

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Lulu Perry letters

Letters To "Mama"

from

Lulu Alua Perry Juller

of Rutland - Vermont

(Rutland Letters 1890-1903)

Compiled by

William H. Drury

Chelmsford, Mass - March 1976

LETTERS TO "MAMMA"  
from  
LULU ALMA PERRY FULLER





The first letter in this collection was written when Lulu was ten years old. It describes her family's journey from Portland to Springfield to a new home.

The next several letters were written while Lulu was visiting in the Marlboro-Berlin area of Massachusetts, probably with her grandmother. There are also two letters written from Eagle Camp in "Keeler's Bay", Vermont, and two written from Rutland while "Mamma" was apparently away visiting.



Letter to a teacher:

Springfield, Mass  
Nov 1st 1883

Dear Miss Dresser

I didn't have time to write before. I will tell you all about our journey. We went to Portland. Then we went into the steamer and when we got into the saloon I thought we were in the depot. There was a pretty carpet and red plush chairs and sofas with brown walnut woodwork. There also was a piano with a lot of pretty books that the passengers could look at. We started at seven o'clock and I was on top of the steamer when we started. Our staterooms opened out of the saloon. The one that Mother, Mary, Bessie and me slept in opened out of the one that Walter, Leslie, Papa, and Georgie slept in. The water was as smooth as glass. We had a window that looked out on the water and whenever I got up to get a drink I looked out and couldn't see a wave anywhere. We got to Boston about three o'clock in the morning and I got up at four o'clock. Then we went off of the steamer and went to the depot. We had to wait a few minutes, then we got on and went to Marlboro to Grandma's. It was Thursday. We went to ride almost every day while we were there. Friday Aunt Susie came down and brought my three cousins. We dressed up with the things in the attic. The next day we all went up to Aunt Susie's who lives in Berlin and stayed all day and all except me went home at night. I stayed until Monday morning and then rode down with my uncle. Tuesday morning we started for Springfield and got here at noon and rode up to the house in the horsecars. They ran on this street. We have a large yard on both sides of the house and an achre orchard of apple trees behind the house. We have had more than two barrels of apples. It is two miles to church but the schoolhouse is very near. Aunt Hattie lives very near our house. We have a large attic. Bessie and me have a room along over the sitting room. The study is downstairs and there are folding doors between the parlor and study. We have a fireplace in the parlor and Grandma gave Walter a pair of andirons and on Sunday we have a fire there in the afternoon. We have to eat in the sitting room in the winter, but in the summer.....

Marlboro, Mass  
August 28

Dear Mamma

I arrived here about 9:45. I visited with Mr. and Mrs. Hill from Burlington to Rutland. I had to change at Ayer Junction and South Acton and my valise came by the Old Colony from Fitchburg. I am going to Sudbury tomorrow if it is pleasant. I am so sleepy I can hardly see.

Yours truly

Lulu A. Perry



South Sudbury  
July 20, 1888

Dear Mamma

I am having a very nice time. Tuesday evening we played croquet, Wednesday walked about two miles to a pond and went boating. All day yesterday we were at Lake View at the New England Assembly of the Chautauqua Circle and there saw Mr. Potter, Papa's old friend. This afternoon we have been at Framingham to the muster. As today was Governor's Day, and the Governor was sick, the Lieut. Governor was there and reviewed the Brigade. The men all marched around the field and then arranged themselves in a line. The cannon first, then the ninth regiment, then gattling guns, then the 5th regiment, more gattling guns, 8th regiment and then more cannon. They fired right accross the line and then each regiment fired all the guns all at once and made an awful noise. We saw Grandfather's brother Abel from Holliston. There was never so much firing before, so Inez said. Grandma, Inez, Oscar and I went to Lake View. Oscar, Inez and I went to muster. At Lake View yesterday I lost my red hair ribbon and didn't succeed in finding it. Lake View isn't nearly as pretty as Queen City Park because the place isn't so large and the cottages are all packed in so near together. I am pretty tired as we had to stand all through the review which lasted nearly three hours. I don't know when I shall go to Marlboro as Oscar was going the first of the week and I intend to go then. The folks all send their love.

Goodbye  
Lulu

Marlboro, Mass.  
July 25, 1888

Dear Mamma

I would have written before only that I have been waiting for you to answer my other letter. Friday afternoon we went to Framingham to muster. Saturday Uncle Oscar went to Wayland all day. Sunday we went to Wayland and heard Brooke Herford preach. Monday Uncle Oscar went to Boston and came back yesterday afternoon and then we took a later train for Marlboro. My ticket to Concord Junction was \$4.80 and from there to South Sudbury was \$.16 and from Hudson to Marlboro was \$.10. It cost \$.25 to get my trunk from one depot to the other at Hudson and the same amount at Marlboro. So the whole cost from South Sudbury to Marlboro was \$.76. After I hear from you I will answer. Auntie Vi said you wrote that you were going to send me some things the last of last week but I have not received anything as yet. There was a large fire at Sudbury Monday night and we all went ti it and didn't get home until after 12. The fire caught in the shed and burned the shed, then the barn and then the house. If they had had some garden hose they could have put out the fire when it first started. It was set and Mr. Allen, the man who lived in the house, is pretty sure that he knows who set it. There were four little children in the house and one was left in until after they had taken out some of the furniture as the men supposed he was out. I held one of the children in my lap for nearly an hour as Mrs. Allen was nearly crazy and couldn't do anything with the children. I have just got your letter and bundle. The cards are very pretty. I don't know whether I can buy him a watch chain charm or not. I can't write anymore now.

Lulu



Dear Mamma

Tuesday morning I went to Hudson and stayed until Thursday morning, when Auntie, Miss Ellen Palmer, Alice Howe and I went to Concord and spent the day. Tuesday afternoon when I was at Hudson, Ada Woods carried me out to Berlin to Uncle Willie's. Wednesday Aunt Ann carried me to Ada Lawrence's. Aunt Ada couldn't get Bertie to come into the room and I went into the room where he was but he wouldn't look at me. Wednesday evening Ada, Alfred and I went to a prohibition flag raising and rally and had a very nice time. The speaking was out in front of the store and we sat on the top of the store piazza. Auntie and I are going to Berlin next week and stay at Aunt Cordelia's or Aunt Electa's over night. This is all I have to write.

Goodbye  
Lulu

Marlboro, Mass.  
Aug. 13, 1888

Dear Mamma

I received your letter this afternoon and was glad to do so. I guess that if Papa isn't coming next week or the first of the week after that I shall pack my trunk and come alone as I ain't afraid to in the least. I have been to all the places and seen everybody and I have stayed about as long as I can and not be homesick, it is so lonesome here. Sunday I did not go to church as I didn't feel well and it was rainy. Last Thursday forenoon I went to Berlin all alone. Hope and I went over to Clinton after I got there. We took Dick and the old buggy. We had a very pleasant time. At night, Hope, Effie, Pansy, Willie Fay Junior and I rode down to Aunt Cordelia's and there I spent the night. Friday afternoon Auntie and I went up to the Berlin cemetery and then to Aunt Electa's. Daisy White came over about four o'clock and we stayed to tea and went to Aunt Cordelia's in the evening. Saturday we had dinner at Aunt Electa's and stayed there until train time. Grandma Perry has been at Mrs. Page's since Friday. She called here Saturday afternoon before we got home but called again yesterday afternoon. I wanted to go down street but it rained all the forenoon and was so wet and cold that I did not dare to for fear that I should catch cold, and I have a little already. Do you know if Mr. Farwell has started on his Fitchburg trip? I happened to think of him today and wondered if he had or not. Uncle Willis paid me for the butter. He said that the tub was marked eighteen pounds but he paid for twenty pounds as he didn't know but the tub might have been used before and the mark have been put on then. If there isn't but eighteen pounds I will return the rest of the money. As I have been to Hudson and Berlin all alone and I had to change in going to Berlin I sha'n't be afraid to come home alone and I want to come home very much as I have stayed as long as I think I ought to and as long as I can enjoy myself. I haven't bought any flannell as yet and don't know as I shall as I have had plenty to do. I wish you would write pretty soon so I can start for home as soon as possible. I don't know now as I shall need the quarter of that money that you said I might have. It is kind of dark so I couldn't see the lines of the paper very well and so can't write very straight. Write soon.

Goodnight

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Feb 19 1888

Dear Mamma

I got over my sore throat so as to go to school Tuesday. Papa said he wrote to you that Mrs. Parker was all played out but the only trouble was that she ate some chocolate cake Wednesday night that upset her stomach but she is allright today and has written for you not to come. I am sure we are getting along all right. Mr. Folsom treated me to ice cream Wednesday night and so the other girls are all jealous. Florence Wood is sick so she can't take her part and Alice Frost will take her part and does it splendidly. Leslie has got a black eye as the result of a snow fight yesterday. Wednesday Ernest Russell got a tin horn as first prize in the soap bubble contest and Carl Hindman got a little drum as the booby prize. Myrton Hill got the first prize in the donkey contest and Fred Whitney the booby prize. I tried putting on the donkey's tail and Myrton Hill's wasn't much more than an inch nearer than mine was.

Goodbye  
Lulu

RUTLAND  
ENGLISH AND CLASSICAL  
INSTITUTE

Rutland, Vt. Mar 29, 1890

Dear Mother -

Bessie sealed her letter before I knew what she was up to.

The school entertainment was very successful - \$60 sure, \$110 was taken. I succeeded in tearing a three-cornered place in my green skirt about six inches long but I mended it yesterday forenoon.

Last night it stormed so that there were very few at the sugar party. The sugar came from Frank's and was some that he made last Sunday. He has made a good deal this last week and has been very busy. He thinks there will be a chance for a sleigh ride tomorrow. The snow is fully eight inches, is packed very hard and more is falling.

We had a very bright blaze last night about quarter of twelve; Miner's blacksmith shop was burned to the ground. I suppose you know that is on West, just above Valiquette's new block and near the creamery.

Papa went to Boston on the sleeper last night and expects to stay until Monday night and perhaps until Tuesday.

Thursday evening the scholars stayed after most of the audience had gone. We tried to dance Virginia Reel, had partners all chosen ( I was going to dance with Tiffany) but Ada Mathews backed out and wouldn't play so we had to give it up.

I don't know but Bessie will tear every article of clothing she possesses before you get back. She snagged her best dress so I darned that in front then she snagged her blouse sleeve. I haven't mended that because I can't find anything like it, and then she tore a small place in her cloak which Mrs. Hill said she would fix.

I have worked just two days for Mrs. Woods in this whole week; Wednesday and yesterday. Today I wasn't able to, I was so

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tired. Thursday she wasn't at home so I couldn't. I came home from the sociable about five minutes of eight last night. Frank and I were both so tired we didn't care to stay. Walter came home soon after he had eaten his supper, and Frank stayed until nine when I went to bed. The rest came home about quarter of ten, I guess.

Wednesday I got some steak for dinner and got as much as I would have if you had been here, but we cooked only half. Thursday Papa ordered some roast beef but Mrs. Hill thought we had better eat the steak and have the beef Friday. Well Friday we had just got the beef in and cooking when five pounds of haddock arrived so we had both fish and meat and now there is enough in the house to last until next summer.

Mrs. Hill ordered 25 dozen rolls for the sugar party but there were so many left that we shall just have to eat warmed up rolls with all the meat.

Give my love to everybody.

We are getting on finely.

Good night  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
April 7th/90

Dear Mother,

Have just received your letter. Jamie Loomis came today so Mrs. Hill had to go home, as he is going to board with her.

I am going to keep house myself for the rest of the week at least. I am having splendid luck, especially in the cooking line.

I have made a fish chowder and a lemon pie that were the first I had ever made all alone. And Papa said the only fault with the chowder was that it was too thick and there were too many bones. I am going to make bread tonight, and I shall feel offended if you come home before next week.

Mary Parker and her mother called last week and I have returned their call. I will write a longer letter later but it is time now for Christian Endeavor tonight. The subject is Patience.

Goodbye  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
October 13, 1892

Dear Mamma

I thought I would write so you would know we were all right. Tuesday morning I didn't wake up until quarter of seven so we didn't have breakfast until half past seven but yesterday and today we had it in good season.

Mrs. Brown sent the clothes home last night and Ed Congdon brought up Jo's today so I shall send them this p.m. and one of the new gray shirts with them. Yesterday forenoon, Bertha came over and quilted the lining for Sumner's cloak on the machine. She said she didn't suppose a machine could run so easily and she thought she should like one. She is going to do some hemming on it some day pretty soon. Papa has bought a barrel of sweet potatoes but they haven't come up yet. Sammy Hamilton brought over a dozen eggs Tuesday and as I couldn't find but two in the pantry, I bought them. He asked 28¢ for them. I boiled some rice for dinner today not thinking but what the children liked it but Papa and I were the only ones who ate any. I cooked it partly because I thought he could eat it and because it was easy to get. I have made them eat up all the little messes before I would cook anything new. I don't think the plan Leslie made for the hill is complete for there are several more buildings ought to be on it.

Susie Fuller came up here to see if you couldn't get a copy of that prescription for the ointment and send so she could have it Sunday. Her hands are quite bad and she wants to go away the first of next week. She says she will pay any charges when you come home.

If you get this before you go to Tufts, when you do go, look all around in his rooms to see if there is anything I could get or make to send at Christmas that would be ornamental or useful. I don't know whether the children will write or not, they are at school now.

Very truly yours  
Lulu A. Perry

Marlboro, Mass.  
October 28, 1892

My Dear Mother

We went into Boston today and went to Dr. Shaw of the eye and ear infirmary. We concluded to see him. He talked with me and examined my eyes briefly and said that in order to get glasses that would do me much good, that I must have a thorough examination some day next week. He said that my left eye was far-sighted and my right eye was near-sighted and somewhat astigmatic and it would take quite a long time to fit my eyes. I paid him five dollars today and it will cost me twenty more for such an examination as he says I need. He said my lids would not trouble me if I had suitable glasses. I suppose I can use the ten dollars of mine for that purpose and another months pay would make up the amount. I want to have it done very much. I think he knows what he is about and I like him very much. I think he is a foreigner as he certainly talks like one.

I haven't done any visiting yet. Walter says if it is pleasant we can drive to Sudbury Sunday morning and I will stay overnight and Monday go to Berlin and come home Tuesday. The Doctor said he would let me know what day next week he would want me to come and that it wouldn't be before Wednesday. I am afraid Grandma Perry would not like it unless I stay one night there so I shall try to. Yesterday and today have been very pleasant and agreeable although it was slightly cool

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in Boston. We took dinner at Copeland's as it was nearer the Doctor's office than the other place where you went.

If you don't think it best to go on about my eyes I suppose I can stop, but then I would lose the five dollars. Grandma and Auntie both think that is the best way and that I ought to.

Very truly yours  
Lulu A. Perry

Marlboro, Mass.  
Nov. 3, 1892

Dear Mamma

I went into Boston again yesterday and finished up with the Doctor. He gave me the order for my glasses and said I could get them in Rutland just as well and I shall use the frames that I had with my last pair of glasses.

Walter and I drove to Sudbury Sunday. We were two hours on the road. I stayed all night and Monday afternoon went to Berlin. I had to walk to South Sudbury to take the train. Tuesday Auntie Vi drove up and we got back to Marlboro about five in the afternoon. I haven't seen the Hudson or Robin Hill folks and am afraid I sha'n't as it is raining hard now and I can't go to two places tomorrow.

I think that perhaps I may not come home until the 9:30 train Saturday. I have had so little time to visit that I want Saturday forenoon. I began working on Auntie's bonnet yesterday morning. I studied all the milliner's windows in Boston. Very large hats are worn, so Bessie can wear hers and be in the latest style. I studied the trimmings on the large ones especially.

Yesterday when I went into Boston I got off at Huntington Avenue as that made me nearer the Doctor's office, but I had to go to the depot to take the train. I dislike Boston the most of any place I was ever in; it is so dirty and noisy. I went to eight art stores and drug stores to find those paints Aunt Bertha wanted but couldn't find them anywhere. I presume she will be disappointed but I can't help it. The Doctor charged me \$20. He said it would be \$25 but took off \$5 for some reason or other; I don't know why. I went to Tufts Saturday afternoon and Leslie and I walked to Cambridge, took the electric cars into Boston, went into Mechanics Fair and stayed until after six. I got back to Marlboro at 9:20.

If I don't come Saturday at 2 p.m. won't you send Georgie down to the 9:30 train. He and I together can bring up my bag easy enough. I could alone, I guess.

Very truly yours  
Lulu A. Perry



Berlin, Mass.  
Oct 4, 1893

Dear Mamma

Hope has lost a little bundle which she got down street Monday evening. She thinks she must have left it up on the sitting room mantelpiece behind the pile of negatives on the North end of the shelf. There were three silk handkerchiefs which she bought to give to Effie, Pansy and Lucy. My trip down, including the transfer between the two depots at Marlboro, cost me only \$2.54 and that is very cheap, you know. I wish I could get a Fitchburgh mileage to come home on.

The Clinton schools do not keep today and Effie, Pansy, Hope and I are going to the cattle show at Bolton if it doesn't rain too hard this afternoon.

Lucy is very much pleased with the little bottle of perfumery that Mary sent her.

It began to sprinkle soon after we arrived last evening and sprinkles at intervals this morning. We expect to drive to Marlboro tomorrow.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Perry

Berlin, Mass.  
Oct 6, 1893

Dear Mamma

I went to Sudbury yesterday. I walked from the South Sudbury station up to the house and back again. I wish you could send me some money; I have only five cents; it took most of mine to pay my fare to Sudbury. Hope and I are going to Marlboro this afternoon with Uncle Willis. I shall go up to the shop to see Walter. I had a letter from him and he said he had made arrangements to drive to Uncle Lambert's Saturday and come back Sunday but I don't think I shall go. I don't want to stay there over night and Uncle Willis had planned for Hope and I to drive up through Worcester and back the same day.

We have planned to go to Tufts College next week Saturday and have Leslie and Jo come back with us and stay over Sunday.

Grandma Perry wants me to come again and I think perhaps I may. She knew I was in Mass. because Uncle Edward saw Leslie at Tufts Wednesday and spent Wednesday night with her and told her, so she wasn't so much surprised.

Please send me some money as I can't go anywhere.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Perry



Berlin, Mass.  
October 10, '93

Dear Mamma,

Your letter came alright tonight. Hope and I spent today at Eva Hastings and saw Uncle Lambert there. We had planned to drive up there tomorrow if it is pleasant and good going. Uncle Lambert invited us to come up and we forgot to tell him that we were planning to; he said that perhaps if we came oftener we should like him better. Thursday I guess I shall go to Marlboro and come back Friday evening so as to go to Boston from here Saturday morning. We are having some cold weather and today it has been very windy and not very pleasant outdoors.

Lucy says she is going home with me but she says she will have to have her hair cut for no one but her mother can cut it to suit.

We are going to start for Uncle Lambert's about half past six and so must go to bed early.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Perry

Berlin, Mass.  
October 13, 1893

Dear Mamma

Your letter came to Marlboro just as I was starting away from there this morning.

Hope and I drove to Uncle Lambert's Wednesday; we had a fine time and were very much shocked to read in this morning's paper that Uncle Lambert died very suddenly last evening between eight and nine o'clock. Heart trouble is said to be the cause of his death. Grandma and Auntie had heard nothing of it but Uncle Willie saw it in the Worcester paper. Uncle Henry brought me up and he didn't know of it. Tomorrow we are going to Boston and expect that Leslie and Congdon will come out and stay over Sunday and go chestnutting.

Aunt Minnie's husband's brother was married Tuesday and this afternoon Aunt Minnie and her husband and the bridal couple are coming here to stay to supper and spend the evening.

I must stop now.

Goodbye,  
Lulu A. Perry

Shall come home Tuesday if the mileage arrives in time.

Berlin, Mass.  
October 15, '93

Dear Mamma,

I shall come home sometime on Tuesday if I get the mileage in time.

I think now that I shall come on the 9:30 train, as we want to go to Clinton Tuesday forenoon. Tomorrow we are going to Uncle Lambert's funeral; it is at 11 a.m.

We have to start at 5:45 tomorrow morning to take Leslie and Joe to Hudson to take the train for the college.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Perry



Rutland, Vt.  
October 18, 1893

Dear Mamma

I thought I would write and let you know that we are getting along alright and you don't need to come home Thursday unless you want to. I felt pretty tired Saturday but got over it Sunday. I made some bread; it is in the oven now. I stopped to eat dinner and have just taken the bread out; it looks quite good but I don't know how it will taste. This morning Montie Fuller brought up a large basket of Maiden Blush apples; there are nearly a bushel I should think and they are very nice. I have pared and sliced some for sauce for supper. When I told how nice they were he said "you can have some more if you want."

Papa went to M. again at 2:30 this morning and says he will be home tonight. He said he must go if he wanted to keep his position.

Aunt Bertha hemmed a ruffle on the machine besides some other stitching; she is quite "gone" on the machine.

Yours very truly  
Lulu A. Perry

Letterhead: Rutland English and Classical Institute.  
George W. Perry, President.

Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 3. 1893

Dear Mamma

We are having a regular blizzard today; snow, wind and hail. I did not go to church but Bessie did and she said there were seventeen beside the minister and the choir.

Emma stayed here last night and Grace is going to tonight. Papa coughs a little; he says his cold is all gone and I think he seems considerable better.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Perry



Keeler's Bay

May 11, 1895

Dear Mamma

I arrived here alright at half past ten yesterday. The boat came here before going to Plattsburgh so I got here earlier than I expected. Kittie met me at the dock. I had a very comfortable trip but was as near being car sick as I ever was, the car was very warm and close. I got the reduced rates on the boat. The hotel porter transferred my trunks without any charge. Alson is not at home. He is working down to Mr. Kinney's.

