

Willow Springs, Mo.

Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> 1916.

My dear Sister & Hubert,

We rec'd your Card & H's  
Souvenir Card O.K. beautiful  
place. Hgate. hope you enjoyed  
your visit & rested your nerves,  
our papers tell of several air  
raids in the past week or two  
and I hurriedly scan them for  
"Lincoln" but so far have not  
seen it a victim. sincerely  
hope not to do so. - The  
Arabia has just gone down  
I can't understand why Eng  
doesn't convey these large liners  
thro' the danger zone. -

Russia is having a hard  
time I'm only afraid she'll  
give up & then the bulk of

the Eastern G'n Army will be released to fight in the West. any how G'n victories are sure to affect the decision of certain Balkan States. whilst the taking of Warsaw is not by any means a decisive blow yet there is tremendous moral advantage in such a feat. it will hearten the G'n people & their Allies and will make other nations pause on the verge of entering the war. after a years war not a hostile soldier is on G'n soil except a small section of Lorraine. and while Russia is defeated & driven back from her invasion of both Germany & Austria poorly supplied.

with ammunition. Her army  
apparently poorly officered  
Germany seems to have plenty  
of men, ammunition & credit.  
I can't understand her ability  
to keep herself supplied with  
munitions of war after using  
them with apparent prodigality  
England's great wealth &  
staying power is my hope  
in it all. Her resources are  
almost unlimited. but our  
papers announce that she is  
going to resort to Conscription  
I don't like that. compulsory  
service means the failure of  
Liberty. Eng & the U.S. believe  
in democratic freedom and their  
boast has been that no man is  
a soldier against his will &

The evil of compulsory military service is its onslaught on personal freedom. but I suppose in these exceptional times it calls for exceptional practices to meet the emergency as they did here in the Civil war. I am always pleased to hear you & Anne Cutler speak of the thousands of soldiers in training wherever you go. They will be needed.

We are well, ditto all the family. The problem of our big peach crop was solved by nature. we had a 3 days & nights storm. The tail end of the storm that wrecked Galveston & other Texas cities it blew & rained 3 days & nights. so blew all our peaches off & many of the trees down. blew our fields of corn 10 ft high flat on the ground truly

this is a country of extremes -  
we got our cattle & horses in  
the barns like in winter & it  
was with difficulty that we  
could feed & milk them. Haven't  
seen those on range. boys found  
6 head of horses & mules today  
young ones not working which  
were on the range. but the cattle  
appear to have drifted before  
the storm so many trees are  
struck by lightning and blown  
down in the forests that it  
is dangerous for stock to  
shelter under them. I tell  
you a farmer has a hard time  
either too wet or too dry or  
a storm of wind & hail comes  
& ruins his crops & fences &  
buildings in 15 minutes I have  
seen hail stones piled up 2 ft  
deep & all as big as goose eggs

They broke every window in my house & took the roof off in ten minutes just battered it to pieces. Killed cattle & horses & people. Had 13 rooms in our house & when the roof was off it rained in torrents & poured down thro ceilings & carpets & furniture from garret to cellar, just about ruined us in  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour, that was in Fort Scott. —

Good bye my dear old sister & boy, I admire your cool grit in taking your vacation in the midst of all the uproar. — You are English all right —

We know that peace & happy quiet days will come again may they hurry, so we can feel comfortable again.

Lovingly Bro Dave.