

Willow Springs, Mo.

Sunday Aug 3. 1919.

My dear old sis & Hubert,

Sunday morn'g - clear & as yet cool. by & by Tho' It will be hot end' not often I get to my desk this early, but I'm off duty for a few days, for I had a slight accident on Friday. I am sure the Champion chimney fellow of the U.S.A. or I prefer people to say that this is my unlucky year. Ha! it lets me down easier. on Friday morn'g the boys and I had a bunch of cattle in the corral to vaccinate for "Blackleg". They were a little wild and the first one Cyril roped was using him pretty rough but Harold jumped to his assistance when the animal threw itself off its feet and flopped down on its back. This is a

common trick of a wild steer, but I was just a trifle too slow, for it fell on my right foot & struck my leg with enough force to break the small bone (Fibula) half way between knee & ankle. it cracked so loud that the boys heard it at the end of the ropes. but I could walk to the house as this is an unnecessary bone since we quit climbing trees. just a little painful. I helped Mama to can Tomatoes tho' yesterday so as to be easy on it and will rest today. Then I think the soreness will have disappeared and I'll be O.K. just bandaged it up myself - Mama says, "you have always been so active that you can't realize you are getting slow." - I guess she's right or it never would have happened. I feel ashamed of getting caught, the boys will say I'll have to admit they can beat me. and that hits hard. Heh! but as you say, 'Nuff said. -

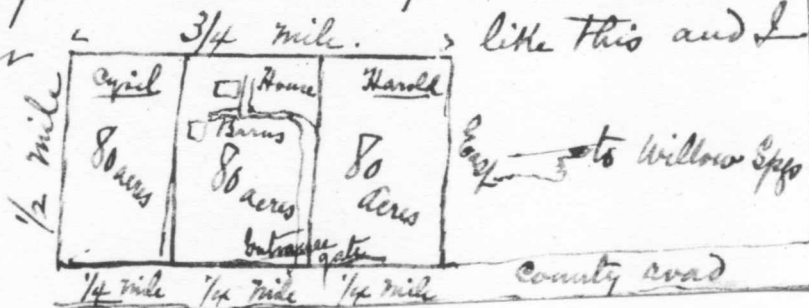
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Of course you know we have had one month of universal prohibition in this country. best thing that came out of the war. - we have had prohibition here ^{in Missouri} ever since before we came here to live. but July 1. the whole country went dry until all the Army is demobilized. but on Jan 16. 1920. the new Amendment to The Constitution calling for universal prohibition goes into effect. and I don't think they will resume the sale of intoxicants just for a few months. They might tho' to be strictly fair. however it will make no difference to this family. we are all abstainers. the boys have never tasted in intoxicants. If England would cut it out there would be more grain & money for food.

Had no rain from July 8 to Aug 2 & very hot so the crops are injured but we got a good rain yesterday which will greatly improve things. told Mama I wasn't going to worry over drought

This year, as often I had thought we were going to starve, but always had barns full before winter came, just more work. I wish I had a hundred acres of that Lincolnshire black dirt. we'd sure raise some crops. - you would be disgusted with this hill soil, it has never been finished, loose rocks from the size of a marble to as big as I can lift mixed in the soil. and after a rain one could pick up tons & tons of them, and we do pick up the large ones, but we think the small ones help retain moisture in the ground. you know it's always damp under a rock or piece of board lying on ground some growers lay rocks between their rows of strawberries to keep them moist and the fruit clean. we grow acres of strawberries here, but I can't handle such things. The work is too tedious but I like my garden work, that is just a small affair of course and a nice change from field work. -

Harold is hard at work with us. we had neglected the place. had been busy growing war crops and had let little repairs to buildings & tools & improvements go undone. So Harold has been busy as he can't stand that kind of work. - I've offered the boys 80 acres each if they want to settle down here but at the same time advised them not to do so if they want to make money. This is a healthy place and easy to make a living but not a good farming country. like some, something like Derbyshire is to Lincolnshire, when I came here I wanted a healthy place more than money the girls & boys needed to get out of town, and that part has been a success but the boys should find a good farming country to settle in. my land lies all together



give Harold the East 80 and Cyril the West 80 and Mama + I keep the middle 80 I tell them we will build them each a house + buildings. and get them started but Harold says that if he got married the girl would sure want to do one thing when he wanted to do another and there he would be. Ha! - Mama was there when he said it. so I said "you mustn't judge all girls by Mama. There are some O.K." - Ha! Mama had to chase me out. - wish you were here to take Mama's part. we just have lots of fun every day. - don't know what the boys will do but if they settle somewhere - we'll soon follow. -

Goodbye both. Pop Hubert enjoyed his trip to London. I liked to live there. can see the best of everything. should like you to live there. I know I'd get some good letters when you went exploring.

Truest love. - wonder if Ethel is married. no one gave the date. -

Love - Bro Dave.