I am quite tired and cannot spell or write straight.

We had a thunder shower nearly all night, some of the hardest I ever experienced. I will put in the mileage book.

Yours Truly,

Lulu A. Perry

(Copied 8-15-1975 from original letter saved by Mrs. G. W. Perry)  
(Lulu Alma Perry was the oldest daughter of George W. Perry. She was born April 27, 1872 at Lynn, Mass., married Frank B. Fuller November 28, 1895 and died January 20, 1905 at Rutland. She was the mother of Alice Fuller Drury, Margaret, Rosana Fuller Sheppard, and Florence (Polly) Fuller Williams.)



Keelers Bay, Vt.  
May 19, 1895

Dear Mamma

I was a little worried about that mileage book.

I am rather tired tonight; Kittie and I went to church this morning; the wind was something terrible. When we were coming home it blew my glasses off into the grass beside of the road and I did not find them. Alson and I hunted a long time. The wind would almost blow the reins out of my hands.

I went to Plattsburgh yesterday with Kittie. Her mother wanted a lot of things and didn't want to take the time to go and didn't want Kittie to go alone. I have always wanted to go. I bought me some stockings and some darning cotton. We went on the Maquam; there was considerable wind but she did not rock much.

I think I am better than I was the last week at home. I am quite tired today but think it is the result of my trip yesterday.

Mr. Ferris is doing considerable fixing up. Now that the place belongs to him he will do more than he ever has before. Before Grandma Ferris died she told Mr. Ferris that he would never get anything for all the time and work he had put into fixing up the buildings and land; but now the farm is his, he is doing considerable.

It has just begun to rain again and I am afraid we will have a rainy day tomorrow; it is rather dismal when it rains and I can't go outdoors.

I think my black cravanette dress is faded. I was making my bed and I caught the jacket on the footboard and tore a slit about three inches long just in front of the buttons. Mrs. Ferris gave me a piece of black cashmere to mend it with but I don't like the looks of it.

Mr. Ferris said that if Papa could only send up the key to the cottage he could get out a boat. He said he would bring over the raft and fix it to haul the boat up on so it would not get on the stones. I wish I could have a boat, although there have only been two days when the water was smooth enough to row on.

Mr. Ferris and his hired man have been fishing several times in the bay right out in front of his house and they have caught lots of perch. One evening they caught over sixty.

I don't know what I shall do about my glasses. When Alson went back to Mr. Kinney's this afternoon he said he would speak to the folks who live near where I lost them and would put up a notice in the store at the corners. Perhaps they may be found.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Perry



Keelers Bay, Vt.  
May 31, 1895

Dear Mamma

Today is a very disagreeable day; sprinkles every few minutes. Monday and Tuesday it rained all day. Mr. Ferris and his hired man caught thirty dozen perch those two days. Two other men caught as many. Wednesday afternoon two men caught twenty-one dozen. They were all caught here in the bay. The fish were taken to Plattsburgh. They get 5 or 6¢ per dozen here for them.

If you bring up that silk for your waist, you will have to get lining, hooks and eyes, sewing silk and trimming. I think a white lining would be best, 2 yards of it. I believe you concluded to trim it with black velvet ribbon. I think it will take five yards, about an inch wide. I have some steels that I think will do.

Will you go right into the tents when you come up? It was hot enough yesterday to want the tents up; it is warm today but rather damp.

I am feeling very nicely. Fixed my brown sailor suit and am wearing it, and am at work on my yellow crepon.

The lake has gone down a lot since I came but is not as low as last year.

I went over and inspected the garden yesterday. It is pretty weedy and I couldn't tell where much of anything was except peas and lettuce. The lettuce will be big enough to eat when you come.

I have been eating raw onions this last week, three times a day almost; little onions that had sprouted during the winter. I thought I wouldn't be likely to go anywhere so I could eat all I wanted.

Kittie and I went to church Sunday. My new glasses came Monday and I have a string on them so I won't lose them. I drive most of the time when Kittie and I go anywhere and I can get along quite nicely.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Perry

This paper and envelopes came from the store and are quite "stunning." I don't like such large envelopes.



North Chester  
October 27, 1895

Dear Mamma

I don't see why you cannot stay until the last of the week; we are getting along nicely. Papa said that he didn't know why you could not stay if you want to.

Friday afternoon you had two callers: Mrs. Dr. Haven and Mrs. Haven. Emma Henry and Eva Coleman called on me yesterday. Miss Coleman was one of Mrs. Bemis' whist party.

A Mrs. Allen, who lived in the house next to Mrs. Richardson, was buried Friday. She died rather suddenly. She was eighty-seven years old.

Papa carried Eva Larkin to Springfield this morning. It is a lovely day for a ride.

Mary tried to make some ginger cookies yesterday but they were not very good. I was afraid that she would not succeed but she wanted to try so I let her.

Papa got some "shank" meat last evening and put it through the meat cutter. He wants some pressed meat. Bessie started in on it so I told her she could finish it up. She is at work on it now.

I began this before Sunday School but didn't get it finished then.

Papa says he is to have a wedding here next Thursday morning; a couple from Springfield. He expected to go to Montpelier tomorrow but decided today that he could not because he had got to go to Springfield to a meeting next Wednesday evening.

Mr. & Mrs. Dyer from R. drove by today. They are at Mr. Holden's.

I rather expect to have some company next Sunday but am not sure.

I suppose we will hear soon when you expect to come home.

I think Papa is quite a little better than he was when you left. He is trying to go without meat again.

Goodbye  
Lulu



Lulu and Frank B. Fuller were married November 27, 1895 in Clarendon, Vermont. They lived on a farm in East Clarendon until May 1897 when they moved to Rutland, Vermont.

Their children, all born in their home, were:

Alice Katherine	b. August 18, 1896
Margaret Perry	b. February 18, 1898
Rosanna Franklin	b. July 29, 1899
Florance Agnes	b. November 6, 1900

Lulu died in January 1905.



East Clarendon, Vt.  
December 2, 1895

Dear Mamma

I presume you have been looking for a letter today but I did not get it in.

Thursday when we got to Rutland, Arthur and his wife and children met us at the depot. We came down here Friday afternoon and have made some attempt to get straightened out.

Mr. Fuller and Fred thought they would give us a useful present and so got us a barrel of flour. Mrs. Fuller and Jo bought a very pretty centertable and high back rocking chair. Arthur and his wife have a lamp for us. We have not got these as yet but are going up Wednesday in the big wagon and get them. Yesterday we went up to Sunday School and up home to dinner. In the afternoon we stopped at Oscar's and Arthur's. Uncle Oscar gave us a silver pepper shake and salt dish and salt spoon.

Friday night the young people are going to have an old-fashioned apple-paring in the church vestry. We expect to go if the weather is good.

It is very unpleasant today; has rained most of the time but the rain is needed. Yesterday was delightful, just lovely riding. We didn't get home in the evening until quarter of ten. Then Frank had to milk and get the horses and cows in and so it was late when we got to bed but there is no special hurry about getting up in the morning so we don't mind it so much.

Some of the Rutland people thought we played a pretty good joke on them and are very much amused and think they were well taken in.

Mr. Spear, who formerly lived here, has been in twice. He borrows many things and sometimes rather tries to find an excuse to come.

Yours with love  
Lulu

East Clarendon, Vt.  
Dec. 10, 1895

Dear Mamma

I presume you have sleighing by this time. We have almost snow enough but it is yet pretty rough going.

The apple-paring Friday evening was a success and all had a nice time. We had popcorn for refreshments.

It would be impossible for the young people to surprise us, because we have a way of knowing. They have had a great quarrel and I do not think that there is much chance of their getting up another crowd.

The Clarendon people were going to surprise us but did not come because of a snow storm, but we heard of their plans.

Saturday I was threatened with a sore throat but escaped it. I wish you would send me the number of the prescription for your sore-throat medicine and I will get some to have ready in case I might want it.

(cont.)



Sunday we went to church and Sunday School and then up home to dinner. On our way home at night we stopped to see Grace, as she was not at church. It was pretty cold riding; the wind was strong and cold.

I received letters of congratulation from Alson Ferris and Mabel Woods, and also a Chester paper yesterday.

I have about decided what I shall do with the \$7 that Grandma Perry and Aunt Inez gave me. Frank is going to put \$3 with it and we are going to get a desk; one of those which come with the boxes of soap.

The young people have an oyster supper Thursday and I have promised to go up in the afternoon.

Tomorrow morning we are going up home after some of Frank's things and we shall have dinner there and come back in the afternoon. It is a long hard ride of eleven miles and we get rather cold before the end of it.

I must close so that Frank can mail this

Yours  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
December 17, 1895

Dear Mamma

We went to town today and so I got the copy of that prescription and will send it in this letter.

Last Wednesday we started for Mr. Fuller's but a hard wind started up and when we got to the city I was so cold I could not go on so I stopped off at Arthur's and waited until Frank came back. Today is the first time that I have been out since; my cold having kept me in. Two days last week it was below zero all day. There is not snow enough for sleighing, and the wheeling is rather rough.

We got a boiler today and are going to do our first washing tomorrow. I got some more underwear today so as to be warmer riding. My jacket like my dress seems to be warmer than my black one.

I received a letter from Grandma Perry today. I wrote her what I had planned to spend that money for.

I don't know when I shall come to Chester. I hope Mary can come up here at Christmas time.

Almost every day I think of something that I have left in Chester that I want, but I want that picture most of all because our walls are somewhat bare.

I saw Ellen Crampton on the street today and she inquired for Bessie. I saw Aunt Bertha and Doris but did not speak to them.

The Sunday School Christmas tree is to be in a hall, either the G.A.R or E.A.W so that the children can play games and have a good time. Frank is on the committee and I presume I shall help.

I have to make a cake before supper so I must stop.

Yours truly  
Lulu



East Clarendon, Vt.  
January 1, 1896

Dear Mamma

We had company yesterday and so my letter did not get written. Grace, Emma and Fred came down at 11:30 and stayed until 9:30. We had a fine time and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Last Wednesday when we went to Rutland it was so very muddy that we decided to stay all night. The next morning at the breakfast table I fainted so we decided to wait until afternoon. We started out but I began to feel badly and we decided to turn around, when we met Fred who had been down town. I was going to go back with him and Frank was coming on alone, but Fred said he would come down here and do Frank's work over night. Friday Frank came home but I stayed up to his father's until Sunday morning. Mrs. Fuller's sister came up Thursday to tie two comforters and I helped on those.

I had to work pretty busy Monday to get ready for the company. We expected Vernon with the others but he didn't come.

Mary left her scissors here and I will send them to her. We expect to go to Rutland Friday and will get her rubbers then, and we also expect to get the picture then.

Mrs. Hussey moved last Thursday but the house is not quite finished inside. It is a good-sized house.

W.A.V.N.G. have a masquerade at the opera house tonight and Arthur gave us cards to the gallery but I don't suppose we will go. We were at Arthur's Sunday and took dinner there. One of the boys wanted to come home with me.

The roads are frozen now but they are awfully rough and it is hard riding.

We had a yellow rooster for dinner yesterday. It was the first chicken that Frank had ever dressed but it was real tender and good. We are going to eat about ten more.

We are going for the mail so I will close.

Lulu

East Clarendon  
January 7, 1896

Dear Mamma

We arrived alright and found things in good condition. The water in the reservoir was frozen solid but fortunately the reservoir was not cracked. It did not seem nearly so cold here as it was last Saturday, but at three o'clock yesterday afternoon it was ten below.

It has been snowing nearly all day. I guess there will be enough to amount to something. I can hardly see the road from the front windows. We planned to go to Wallingford today for some provisions but it was too stormy. It is only four miles and much easier going than to Rutland and some things we can get there just as well.

I haven't much to write but thought I would write a little, for I did not know but what you would wait to hear from me.

Yours  
Lulu



East Clarendon  
Jan 14, 1896

Dear Mamma

We have a little snow here, but not enough for sleighing. Everyone wishes there was more so as to be able to draw wood.

Last Wednesday Frank burned out the chimney and the stoves have worked much better since. He looked into a hole in the chimney up in the attic and said that the stuff was four inches thick on the sides of the chimney. He set it on fire early in the forenoon but it was not entirely out until the next afternoon.

We went to Mrs. Hill's candy pull. We did not dare drive as it was cold and I had some cold so we walked down to the B.&R. station and took the train due in Rutland at about 8 and came home on the C.V. sleeper.

Frank has been drawing coal for Mrs. Steward. They have a carload at the B.&R. station. He can draw with two horses a ton and a half at a load. He says if there was sleighing he could draw two tons.

Sunday I was looking at some Rutland Heralds and saw the notice of the death on January 1st of Hazel Wade. I could not find out what was the cause of her death and I had not heard of it before.

I received a present today from Mrs. Worcester. She left it with Grace last week expecting that I would be in, and today Grace sent it down by Mr. Spear. It is a crumb tray and brush of some white metal that looks like frosted silver. It is quite heavy and I know from the price mark left on it that it is nothing cheap. It is just what I had been wishing for.

Agnes Morgan is coming down Thursday to stay over night. She has three days off this week.

Grace has a diamond ring on her engagement finger; it is a very pretty one. I have not had a chance to talk with her about it but she wants me to come up and stay over night with her so I shall probably hear all about it. Agnes has a pretty charm bracelet of gold that I understood came from the same place.

I send those Pettijohn rules you said you wanted.

We had planned to go to the supper Thursday evening but shall not if Agnes comes down.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
Jan. 23, 1896

Dear Mamma

My letter will be pretty late this week but I hope you have not worried about it.

I went to town yesterday on the slow train and back on the slow train in the afternoon. I thought I would go and see Dr. Thomson because my stomach has been bothering me a good deal. I have had more frequent faint spells and vomited almost every day for two weeks. The Dr. gave me some medicine and so I guess I will be alright.

(cont.)



I planned to write last evening but had callers: Mr. & Mrs. Kingsley and daughter Emma, and Daisy Hutchinson. She boards with them and teaches the school nearest here. They stayed more than an hour.

The traveling is rather bad; not snow enough for sleighing, and just enough to interfere with the wheeling. Two inches of snow would make sleighing.

Frank draws only two loads of coal a day; it takes three hours to take one load. I don't mind being alone much if he gets back before dark.

Agnes came down last Thursday forenoon and went home Friday afternoon. She said that Lulu Mann and Henry Douglass were to be married the last of this month.

I was in the C.C.S. yesterday and noticed the dress goods that were marked down, and they have some lovely pieces at 25¢ per yard. They are selling everything at low prices to avoid moving so much. One of the bosses said that when they were moved that they were going to hire all new and cheaper help and turn off their old help.

Frank bought a second-hand sleigh that will "do" as much as we shall probably want it this winter, but it is not very handsome.

This can't get into this morning's mail but will have to go tonight.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
Jan. 27, 1896

Dear Mother

I suppose you have received my letter by this time and you ought to have had it before you wrote.

I am feeling very much better. The Dr.'s medicine helped me very quickly and I am almost well now.

I have got some unbleached cotton and am making me some underwear that I intended to make before I left Chester.

We didn't go to town yesterday because the roads are so miserable. The snow drifted badly and packed in so hard that it is very hard traveling and I do not enjoy long rides when the going is so bad.

Next week I expect to wash the parlor curtains but I haven't any idea of how much starch to put into them. There are three curtains a yard wide. All the starch that I have is the "Elastic Starch" like some that you had. I shall wash the other curtains the next week. They got quite badly smoked when the chimney was burned up, but they were dirty before then.

Friday afternoon the wind was terrible here. It lifted Frank's big farm wagon out of the road into the ditch but did not harm it. A fellow named Lewis who works for the Stewards started out with a large hog in a crate in an express wagon. When nearly opposite our barn on the new road the wind blew his wagon out of the road and turned it upside down, smashing the crate and letting the hog loose. He came up here to get some

(cont.)



help but Frank was at the store so Lewis put the horse (it was not hurt) into our barn and then worked over an hour driving the hog a few feet into the old barn and then took the horse and footed it back to Stewards. Later in the afternoon George Steward and one of the help came with a crate and wood sled and got the hog. Lewis was somewhat scared and nearly exhausted. The wind and snow together made it pretty bad doing anything out of doors.

We got our washing all out and all over with at half past twelve today and think we are pretty smart.

I have bread to make so I must close.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Fuller

East Clarendon  
Jan. 31, 1896

Dear Mamma

We went to town yesterday and stayed up to the church supper and I waited on the table. I got some flannel for you, a wrapper, and sent it by express from Rutland yesterday. I think it would make a very pretty wrapper trimmed with dress braid. The five yards cost \$1.25 and the expressage was 15¢. Grace said that piece had been selling for 69¢. I think it very pretty.

I would like to visit Chester this next month but I feel as if I ought not to spend the money. There is not much to come in and it will all be needed for the spring supplies.

I thought that when you were ready to have your best dress made over, or your other dress ready to make, that I perhaps might come and stay a week or ten days and make your dress if you would pay for the round trip ticket which is \$1.65. It would save your dressmakers bill some and we should have a visit just the same. I do not mean to work steadily all day but to take it easy.

I hope you will like the flannel.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
Feb. 4, 1896

Dear Mamma

I am glad you like the cloth I sent. I think it is very pretty. I did not send back the money because I thought if I were coming soon I could bring it.

We went to town Sunday. Many of the people were surprised that we came on wheels as there is some sleighing in the city and north of it. The wind drifted the snow south of Rutland and so spoiled any sleighing.

We are having a hard blow again today but the wind frequently blows on this hill when it is quiet in other places.

(cont.)



Uncle Oscar told me that he has a horse and sleigh now, and when it was good going that he and Mr. Barney were coming down some afternoon after school.

Mr. & Mrs. O. H. Coolidge have moved to #93 Maple Street; the third house from Grove Street.

I should think that the millinery that Auntie Vi wrote about would be real nice. I should like anything in the brown line to put with my tan dress next spring. I am rather short of hats; the little one of garnet velvet and black ribbon got a soaking that rather upset it, and my sailor cannot be worn in the wind if I am riding so I have to wear my brown one everywhere.

We are having quite a gale now and Frank is going to try to go to the post office.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
Feb. 26, 1896

Dear Mamma

My glass-ware came alright but the loaf of bread showed some effects of being crushed. I caught cold on the train. The car door wouldn't stay shut and kept opening with every little jar and the car was cold all the time.

When Frank came in from milking this morning he said that there had been an addition to the family during the night, and that there were two little lambs out in the barn. I am going out to see them soon.

Frank has to go to Rutland. It is so cold that I dread the ride. The sleighing is all spoiled and we have to go on wheels and it will be a hard ride.

I haven't heard yet from Hope but expect a letter today.

It is pretty cold this morning and was cold in the house. The fire burned out during the night and so it takes some time to get warm.

We haven't received an invitation to that birthday party. I expected that we would have one. I don't think that we will go. Mr. Worcester thinks that those who pay the least will eat the most because young folks always eat the most.

This will have to be mailed on the way to town so I am in a hurry.

Lulu



East Clarendon  
March 4, 1896

Dear Mamma

We have been having a three-day snow storm and considerable snow has fallen but it will not make good sleighing because it is drifted.

Friday we went down to see Maria and Aurora Steward. We went on wheels but most of the way there was three feet of snow. The buggy is wider than the sleigh track so one side would be in the snow about a foot and it was rather uncomfortable. The snow was melting and was so soft that the horse's feet would sink in pretty often and that made it hard going.

Saturday morning Mr. Spear sent John over to get Frank's horses and sled as they were going to move. It was raining hard at the time but they started with three two-horse loads. They went only eight miles in eight hours. They had to put all six horses onto each load to get over some of the bad places and then when the snow was deep they had to be shoveled out. Mr. Spear's son from Wallingford came to help him move and he brought back Frank's horses at eight Saturday evening and then had to walk to Wallingford. The horses were pretty well used up.

Yesterday was town meeting and election day. Frank took his horse to be shod while he was at the meeting. He went at ten and got home about six. He said he would probably be gone a long time so I didn't worry. About five o'clock the horse appeared without the sleigh and partly harnessed. I was somewhat scared at first but soon noticed from the looks of the harness that he had got away when not hitched into the sleigh. Frank had to walk home through the drifts and against a hard wind. I watched the horse to see if he went away but he got on the warmest side of the barn and stayed there until Frank got home. The sleigh and part of the harness are at the flats and the remainder of the harness is here.

I have not heard from Hope yet and have been thinking of writing again.

We sent a small can of syrup to Walter by express Saturday but have not heard of its arrival yet.

The lambs are both ewes and are too valuable for mutton. They are real interesting and not afraid of anyone.

The subscription to the Deliniator has run out. It began with the March number of last year. I looked up the receipt to be sure.

Yours truly  
Lulu

POST-CARD

Thursday

Hope writes that she cannot come this spring. I think Bessie had better come Saturday because you will not probably get this until Friday. I did not get your letter until late yesterday afternoon. It is pretty cold here. The wind is still blowing hard. Bessie had better bring a shawl because she will need it if she rides.

L.



East Clarendon  
March 17, 1896

Dear Mamma

We are enjoying some more snow today and it will make the sleighing last longer than we expected that it would.

We went to Rutland Sunday and had good sleighing this side of the city but the other side was not so good. We stopped to see Emma a few moments as she was at home with a sore throat.

Bert Bigelow is seriously sick with Bilious trouble. Frank went during Sunday School to inquire about him and they thought him a little better that day.

The little lamb is alright now and quite lively. Frank said perhaps he would have to bring her in again Saturday but when he went to the barn she was jumping and running around pretty lively.

Mr. Worcester, Grace and Emma expect to drive down some evening this week if the sleighing lasts; perhaps a bigger party may come.

Wana Walker is at Mrs. Hills. They lost nearly everything when their house burned.

