

Willow Springs, Mo

Dec 3rd 1916.

My dear Sister & Hubert,

I'm a busy week ahead
so must write my Christmas
wishes tonight for by the
time this reaches you it will
begin to feel Christmassy. If
you were here you would scarcely
believe it was December we have
sat outside on the Porch today
just like summer, doors open
& no fires. but I remember one
Christmas day being just as
warm and afterwards we
had the worst winter I ever
experienced. 25° below Zero.—
so we may have lots of bad weather

any day now but we are
all sung for the winter whenever
it comes. finished our hay
harvest Nov 27th ~~so~~ on the
30th which was "Thanksgiving
Day." we sang.

"All in safety gathered in
Ere the wintry storms begin.
Wish you could have celebrated
Thanksgiving with us, and helped
to eat all the good cheer, we
had a "stranger within our gates"
a young Baptist Minister I
found in the forest the Tuesday
before Thanksgiving. He was
hunting & about 400 miles from
home so I had him come home
and stay over Thanksgiving with
us. - we gave him a good time

and talked to him about his wife & 2 little boys for whom he was growing homesick. — he left us yesterday.

Was so sorry to know you had been sick my dear old Pio, and A.C. tells me, Hubert was also sick. are you sure you are well now. I do hope so if you could only have been there to take all the worry off your hands & nurse you oh my! — we're no earthly use to you. its too bad we are separated so far. but hope you have some good neighbors. these people overdo the neighbor business. I remember nursing one very sick man here and on the first Sunday there were over 40

neighbors came to see him, drove
up in wagons & made a regular
picnic of it, and Maama & a
few other women cooked dinner
for four sittings down, and
the chatter & noise were pretty
hard on the poor fellow who
was very near death. — am
sure I shall be glad to hear
you are both well again. —

Your pkg of clippings were
very interesting thank you, that
Schlagin — (I mean the fellow
whose name sounds like someone
gargling) was sure a spy. —
the Country was full of them.
So is this Country. —

Was delighted to see you had
bro't down two more Zepps.
That's doing well. — If the New

Admiralty Officials will now
do something to the Submarines
I'll hurrah for them. They are
sending down too much good
food no wonder the price is
high. everything, both food and
other merchandise has increased
in price enormously. here, not
necessarily but speculators
have cornered necessities and
the government hasn't proved
it on them yet. Law works
slow. meanwhile the consumer
pays, - but up in these hills I
tell them we have solved the
problem of "High Cost of Living"
as we dig most of it out of
old mother earth, all just the
price of labor. but your turn

will come again when you will
be surrounded with peace &
plenty, and then we shall
all breathe free again.

You ask about Hughes. probably
not so important now he missed
out. I'm a Wilson man, but Hughes
is a clever, good principled man
but he made a poor running
he is a learned and forceful man
but a poor politician, cold
stand off, a poor "mixer" and
altho he was the capitalists choice
and they spent 3 million Dollars
in their endeavor to elect him, they
failed. - You know the President
is not elected by direct popular
vote. The names of the presidential
candidates are not on the ballot
at all, - so altho' Wilson had 400,000
more votes than Hughes, if Hughes
had received 4,000 more votes in

California he would have won
and been the President. I
expect you know all about
the way they are elected tho!

Well! another stormy, war
raging Christmas, but every day
there are more people earnestly
praying for peace, and the
tide will have to turn soon
meanwhile, we all have to
suffer, and shall do for years
after peace is proclaimed, but
I feel and believe you
concur that we can endure
any other hardship if this
slaughter of brave men will
cease. - I think they realize
that they will need men like
Hubert after the war is over

to assist in building up man-
ufacture & trade again and
will not send them to the front
and risk their lives. They will
need Educators & Technical
Mechanics, and must reserve
them for future needs. so I'm
feeling pretty easy about it
being called out, if he is he'll
make just as good soldier as
he is a mechanic I know.

We love you and think of you
and hope you will enjoy Christ-
mas together and we always
and by wishing you were here.

Fondest love & best wishes
in which Mama & the boys

Join. — Bro Sam.