks and
enjoyed the announcements of
the Allied successes. I hope you
will back the Gms into their
own country and then make
peace. Oh! the cost in brave
men but there seems no other

way out.
You ask about "Tickets Validated"
We'll suppose I buy a Round Trip
Ticket from Willow Springs to
Los Angeles. I am allowed so
many days to go in and so many
days to return in but can stay at
Los Angeles as long as desired,
and the ticket is not transferrable
I may have bought my ticket a
week before I start but on the
day I start I present it to the
Ticket Agent and I attach my
signature in two places and the
Agent stamps the date on the part
to be used in going to Los Angeles
and tears off our signature and
then I am allowed so many days
from that date to reach L.A.
This to prevent me stopping at
intermediate towns. I arrive at
Los Angeles & have my visit
and when I am ready to start

back I take the return half to the Ticket Agent there and attach my signature which he compares with my former signature sent to him by the Agent at Willow Spring when he finds they agree he stamps the date on my return half this "Validates" it for the return trip.

You know we can buy Railway tickets at Ticket Offices up town in big towns and not have to wait until we go to the Station to start on our journey. -

Lillian called at Fort Scott as she came home and brought me a post card of our home in Fort Scott which I traded for this Farm. It was built by the U.S. Government for the Officers of the Fort to live in and I bought the lower one for a home. The ceilings of the main rooms were 12 ft high and the whole house inside & outside was built of

Walnut timber, right in front
was a beautiful square or small
Park called The Plaza with a
bandstand and when the band
played once or twice every week
the girls had a good dance on
the large porch with the columns
which were solid Walnut logs. —
There was a Cellar beneath the lower
rooms, and again another wine
Cellar below that, it was a fine
old home. — I may have sent you
a photo of it before, for we lived
there several years. It is a
double house and I lived in the
right hand half with the garden.
There were 13 large rooms in my half
just right for my family. —

I also send a few snapshots
taken last week. I guess there
is no objection to photos coming
into the country. —

Lillian's husband is an extra

good swimmer Lillias swims
very well also the boys swim
slowly but Frank can do all
kinds of stunts in the water.
Lillias photo is blurred up moving
the camera. — Little James is always
busy with the Calves & chickens
haven't taken a picture of James
yet. He's a dandy boy. —

Our little trouble with Mexico
is kinder quiet just now, we
have abt 150,000 soldiers on
the border now — 100,000 Militia
and the rest regulars —

This isn't much but I can't
write good. Jo & Lawrence are
playing the nicest kind of music
and I have to listen. Lawrence
plays the Flute. —

Truest love & "God bless you."

Just discovered
Jo's sent all the Uncle Sam
pictures to her husband.
Will get another set printed for you