Mrs. Burgess is in Rutland. Mr. & Mrs. Nichols are going to sell their place and go back with her. Most people think that she will have trouble again if Mrs. Nichols lives with her.

I presume Bessie has heard from Mrs. Coolidge by this time. She spoke with me Sunday and was very anxious to have Bessie come there.

We may be snowed in again if the storm holds on.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
March 21, 1896

Dear Mamma

Your letter received yesterday. I guess that it is just as well that Mary is not planning to be here tomorrow because I think it very uncertain about our being able to get to Rutland. We had considerable rain here and the snow melted so we didn't know but what we would be flooded.

Grace and Vernon came down Tuesday about half past five and spent the evening. Vernon did not have to work and thought it a good time to come as he could start earlier.

This morning Frank got only about a cupful of milk and so is going down to Stewards to see if he can buy some.

Mr. Moulton who is going to make the sugar, has been taking sap pails and other things up to the sugar house. He was looking at the evaporator and discovered that someone had made four or five nail holes in it. Frank thinks the Frenchman who worked for him last summer did it but he can't prove it. He is going to try to mend the holes. Everyone here thinks this will be a good sugar year and that it will begin very soon.

We will be on the lookout for Mary Tuesday on the mail train.

Yours truly  
Lulu



East Clarendon  
March 31, 1896

Dear Mamma

We are in the sugar business again today. Saturday we had three gallons of syrup to make into cakes; today we are boiling down ten gallons. The sap is running finely so I suppose we will have some more to go tomorrow. Frank is going to Rutland with some this afternoon.

I suppose Mary arrived alright. I was glad that she was here when the sugar was made. I keep myself just about half sick because I can't let the sugar alone when I am helping about it.

If you don't like the red on Mary's cap, you can take it off and I shall not mind. I rather like it; I used all the velvet that I had.

If you can find the green surah silk that I had on the dress that had the nail heads on it, I would like to have you send it up. I am making my silk patchwork into cushions, and am going to make some small chair cushions and thought perhaps that would come in handy.

Our hens are laying so that I have twenty eggs on hand and I use quite a few in cooking. We still buy milk; get it once in two days. Yesterday Mrs. Steward gave Frank some sour milk; we can have all we want of that as they have nothing to feed it to.

I must stop and go to work at the sugar again; it is ready.

Lulu

East Clarendon  
April 7, 1896

Dear Mamma

You are mistaken about the amount of sugar a gallon will make; a gallon of syrup weighs eleven pounds and will make about eight pounds of cake sugar.

We went to church Sunday but it was pretty muddy. It took two hours and a half to come from Mr. Fuller's home, a distance of nearly eleven miles.

We are invited to Mrs. O. H. Coolidge's but do not yet know if we shall go. Mrs. Coolidge has given up her Sunday School class and Emma has taken it.

The young people had a peanut party at the G.A.R. hall Friday evening and made nearly \$12. They had an entertainment and dancing.

Jennie Dyer was expected home Monday. Henry said she was coming home for good.

I made some doughnuts the day Leslie came so I had quite a supply on hand but they will be eaten up before they spoil.

I didn't see but one hat or bonnet Sunday that was at all "Springy". Mrs. Forsley wore her last summer's hat and as it was mostly lace it looked rather peculiar. Everyone else wore their winter hats.

(cont'd)



Josephine Fuller has had a school in Felchville offered her this Spring term but she has not decided about it yet; she prefers one nearer home.

Bert Bigelow was outdoors Saturday and expected to go to work yesterday. Some folks think he is hurrying too much.

The Rutland Baptist society have a fair at the city hall this week. Grace is in the entertainment; it is to be held three evenings.

Mr. Moses who made our clothes basket has made my work basket and took his pay in poor potatoes and is anxious to trade more baskets for potatoes. I presume Mary has told you about the clothes basket. The potatoes are only fit to feed to cattle and horses and Frank has more than he can possibly use up himself. Mr. Moses takes them just as they come, big and little, rotten or whole. Frank is going to have several baskets made. We can get the baskets very cheap from him and he makes them any shape and size. I lined my work basket and put a pincushion, needle book and thread bag into it and find that it is very convenient.

It is quite cold and the wind is blowing. I hardly think I shall want to go to Rutland.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
April 14, 1896

Dear Mamma,

I went to Rutland last Tuesday on the mail train. Frank drove up after supper. We had a very nice time at Mrs. Coolidge's but were rather late home; the horse had to walk all the way. I went up to Oscar's and saw Sumner in his pants; I think he looks much better than in dresses. I went all through the Combination Co.'s new store with Mrs. Worcester; I had not been in before.

I went to supper with Grace. They had just received an invitation to Bert Carlisle's wedding. His mother told Grace that the parents of the bride had turned her out of doors because she intended to marry him and so Mrs. C. had taken him in. Mrs. C. asked Grace's advice about the proper kind of clothes for Bert to be married in.

Mr. Townsend, the furniture man, was buried Sunday. Died of apoplexy, I believe.

Mrs. Tyler's S.S. class said they were coming down next Saturday after sugar; that is the class Mary was in.

Juni Dyer was at church Sunday; she is looking real well. She is to work in the C.C.S. millinery department. She and Miss Wheeler were the only ones who wore straw hats last Sunday at our church.

We are still in the sugar business; we have put most of the syrup into cans. If it were all made into sugar there would be nearly fifteen hundred pounds. At the present price of sugar it does not pay to cask it. Unless we have some more cold nights the sap will not run. Yesterday was very warm. About five o'clock in the afternoon the thermometer on the north side of the house was above seventy. We walked up onto the hill behind the sugar woods; the snow is almost gone but the ground is rather wet in some places.

(cont'd).



Daisy Hutchinson is not teaching this school, as she intended, because she got a graded school in Rutland; she has Miss Sterl's place; suppose Miss S. was married yesterday.

Walter sent me a Marlboro Enterprise containing an article about Grandma Perry and he wrote a long letter telling all about her funeral.

I have altered my tan dress a very little and intend to wear it soon. I did not do much to it as I did not think it would be worthwhile. I have been fussing over my straw hat but have not reached any result yet. I do not care to wear it just yet.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
April 21, 1896

Dear Mamma,

Our old cat has just presented us with four kittens; three of them black like herself, the other is gray.

The last week has made a great change in the appearance of the fields. Thursday we found some hepaticas and Sunday some spring beauties and yellow violets. We brought home some arbutus Sunday but we did not pick any because Fred said we got every bit he could find the day before.

Mr. & Mrs. Fuller came down Thursday and stayed over night; we expected Mrs. Fuller on the mail train but at the last minute they decided to drive down.

We had thunder showers Friday afternoon and evening and are having a shower now.

The roads were the worst I ever saw them last Sunday. We thought they would be better than the week before but they were not. There were several very bad holes that we had to drive around.

Josephine is to teach in Felchville; the school begins next week. She doesn't know anyone there and has heard that the school was a tough one.

We are beginning to get up early and have had breakfast at six several mornings. I enjoy being outdoors early in the morning more than at any other time of the day.

It is not quite certain about our coming to Chester; we probably cannot tell until the time comes. It all depends on the conditions of the land, crops and cattle.

Our hens are doing real well now. We shall take three dozen eggs to the store today; we use and eat all we want. We still have to buy milk and we get the poorest milk I ever had. I should think Mr. Steward would have good milk but he does not.

Mrs. Gutterson told me Sunday that she saw you on the street. I passed her on the street the last time I was in Rutland and she did not see me, and that surprised me very much.

Yours truly  
Lulu



E. Clarendon  
April 29, 1896

Dear Mamma

I thank you and Mary very much for your presents. Grace and I have our party tonight at her house. We will have only ten or a dozen present. Grace told me about your silk. She was out the day you sent for the last lot, and another clerk sent it. They were having a special sale so you got it cheaper the second time. She said she was afraid you would think she cheated you by asking too much for the first lot.

Frank went to Rutland Sunday morning and got Grace and Emma, returning at 11:30. In the afternoon we went about two miles to find arbutus but failed. We three girls drove and Frank went on his wheel. The girls stayed all night and went home on the B&R at eight o'clock a.m.

Friday forenoon we went to town and went to Oscar's and got the bundle you left there. Bertha and the children were going to Canton on the afternoon mail. She had just been out on her bicycle.

Our family was increased on Saturday by the addition of a calf, and we are enjoying some good milk. Frank is going to fat the calf. It is not a very pretty one. He had to teach it to eat and it was a funny sight.

Frank plowed yesterday for Mr. Spencer and planned to do some this forenoon but it looked so stormy that he did not. He was out looking after the pasture fence today and brought in a bouquet of adder's tongue or dog-tooth violet.

Last week Monday we had some horse-radish which Frank dug and grated and it is much stronger than any from the store. It is horrid work grating it; not a long job but worse on the eyes than peeling onions.

I have made two angel cakes for our party and expect to take up some cream for coffee. It is real pleasant now excepting for the wind, but until now I did not think we could go, it looked so much like rain.

I will mail this on the way up to Rutland.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
May 12, 1896

Dear Mamma

I had a nice call this afternoon from Mr. & Mrs. Tyler. They drove down and stayed about an hour. Frank was at work at Mr. Spencer's and I was alone all day. He has worked there for two days.

We had not washed for three weeks and so hired a Mrs. Flanders to do it Saturday. She did it in three hours and a half and did it well. She offered to take her pay in pail sugar and she said she would do some more work for more sugar. There were nearly ninety pieces in the washing and nearly all white clothes. I thought she was quite smart.

Saturday afternoon we went to the "flats" to get the horse shod, and while waiting climbed down into the lower gorge in two places, both of which were new to me. On our way home we stopped at the post office. I received a postal from Kate Russell saying that a Miss Goldthwaite from Tufts was to preach there the next day and asking us to come up. We went and went to Kate's to dinner. The church is only five miles from here.

Frank has planted three quarters of an acre of popcorn as an experiment. He also has some potatoes in and our peas are up. We are sadly in need of rain; had a short shower yesterday but the ground under the trees was hardly wet. The fruit trees are shedding their blossoms fast and the ground looks as if there had been a snow storm.

(cont'd)



One hen is setting but none of the others show any desire to yet. We are having more eggs than we can use but they are not worth much and cannot be sold in Rutland. The stores are full of them and they bring only nine cents.

I made a shirt waist out of my brown gingham skirt, and made it all by hand. I don't think I want to make many that way. It looks better than I expected.

We are planning now to come to Chester the first Sunday in June, that is, if things progress as they ought to. We may go on Friday and come home on Monday or go on Saturday and return Tuesday.

I received a letter from Auntie Vi the day before her birthday and shall try to answer it tonight or tomorrow.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon

May 19, 1896

Dear Mamma

We have had a good rain today and it has come just in time to save the grass and garden. Everything was drying up and the people here had begun to wonder what the cattle would live on this summer.

Our popcorn is up. Melons, cucumbers, sweetcorn, beans and peas are showing up well, but some things don't seem to have any idea of coming up.

Last Wednesday I had a lot of company. Fred came down on his wheel, Mrs. Patterson and Mary called, two peddlers came, and a gentleman who said he was "in pursuit of Steward's tinshop."

Thursday we went to Rutland to get some supplies. The road machine has been at work on the Clarendon roads and the going wasn't anything extra. Our horse rather objected to passing the steam roller near the fair grounds. I got out to walk by and Frank had to lead the horse by.

Friday afternoon we had a slight shower so Frank tried his hand at shearing sheep. It was his first attempt. He sheared the two ewes. The buck got out and got wet so he didn't get sheared until yesterday. He sheared each of the ewes in an hour. The regular price paid is 25¢ a sheep. He thought he did well for the first time. The lamb didn't know her ma after she was sheared and called and called her for two hours. When the ma answered, the lamb would look all around for her. It was very comical to watch them.

We got some asparagus Sunday up at Mr. Fuller's. It is the first I have had and it tasted good.

Everybody is lamenting Mr. Barney's leaving. He was liked by everyone and was a great help in the Sunday School.

Maria Steward came up Saturday afternoon to have me help her make a necktie to wear with a shirt waist. George and Alden are planning to go to college this fall; they expect to borrow money from their uncles. Alden is to go to Yale and George to Burlington.

Yesterday we went to the blacksmith's to have Charlie shod and while waiting Frank fixed the organ at the church. It has been in use thirty years and apparently has never been repaired or cleaned.

I don't think that I could very well leave just now to go to Chester. I should like to very much, but Frank has so much work of his own to do and can have all the outside work he wants, and he feels that he must earn all he can. He says that if he had to keep house it would take at least three hours out of his work and he would rather I would wait until after plowing is done; then he won't be so busy for a while.

(cont'd)



I have been making me a print wrapper; I will try and put in a piece. I got the print in East Clarendon and paid six cents a yard.

I saw a very interesting piece in the New York Journal of May 15, and will cut it out. It is the first I have seen of the affair.

Yours truly

Lulu

East Clarendon

Nov. 4, 1896

Dear Mamma

I got here all right and Baby was good on the train. The conductor, brakeman and newsboy all offered assistance in getting my bundle off.

We have moved the little bed into our room and Baby sleeps in that. It stands with one side against the wall where the commode stood, the foot being towards the kitchen and there is plenty of space left in the room. We put her in the clothes basket today but she only lacks two inches of being as long as that so I don't think it would pay to buy one especially for her.

We are going to Rutland tomorrow if it is pleasant, and if it is unpleasant will go the next day. Frank has a piano to tune.

When the Baby's pictures are done if you will send them to me so I can write on them, I will send them to Walter, Leslie and Aunt Inez. I would rather send them to those myself, and you can send them to any others.

Frank gave away our black cat to John Baker, so we have only one now.

The hen with the five little chicks has lost all but two and they look rather queer out in this cold weather.

Frank said he intended to fix the melodian but he is sorry he forgot. He didn't think of it until he had been in Hartland several days.

I expected to get this into the mail this morning but two fellows came to talk business just at the time to go to the office. They wanted to buy hay and pay for it in chopping.

Yours truly

Lulu

East Clarendon, Vt.

Nov. 11, 1896

Dear Mamma

The pictures came with your letter Monday. I like them very much. We went to Rutland Saturday; went to Arthur's, Mrs. Flannery's, Mr. McCormack's and Mrs. Hussey's. Saw quite a number of people on the street. Bert Bigelow is very sick with Typhoid fever. The fever turned Friday night and the doctor said there was a chance for him, but he was much weaker Saturday. I saw Alice Coolidge but did not see her baby. She said her baby weighed  $12\frac{1}{2}$  pounds last week.

The wrapper from Aunt Ann came Saturday. It is open all down the front and fastens with pink ribbons. Saturday Emma gave Alice a down pillow 16" square with a pillowcase with 6" valencrines (?) around it.

I had a hard time on the velvet question but got a remnant that was blue beside of the other blacks. I hope it will look well on the bonnet. It was only 45¢, being what was left. It looks well with the piece I had. Perhaps the top of the bonnet may have been changed by the sun.

Frank's aunt was very much surprised at the baby. She said she didn't see how she could do any better. Bertha's baby has a bad cough and is losing all her fat. She does not weigh twelve pounds.

(cont'd)



I will send back Auntie's letter. I had one from Hope Friday. I had begun to think she had not got my letter.

The church young people have a concert tonight at the church. Miss Wheeler got it up. Vida speaks, Rest Perkins plays on cornet; there is also a violinist and tenor singer, but no one I have heard of.

I will send the piece of Hope's dimity for your no-two-alike; it is of no use to me. Perhaps the bundle will not get in today's mail.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
Nov. 19, 1896

Dear Mamma

Your letter came yesterday. I am sorry that the velvet is not a good match.

I have been cleaning house. Last week I got the parlor and pantry done and have washed the bedroom curtains.

Baby has been troubled with constipation for a week but is better today.

Sunday we went to Mr. Fuller's. I was awfully tired when we got home and so was the baby, and she was rather the worse for it Monday. Frank is plowing for Mr. Spencer today. He did some last week. He can't get in very long days because it gets dark so early.

I had a note from Grace yesterday. She said that Bert Bigelow is a little better. Frank thinks it doubtful if he gets well. There is just a chance if his strength does not give out.

Aurora Steward was here yesterday. She said George was homesick at Harvard and that her father had been to see him.

I heard Sunday that Vida and Mrs. Sparhawk were going to keep house in her house on Grove Street.

Alice Coolidge has moved downstairs. She does not gain strength very fast. Folks say that she is too careful of herself and doesn't do enough. She has a girl and even thinks it is too much to ride to her mother's on the electrics.

The pillowcase on the down pillow is white. I haven't used it yet because Emma starched it, and Mrs. Hussey said I mustn't use it until I had washed the starch out of it as it would make Baby's face rough.

Hope wrote that Lily White Morse and baby were in Berlin and that Perry and Daisy couldn't leave the baby long enough to go to church on Sunday.

I wrote to Aunt Ann and thanked her for the wrapper but I haven't written to Auntie Vi yet.

That book of Walter's which I thought was here is not. There is another one, the record book of his class. I was pretty sure the literature book was here but we cannot find it.

Yours truly  
Lulu



East Clarendon  
Nov. 26, 1896

Dear Mamma

I would have liked to have been with you all today, but it was impossible. The day has not been pleasant; rainy and windy.

We went to Rutland Monday. Frank went to his father's and I went to Aunt Bertha's. Sumner and Doris were delighted to see the baby. Sumner wanted her to get down on the floor and play ball with him. The roads were all slippery with sleet and the horse slipped considerably which spoiled the pleasure of my ride, as I expected she would fall down. She sat down going down hill with Frank before we went to town.

We expect to go to Rutland tomorrow or the next day to see the doctor about my eyes. The lids are sore and I can't see well. I haven't read nor sewed for two days. I think we shall go tomorrow if it is pleasant.

We washed yesterday but some of the clothes are still in the tub waiting for a time to dry.

Last Sunday we gave the baby an injection to cure her constipation and have given her one each day since until today. Today she had a natural movement. I don't see what causes her trouble. She was some constipated before we went to Chester but not while there, and then it begins as soon as we get home. Frank thinks perhaps the hard drinking water might cause it.

We are living mostly on the chickens which turned out to be roosters. They are pretty good eating; one makes us three dinners.

I some expect Emma Hussey to spend tomorrow night with me.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon, Vt.  
Dec. 9, 1896

Dear Mother

Lulu wishes me to write you as her eyes are not yet well enough to allow her to do so. They are much better, however. After seeing you onto the train the other day she went to Mrs. Hill's where she had a pleasant, though short, visit, and where I found her when it was time to go home. Sunday was pleasant so that the drive to town to see Dr. Thomson was a pleasant one, and Lulu rather enjoyed it.

Baby's teeth are quite troublesome today, and yesterday also.

It began raining last night just after dark and gave us a steady downpour all night. About 7 o'clock this morning it turned to snow and at noon we had about three inches and expected sleighing, but the sun is shining out now and a wagon will be good enough to travel with yet awhile.

We saw in last week's Rutland Herald the announcement of the marriage of Leon Powers and Mrs. Jessie Squiers. That is the fellow who was visiting her when she was here.

I enclose clipping from Herald about which we were speaking when you were here. I don't have a faculty for writing long letters so will close.

Yours  
Frank



E. Clarendon  
Dec. 16, 1896

Dear Mother

Lulu's eyes are still improving but she does not think it best to write herself yet.

She is making a pair of mittens for Alice from the silk Bessie sent, thinking Bess would rather the baby would have the use of it now than some time in the future.

We have received from Grace the puff that she made for the babe. It is of white, tied with blue, and has a double ruffle around the edge.

Lulu wishes me to tell you that I say those apples you brought up are "King of Tompkins County."

She says that on the day you went home she chilled one ear and cheek and they trouble her when outdoors ever since.

We went to town Friday and Lu spent the day visiting Mrs. Hill and Nana while I tuned Nan's piano. When coming away, Nan gave Lu some celery, which she says is good; and to the baby some carnations. Both were of their own growing.

Sunday we went up home, the weather being fine, but the roads were bad and we were all tired out when we got home.

If you see Walter please tell him that the reason Lulu has not answered his letter is the bad eyes.

Frank

E. Clarendon, Vt  
12-26-/96

Dear Mother

We got your letter day before yesterday and should have written yesterday, but forgot it when free to attend to it.

On the day of mailing my last we went to town; Lulu and Alice on the train and I with team. Lulu went to the Doctor and called on Mrs. Woods, Alice Coolidge and Mrs. Worcester, taking dinner at the latter place. Somehow she caught cold; probably on the train as the car was cold, and the station where, as usual, we waited  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours, was hot and close. The cold settled in her back and she was hardly able to sit up until yesterday. She will tell you more about her sickness when she writes, which will probably be next time. Her eyes are nearly well.

Of course our confinement to home prevented us from giving any Christmas presents, and that with the fact that she missed the Christmas tree exercises, made Lulu feel pretty badly. She says she never has missed them before since coming to Rutland.

We thank you all for the kind remembrances which we received on Wednesday. Perhaps Alice does not fully appreciate her share, but we do for her.

Lulu says that she cannot think of anything special to say, and I have a chance to send this down so you will get it tomorrow, so will close.

Frank



East Clarendon  
January 1, 1897

Dear Mamma

I am going to try to write a letter. We had quite a party here last night. We had invited the young people down. Emma Hussey and Adice Frost Hull managed the crowd and twenty-five came. I did not expect as many. They brought cake, sandwiches, coffee, etc., and left enough to last us quite a while. Alice was good and we had a nice time. They left about 12:45.

Clausie Barrows died about a week ago. I saw her death in a weekly Herald.

Alice doesn't care at all for her presents. Her old rattle beats them all.

I suppose you heard that Adice and Mr. Lull were married on Dec. 17 and went to Chester.

I expect to have a chopper to board next week if he can come. The next week I expect a visit from Florence Wood.

