

Willow Springs, Mo.

Dec 29 31st 1916.

My dear old Sister & Hubert.

It is 1917 with you but we shall have to wait an hour yet. I am going to write the old year out. Thinking of my loved ones. and hoping they are well and as happy as it is possible to be under existing conditions. - There's so much peace talk floating around that I hope something will come of it. for I earnestly desire peace; if the war is continued you are going to suffer, never mind if England has not accomplished what she set out to do. neither have any of the

other countries, and the whole world is tired of the conflicts and ripe for a world peace compact. I think something can be formulated to avoid a recurrence of such awful carnage.

Hope you had a happy Christmas. Thank you for your dear letter and good wishes which arrived about 10 o'clock Christmas morn'g. I was getting a little afraid they weren't going to get here on time was so glad to see your letter. We had a good time. no visitors English fare. Roast Beef. Plum Pudding & Mince Pies - we failed to get a wild Turkey. but butchered a steer a few days before Christmas. Harold shot a Turkey a week before but we had it for dinner the Sunday a week before Xmas and had our neighbors here for

altho they are so plentiful in
the forest they are so wary
that it takes an Indian to
kill them, but Harold has the
patience of an Indian. Time
is too precious with me. I
always think "Time is life".

We have had some cold weather
just before Christmas, 12° below
zero, and before that about
a week 5 below, but Christmas
day the snow was melting
and we have had reasonable
weather since.

Mama made a Christmas tree
and trimmed it with tinsel &
candles & gaudy toys and
useful things, for 4 families
who are poor wood choppers.
They have 3 children each, so
she had to provide for 12 children

and their parents she was
working on her warm gifts &
goodies for days, and then
after they all had left tired &
happy with their arms full.
Mama regretted there was so
little one could do in these
woods to make people happy
I grabbed her and said, "you
little old Santa, not one of those
people ever saw a Christmas
tree before & never had Santa
find them," - Oh! that isn't much,
she answered. - but those
poor folks' hearts & backs
will be warm all winter
we sang Old Christians Awake
just as we have done ever since
I can remember I hope it will
be handed down by some of
the family. Win & May keeps
up the old traditions they have

3 children and Wieu is a good provider and they make a big thing of these festivals just as Mama & I have always done. They are such landmarks to look back on and keep all from forgetting home.

I have told you about my nearest neighbors being Nihilists from Russia. There are 4 brothers but two were away from home when the week before Christmas one of them phoned for me to come his brother had committed suicide by shooting himself. I rushed over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and his shirt was still afire where the charge had entered his heart. I smothered it with my hands. - He had removed his shoe & stocking in order to work the trigger of the gun with his toe.

It was a relief to see him dead
for I always felt that someday
it would be him or me, he
was the most morose & dangerous
man I have met in years. always
armed. and I never see only on
special occasions. — The memory
of his former life was too much
for him I believe. — The others
are becoming Americanized but he
never!

Never mind sending any magazines
while they are restricted. I saw
a reference to Sir C. Lodge's book in
Lib Digest. — will send you one or
two after rush is over.

Fondest Love my dear old Sis
and may your hearts fondest
wish be realized in 1917, and
your happiness be secured by
peace coming & leaving you together
Happy New Year for its
1917. now. Lovingly Bro Dan