

Willow Springs, Mo.

Feb 5th, 1922.

My dear Sister & Hubert,

I'm glad that Sunday has come around again, a warm, cloudy moist day when one goes round to his favorite clumps of flowers to see if he can find a green shoot starting and to smell the ground.

I said to Mama this morning early "Let's get up, can't you smell Spring" the steaming earth sent a reminder in thro' the open windows. we'll have bad days yet but we won't care. For they are now numbered. — But!

what I started to say was, I'm glad Sunday has come round again so I can answer your good birthday letter. I don't know when the postal

department had held it, but it didn't reach me until Jan 25. Had Lincoln Stamp Jan 4. but was just 3 weeks coming but I forgave everybody when I had it.

First we thank you both for the good birthday wishes, for Mauna and I went partners on them. I said "Help yourself to your share of these good wishes." No! she said.

"lets leave them all together and go partners on the lot. thats like her

I'm glad you were getting better of your cold & bronchitis. I bet ~~that~~ is a good nurse. your photo shows that he takes good care of his young mother.

I don't know what ails me, but I'm gradually getting better I think. Dr. Cant find any organic break down

2/ It is my opinion that the Flu' hit me just when I had reached the "grand climacteric". I don't know whether your doctors believe in anything of the kind but many eminent practitioners ^{living} seem to think there's something in it. 9 times 7 is 63. and if you have been strong thro' life it will come a few years later I was 66 and had never been sick for years. I was vigorous and elastic I never climbed a gate or wagon, could vault where I could reach. they say one weakens for several years and unless he dies he will gradually overcome his weakness and enjoy life again for a few more years and that's what I seem to be doing tho' I guess I must begin to be old. but it will be with a bad grace

Am glad the snake skin came this
all right. I gave our little dog a pat
for "Aunt Lois." I give her lots of pats
for she is a brave little dog. we
call her "Penny" for she's so small,
the big dog we called "Dollar" but some
one stole him. Penny weighs $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
but is like a bundle of dynamite
our bull weighs at least 15 cwt. and
he's pretty stubborn but when I tell
her to drive him she jumps & grabs
him by the Tail and hangs there despite
his efforts to dislodge her, and he
has to go. — I believe a snake adds
one rattle each time it sheds its
skin which may be annually or oftener
or longer, according to condition of
health. I often find empty skins, some
six ft long. all snakes appear to shed
their skins every year about.

Pawpaws are a fruit nearly like a
banana. soft pulp inside a leathery

2
skin and very rich flavored. too rich
for some people. Fruit $1\frac{1}{2}$ " dia + 6" long
grow in clusters, wild, in rich bottom land

Jacks and Jennets are Male + Female
Asses, we have two kinds. the Spanish
which are quick trotters and lighter than
the other kind which we call Mammoth
"Kentucky Mammoth" these are for large
draft animals. but the Jennets are
used only for raising Jacks and
then the Jacks are used exclusively
for breeding with mares to raise
mules. it is seldom a Jack or Jennet
is worked. just kept for mule
raising. I raised quite a lot of mules
until the war, since which the price
is too low. I sold some for war.

Many thanks for Daily News. Spotted
the boys first thing Mama's Uncle
was head mactor of the Green Coat

school at Leicester for many years.

Hope Hubert landed his Civil S. job—
know he'd be competent. wish I could
have sent him a four leaf clover for
luck. I have one. — I sent Harold one
and he came thro' hot fighting. when he
felt the bullet flew a streak across
his forehead he tho't of his clover.

Frances & boy are gone home + H +
C. will go in a few days when they
finish burning a strip around the farm
to protect from forest fires. The
farm is 2½ miles round it. so it is
quite a job.

We are well and when Mama & I
are alone again we shall still have
a good time. with our garden + cows
and poultry. we wont count the
Car I guess. for its too uncertain
I had love, bid times.

Uncle Sam.