In a great hurry.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon, Vt.  
Jan. 6, 1897

Dear Mamma

I went to town Monday and visited three furniture stores in search of a high chair. They had them at all prices from 75¢ to \$3.50. I did not see any that I liked. Those with wheels that shut down were \$2.25 but those that I saw of that kind I did not fancy. The one I liked best was 75¢. It had a wicker top and spreading legs.

A chopper who is working for Frank is boarding here. He began this morning; he is a hard chopper, chops three cords in a day, chops it into four-foot lengths and splits it, and works for a dollar a day.

Emma sent me a picture of herself yesterday. I like it better than any I have of her.

Monday I went to see the doctor and he says that my eyes will be changing now for about three months and he can't fit any glasses until they are settled. He says I can't use them to amount to anything until then. They don't pain me any now. I can do a little with them but not any close work.

Florence Wood is coming to make me a short visit next week. She will stay two or three days.

A.C. Bates & Son have failed and the store is closed. The Marble City Electric Light Co. have failed and have nearly upset several people. Houghton closed up but is open again and will come around alright. Dr. Hanrahan is quite upset by the failure.

Frank's mother is not at all well. She has to lie down every day and is quite miserable.

Alice's constipation is about the same. She will have injections three days in succession and then she goes without two or three days, and then she has to have injections again.

We are going to Shrewsbury tomorrow or next day to a Mr. Lord's. He wants to have his piano tuned. It has not been touched for ten years. It will be quite a job.

Yours truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt. 7  
January 15, '97

Dear Mamma

Alice and I are up here visiting. Frank brought us up here Wednesday and expects to come for us Sunday. The man who was chopping for us went off Saturday night and had a "spree" and didn't get back until Tuesday afternoon and then he was full. He was good natured enough but I couldn't stand it, so Frank brought us up here. He could work out in the woods with the chopper better than he could when I was at home. Frank's mother is better than she was, but is not at all well.

Frank has decided that we shall not be on the farm another year, but we don't know just where we shall be. We may be here but can't tell just yet.

I think I am better than I was. I think the medicine the doctor gave me has done me good.

We have had quite a little snow but not quite enough for sleighing. You can direct your next letter to Clarendon.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
Jan. 23, 1897

Dear Mamma

I did not get home until Wednesday and as your letter had been sent to Rutland and then sent back here I did not get it until yesterday. We expect some to go to Rutland Monday and then I will do your errands. It is very bad traveling; just snow enough to make bad wheeling and not enough for sleighing. I saw Mr. Bates on the train and he told me about the horse.

My hand is lame. I think I caught cold in it. I can hardly hold the pen. We are about as usual. Alice doesn't get in much sleep during the day, but sleeps all night.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
January 27

Dear Mamma

We drove to town yesterday on wheels. All the snow we had last week drifted so it spoiled the sleighing. It is snowing again today and there is little or no wind so that by night sleighs will probably go all right. I got the highchair yesterday. It is of oak, cane-seated, has a tray in front which turns over back out of the way. The chair can be shut down low and then has a handle to push it by, and it has four iron wheels. When it is up high, the back wheels do not touch the floor so it doesn't move easily. It cost \$2.75 and I hope you won't think it extravagant. I think Alice enjoys it and it will be a great help in taking care of her.

I got plaid for Mary's waist at Houghton's; three yards for \$1.25. He was advertising a discount sale. I think it is the same goods as the plaid you bought for her.

This morning when Frank came in from milking he said that there were two pairs of twin lambs out in the barn; three of them ewes, the other a buck. I think I shall go out and see them this afternoon.

Frank sold his organ and has bought the one up at the church and intends to get it before Sunday if possible.

The man who was chopping has got through and gone and I am rather



glad. He was an awful eater and tracked in a good deal of dirt.

The young people have a chicken pie supper at the church tonight. We were asked to contribute in the chicken line but could not as we have eaten all except the ones we were saving for laying.

My eyes don't let me use them much yet. Just reading your letter through made my head ache.

We are both curious to know how much your horse cost, but suppose it is none of our business.

Will send the plaid perhaps by mail. We wish someone were coming this way and could bring the magazines that you have got since I was there.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
Feb 5, 1897

Dear Mamma

We tried to get a dollar bill to put in my letter last week but couldn't get one, and will try to put one in this. I thought you would wonder where the rest of your five dollar bill went to.

I had a call from Mr. & Mrs. Forsley and Hathaway on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Bennett offered them his horse for a sleigh ride and so they came here.

We have had a curious time with our sheep. There were four lambs belonging to two sheep and neither sheep would feed more than one lamb, so we had two to feed. The younger of the sheep butted one lamb when it tried to eat from her and killed it. The other three are doing well.

Alice has not seemed satisfied with her food for the last week. There was enough of it but it was not nourishing enough and I have been growing thin and less strong, so we decided to make a change and yesterday morning began to feed her sterilized milk from a bottle. You would be surprised to see how well she does and how little she has fussed. I am doing the way that Bertha has done with Hazel. She followed the doctor's directions. Dr. Thomson told me that nursing the baby was pulling pretty hard on me and kept me from getting strong. He also said that riding didn't do me any good. We have the magazines and Frank enjoys them very much. He has read a little to me. I am writing in a great hurry.

Yours truly  
Lulu

PS I washed Alice's cloak last Saturday and it looked better afterwards than I expected but it was hard work. The cloak was very heavy when wet.

Little Hazel has on short clothes. Alice Coolidge is going to put them onto Clare as soon as she can get them made, but Alice won't have them until warmer weather.

L.



East Clarendon, Vt.  
Feb 10, 1897

Dear Mamma

We heard that Leslie was in Rutland on his way to Schenectady from Aunt Bertha the day Frank got the magazines.

Frank sold his old organ and got the one from the Rutland church. It is much better than the old one.

That assault and robbery of the town treasurer is a great mystery. Albert Spencer carries the mail besides being treasurer. I believe the mail bag was opened but there was probably not much in that. Some folks think that Spencer has been spending considerable money lately, and was short in his accounts. The principal fact against him is that he waited so long before sending word to the sheriff. The amount is said by his people to be in the neighborhood of \$400.

The sleighing here is all spoiled by the rain, and the wheeling is not at all good. Some people are out on wheels and some on runners.

Alice has nursed only once in each night since Friday. She has been having an awful time with constipation since Sunday morning but is better last night and today. I fed her sterilized milk with an equal amount of water. She is fed every two hours during the day and generally only twice between six p.m. and 8 a.m. She takes about four ounces of food, sometimes more, but quite often less. She has all she can eat. For nearly two weeks I have put her to bed at six at night, and at ten and two during the day. She is often awake at those times but is put to bed just the same. Before we started weaning her she was getting real fussy and teased to eat most all the time. I think from the way she began eating the milk that she was hungry all the time.

I don't think I shall make any plans about visiting until I know where we are to be this summer. When the change is made, I shall probably be able to come to Chester. Frank can't decide definitely until someone is found to take this place, as he doesn't feel that it would be just to leave before then. I should be glad of a visit from you or any of the others.

I got two remnants for short dresses for Alice; one a blue and white lawn at 10¢, the other a pink and white percale at 5¢. I plan to use up my old white dress as I can't wear it. I have material enough on hand for seven dresses.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
Feb 17, 1897

Dear Mamma

I think I will make Alice's short dresses twenty-two inches long and her petticoats sixteen inches, the petticoats to be buttoned onto a waist. I plan to make her three dresses out of my old white dress, two out of those checked night gowns of Aunt Electa's, her two new ones. I think the skirt and upper parts of the sleeves of my pink wrapper would pay to use for her and would make two more which would give her nine to start with. They will probably all be Mother Hubbard. The grey stuff and white shirt that you gave me for night dresses will be used for skirts. I expect to make her some shoes out of some leather which Frank calls "valve-leather." I shall make them as I did her chamois shoes and lace instead of tying with ribbon.

We fed her the cooked milk for a week and then changed and the uncooked milk agrees with her much better.

I had a call from Kate Russell Sunday. She said Leslie was there Tuesday and Wednesday, two weeks ago. Aunt Bertha told Frank that she thought he was there.



Our last year's lamb, whom we call Hilda, and who is bigger than the other sheep had a sad experience Sunday, but I guess she will come around allright. She got into the watering tub backend first, and one horn caught on the edge of the tub just holding her head above water. I happened to look out the front window and saw something there. Frank went and pulled her out by the horns, backed the cutter down, loaded her in, and pulled her to the house. She was in the kitchen until Monday night. We rang several pails of water out of her wool. She weighs 125 pounds and when her wool was soaked weighed some more. It is a great mystery how she got in it; the opening doesn't seem large enough. If her horn had not caught she would have drowned; the water is six feet deep.

It has been melting all day and is this evening. I am afraid the sleighing will be spoiled. I have not been in the sleigh. I stayed in all last week with an ulcerated tooth and neuralgia, but am about over that. We have to buy a quart of milk a day. The lamb and Alice use so much, and the cow doesn't give much. I named the pet lamb after Grace, the fat one after Emma and the young buck after Vernon Worcester.

Yours truly  
Lulu

East Clarendon  
March 10, 1897

Dear Mamma

We went to Rutland yesterday and took the can of berries to Bertha. We were caught in a shower and drove home in the rain. I caught a slight cold. I went to see Mrs. Coolidge and Clare. Clare is very bright but not as heavy as Alice. Hazel is much heavier than Clare or Alice; she weighs nineteen pounds. Alice Coolidge has weaned Clare and is feeding her whey. Clare has two teeth.

We expect to move up to Frank's father's the first of next week. I don't expect to stay there more than a week anyway, but will then make you a visit.

It is raining today so we are washing and packing up some things. John Baker brought down a load of his things Monday and is quite ready to move in.

I expect Grace and Emma Sunday to stay over night, and go home in the morning on the first train.

We stopped at Arthur's just a few moments yestersay. Bertha said little Arthur had the mumps and she was afraid Alice would catch them.

In looking over old letters to see what I wanted to save, I found the enclosed one from Auntie Vi. I don't see how I neglected to return it before.

You can send your next letter to East Clarendon and if we are not here it will be forwarded.

Yours truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
March 17, 1897

Dear Mamma

You will have to address your next letter to box 597, Rutland. We came up here Monday. I came up here on the morning train and happened to meet Frank's father on the street and rode on with him. Frank came up with a load intending to go back to the city after me, but I got here first.

Alice caught cold Sunday and is very fretful but it is nothing serious.

Do you want to keep on the Harper's Bazaar? I think it is owing since last August. I thought that it had better be sent to you now because I don't know where we may go, nor when.

I looked for the advertisement in the Youth's Companion, but I cannot find it and so will send the paper back.

I will send an advertisement out of a paper that Mary wanted when she was visiting us. Jo has one of the pins; they are rather odd.

I am thinking some of going to the prize speaking, but don't know as I shall.

The young people have a supper tomorrow night and I may go to that.

I don't know when I shall go to Chester; perhaps the last of next week. Have you got a mileage now? I thought I could go so much cheaper on that.

Yours truly  
Lulu



No. Chester  
May 7, 1897

Dear Mamma

I am keeping house all alone today. Papa went to Rutland Wednesday and on to camp and expects to be back tomorrow noon.

He had another wedding Wednesday morning; the bride was May Gilman.

Frank began to work for the golf club this week and is to have the work all summer and he is quite anxious for me to come back so he can get settled.

A gentleman came early this morning to engage Papa for a funeral in Springfield Sunday, one of the Sunday School scholars; I told him I presumed he would go but did not promise.

Mary took her dress up to Mrs. Holden last night. She couldn't get any velveteen over on South Street and doesn't know what to do.

The horse was so anxious to get out yesterday afternoon that she broke out the front of the manger and dragged that out with her. She kicked three boards off of the box stall Tuesday night so she had been tied to the manger. When she got out Bessie and I were here. Bess went up to the common for George but before he came a man who was driving by got her in. She pretty well finished up the lettuce and strawberries.

Papa gave me some money but he had only a little. He got only \$25 from Springfield and a promise of more next Sunday and I thought you might need it more than I did so I will send it to you.

We are getting along all right and hope you are enjoying yourself.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Fuller

Rutland, Vt.  
May 13, 1897

Dear Mamma

We got into Rutland ahead of time and met Frank in the depot. It rained only a very little while we were riding up from the depot.

It has rained hard all day today. Frank had to go to his work but of course could not do anything, and came back just after dinner.

The hanging lamp which Frank bought for 50¢ is just like yours. The metal is rather dirty but he is going to bronze it over.

I will send the mileage book and stamps to you. Perhaps they will take the stamps at the store, but I do not know how to address them. Address me at Box 597.

Yours truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
May 20, 1897

Dear Mamma

We moved Wednesday but don't know where anything is now. We are in the west side of Mr. Fuller's house; 27 Jackson Ave. is the address. We couldn't find anything near Dorr Hill to suit us so we are in here. There are eight rooms, four upstairs, all opening out of a hall. It is quite convenient. I will send you a rough plan of the lower floor. The pantry has a window above the top of the closet belonging to the little room. All of the upstairs rooms have closets. We have our garden all plowed and shall plant some things but they will be a little late.

We had everything in good shape. The only thing hurt was one tumbler. I couldn't find any ink tonight and so am writing with a pencil. I haven't wanted anything that I left in Chester yet. I expect to have a spare room ready to use all the time and hope to have it occupied.

We will have to buy matting for upstairs and something for our lower hall and stairs.

I washed windows today. They were awfully dirty and so is the whole house. Mr. Carlisle was the last tenant. I heard last Sunday that Bert C. and his wife have a boy baby.

A little girl belonging in the other side of the house told Frank that her "Ma said she was darned sorry we were going to move in," and she has spent most of the day on my back piazza looking through the glass part of the door at me and investigating everything outside.

I can't go to the stores or anywhere else until I get a baby carriage and I don't know when that will be.

I fixed over my tan dress last week and trimmed that white hat and like them both very much.

Guy Fuller came down with the German measles last Tuesday and he didn't enjoy them at all; he said they "itched" awfully.

The rocking chair that came from the auction is like the big rocker I had in my parlor. I think Frank got his money's worth in everything he got there.

I am so tired tonight I can hardly write.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
May 28, 1897

Dear Mamma

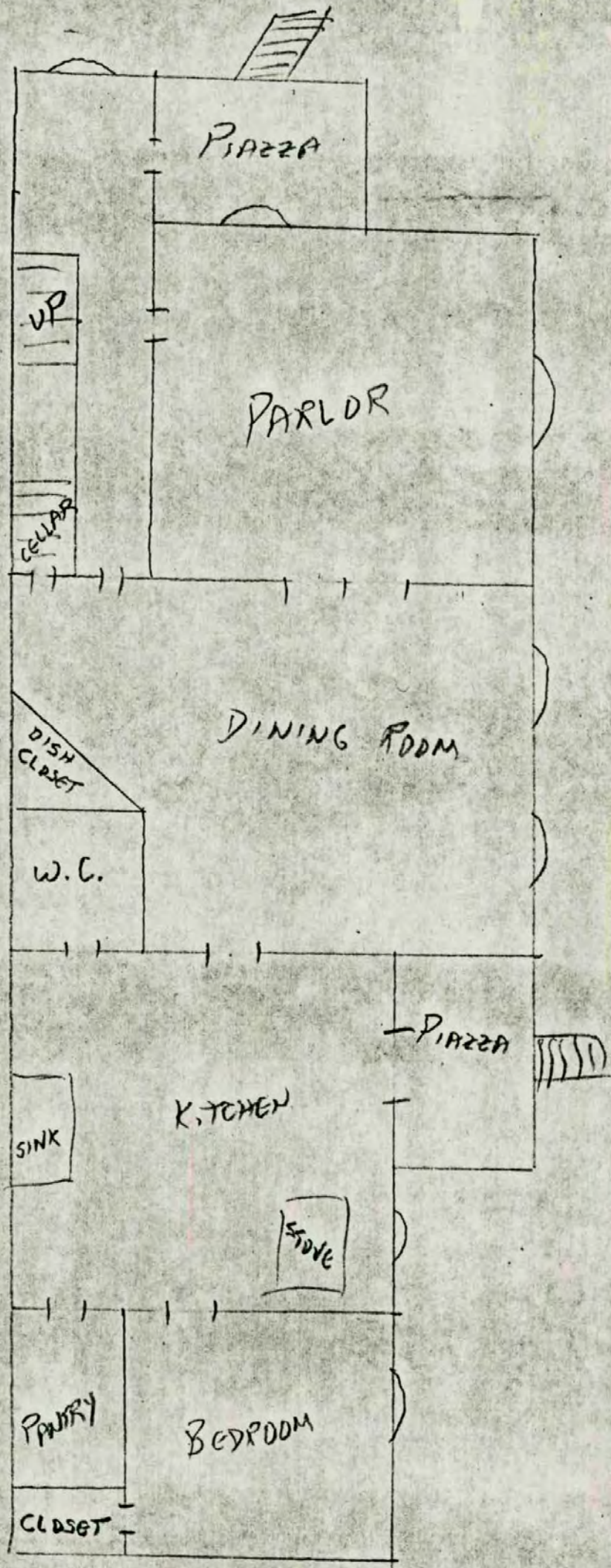
I am getting settled some but not very fast; have done all I can downstairs until my parlor carpet is down. I have long days. Frank has to start at 6:30 A.M. and isn't back until 6:30 P.M. Alice has been real good so far except for the last two days; she has been real well. She has crackers to chew on and likes them very much. Sunday Frank got Mrs. Milo Eastman's baby carriage. It was second hand when she had it nine years ago. It is in good condition and I shall buy it if I can.

I called at Oscar's and got Bessie's umbrella last Monday. I saw no one but him.

Sunday I had calls from Emma Hussey and Bert and Carrie

(cont'd)







Bigelow. Mrs. Brown who used to clean at the Institute lives near here and stopped me on the street and put in a bid for my washing. I didn't encourage her any; have done it myself so far and had a tremendous one this week. The clothes are not all ironed yet.

We have had unpleasant rainy weather since Monday. I couldn't take Alice out and when she can't go out she is fussy. That sun bonnet I made is too small for her to wear; I thought it big enough when I began it. She wears her little blue tam. I am going to make her something out of white. I don't know just what it will be.

Yours truly

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.

May 31, 1897

Dear Mamma

Your letter and picture and prices came today. Leslie stopped here Saturday and I mended his coat for him.

Alice is beautifully broken out with the chicken pox. I do not know where she got it. She was first broken out Thursday, and Friday afternoon Dr. Thomson said it was the chicken pox. She is pretty fussy and uneasy. I went to Church yesterday and heard Mr. Metcalf of Burlington and liked him very much indeed. There were over eighty present; it seemed quite a congregation.

Frank is planning to take the examination for letter carrier which is to be held next Saturday. He thinks he might be able to pass it and have a chance at an appointment.

The decoration services here were on Saturday and it was not a pleasant day for them.

Did you feel the earthquake the other night? We felt it very plainly. It woke me up rattling the brass handles on the bureau. Leslie said he felt it in Schenectady.

Alice is scolding and I am holding her and trying to write so Frank can mail this tonight. Some days I go downtown but most of the time so far Frank has had to go in the evening to buy meat. We can't get much at a time as it doesn't keep well.

I am going to get some diamond die and color my red table cloths all red and put them on the table between meals. The dining table is in the sitting room. The people in the other side eat in the kitchen but I don't see where they find room.

Our rag carpet will carpet our parlor, hall and stairs. The sitting room is painted. We shall get some matting for two rooms upstairs. The other two will not be furnished as we do not need them. I wish Walter could have come up here but suppose he wouldn't have time.

Yours truly

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
June 7, 1897

Dear Mamma

I had a letter from Walter saying that he brought a present up to Chester for me. I would like to have the things sent up as I have wanted some of my bundles. Have you the mail box you used to have in Rutland? I thought if you had and didn't use it, perhaps you might lend it. We haven't any and rather need one as I am sometimes away when the mail comes. He has to stick it in the door and I am afraid the neighbors children might meddle.

Alice is about well of the chicken pox. It shows some but is drying up. It has made her uneasy nights. She has got her first tooth through; I found it last Friday.

Our garden is up and growing nicely but it will be some time before anything is big enough to eat.

Friday and Saturday afternoon I wheeled Alice down to Dorr Hill and then came home with Frank. It is quite a walk but is more interesting than going back and forth over the same street.

Uncle Oscar agreed to sell me his baby carriage but when he talked with Bertha she rather objected so I don't know as I shall buy it.

I have been working on my new shirt waist. I ripped one sleeve out of my new wrapper to cut the sleeves by; it is nearly done. I have made over my Trinity (?) wrapper into a dress and like it very much.

I got Alice some new shoes Saturday. She had a hole through one of the old ones in the heel and they look very shabby to wear anywhere.

~~Vida Viola~~ (?) Billings is to be married the 23rd at her house; a reception is to follow. I have not been invited to either and do not feel very badly about it either. I suppose it will be very swell.

When you send the things up let me know.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 11, 1897

Dear Mamma

The box came today; Mr. Fuller brought it up from the depot. The tacks which fastened the label on went through the cover and into the book cover in three or four places.

Alice does not creep but gets all round in a sitting position but I don't exactly see how she does it either. She eats cracker and milk at noon and night, and some bread. She teases for crackers and likes them very much.

Frank went down to work yesterday morning but couldn't do anything so he came home. The creek rose four feet over the road at Dorr bridge between seven and ten and he thought the bridge would surely go. The report is out today that the Billings bridge is down. Yesterday afternoon Frank went to the clubhouse by way of Centre Rutland and the Ripley bridge. The water was up to the timbers of the bridge then and growing high so fast that he hardly dared to cross it.

(cont'd)



Arthur was in Boston Monday and Tuesday and went in to see Walter. He came home on the last train over the Chester bridge before it went down. His train stopped just south of the bridge to let off the man who was drowned and he crossed just after the train and went down.

I should think Mary was having the measles pretty hard and won't she lose the rest of the term at school?

My right hand is bothering me so I can hardly use it. There is a bunch on the bone and Dr. Thomson calls it a "weeping sinew." Some days it is very painful and sometimes it does not bother me at all.

I have looked in several places for gray flannel but didn't find anything which I thought would suit. When do you go to camp? Vida Billings is to be married the twenty-third. She is to have a big wedding and reception at her house. She invites rich friends and leaves out poorer ones in such a manner that everyone says she is after the presents. She has been real intimate with Grace and Emma; Em is invited only to the reception and Grace not to anything and it is causing a good deal of talk. We are not noticed at all and I am rather glad of it.

I hope Mary will improve fast.

Yours truly  
Lulu

The stores are having shirt waist sales now. Very pretty ones at \$.08; I am going to look at more flannel today or tomorrow.

Rutland, Vt.  
June 13, 1897

Dear Mamma,

I have not decided about going anywhere this summer; it depends on my hay fever. That has begun quite vigorously and if it continues so bad I may go away.

I had Alice weighed yesterday and she weighed nineteen pounds. She is ten months old today.

Our house is being shingled and I am quite sick of the noise.

The bunch on my hand is about an inch above the wrist joint. Some days it does not trouble me but it is especially painful on damp rainy days.

I was in Mrs. Hill's a few minutes last week and I never saw her look so miserable as she did then. She says she is better than she had been for some time.

Buffalo Bill was not very well attended last Monday. I had to go downtown in the afternoon and met the crowd coming back from the show. The street cars were crowded and every car was in use. The report is that Mr. Chaffee gave them the use of the land so as to have them on the line of the cars.

The schools here close this week. Fred Turner is going to Mass. another year and most folks think Miss Landon is going with him as she is not to teach next year.

Last Sunday I found moths eating in one room upstairs and so I have been putting away clothes all the week. I only found the moths in the cracks of the floors.

(cont'd).



The Golf Club had a reception and opening last Saturday and there were about four hundred present; all the "high-toned" folks of Rutland.

I went down last Tuesday and ate dinner with Frank. It was a long walk and I was pretty tired before I got back. It is cool and pleasant there.

Mrs. Brown is quite anxious again to do my washing but I shan't give it to her until I have tried everyone else. Mrs. Lyons who washed last for you lives up here on East Street now and I think if I hired anyone I should try to get her.

I have errands downtown and it is so hot that I hate to stir out.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 24, 1897

Dear Mamma

I had a brief call from Papa Tuesday evening. He asked me to go down to examine the dry goods he was going to buy for camp. I think now that if it won't be too much for you I may go up when you do next week. Which day do you expect to arrive at camp? Your letter said you were going next Tuesday but I wasn't sure what day you meant.

Alice has a second lower tooth through. She tries hard to stand up but doesn't succeed very well. She gets onto her knees without holding onto anything and gets all over the floor.

The other day Aunt Bertha gave me some dresses and a cloak which were Charlotte's. They fit Alice nicely.

If you want a sun shade I can get you a pretty good one for \$.84; they are having special sales and some competition among the stores.

I thought if the table linen which Papa got was real good for the price I would like to have you order enough to make me another table cloth and I would pay you for it. I am going to try and get this in today.

I expect to see Papa again Friday and may talk camp with him.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 25, 1897

Dear Mamma

I have planned to take a blanket, perhaps two, and the woolen patchwork Grandma gave me; it will not take up as much room as a quilt. I also thought of those pillows. I have the baby carriage to get through besides my trunk; shall take my hammock if I can get it in. I shall have to take along milk and crackers for Alice's breakfast; I suppose I might buy milk at the depot restaurant for her breakfast.

Last night was terrible. I have not slept for several nights and Alice has been very uneasy.

(cont'd)



If I go downtown today, I will see about getting a sun shade. I have not examined them very much but thought they looked fairly good in the window.

If I do not decide to go Tuesday night I will send Frank to the station to see you. If you have plenty of room you may put in my coat; I might want it.

Sat a.m.

Lulu

Bought you a parasol last night and think it is quite good.

Rutland, Vt.  
Sept 1, 1897

Dear Mamma

I was very glad to get Alice's bonnet back; I had begun to think something had happened to it.

Frank got his uniform last night and he looks real nice in it. It was made to order and fits him nicely.

Saturday night I saw Abbie Coates and Belle Pelton. I had not seen either for two years. Belle is teaching in the graded schools this year; Abbie's second girl was two years old last April and is named Sadie Lucretia.

Alice has been feeling real nicely since last Thursday. She cried all that day but has slept better since then and feels real well. She eats lots of crackers; has eaten four since noon today.

I have been making grape jelly today out of wild grapes which Frank got down on the Creek road.

Mrs. Hussey said she wished you had stopped in to see her the day you went from here. Emma's father and Lorrie Hussey came unexpectedly last week but only for a very few days.

I would like the stuff for Alice's cloak pretty soon as I want to make it before I make her winter dresses. I have stuff enough to make her three and I am going to make her some more creepers to wear over them. The creepers will be made of my old striped gray and white gingham dress skirt and possibly out of my red calico.

Frank has a new route to learn next week. It is on Madison and Royce Streets and that section the other side of Main Street. It includes part of "Nebraska".

I have my red waist almost done and I have just finished another dress for Alice. I get up early mornings and sew.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Sept. 10, 1897

Dear Mamma

I forgot to tell you about the washing machine. It is the Western Washer and can be got here for \$5.50. You could have Georgie run it and probably rub all your clothes in less than an hour. Mr. Fuller puts in two sheets at a time or clothes equally bulky and rubs them just five minutes. Then if not clean he rubs them again. Frank says he could get three for ten dollars. He would get one for himself if he could find two others

(cont'd)



to buy.

I have been making crab apple jelly and canning the apples this week. I got them of Mrs. Morgan.

Wednesday we received by mail a rag doll, smaller than yours but very much like it, and I think it came from Marlboro. Alice doesn't know just what to do with it and sucks the hands and feet whenever she can get hold of them. Mrs. Woods, Mabel and Grace called the other day and gave me some light gray cashmere to make Alice a dress. It is not new but little worn and will make her a pretty dress.

I am going to write to Grandma about the doll as soon as I get some letter paper; this seems to be all I have. I am going to have a basket of peaches; real nice ones are selling for \$.64 a basket and I think that is cheap. I expect to have pears next week from Mr. Fuller's. I have only a little fruit put up and want more as winter apples are going to be scarce. Alice has been growing fat since she is feeling better. Last week she got another upper tooth through and feels much better since. Hazel Fuller is very much afraid of Alice's doll and cries and hides her face.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
October 7, 1897

Dear Mamma

I suppose you have received your peaches before this; I hope they will suit. I did not see them.

I have finished Alice's red dress and her cloak and yesterday made her two pairs of stockings out of some of Frank's. I am working today on some bed clothes for her. I lined my patchwork with the skirt of my old pink wrapper and am making a puff out of my yellow crepon skirt. I am going to get a pair of blankets for \$.45 today. They are all white without any colored border.

You probably remember Eva Atherton who roomed with Miss Clarke at the Brock. She is visiting near Mr. Fuller's and he saw her and her twin boys last week. The twins are eighteen months old and are awfully bowlegged. Mr. Fuller says Eva has improved in looks and doesn't look as soft as she did before she was married. Mr. Forsley's resignation has been accepted and he has been asked to preach in Melrose, Mass. next Sunday.

Mr. Gibbs (Mrs. Lock's husband) has bought a house on this street, on the other side and up beyond us and they moved in Wednesday.

I will try and put in the stamps for the change from your dollar.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Oct 9, 1897

Dear Mamma

I caught a hard cold last Sunday and have been so lame in my back all the week that I haven't done much and have kept putting off my letter from day to day.

Last Saturday I tied my patchwork and that gave me a lame back and then I had an awful big washing Monday and that about used me up.

Thursday Mr. Fuller brought me half a bushel of grapes to make into jelly and it wasn't any small job to pick them over and do them. They made  $2\frac{1}{2}$  quarts of jelly; they were grapes that were not quite ripe enough to eat.

I am at work on my brown dress; have ripped the jacket and waist. It will all have to be turned but looks just the same on the wrong side.

I made over those shirts for Alice and they are so long that they will come to her knees.

Alice takes several steps alone to come to Frank or to me and sometimes all by herself she will take one or two.

I presume that you will know before you get this that Papa has just taken supper with us.

I did not get your letter Tuesday until after you had left Rutland on your way home and then I thought you might have made a mistake in the date and I looked for you the next day. Frank got the bundle from Grace. I have not been downtown this week.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
October 16, '97

Dear Mamma

I don't know as I have any news to write; have rather looked for a letter from you since you were here.

Grace's brother, George, died in Pittsford Thursday of typhoid fever. She begins work Monday in Ross, Huntress & Co.'s store. I went to see her Wednesday.

George Walker's father died yesterday very suddenly. He was sick only one night.

Papa was up here Thursday evening.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
October 22

Dear Mamma

I will send the machine Monday and hope it will be soon enough. Because of several things it was almost impossible to get it off today. I got your letter yesterday morning and had almost decided that you were not going to write. I am in a hurry to get this in so it will go today.

I have a new wrapper; an indigo blue one and it cost me \$.59. I have wanted another and thought this a good time to buy. It is not so fancy as some but has a pocket in the left side almost in the middle of the back.

(cont'd)



I forgot to give you those plant slips the day you were here but you can have them if there is any way to get them.

It is time for Angin (?) so I must stop; will put in a piece of the satin.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.

October 29, '97

Dear Mamma

I have just measured Alice's carriage; it is fifteen inches wide and eighteen long. The robe would have to allow for turning in on the sides and ends.

Alice was taken sick Sunday night and was pretty fussy for three days, but is about as usual today. She vomited Sunday night and during the next day but not after that. I think she is getting another tooth; she has her fingers in her mouth a good deal.

Mrs. Hill, Wana Walker and Louie called here yesterday. Mrs. Hill looks the best she has for more than a year.

I will try to get those buttons for Mary tomorrow or Monday. I have felt like going downtown since your letter came; Alice has been so fussy.

Frank has not worked since Monday at mail carrying; he has been doing some much needed fixing around the yard. He expects from a remark of Mr. Sheldon's and from something Mr. Sheldon told his father, that he will have two weeks without work and then will have work.

Does Bessie's school close next week? Josie Fuller's does, and I thought they began about the same time.

We had a visit Sunday from Vernon Worcester. He said his mother was going to move in two weeks into a new house on Strong's Avenue, almost down to the fair grounds, just beyond the joining of Main Street and the Avenue. He will be quite near his work.

Frank is going to ride around with one of the team carriers this afternoon. It is a nice day and I think the ride might be pleasant.

Yours truly

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.

Nov. 7, 1897

Dear Mamma,

I didn't get my letter off last week and was too tired to write yesterday. We went up to Mr. Fuller's and after we got home I didn't feel as if I could write.

We cleaned house last week; cleaned up the two back rooms upstairs putting everything into one. We emptied the bedroom downstairs and moved a bed and bureau into it and are going to try sleeping in it. It is quite a little larger than the little bedrooms at Clarendon. Frank has no work as yet but has found plenty to do at home fixing up the yard and garden and painting.

Papa was here to supper Thursday night.

I sent Mary's buttons to her Thursday. I couldn't get there sooner because it rained the first three days of the week. They cost \$.21; they seemed the best I could get and I hope they will suit.

I made up that brown albatross cloth and put dark green braid on it. It is real pretty. I bought some dark print and have got



four aprons nearly done and some white ones under way. I made her two dresses out of the dress which I had out of your old woolen wrapper. I am going to put the wool dresses on her as soon as I get the aprons done. She hardly creeps at all; walks all the time so she doesn't get her dresses nearly as dirty.

I bought some stuff to make me a wrapper; it is a yard wide, \$.25 a yard. It reminds me some of the wrapper and dress which you and Mary had alike.

If you see Hope tell her I am going to write to her soon, and shall look forward to her visit and plan a good time.

Give my love to Grandma and Auntie. I have been intending to write to them but my hand has bothered some lately, especially during rainy weather. Today I can hardly write at all.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Nov. 17, 1897

Dear Mamma

Your letter and bundle received. I delayed writing as I was not certain when you would get home.

I am making aprons; am at work on the last. Eleven in all; only four dark calico ones are of new cloth. Alice began this week to wear her wool dresses.

Bessie came yesterday in the rain. It rained two days and carried away about all our snow. I am in hopes it will be pleasant today.

I went to church Sunday and a Mr. Cooley preached. He preached the Sunday before, too. He is a young man and preaches without notes.

When I got my wrapper they had several pieces of the same quality and price. I would have got some samples but I have not been downtown since I got that.

I have been having Neuralgia in my face most of the time for two weeks. I have not slept well and so don't feel very smart. Frank is still at home. He does a good deal of the housework so I am getting more sewing done. He does the washing, the dishes, the lamps and other little things.

I don't think there is much chance of my visiting Chester this month. Frank being out of work and my not being very well make me feel as if I ought to stay at home.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Dec 13, 1897

Dear Mamma

I planned to write so you would get my letter this noon but did not get it in.

We got home in good season but it was awfully warm on the train and Alice was quite uneasy.

Frank had a heater all set up in the dining room; it is not very big but heats up nicely. I have to keep the hall door open

(cont'd)



all the time and do not have a fire in my cook stove except to get dinner by.

Frank said that one of the Herald's which came while I was gone told of the death of one of Mr. Forsley's children; he thought it was the next to the youngest.

I have not heard from Hope and am going to write to her again tonight and urge her to come.

Every night since we came home Alice has slept all night without waking up for milk. She has waked when Frank got up at quarter of six, taken her bottle then and gone to sleep again. She has slept at least until half past eight; twice until nine. I think that is a real nice plan.

When we got here Friday it was fearfully muddy; much worse than in Chester. We had some snow Sunday but it is awful going now.

I think I must have left several of Alice's bibs in Chester. I missed them when I unpacked my bags; I haven't missed anything else.

I don't think Alice is as fussy as I was afraid she would be. She has the run of the whole house and lets things in the parlor alone real nicely. I believe I have not had to speak to her today about touching them.

I hope you have not worried because you did not hear sooner.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Dec 21, 1897

Dear Mamma,

I was not surprised to hear of Sadie Lee's marriage as Papa told me of it on the way to the depot.

Dr. Senton and Mrs. Bardy were married while I was in Chester and they have gone to New York to stay all winter. I do not know where the Senton children are.

Mrs. Averil, who lives where the large hen house is on our street, has a boy born yesterday morning.

Rev. Mr. Cooley is boarding at the Bardwell House. I understand he intends to stay there rather than at a private house.

I took Alice up to Arthur's Saturday. She walked up and back and seemed to enjoy it very much.

Frank worked until Thursday on McClure's route. Thursday he washed and Friday he worked for Kingsley who had to go to Wallingford to a funeral. Saturday Frank worked up at the new R.F.C.S. building for Oscar; this week he is working extra. He has all the registered letters and bundles to deliver and has to make the two evening collections at 7:30 and 8:40 so he is away all the evening.

There has been a new substitute appointed so Frank expects his regular work very soon. The new man was ordered to be ready to work at any time. He will not have any work while Frank is idle.

We are going to take Alice to the Sunday School Christmas doings if the weather is good and she feels well.

I sent a package to Georgie and enclose a note in this for him.

I would like those cards very much and don't see how I happened to forget them. Is Leslie's address just Schenectady?

Yours truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 26, 1897

Dear Mamma

Your bundles came yesterday. We are all very thankful for the presents. Alice admires her little slippers very much. I rather expected to get a letter but did not see anything of one.

I am rather under the weather just now; did too much walking and had to have the doctor who ordered me off of my feet. Josie has been here since Thursday evening doing the work and I expect a girl tomorrow to stay as long as I need her. I came pretty near having a serious time but Dr. Thomson says if I am careful I will get along alright now, only I must have some one with me.

Alice went out twice since we have been home and as a result has been having a sore pair of cheeks for a week. She froze them a week ago yesterday and they are just beginning to peel.

I sent you a small bundle Friday and hope it reached you alright. I cannot write any more now as I can't sit up a long time without feeling bad. I am much better than I was Thursday.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 3, 1898

Dear Mamma

I am feeling better than I did but I am not equal to very much. Dr. Thomson told me that I must not do very much on my feet. The girl I had left Saturday night. I was quite provoked but she was homesick and would go. She was neat and very quick but did not know what to do with herself afternoons and evenings when the work was done. I wish I could get someone like Myra Richardson to come. I don't suppose she would come; I shall probably have to have someone for three or four months. Frank got through work Saturday and he doesn't know when he will have more. When he is at home I don't need anyone else.

Walter sent Frank a Boston Calendar, Alice a box of blocks, and me two orange spims (?). From Frank's folks he received handkerchiefs, Alice a percale dress (not made) and a ball, and I received a crocheted tidy and a glass sauce dish. Grace gave Frank and I each a handkerchief, and Alice a piece of print for a dress. Her mother sent Alice a crocheted Worsted ball and sent me some apples. Emma gave me six pretty china dishes and the next day brought me some quail on toast for my dinner. Sumner sent Alice a candy cane. Mrs. Hussey sent her a bag of candy from the S.S. Xmas tree. When Alice found out that she could not get the candy out of the bag she began sucking bag and all. It was a blue netting bag.

Leslie was here about an hour on Sunday, and Monday Montie came just at dinner time and stayed about two hours.

Bert and Carrie Bigelow were here a few minutes last night. They said Gov. Coolidge had a bad sore throat and Clare had gone down to Mrs. Needham's to stay until he was better. Saturday and yesterday people were out on runners but I guess the going was rather "thin".

I didn't know but what you might hear of some girl in or near Chester who would come up here to work, though I suppose they all work in the wrapper factory. We were going to pay \$2.00 if the girl

(cont'd)



did the washing and I think most girls could as I did in the summer and they were much bigger then.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 11, 1898

Dear Mamma

Your letter came yesterday but too late to be answered by the noon mail.

I have not done anything about another girl and would like to have Myra very much, but unless Frank is called on I shall not want her until her time is up at the factory. Of course when Frank is here I do not really need her but I would rather get her before. I need her than not be able to get her when I do want her. Frank thinks it is only fair to tell her that while he is idle she may have to wait some for her pay but when he has any work she will be paid promptly.

Sunday we began weaning Alice of her bottle and she has gone to bed without it since Saturday night. I have been surprised to see how good she has been about it. I was afraid she might cry herself sick. She was quite fussy yesterday but I think it is her teeth. She has two lower teeth almost through and I think they are double teeth.

In haste  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 19, 1898

Dear Mamma

I wish now that we had not said anything to Myra about coming up here. If she has given up her place in the factory I suppose we must have her, but Frank has no prospect of work for a month and I don't see how we can pay her during that time. If it is not too late for her to keep her place in the wrapper factory, I guess she had better do it. I wish you could see her or Julia and tell her so.

Alice has just got a double tooth through and has another one almost through. She gets along much better than I expected she would and I don't think she would fuss at all if it were not for her teeth. She eats a good deal more solid food at meal times and drinks milk just before going to bed. Last night she did not make a sound after being put to bed.

Last Thursday Mrs. Hussey brought me some flowers from the church decorations of the night before. She said that Arthur Granger had been sick in bed ten weeks. He was thrown over his horse's head while riding horse back and both of his knees were hurt.

Frank got some more furniture last week; a bed, a bureau, and a screen. The screen is much like yours; it has four parts. The cloth is the same design as yours but the background is white. The frame is just like yours. I have the bed and bureau downstairs and if I have a girl shall put what I had in the back room upstairs for her. The front room upstairs is always ready for company.

Mrs. Hussey also told me that it was Martha Forsley (the baby) who died while I was in Chester. She had membranous croup. She had had croup quite a number of times before they left here; she was sick five days. Mr. Forsley in a letter to Mrs. Gutterson said that Martha

(cont'd)



was two days and two nights dying, and suffered terribly. I believe he wrote the doctor thought it a kind of diphtheria sore throat at first.

I had a call from Mrs. Gibbs Friday. I had not seen her but once since she moved onto this street.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 28, 1898

Dear Mamma

Your bundle came yesterday and Alice has the stockings on now. They are somewhat large but she was in a tight place so I had to put them on.

One of the team carriers was taken sick on his trip yesterday and had to be brought home and Frank is on his trip today. If he is likely to be laid up long we will want Myra tomorrow but we don't know yet; probably will tomorrow. Frank had to go to Baxter Street after the man's team and then got to the office at 6:45. He thought he had quite a walk.

Belle Coolidge died at A.G.'s last Monday. Mr. & Mrs. Carruthers had a girl last Monday. I have been doing a little housework and my hand is so unsteady I can hardly write.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 7, 1898

Dear Mamma

I did not get my letter in Saturday and don't know as I can today, I got up so late.

I am feeling about the same as I have, but can't do anything. I have been finishing up my rag mats and have made a new one. My eyes won't let me read all the time and I get tired of reading so much.

Frank has no more prospect of work than he has had. He can't find anything here, and of course as things are now he can't go away after work.

Alice is real well and is learning to feed herself with a spoon but doesn't get along real fast.

One of the mail carriers, McClure, has the klondike fever but we are afraid it will not amount to anything. There is a company going from here soon.

Yours truly  
Lulu



I received a letter from Auntie Vi with a pair of pink and white socks from Aunt Cordelia last Monday.

Do you know how long Bertha's crib basket was? I want to get one but don't know as I can. Frank saw some at Cheney's one day. There were three sizes and he thought the largest was more than a yard long. They were 50¢, 65¢ and 75¢ according to size.

I have engaged a nurse whom Frank's Aunt recommended; a French woman named Mrs. Ginnette. She charges \$1 a day and expects to do housework as well as nursing. I expect now to be sick about the 23 of this month but it may be later.



Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 10, 1898

Dear Mamma

We have decided that we had better have Myra come up the last of this week or the first of next; if she can't come Saturday to have her come Monday. I do not like to be left alone as I have to when Frank goes down street. Some days I can hardly take care of Alice while he is gone. I have some good days and a good many poor ones. Alice is real good but of course has to be waited on some. Clare Coolidge sent her a cloth kitten like the cloth cat Sumner had. There were two given to Clare so her mother sent one to Alice and Alice thinks it is pretty nice and tries awful hard to say kitty.

Mina Rock's father was buried in Ludlow Monday. I believe he died Saturday.

One of the stores here has a wrapper sale beginning today and some of the wrappers are as low as 39¢. I thought if it was only so I could, I should patronize such a sale as that and get two cheap ones instead of one better one.

I have been kind of looking for you, as you said you were coming up when Bessie got through school. Oscar and Bertha were here about two weeks ago and Bertha inquired about when you were coming up.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 17, 1898

Dear Mamma

I don't seem to get my letters written until several days after I begin to think of them. I have not been as well this week; nothing new. I tried to help a little Monday morning and over-did, and besides I have a little cold. Alice has some cold but not serious.

Myra came on the mail train Monday and I enjoy her being here very much, and hope she will be contented.

Mrs. Wiltsie came in with her baby this forenoon. Myra and I thought it pretty but Frank thinks it is homely.

I haven't seen anyone for two weeks and don't know anything that is going on. Frank saw in the paper about the burning of Hotel Chester. We have had three fire alarms this week but they did not amount to anything. One was a chimney burning out and the other two were rung in by boys just for fun.

I came near having Frank write for me today as I have not done anything but lie on the lounge, but was afraid you might be scared if you saw his writing on the envelope. You needn't worry if you get letters written by him because some days it would be impossible for me to write; I am so nervous and weak.

Yours truly  
Lulu

2-18

I should not be surprised if by this p.m. I had to tell you that you had another grandchild. The nurse is here, and Lulu is doing well, though getting along slowly and with considerable pain.

Will write, Frank

I open this to say that Lulu says she doesn't see how she can get along without Mother and wishes I would ask her to come.

F.



Rutland, Vt.  
Feb'y 18, 1898

Dear Mother

Alice has a wee sister tonight. Lulu is very comfortable, and has got over feeling that she must have you come. I think myself that it would not be wise for you to do so; but of course I wrote this morning just what Lulu wished me to.

She had quite a bad time of it but I feel that all is going right now.

I am so nervous that I can't write a real letter so will stop here.

Frank

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb'y 20, 1898

Dear Mother

I write again to let you know that all is well with us. Lu doing well, Alice good, and the little one progressing nicely.

We have not selected any name yet, but you may tell the children that not even the bribe of George's old clothes will lead us to inflict the names of all the uncles and aunts upon her.

We hope to hear that the illness there is less troublesome, and we will be glad to see you but would not wish you to feel that you must come. I think that, no accident occurring, Lulu will be better when she gets up than since we were married.

If everything goes well, I presume I will not write as often, as I shall have nothing to say.

With love  
Frank

Rutland, Vt.  
2-23-98

Dear Mother

I am not much of a letter writer, but I can answer questions, so here goes.

Baby's eyes are blue, but more like those of a fish than mine. Hair, considerable; color, dark brown.

Measures eighteen inches and weighs seven and three fourths pounds.

I think she looks much as Alice did, but my mother says no, she is better looking. Nurse says she will be better looking.

If this keeps on it will make the parents partisans of the first one, so you are warned in season. Alice approves of Sister very much; would like to hold her and wants to put hands on her. I don't think she needs be jealous, and she isn't a bit so.

This is my part of the letter and Lu is going to talk now.

Alice has another tooth and has not been feeling well.

Nurse will go probably Friday or Saturday. Don't feel obliged to come then, for I (Frank) can do what is needful.

Lulu says she can't remember anything more she wished to say, except what I have already written about.

We are wondering some what disposal George will make of the Klondike which he won at the prize speaking.

(cont'd)



Hope Mr. Perry will be feeling better soon.

Lulu and baby are doing very well indeed, and I feel that Lu will get up much better than she has been.

With love  
Frank

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb'y 25, 1898

Dear Mother

Nurse was called home this morning at 2:00 o'clock, by the confinement of her daughter-in-law. She didn't expect this until about March 15.

Lulu and baby are doing well and I can make shift to care for them, but of course will be glad to see you.

Alice is rather hard to take care of, as her teeth are troubling her, and her bowels are out of order.

I will meet the Flyer and evening train, but don't feel in any way bound by that in regard to coming, and if not convenient don't try to come now.

My mother would come, but she is nervous and fussy and makes Lu nervous also, so that I don't think it best.

I think I can take as good care of Lulu as anybody, and you know I did wash Alice several times.

With love  
Frank

Rutland, Vt.  
March 5, 1898

Dear Mamma

I was very glad to hear that Alice has been so good and hope she will continue; we miss her very much. We are getting along nicely. I stood on my feet an instant while getting from the bed to the chair but my ankles did not feel real strong.

Of course you remember Jessie Harlowe? She was married a few days ago to Howard Eggleston and they are going to Cayesville to live.

Mrs. Fuller and Josie came just after you had gone Thursday and Mrs. Ginnette came about the same time.

Frank found that knit lace which I wanted to show you; it was over behind the basket in the cupboard.

Margaret has had very good nights since you went. She has done her fussing mostly during the evening and has not been taken up during the night.

I thought when you were packing, of the little glass dish but did not remember to speak of it. You left a package of paper and some envelopes in the pad of writing paper.

I can't seem to think of anything else.

Yours truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
March 8, 1898

Dear Mamma

I will try and remember to put in the ribbon Frank got for you. The red which they had looked faded to him and the orange yellow he was sure you would not like. The two colors he liked best were in short pieces so he bought this. He says if you do not like it to send it back. I think it is very good quality for the price.

I am very glad Alice continues to be good; we miss her very much. I think Frank misses her the most at night; he always undressed her and had a frolic with her then.

We have begun undressing Margaret at night, putting on one skirt with her night-dress. She has been having a cold in her nose but is better since yesterday. It troubled her about breathing, especially when she was eating. She sleeps nicely and does not eat often in the night.

Alice Coolidge sent Margaret two little gold pins. I think they are just like the one Bessie gave my Alice; Carrie Bigelow brought them up Sunday.

A sample mailbox came this morning so I suppose Frank will start out about that tomorrow.

McClure's brother and some of the other carriers say that Mr. Sheldon told McClure that if he did not resign before March 1st that charges would be sent in against him; and another man who claims to know told Frank that Mr. Sheldon said McClure was going soon; so we are rather expecting better times.

Sunday I walked a little with help; yesterday and today I have gotten around some alone. Dr. Thomson came this forenoon. He said he wanted to see how I looked sitting up. He seemed to think I was getting along all right.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
March 14, '98

Dear Mamma

I have been rather busy this morning and so my letter is too late to get into today's mail.

Frank was called about six last night to make the collection on McClure's route. McClure came to the office so drunk he could not walk straight and he called the postmaster a "d---fool" and made other remarks to him. McClure was sent home and Frank is doing his work for a few days anyway. It seems as if they ought to dismiss McClure after this performance anyway, and especially after the way he has been doing.

Yesterday morning about three the fire alarm rang and we did not hear the release until seven. The fire was in Houghton's store. Frank went down yesterday to see it and says it is a pretty hard looking place and that everything in the store must be damaged. I suppose there will be a great fire sale and probably a good chance to buy things cheap. The general opinion on the street was that the fire started in the basement.

Margaret is real good except when her nose bothers her but that is almost over its trouble. She sleeps nicely nights.

(cont'd)



I began Friday on Alice's summer clothes; the cloth which was given her Christmas.

The C.C.S. are selling gingham at 5¢. Myra got her a light blue piece very much like Bessie's light blue. I am going to have some for Alice, some dark brown striped.

I sent the ribbon to you in a bundle at the same time the letter was mailed and presume you have it now.

We enjoy the sugar very much and thank you for it. Mr. Fuller tapped some of his trees last week but Fred said there was only a little sap running.

The wind has been blowing something awful this past week but is nearly dried up now.

When does Bessie expect to come? If Frank is working he cannot meet her.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
March 16, 1898

Dear Mamma

Alice arrived alright; she seems contented and remembers things better than I thought she would. I think she has grown fat or at least heavy.

I will enclose a copy of the only pattern that fits her. It is what her everyday wool dresses were cut by.

Frank's mother brought six little cakes of new sugar yesterday. She said they had made only one pail of sugar and was afraid they would not have much more.

McClure resigned his position Monday so we expect everything will be all right now. Frank has to make the evening collection and I think that is the worst thing about his work.

Josephine Fuller is going to have my second room and board herself. She will begin the first of April and probably will stay three months.

I am making Alice some cotton night-gowns as I told you I had planned.

The Ladies Aid are getting ready for a "May Fair." Mrs. Christine Bigelow will have charge of the entertainment. They are to give a comedietta called "Penelope" and one of Howell's farces.

I think those proofs are very amusing.

Wilson is having a 10¢ agate-wear sale. Frank got me three new dishes; different sizes and smaller than the one I already had.

I am tired and can hardly write but was afraid if I left it till morning I wouldn't get it in the mail.

Yours truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
March 28, 1898

Dear Mamma

I received a letter from Auntie Vi last Thursday and she asked for a pattern for Alice's dress but I have not sent any because I thought you were going to send her the one I sent to you. She sent a dollar bill for me to get something for Margaret and I went down street Thursday afternoon and bought a silver teaspoon and had her name put on the front of it.

Saturday morning I went down to see Alice Coolidge and yesterday I went to church. I am feeling real well and don't think I shall keep Myra much longer but will put out my washings and ironings for awhile.

Is Mary or Georgie or both coming up? Myra said a few days ago that Mary might sleep with her if she and Georgie wanted to come together.

Margaret had the worst night last night that she has ever had. Frank held her from twelve until he got up, then I took her and have just now got her quieted down.

I like Alice's pictures very much. I sent one to Leslie and think I will send one to Hope.

I have a raging headache and can hardly write at all this morning.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
April 10, 1898

Dear Mamma

I suppose I must begin to work today because Myra is going this afternoon. I wanted her at least two weeks longer but she got a letter Saturday which makes her feel that she must leave today.

Miss Clarke was in town over Sunday and was at church with Daisy Hutchinson.

I bought me two wrappers Saturday; the C.C.S.Co. sold them "two for \$1.25." One of mine is a light one and trimmed with white hambug; the other is a dark twilled goods and is trimmed with a border of the same. I thought them much cheaper than I could make. I bought a plain black dress skirt, a storm serge, to wear for a little while until I get ready to have a new dress.

The last four nights have been very quiet as far as Margaret was concerned; she having slept all night without waking up. One night she slept eleven hours and the shortest night was seven.

Alice has cried considerable the last two nights. She is trying to get another tooth; this will make fourteen and she won't have many to get in warm weather.

Josephine has begun work this morning and is keeping house in my second room.

Alice Coolidge has a boy born last Thursday morning; was not very sick and is getting along nicely.

I was out in quite a blizzard Saturday evening at 6:30. Myra and I went down street and it was almost impossible to walk. The snow and mud were right in our faces so we came home on the car.

They have a new rule in the P.O. which makes it hard for the men to get out their mail. They have to count their mail, not merely the number of pieces but how many of letters, papers



and packages. Frank had over 1000 Saturday but did not have time to deliver but about 650. That is quite a load of mail.

I am trying to write and hold Margaret and so don't do very well.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
April 15, 1898

Dear Mamma

I have been one day behind all the week and have thought that today was Thursday all day.

I have been pretty busy all the week; the children are real good. If they weren't I couldn't do the work. Margaret almost always sleeps all night and does not eat until about five. For several days she has slept all the fore-noon so that I couldn't dress her until after dinner.

Mrs. Gibbs gave Alice a very small rocking chair; hardly big enough for her to sit in. It was left in her house when the Pratts moved out. Alice thinks it is pretty nice and carries it all around. I think it is not any bigger than your little one, if as big.

When Myra went she gave Margaret a little silver spoon. Myra left her apron, her thimble and several handkerchiefs.

Tell Bessie that Maud Holden was married today. The young man's name is Chatterton.

Clair Coolidge met with quite an accident since her mother has been sick. Mrs. Needham while putting on her cloak pulled her shoulder out of joint. It has been etherized three times in trying to fix it right again and is now in a plaster cast.

We moved upstairs Fast Day. Alice sleeps in the little end room in a big bed and has not fallen out yet. We sleep in the next room.

The Wiltsie's are going to move out this month and I am glad. They thought the rent high and wanted every room painted and papered. I suppose you had a nice time in Marlboro.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
April 20, 1898

Dear Mamma

I shall be very glad to have a visit from Georgie. Papa spoke about it when he was here; he said Georgie could stay over Sunday. Frank saw Mr. Leonard today about the cornet lesson and he will be at home Saturday evening but not Friday.

I shall write to Eva and her mother and to Grandma and Auntie when I have some more paper which I hope will be tomorrow.

I cut out a coat and a cap from a pair of uniform pants today; I expect to trim with white braid. In that bag of trimming that came from Marlboro there is a roll of narrow white braid which is just what I want to trim it with.

Mrs. Coolidge has named her boy Guy. I had a note from her yesterday and she said he was a big little baby.

(cont'd)



Mrs. Lyons did my washing this week; she lives on East Street where Mrs. Cook did at one time. She charges the same as Mrs. Brown and does not ask for soap nor starch. Mrs. Brown expects a whole bar of soap each week.

The Universalist May Fair is to end up with a dance.

The Institute prize speaking is next Wednesday evening. Maria Steward is to speak. I am thinking some of going but I have not decided.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
April 28, 1898

Dear Mamma

Your letter and little bundle came but I have not found time to answer before. Many thanks for the handkerchiefs. Frank gave me a little china pitcher and some side-combs. Georgie made me quite a present; I presume he has told you about it. I enjoyed his visit very much and shall be glad to have him come again.

I think Mary's dress will be pretty. I am planning to go down street tonight if Frank gets home early enough. The only time I can go is the week he has the late collection and then I can go as soon as he gets home which is about half past five. He has to be at the office at 8:40 for his collection tonight. Next week he will have to be at work at 6:00 instead of 6:45; then he will be home earlier in the fore-noon and I could go then.

I have Alice's cap all done and the coat all but buttons and buttonholes. They are trimmed with narrow white braid from the bag of trimmings Grandma sent. There was just enough for three rows on the cap, the sailor collar and the sleeves. It is a very pretty summer suit and can be washed nicely when it is dirty.

Both of the babies and myself have colds. I don't think Alice and Margaret have both been quiet at any one time today; one or the other has fussed all the time.

I had a call from Florence Wood and Bertha Wheeler last week and they said they had been hemming napkins for Susie Muller. The wedding is next month; I don't know when.

The R.E.C.S. prize speaking was last night. I wanted to go but could not. Frank had to work and there was no one to take care of the babies. Josephine would take care of Alice but she wouldn't touch Margaret. She hasn't held her yet.

The Wiltsies moved out yesterday and everyone seems to be glad. I hope someone will move in soon.

Frank has planted lettuce, radishes, peas of two kinds and sweet peas. Our garden is much dryer than when planted last year and is planted a month earlier.

Alice played outdoors about an hour today with Richard Simonds. He takes real good care of her and makes her mind him by coaxing her. I kept an eye on them without letting him know.

Yours truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
May 2, 1898

Dear Mamma

I went down town for a little while Saturday and got a few samples which I will send. At Ross Huntress & Co. I did not select them; I told the clerk about what I wanted and she took them out of a drawer full. The ribbon came from there. They had another piece to match the narrow pieces, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide but I did not get a sample because it was draped up and the girl couldn't reach it. The other samples came from the C.C.S.Co. The sample of cotton covert I thought I would get because I wanted to see it better. After I got it I saw a skirt of it and it looked very nice. The girl said she had washed a piece and it washed well. I thought it would make a good "camp skirt." I wanted to look at other places but could not get time; I may go again this week. I planned to send the samples by George but as he didn't come will send today.

Two of the mail carriers have just had additions to their families. Dye had a girl Saturday and Sullivan a boy yesterday. That makes four in the mail service since Dec. 21.

I have had a bad cold all the week. It settled in my stomach and Frank had to stay at home half a day on my account. Alice's cold is better and I think Margaret's is improving.

I haven't written to Grandma and Auntie since the things came from there and am ashamed but I am so busy I can't get time. I have begun to make quimpes for Alice. I am going to make two out of some of my old yellow crepon dress; think that they will do for every day. Am trying to get this into the mail today.

Lulu

We are invited to Susie's wedding; invitations are verbal and the wedding at her house on May 11. Wish I could go but don't see how I can; it is at 1 p.m.

Rutland, Vt.  
May 9, 1898

Dear Mamma

I planned to write and send by Georgie but did not get it done. I was rather used up by Frank's sickness Friday night and was almost too tired to do anything. I notice this morning that Georgie forgot his flowers. If I had any way to send to the office before train time I would send them to him.

I washed Alice's red dress and it shrunk badly, especially the quimpe. I think she can wear the other part with the white one.

I presume Georgie will tell you what I said about coming to Chester. I thought I would like to make you a visit before summer (I do not intend to go away this summer) but I did not want to come when Papa was so poorly. I thought the babies would annoy him. I have quite a little sewing which I could do so much quicker on the machine and I thought I could help you dress making. If it is not convenient write me so; I had thought of coming next week. I told Georgie if he would wait until the mail train next Monday I would come with him.

Frank saw Leslie in the depot Saturday on his way to Cuttingsville.

Yours in haste  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
May 12, 1898

Dear Mamma

Do you remember me telling you about a mop wringer which Frank planned to buy for me? The agent is around with them now and they are fine. If you would like I can get you one. I believe the price is \$1.50. They are part iron and I should think that they would last quite a time. I think you would like it ever so much; I think the mop wringing is the hardest part of mopping.

If you are not going to have boarders at camp I don't know but what I would like to go. Alice was so well up there last summer and so sick all the time after she got home that I wished I had stayed longer. If it would keep the children well I would like to stay all summer.

The May Fair brought in \$250. Over \$100 was made on --- paper in the advertising.

I received yesterday a dress which Auntie Vi made at Grandma's request for Alice; part of it made from an old little dress of Uncle Edwin's.

Mrs. Fuller gave me another piece of pink print for Alice. I shall not buy her anymore. I have just finished new underwaists for Alice and fixed over petticoats for her, two flannel, four outing and three white cotton. I have made her a white pique liat for best. She looks real cute in her new blue coat and cap and she feels pretty cute, too.

If you could only stop here for a visit on your way to camp it would be very nice. I have a spare bed; can put Alice into her little bed and use the larger one for company, besides the old lounge downstairs, so I could put up quite a family.

Frank is feeling better than he did last Saturday. I presume Geo. told you he didn't work, but he hasn't got all his strength back yet. I am writing this in an awful hurry.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Oct. 5, 1898

Dear Mamma

We are having some hard rains these last few days and the heat has made them very unpleasant.

Your mop wringer is ready for you any time you can send for it. Frank got it last Friday and I will send it the first chance I have.

I have finished my dress and this afternoon made Alice an apron like the one Auntie made her. It took me only two hours cutting and making; I want to make her more later. I have finished everything that I was very much rushed about and shall not be in so much of a hurry with the rest of my sewing.

Margaret has been under the weather today but I think is better this afternoon and evening.

The paper says that Cora Ross and Harry Bates will be married a week from tonight at the Episcopal church. I suppose it will be very swell.

(cont'd)



Frank cannot take that Railway examination because his eyes are defective. The reply came too late for him to do anything about it because any answer must be sent in by October 1st and his notice did not reach him until the day before. He is quite disappointed but I guess he will get over it soon.

Arthur was telling last night about how fat he had grown while on his furlough but he said it would leave him when he gets to work again. He said he didn't know how he could work while he was so heavy.

A Rutland fellow, a member of Co.C. of Brandon died this morning. His name is Robillard and I think he is the one who was in school with Georgie several years ago.

If Bessie is coming up Saturday I wish she would let me know. Frank cannot meet her if she comes on the evening train. She might almost come on the newspaper train Sunday morning but I suppose that leaves rather early; it gets here by eight.

Josephine has a raise in her pay; she got paid Saturday for all her work at the rate of \$3 instead of \$2. It made her feel quite encouraged.

Yours very truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
October 12, 1898

Dear Mamma

I presume Bessie has told you all the news but I will try and write a little. I have done my ironing today and so am some tired. The last two weeks I have done my washings myself and have got along pretty well. It has not taken me four hours either time.

Mary Hilliard and Will Lewis were married this noon and I suppose go to Worcester to live. That is where he has been living.

You remember Minnie Riley who was at the R.E.C.I. and whose father brought us butter? She was married yesterday at the Catholic church and is to live here in town.

Mr. Gibson of South Main Street was buried Sunday. He has been sick a long time.

I saw Oscar Monday and he said that they were to get moved some time this month. They will live upstairs in a tenement that has been renting for \$7 a month. It is being fixed up some for them. The paper said Bertha has bought the house for \$2700. Willie Simonds said that Oscar told him he had bought the house and was to pay each month the amount of the rent of the two tenements. Prof. Eggleston lives downstairs. The house is on Nichols Street; the west side; the last on the street and almost opposite the hospital. I think it might be quite a change. I haven't heard any reason for their moving.

I don't know about Dr. Thomson's being at home but will try and find out. He is Senator this year and so will probably be in Montpelier most of the time.

I suppose Georgie is glad of his chance to work. He seemed very anxious to begin doing something this summer.

I don't seem to have any envelope for this so will let Frank take it and address it at the office.

Hope the wringer will come up to your expectations.

Yours very truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
October 24, '98

Dear Mamma

The machine is all ready and I suppose will leave the house this noon. Frank says he made a deep scratch in the top when he put it into the crate. A nail was in the crate which he did not see when he took the machine out but as he put it back in it scratched it. It has been a great help to me. After I sent my letter Saturday I remembered I had not put in the satin; will try and get it in this time.

Vida and her family left for Los Angeles Saturday morning. He is to work for an uncle who is in business there.

Cora Ross Bates and her husband are boarding at the Brock House. The story is that he earns \$9 a week and pays \$12 for board.

Our neighbors in the other side of the house are going to move this week down onto Robbins Street. That is between Baxter and Pine Streets. I hope some one will move in as it will be warmer for us if there are fires in the other side.

Frank has been into Oscar's new tenement and thinks he doesn't like it very well. There are two bedrooms, two parlors, dining room and kitchen. To get from the parlors into the dining room you have to go through either of the bedrooms or the water closet. I don't think I would like that. The kitchen is quite a little smaller than ours but the pantry is good sized. The view is fine from the back windows.

There are lots of families moving this fall; more than I knew of before.

I have done my washing and am some tired. I was all done at ten. I got up at six. I had over 80 pieces to wash.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
October 26

Dear Mamma

I suppose the machine has started. At least it has left the house. I am very grateful to you for the use of it. I used it about all day Monday and have hardly done anything since.

Alice and Margaret have on their everyday woolen dresses and I have just hung up upstairs over thirty summer dresses and quimpes.

Alice's dress is of that red serge you colored and it has a little white braid on the yoke but is otherwise plain. Margaret's dress is of that blue serge you sent up and is made and trimmed the same. Alice's best dress is nearly done and is of the blue serge and trimmed with that blue and white which I showed you. Margaret is to wear the red henrietta for her best dress.

There is to be a rural free delivery route start from this office and go north by Mr. Fuller's and through East Pittsford and part of Mendon. Frank went out over the route Monday and sold mail boxes. He made over \$5 besides what he paid the substitute carrier to work in his place.

Frank was very tired today. He said the mail he carried this morning weighed seventy-eight pounds besides the weight of the bag and that he made two hundred and fourteen stops. He says he climbs up quite a few steps in so many stops.

(cont'd)



Bert Marshall who used to come to the P.E.C.I. was married last night. He married a Rutland girl named Webb.

I have to go to Mrs. Anderson's again tomorrow. I am glad she did not want me today as I am too tired to go. I scrubbed my floors on my hands and knees and am awfully tired.

Alice is writing and she says her letter is for Aunt Mary's paper.

If everything is alright I think I had better make my visit before Thanksgiving instead of after. Bertha Fuller is packing up to move to New York City and when she goes I may have Fred to board. I don't suppose she will get away much before then.

I can hardly see the lines to write on.

Yours  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
October 30, '98

Dear Mamma

I will get the satin ready and send in a day or two. You want your skirt and sleeves as small as you can possibly get into if you are going to be stylish. Mrs. Sullivan (Jo's boss) has just returned from New York and the skirts there are like what we all wore several years ago, not more than three yards around the bottom and no fullness at the top.

Carrie Bigelow has a fine boy born Tuesday morning. I think they both preferred a girl.

Tuesday Frank begins going to work at seven instead of six. That is quite a gain. I think I shall get up when he does; six is about the time I like to be up.

Auntie sent the shawl and some old underwear by express; I got them Friday. I have used the shawl to wrap around Alice when she is taken up to bed but no one could keep it around her while she is in bed, she is so restless.

Alice has a hard cold and has been pretty cross today, hard to get along with and into everything. It has been rainy and she couldn't get out.

Oscar moved yesterday. He told Frank he had to be out of the house by the 1st of November. The house is advertised in the paper.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt  
Nov. 4, 1898

Dear Mamma

Since your letter came yesterday afternoon Frank and I have been talking and we decided that, unless you object very seriously, I would pack up and come down next week and make my visit before Thanksgiving day instead of after and then I could make your dress and do some other sewing for you. I would take my dress-making things and take your measure and make a new pattern which would probably fit you now better than the old one does. Frank says it will cost

(cont'd)



as much to keep me as it would to hire the dress made. I have the most pressing of my sewing done.

This week I am limping with an in-growing toe-nail. It is pretty bad today. I have neglected to watch it and keep it trimmed just right and so it is troubling me now.

We have all been having colds but they are better now.

Frank has begun wearing the stockings I knit and he likes them very much.

I must stop now and take up Margaret. She thinks it is time to get up.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt  
Nov. 8, 1898

Dear Mamma

I went down town this morning and got Bessie's dress and some samples of silk. The silks and velvets are awfully gay. I am thinking now of coming on the mail train Thursday but may not come until Friday. If I came on the mail, Frank can get me onto the train but if I wait until the Flyer I will have to start alone. I am not certain of coming until Friday. I will have to bring a trunk but I don't like to. If I get any cash I will get the pills. If I don't get them I will leave the number with Frank and he will get them as soon as he can and send them down.

I washed yesterday and ironed today. It takes me longer to do my ironing than my washing.

Today has been a lovely day and I just enjoyed my trip down street. When we got along to Arthur's Alice wanted to stop and she stayed with Hazel while I was down town.

In haste  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 4, 1898

Dear Mamma

I arrived here alright. Alice slept most of the way and Margaret did about half the time.

Margaret Simonds was watching for me and brought out the door key. She went into the house with me, took off Alice's things and put them into the parlor and laid the new bonnet very carefully down on some sticky fly-paper which Frank had around for some reason or other. I don't know as I can ever fix it so she can wear it again.

Margaret is feeling better already. The change in food is having a good effect.

I had a letter from Hope this morning and she is planning to make me a visit at Christmas week. I shall answer her letter today for fear she will change her mind if I do not.

I think Margaret was quite disappointed because she couldn't make her bed go up and down last night. She tried hard to make it go.

Yours in haste  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 11, 1898

Dear Mamma

I hope you are all feeling better than we are here. Alice and Margaret have awful coughs. Thursday and Friday nights I was up all night with Alice. She was awful fussy and could not sleep. She is better tonight but Margaret is more fussy tonight.

Frank is very much pleased with the "group" picture of Alice. He says to ask Papa to print about a dozen each of Alice and Margaret of the best negatives and he will be glad to pay for them. I like the "white dress" picture of Alice best.

I unintentionally brought away "georgie's" gold ring but intend to send it to him; I meant to before this time.

The storm last Sunday night did us some damage. The chimney in the front part will have to be rebuilt. There is a big hole in it and the ridge pole is split open so if anyone is in the attic they can see daylight the whole length of it.

We had quite a little snow yesterday but it did not amount to anything.

In haste  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 19, 1898

Dear Mamma

I planned to get my letter written yesterday but did not feel well and so it was not done. I have been having a hard cold but am about over it now. Thursday I was not dressed and so Frank had to stay at home. Dr. Thomson came Wednesday and was afraid of Pneumonia but when he came Thursday he said my trouble was mostly in my throat and ordered kerosene and camphor for that. I put it on and as a result the skin is all coming off. It was the hottest stuff I ever had on; it was much worse than the mustard poultice I had on my lungs.

I am anxious to see those pictures of Margaret and Alice and hope you will send them soon. I want to make some frames for some of them.

Frank does not have his evening work these two weeks. The substitutes are to do it just as he had to do it last year. It will be quite a relief to him.

Alice and Margaret are better and do not cough as much; Margaret coughs some in the night. Since I came home I have been carrying Margaret upstairs for her afternoon nap and she has long naps averaging two and a half hours. She minds the noise when she sleeps downstairs.

The Ladies Aid Society had a sale and supper last week in G.A.R. hall; supper one night and sale and entertainment two. The papers said they made \$100.

The paper said the Institute made \$75 from their bazaar. I haven't seen anyone who went to either of the things.

I am planning to go downtown tomorrow evening with Jo to see the pretty things and do a little buying. I haven't been off of this street but once since I came back, and then I only went to Arthur's.

Alice is teasing for me to make "kitties" instead of writing.

Yours truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 22, 1898

Dear Mamma

Hope expects to come on the mail train Saturday. I think she may be on the watch at Chester.

I think Margaret's pictures are lovely and look just as she does when she is spoken to. I wish I had more of her and would like it very much if Papa could make me three more between now and Saturday night. I wanted to send one of each to Sudbury and to Leslie, to Marlboro; and of course Frank's mother must have one.

Jo and I went downstreet last evening but the stores have the least of anything I ever saw at Christmas time and there were very few people out.

Frank Mellon and his wife have a little girl. That is the sixth baby among the mail carriers in less than a year. It has made some joking at the office.

Frank likes the first picture of Alice best. I think I like the one in the dress, the last one, almost as well as any but I do think Margaret's takes the cake. It is awfully cute.

In great haste  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Dec 26, 1898

Dear Mamma

I send you today a small package by mail. I could not send it sooner because I sent away for something and waited for it to come. I tried to get folding scissors for Papa but could not so I got blunt pointed ones for pocket scissors.

We have had lots of presents. Walter sent a calendar to Frank, a Boston bag to me and two pieces of outing to the children. Alice Coolidge sent the babies each a little basket. Hope brought the babies each a gay book, me a pair of towels and a china plate, and Uncle Willis sent me a chicken. Jo dressed a doll for Alice and as it shuts its eyes you can imagine how pleased Alice is. Jo gave the baby a rubber doll, Frank a handkerchief and me china cups and saucers. Frank's mother sent Alice a little flatiron and a mug, and Margaret some stockings, to me a dish, and to Frank a necktie. Oscar brought a wishbone doll to Alice, a little fur dog on wheels to Margaret and a handkerchief to Frank. Bertha Fuller sent Alice a stuffed cloth dog and a pair of long leggings, to Margaret a stuffed dog and print for two dresses, to Frank a handkerchief and to me some curtain muslin for sash curtains. I think we are nicely remembered all around. I forgot Mrs. Flannery's gifts. She gave Alice percale for a dress and Margaret a doll. I presume I have left out some.

Russell Parish gave each of the carriers a silver hat marker and one of Frank's "customers" gave him a dollar bill.

I think Bessie's picture does not look as well as she does. Alice is much pleased with the doll but uses the pillow and bed-clothes to put herself to bed on the lounge.

We are going to take both of the babies to the Christmas tree tonight. I don't think Margaret is as shy as she was but presume she will howl all the time.

Yours truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 4, 1899

Dear Mamma

I hope your visit will come off all right this time. We all enjoyed Hope's visit very much indeed and wished it could have been longer.

This morning's Herald says the Rutland Railroad has bought the Ogdensburg Railroad and that makes sure the road across the Islands.

Frank walked up to his father's Monday. His mother has been very sick with the grippe but sat up an hour while he was there.

Mrs. Hussey was here a few minutes yesterday and said that Mr. Tyler was very sick with grippe and threatened with pneumonia.

I have begun making up the dresses given Alice and Margaret. I have quite a little sewing to do for summer and thought I would be doing it.

There is a lot of sickness now. Dr. Thomson told Frank last Saturday that he had made twenty calls that day and would not finish his day's work until after midnight. The Herald gave accounts of eight funerals and two deaths for yesterday.

I will enclose a note for Papa in regard to those backgrounds.

Yours  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 11, 1899

Dear Mamma

I suppose you are at home again by this time; Saturday's Herald said you were in Marlboro.

You have a new niece born Sunday night and weighing ten pounds. Bertha went to the hospital for the event and is said to be doing nicely. Her friend Sarah McCormack is here from Canton; I presume she came to take care of Sumner and Doris.

I have been making up the dresses given to the children at Xmas and have also made my sash curtains and got them up. I made Alice's outing into a sailor suit with a very full skirt and she looks about as wide as she is tall in it and she thinks it is pretty nice.

Do you remember seeing in one of the magazines an advertisement of a desk very much like your Garkin desk made by a western firm and sold for \$4.50 or \$5? If you see it again, I think it has been in the Youth's Companion, will you please send me the address? I have had a present of \$5 and am going to make another attempt to get a desk. We want one very much.

Frank says he will send those backgrounds as soon as they are brought down, which may be any day, and he will send word when they go. They are all quite busy up at the farm as Mrs. Fuller is still sick in bed.

Has Bessie written to Mrs. Woods about going there to work? Or has she changed her mind?

Yours  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 17, 1898

Dear Mamma-

Frank says that the dressmaker whome Bessie Field worked for is named Anderson and lives up on Gem Street almost opposite the Baxter library. She is alright in avery way and is said to be a good dressmaker. He said he never knew of her having any girls working for her who were not all straight.

Beth Webster died yesterday of typhoid fever. She had been sick three weeks but Dr. Gale called it grip until the day before she died and then a consultation of doctors called it typhoid.

You remember seeing Jesse Hoag in Dr. Thomson's office over a year ago? She is no better than she was then. She goes on crutches and is going to Burlington this week to be treated by osteopathy. She expects to be gone nine months.

Oscar was here Saturday. He has named the new baby Faith.

George Walker and family have moved to Cuttingsville. He is to take charge of the greenhouse in connection with the Bowman estate.

I cleaned Alice's bonnet so it looks pretty well. I ripped it nearly to pieces and dipped the pieces into alcohol.

Frank's mother is not gaining at all and I guess there's not much chance for her. Her heart beats so fast and hard that it takes all her strength and she does not get any stronger.

We are pretty well. I have yet a little cold left and Frank is very tired, the walking is so hard.

Am going to try to put this into today's mail.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 26, 1899

Dear Mamma

I have been awful busy this week getting ready for a social here tomorrow evening. I told the young people they could have one here and Saturday I got word that they wanted it this week.

The measles are all around here. Freddy Fuller has them and I expect Margaret will have to have them.

One of the carriers, Frenier, died of Bright's disease this morning. He has not worked for almost ten days. The last day he worked Frank said he looked poorly and Frank thought he had Bright's disease then but Dr. Bellerose treated him for pneumonia and then for inflammation of the bowels. Tuesday they called Dr. Crain and he said if he had been called three days sooner he could have saved him. Frank brought home crepe for me to make eight bows for the carriers to wear on their sleeves until the funeral which will probably be Sunday.

The report is out that Catherine Page and Robert Gilmore are to be married before very long. The woman who hired Mrs. Page's house had to give it up because she couldn't keep her boarders. She did not suit them in regard to food.

Frank's mother was thought a little better yesterday. Frank intended to go up Sunday but got word that he couldn't see her if he did and so didn't go.

Alice has written a letter and kissed it to send it to you.

Lulu

(scribbled paper enclosed)



Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 1, 1899

Dear Mamma

We had a nice time last Friday evening. Twenty came. The "boys" sewed patchwork and enjoyed it very much. Then after a few games of whist they all cut paper. Each had a piece six inches square to do the best possible with it. I put the children to bed at seven o'clock and they never knew what went on.

Margaret "advances" backwards at present. She tries some to creep forward but is not very successful. She can stand up by a chair for an instant but does not pull herself up. Alice does not progress much in the talking line. I think she has but one new word since she came from Chester.

Arthur's other children are coming down with the measles. There are cases of diphtheria on Royce Street.

I think I shall get but one more dress for Alice and that is to be a best one of white lawn. I have to make white skirts for her and for Margaret. I bought ten yards of white cotton for 53¢ today to make the skirts. I think I shall send Frank for another ten yards tomorrow. I went downtown this noon; the first time since Christmas and am so tired I can hardly write. I brought home my shopping bag, 2 wrappers, 10 yards of cloth, three pairs of shoes, two pairs of stockings and a pair of elastics. I nearly froze doing it; the wind was awfully cold. This is the extent of my letter paper. Frank's mother is a trifle better they think.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 8, 1899

Dear Mamma

Frank got some samples of percale this morning and this afternoon got some for you for a dress. He thinks that you may think it rather "gay" but I think it is pretty and am planning to have one like it myself. I will send the samples and you can see the assortment. I had him get the green and black. The sample is one I washed. It is handsome in the piece. If you think you won't like it send word right back and I will keep it instead of getting another lot. I washed a piece of the plaid and it washed nicely. They were 7 3/4 ¢ a yard but I thought you wouldn't mind the extra 6¢ over the price you said as it seemed good value for the money.

I took Alice to church Sunday and she was real good. She was rather inclined to exclaim when she saw Mr. Worcester in the choir. In the afternoon I took both of them over to see Bertha and the baby, and they were both much interested. Margaret watched very intently when the baby had a bottle of milk. Bertha thinks the baby looks just like the first picture of Sumner except that her hair is darker. I think she has an awfully large mouth.

Mary's pills and your cloth came to \$1.02. Did you want more of the pills or how shall I send back the money?

We have had six inches of snow today and it is growing colder tonight.

Frank walked up to see his mother Sunday afternoon after dinner and Fred drove him back at night. They came on runners but it was poor going.

(cont'd)-



I had a letter from Hope last week and she said she understood from Aunt Cordelia's folks that Caddie Bigelow was to be married last Thursday afternoon at three o'clock. Very private with only the two families present. Aunt Cordelia's folks did not think much of the young man nor think much of her for marrying him.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 14, 1899

Dear Mamma

I presume you have as much snow as we have here; it is pretty bad going. When Frank came to supper tonight he had had no mail from Boston nor New York since yesterday noon but a train came through about six o'clock.

I took Alice to church again Sunday. She says she has a good time and wants to go again but I think the ride down and back has something to do with her liking it.

Vernon Worcester said that Carrie Holden's mother is keeping house for a relative in Chester and I understood that Carrie and her sister were with her.

The Sunday School class which Bessie belonged to is having a supper Thursday night and I have been asked to cook for it.

I asked Frank to get me some gingham for work aprons and will put in a sample of what he selected.

Frank said he would talk to Mrs. Anderson. I spoke to Bessie Field about her Sunday but was interrupted before our talk was done. Mrs. Simonds recommended a Mrs. Lynis who has rooms in the Quinn block. She has known her for years and says she does very nice work and is nice in every way. A girl who worked for her (Mrs. A.) was engaged to sew for Mrs. Giffin but gave it up after three days. Said she could not stand Mrs. G.

I have been trying some receipts out of Good Housekeeping lately. Frank has brought several copies from the office. It is quite different from what it was and is published by a different firm.

I am planning to get Margaret weighed Saturday; it will be the first time since she was a day old. I am in hopes that she will get a tooth through this week. She has fussed quite a little this week.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 19, 1899

Dear Mamma

I am using my new desk for the first time today. It came yesterday. We found an advertisement from the same company as the one you sent offering the same desk for \$3.98 and we had to pay 45¢ freight which makes it cheaper than the one which you sent. That one was \$4.98 and freight prepaid. The desk is almost the same as yours except that it does not have a shelf on top. I like it very much indeed; I have wanted one for a long time. We couldn't get anything here that we would have for less than \$10. I think this is just as well made as yours.

(cont'd)



The Herald says that the contract is signed for the railroad through the Islands. There is to be a draw-bridge between Colchester Point and the Island. The nearest stations to us will be South Hero and Grand Isle.

Frank went to a caucus last night to nominate a Republican candidate for mayor. Gen. Ripley was chosen. Clement said he would not run again; most people think it is a case of sour grapes. John Spellman is candidate again; I believe he will run every time until he is elected. At least that is what he said. He has just taken the Keeley cure.

Frank intended to go up to his mother's today but it is awful walking; all melted and slush. I went to church but did not take Alice. She wanted to go but I thought she would get in over her rubbers. She teases to go out and play in the snow with the other children. She was much pleased with her valentine and had to go right over and show it to Richard.

I should think you might come to Rutland for a few days while it is vacation. The girls ought to make out to keep house alone for such a small family.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 26, 1899

Dear Mamma

I have forgotten in my last two letters to tell you that Frank spoke to Mrs. Anderson and she said she presumed she would want an apprentice a little while before Easter and that she would let him know as soon as she decided. He did not talk about terms as he thought Bessie had better make her own arrangements for herself. This last week Mrs. Anderson asked Frank for Bessie's address and said she would write to her, so I presume Bess can make her own arrangements.

I presume you know by this time that Grace is married. I did not know until Monday night that she was to be married so soon; it was very private. She is to live in Salem, N.Y. as Mr. Brown has an engineers position on a passenger train running between Salem and Eagle Bridge.

Mr. Cooley is having the grip and was not able to preach today. Prof. Wilder of the R.E.C.I. took his place.

Rutland has a new paper, the Evening News. It promises to be quite successful. It has the backing of the Merchants Association and enough advertising contracted for to pay the expenses of the first year. It has issued two numbers.

Alice is wearing her last winters dress every day and the one I made her in Chester does for best.

Mrs. Flannery has been up to Mr. Fuller's for a couple of weeks as her daughter is visiting away and she says she can see that Frank's mother is gaining strength but very slowly. Jo does not think she is gaining at all. About once a week she has a bad day and so is pulled back.

It is storming today; part rain and part snow and a cold wind has blown since noon. Alice and I went to church; she spoke out once but was otherwise real good. Have finished sewing for Alice having made eight petticoats, colored and white. Am making white cotton skirts for Margaret; she is better off for clothes than Alice. Margaret has her first tooth through this last week and I guess she feels better for it.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
March 5

Dear Mamma

I was quite surprised to see Leslie Friday evening. He stayed over night and went on the mail train south with Kate. Owing to a change in his work he had a day or two off.

We had a hard rain last night and a hard blow. This morning we had about eighteen inches of water in the cellar. The sewer in front of the house was stopped up and the water was pouring back through the drain pipe into our cellar. About eight o'clock it got cleared but our wood is pretty well soaked and the cellar is a queer looking place.

I did not go to church today. Mr. Cooley is not able to be out and Prof. Wilder was to speak again and he is not much of a speaker.

We had a Burlington paper last week which contained items from Keeler's Bay. One said that Bertha Morgan was married to a man named Hibbard from Georgia, Vt. They were married some time in February. Another marriage was that of Orville Allen and Mrs. Nettie Kibbe. From what the paper said, it must have been unexpected. It also said that the couple were in New York but their friends were watching for them and would give them a loud reception.

I had quite a time with neuralgia the first of the week and one afternoon Frank stayed at home to do some cooking and other needful work.

Mrs. Milo Eastman's mother is quite sick. I believe they call it the grippe.

Mrs. Brown who has been doing my washing has moved up onto Center Street extension and I am not sure if she will keep on with the work.

Emmet Lyons has left the telegraph office and is working in a drug store. He earns more I believe.

I have three plants in blossom now and more budded. My marguerite is handsome and has many more buds.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
March 12

Dear Mamma

We have been having a hard time with Margaret that I am about tired out. She has had a bad cold and cough but began to improve yesterday. She was awfully fussy and wanted to be held all the time.

Frank's father came to take him up to see his mother today and Alice has gone with him. They have rented the farm and will give up half the house to the other family. It makes Mr. Fuller real homesick and he feels pretty blue.

We have had three hours of rain today and most of the churchgoers got wet.

Alice is very much pleased with the towel you sent her and could not possibly use any other. She also admires the red flannel pieces.

If you have so many new percales I don't know but what I will keep the one I got for you. I tried to get some more for myself but could not. Have kept on the watch but have not found one I liked better for either of us. Frank still thinks it rather gay for you or me.

(cont'd)



I am surprised that you did not get one of Grace's announcements as I understood she intended to send you one.

There is now a wrapper factory in the upper floor over Colvin's store and I guess they do quite a business. I got a new wrapper made by them and it is the best made I ever had. The stitches are the shortest. I believe people take home work from there.

Mr. Cooley preached today. He is about over his sickness. He has been at Mrs. Paige's on Cottage Street most of the time but is going back to the Bardwell tomorrow.

Yours  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
March 19

Dear Mamma

We are having another rainy dismal Sunday. I had planned to go to church but it began to rain just at the time to start so I didn't go.

Margaret is about over her cold but coughs some yet. She is eating less milk, and graham crackers and bread crusts take its place. She is very fond of the crackers. She will pat-a-cake and shake bye-bye and play peek-a-boo when asked. Today she slept over four hours and feels pretty lively since she got up.

Frank's increase in pay began last Friday and he says he feels better for it already. It was a year last Tuesday since he went to work but his appointment was dated the 17th.

I don't know but what I shall have to make up the red stuff for Alice this spring but I don't want to. The dress she is wearing is getting pretty well gone by.

I have a lot of sewing ready and am planning on the use of a machine to do it on. I bought a wrapper pattern and a shirt waist pattern last week and have cut out a shirt waist. If you could use them you can take them any time. The wrapper is very plain. If you are not going to use that skirt pattern that your new dress was made by I would like to borrow it. I am going to make up my percale into a shirt waist and skirt and have nothing to cut the skirt by.

Bessie was quite rejoiced to find that she did not have to work Saturdays unless there was a very great rush. She has come home to dinner since Tuesday. Mrs. Anderson told her she could have an hour and a half at noon. Ed Paige says Mrs. Anderson used to be the swell dressmaker in town before she was married and he says she is the best fitter in Rutland. I told Bessie I guess she must be all right if he said so.

I do hope it will be pleasant this week. I had waited over two weeks for a pleasant day so I could go down street. I have to pick up my washing; they come Sunday night.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
April 4, 1899

Dear Mamma

I was real glad to get your letter yesterday and to hear that Alice has been good. I worried a little about her cold. I think Margaret misses Alice; she looks all around especially when she gets up. I have thought of several things which I forgot to put into her bag. I forgot to change her underwaist and did not put in another one and I forgot to give you those patterns.

Fred Fuller brought us some new sugar last night and it was real good. They changed their minds about not tapping.

My eye is bothering me. I went to Dr. Thomson about it Sunday; he says the trouble is all from the lids, that they are granulated. I thought that they were from the feeling of them.

We are to have Rev. Mr. Skinner preach for two Sundays because Mr. Cooley has to have a vacation. He says that he has not recovered fully from the grip but I thought when I saw him Sunday that he was looking the best he has since he had been here.

We have had three very pleasant days and I think if it dries up a little that I can get out with Margaret to make a few calls that I have wanted to for some time.

Frank is just come in so I will stop and have him take this.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
April 9

Dear Mamma

My eye does not feel very good just now and I can't use it much. I planned to do all my sewing while Alice was gone but have not done much.

I took Margaret out Wednesday and she caught an awful cold. She has been so hoarse and stuffed up that Frank was very much afraid of the croup but today her hoarseness is better but her cold has gotten into her head and nose. She is very fussy and wants to be amused.

I went downtown yesterday and bought me a straw hat but did not wear it today. I did not feel quite equal to going to church and was glad I did not because it snowed when church was over.

Alice has had the earache before and it was stopped by putting in a drop of warm sweet oil. I am glad she is good.

Frank said I could take Margaret and stay over Sunday when I come for her.

Don't be scared if you get a letter in Frank's writing instead of mine. My eye is scolding.

Lulu

Dear Mamma

I send some samples of muslin today. I would have got them earlier if I could.

I have a new go-cart to wheel Margaret in and it is so much easier to push than a carriage that I can get around more.

I suppose you have heard of Alice Frost Lull's boy? He was born the 4th of April and I would like very much to see him.

(cont'd)



Frank began yesterday putting Margaret to bed without her bottle. She did not fuss much at noon nor when she went to bed but in the night she had quite a scolding time.

Frank says the mail carriers have to buy flowers for another funeral. Ed Crowley's step-mother is dead leaving six children under fifteen years old. That will make the fourth time in four months that they have bought flowers for funerals.

Aunt Bertha told Frank yesterday that Faith is not as well. Nothing seemed to agree with her stomach and she cried all the time.

Montie Fuller came up and took Bessie to the Dartmouth Glee Club concert Wednesday. It was reported as being very good and there was a dance after the concert.

I will get the muslin samples and put them in this so they will go today. Bessie says she wants her blue divinity when Frank comes down.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
April 18, 1899

Dear Mamma

I have been trying to write but it has been so nice the last two days that I have been outdoors all I could.

I think Alice shows very plainly that she has not been feeling well; she is thin. She complained about her ear Sunday night but has not since. Yesterday when I asked her to do anything she did not want to she would put her hand up to her ear as an excuse for not doing it.

Frank Chamberlain and his wife have a little girl born Saturday night.

That Maria Farrell who did housework for Sarah Hoag's mother was married yesterday. She has done housework for Mrs. Hoag ever since Sarah was born.

I went up to see Mrs. Gibbs today. Mrs. Mathews is up there. Mr. Eastman is finishing off some more rooms in the back part of his house. The report is that Floyd and Jennie are to be married and live there.

I don't seem to have any brains tonight. I am awfully tired and have to iron tomorrow.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
April 29, 1899

Dear Mamma

These pleasant days are not real good ones for work. I spend most of my time out of doors with the children. They are anxious to be out all the time. Frank has ordered a fence for the back piazza and a gate for the front one, so I won't have to be out all the time with them.

Since Margaret began to creep straight ahead she keeps Alice busy picking up the things which she (A.) does not want her (M.) to have, and gets awfully dirty.

Since Alice has been at home she has been to bed when Margaret does after dinner and stays an hour or more. Today they both stayed two hours. Margaret often stays longer than Alice.

(cont'd)



I have been crocheting a white wool jacket for Margaret for dress up wear this summer. It took over three skeins of yarn. It is made with a yoke of solid work and the rest of shells.

I have not slept at all well for about a week and of course that makes me feel pretty mean daytimes. If I don't feel better in a few days I shall have to hire help. My clothes came back Monday but I have not felt equal to sprinkling them, not to mention ironing.

Frank's father and mother are thinking some of moving down closer if Fred and Guy continue to work down here. Fred is boarding at Arthur's and Guy drives back and forth every day. If Guy thinks he must board down here I presume they will be moving down as they do not like to be left alone.

I am tired and sleepy tonight; I did not sleep this afternoon as I have some days.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
May 2, 1899

Dear Mamma

The last three days have been so hot that I have hated to do anything.

This noon I went down to see Grace. I knew that she was to be at home this week. I planned to go Sunday but it was so hot I couldn't.

Frank took down our sitting room stove and put it in the back room Sunday and the room seems very large without it.

The dolls came last Thursday and were very welcome. Margaret wouldn't touch hers for quite a while but plays with it now. Their clothes are alike except their stockings. Alice can tell which is hers but Margaret doesn't know.

Margaret is trying hard to get onto her feet. She gets onto her knees and then onto one foot but can't get onto the other. She pulls on almost everything.

Last summer Papa said that refrigerator at camp was too small and he wanted to sell it. Does he still want to? We have to buy one this summer and Frank suggested that I ask about that; if you wanted to sell it and at what price. We don't want to begin taking ice yet but will have to before long.

Frank planted peas yesterday. I have my plants all set out in two boxes on the edge of the front piazza and am glad to get them out of the house.

Alice Frost Lull has named her baby Orlo after one of her brothers; I don't fancy the two names. Frank Chamberlain's girl is named Evelyn Minnie after its two grandmas.

This morning's paper announced the engagement of Mr. Cooley and a Miss Harper of Washington, D.C. and it also said he had withdrawn his name as candidate for the Brattleboro pulpit and would stay in Rutland.

Frank began to go at six in the morning yesterday and has the late collection and it makes him rather tired. He wants longer nights.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
May 11, 1899

Dear Mamma

I have been under the weather since Sunday and have not been able to do anything. I think I am a little better today, but am not strong enough to do much.

Margaret has her first upper tooth through this week and it has made her rather fussy.

The dolls had names on them when they came. Alice's was named Polly Cologne and Margaret's was Dolly Dimple.

Our garden is rather backward this year but some things are already up. I am watching the radishes and lettuce.

I presume you have heard of Mr. Farr's death. His funeral was Saturday.

Frank took Alice to Dr. Thomson Sunday and he said she was troubled with worms. He gave her some medicine which is helping her but which she doesn't like. I think she will have to wear that porous plaster until it drops off. She insists she will be sick if I take it off.

Josephine is going to leave us and board nearer her work. She doesn't seem to stand the long walk as well as she did before.

I have got to have a girl to do the work right away but do not know where to find one. I wish I could get Myra again; Frank says he is going to write to her. If I get one to suit I shall keep her until my winter sewing is all done. I have got to give up working around on my feet. My hands and face are quite thin for me.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
May 11, 1899

Dear Mamma

I am feeling better this week. Today Dr. Thomson told me that I was looking much better.

We began to have ice last Friday. Frank bought a small ice-chest second hand for \$1. The ice men say that those keep the ice better than the new style refrigerators. Our iceman says it will cost us 25¢ a week for our ice. I expected it would be more than that.

Mr. W.C. Landon and Mrs. Gaskill were married today at noon. Mrs. Gaskill was sister to the former Mrs. Landon. She has had quite a little sewing done at Mrs. Anderson's.

Josephine has left us and has gone to boarding near her work. She has not been feeling very well and found the walk too much for her.

Fred Fuller began to work for Dr. Crain this week. He has care of his horses and of his garden.

Frank has planted quite a bed of sage. He is quite fond of it with any meat and thought he would raise his own.

Margaret has another upper tooth through. Her teeth are making her cross some of the time but she is very happy and very fat.

I began a braided rug last week and have it nearly finished. It is quite good sized. My last braid was  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yards long and I expect to put at least two more on. I found I could not do much fine work nor work much on my feet and so have had that for sitting down work.

I began today to make Alice a sun bonnet to play in out of that little brown linen duster which I used to wear. I am planning to make me a shirt waist out of a long duster which Frank wore a little. It is about as light as my crash suit.

(cont'd)



I have not found a girl yet. If I was sure Myra would come when school was done I would get along some way until then. Last week and this week I have had my washing done in the house and had my downstairs mopping done at the same time.

Bessie is fixing her dotted muslin to wear to the fair next week to wait on the table in.

Yours  
Lulu

Rutland  
May 27

Dear Mamma

I wanted to send you something by Bessie and, thinking you would not buy much for yourself this spring, I decided to get a shirt waist and had Frank bring home several for me to select from. He and I did not agree on one and so he said we could each send one. They are not anything nice but will probably last one summer. I presume they will not fit but I thought you could alter them easier than you could make whole new ones if I sent the cloth.

I am feeling about as I have except that I have quite a backache today and don't feel like doing much.

Frank got a letter from Myra yesterday saying that she would have to give up all hope of coming so he will have to find someone else. I guess I will have help by the first of June if possible.

Margaret and Alice are pretty well. Margaret has a little cold but is not as cross as she was.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 1, 1899

Dear Mamma

Alice was very much pleased with what you sent her and has really tried to say Grandma.

It has been pretty hot this week and is hot tonight. It is helping along our garden wonderfully; we had our first radishes last Monday. They were planted May 1st.

I have found several things which Bessie left; handkerchiefs, toothbrush and a neck ribbon, a blue one she bought here.

Frank spent all Sunday afternoon running around to see about several girls but was not successful. I have hired Mrs. Drew for a nurse. She took care of Adice Frost Lull and Dr. Thomson said he considered her fully competent and excellent help. He said she was not as particular about what she did as some and did more than a good many. I asked him before I spoke to her. He attended Adice and told Mrs. Drew he would find her work.

Alice went down with Frank Tuesday afternoon to see the parade and she had a fine time. She wore her new pink lawn dress and thinks it is pretty nice. We think it very becoming.

Beginning tonight Frank has got rid of his evening work as long as the summer timetable lasts. He has the noon collection at 12:30 instead of the evening collection. He will have from 1:15 until 2:15 to wait at the office; not time enough to come home but time enough to do errands down street. He says he doesn't know how to stay home but intends to go to bed right after supper every night until he is rested.

(cont'd)



I am glad the waists fit pretty well. I expected they would be long waisted. I had thought of sending cloth but was afraid you would not get it made up if I did and so had Frank buy the waists.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 8, 1899

Dear Mamma

I thought I couldn't see enough to write but decided to try it. My eye was pretty bad Monday and Tuesday but is better yesterday and today.

A girl came today to see about doing the work. She is a cousin of Mrs. Drew. She had an advertisement in the Herald and Frank answered it. We liked her looks pretty well. She is from Whipple Hollow.

Mrs. Collins who has washed for me did my ironing today. It was awfully warm yesterday and today. We had a little shower yesterday but need more.

I think you or Papa must have misunderstood the other. He asked about letting Alice go. We have not decided. It would, of course, be a relief for me in some ways but she would be a lot of care for you. She has a nap every afternoon at twelve and so doesn't get so awfully tired and cross. She never runs away and goes just as far as I tell her she can but no farther even with other children. There is one thing I should insist on if she went and that is that she was not to go in a boat except with you or Papa. Frank says his principal objection is that it is so far. If anything happened to make it necessary for her to come home he could not spare either the time nor money to go after her. My eye is scolding so I must stop. Will write about the machine next time. I did not speak with Frank about it.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 15, 1899

Dear Mamma

I have a girl now. She came Sunday night and I guess she will prove alright if she does not get homesick.

The last three days have been awful hot and the nights are almost unbearable. My eye is better so that I have started in today without my dark glasses but I haven't done any sewing for two weeks excepting to sew some mat rags so I could be knitting on a rag mat. Frank got me some big wooden needles and I have knit up everything in the house.

Floyd Eastman and Jennie were married last week Wednesday and went away for two days. They sent out cards but we did not get any. They are "at home" after July 17, so I was told.

I guess I will take the machine if you do not take it to camp because if I cannot sew on it myself I can hire someone to come here and sew. I will have to do a lot of sewing for Margaret when Fall comes.

Margaret pulls herself up onto her feet and takes a few steps alone when holding with one hand but she does not know enough to let go and sit down when she is tired of standing up and I have to sit her down.

(cont'd)



Mr. Cooley was married in Washington Tuesday and according to the paper his bride must be something great. They received presents from many prominent women, among them Susan B. Anthony. They get back here about July 1st.

Frank's vacation is put for the last half of August but I am in hopes that he can get it changed. He doesn't want it then. His was the last one last year so I think he ought to have a better choice this year. Tomorrow is circus day and I suppose Alice will go to see the parade if Frank gets done work in time.

Frank won't say a word one way or the other about letting Alice go away this summer. He is afraid that I will feel that I must go as he expresses his opinion and he wants me to do the deciding.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 20

Dear Mamma

I had decided that if nothing new happened to let Alice go with you for awhile. Frank says he thinks she would be better physically than here and if I want her when his vacation comes he could get her. Here she has no place to play except in the hot sun and I can't keep her in all the time. Our rooms are pretty hot nights and she doesn't sleep as well as when it is cooler. She goes to bed every day right after dinner and has to stay an hour and a half even if she doesn't sleep so she can get a little rest and not be running around all the time.

I can't sew or read yet. I tried to do a little yesterday but am suffering for it today. If I have any machine work I presume Annie (my girl) can do it for me. She is used to making her own clothes.

The Clement boy and another one came to see Papa here Saturday. They said that Prof. Perry told them he was here. I heard he was here from several different people. Harry Simonds saw him at the depot and Kitty Flannery saw him on the street car Friday morning.

I haven't been as far as the corner of Main Street but once since the first of May. I cannot walk and hardly go upstairs. I have had to have Frank do all my buying. He bought me a wrapper Saturday. I think he has pretty good judgement.

We had an invitation to Montie's commencement and would like to go. Hope wrote last week that they were all going to see Pansy graduate.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 22

Dear Mamma

Your letter came yesterday and Frank took it with him today so as to go to the florists this morning. I thought I might be wanting my shirt waist pattern before you get back in the fall and intended to write about it before.

My eye is pretty bad. Dr. Thomson has been away a week and if he doesn't come back today I shall have someone else. My medicine has been gone since Sunday. Alice has a little cold and cough but I am in hopes she will get rid of it.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Aug 27, 1899

Dear Mamma

Georgie is here today so I will send my letter by him and you will get it sooner.

Have you measured Alice up against the post as you did last year on her birthday? I was wondering if you had and how much she had grown. I would like to have you send by mail, as soon as possible, one pair of Alice's drawers. I want to make her some more and some for Margaret and I haven't any pattern. I wanted hers to measure by so I could get the new ones bigger. I have worked on night shirts for Frank and outing night dresses for Margaret and have material for some for Alice. I am doing the machine work and letting the hand work go.

Anne went home sick Wednesday and has just come back tonight.

I have a cough. I had a bad sore throat the first of the week.

Frank wants to know if there are going to be any winter apples up there. There are none anywhere around here. He and his father and Arthur want to buy some.

Are you going to have any pears? I canned blackberries and made pickles last week and expect more berries Monday or Tuesday.

Frank took Margaret up to his father's Monday and they stayed until Wednesday night and he picked 15 quarts of blackberries. Margaret was so good that his mother wanted to keep her longer. They are going again this week. I presume Georgie can tell all the news. I think I had something more to write but don't remember it now.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
October 11, 1899

Dear Mamma

Alice's trunk came alright. Frank brought it when he came at night. The blue stuff came today. It looks nicely with the blue and white. I showed you and I think I can make a nice dress out of it. I have cut out her cloak but cannot sew yet and begin to think I never can.

Frank has a half holiday tomorrow. He did not expect to get it.

Arthur Fuller has to take a train from Bennington to Montpelier and Bertha is going with him. The train leaves here about 9:30 tonight.

Alice and Margaret get along better than they did at first but I guess Margaret thinks Alice exists for the sole purpose of taking things away from her. They have played out in the sand every day and get along nicely there. I understand Alice very nicely and have had but very little trouble. She makes a fuss about going to bed without a light.

Cora Ross Bates has a baby boy born last Sunday. She is with her folks but he had to go back to Columbus.

I am going to take my dress up to Mrs. Anderson's tomorrow if it doesn't rain. I am afraid now that it will.

I took Alice to church Sunday and she was real good. She was asleep when the sermon began and I had hard work to wake her at the end. She said she wanted to go again. Everyone thinks Alice has grown tall and that her hair has grown. Alice thinks the baby just right and hugs and kisses her every little while. She holds her (with my help) and pats her. She objects to my giving her away and insists that

(cont'd) -



"baby sister" is hers and not "mamma's nor papa's". I have to undress her baby (dolly) every night. This afternoon she took Polly and Viola to bed and she said she didn't sleep because she had to wave her hand to keep the flies off the dolls.

I think I was going to write more but I am pretty tired and sleepy. I have been up at 5:15 every morning this week and have not rested during the day and am quite sleepy.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
October 20, 1899

Dear Mamma

I have just got my new glasses. They had to be got in New York and so I did not get them as soon as I expected.

I have all the stitching done on Alice's cloak and will try and get the machine off Monday or Tuesday. I have her blue dress about done. I am planning to make the red up very plain to wear every day under the aprons and am going to make a plain blue dress for Margaret to wear under her blue aprons.

We have no service at church Sunday and will have our new church carpet down before the next service. I haven't heard what color it is to be.

Alice is very good about not taking Margaret's things and when she is not willing to lend hers I do not let her take mine or Margaret's or Frank's. I took her with me when I went to try on my dress at Mrs. Anderson's and she had quite a time looking at fashion plates.

Frank is doing evening work again this week and has the late collection and has just gone.

Have you ever said anything to Leslie about those home-knit stockings? If he doesn't want them I think I could use the legs to go with new feet and save some knitting. Frank just about used up his four pairs last winter and I am trying to get some more knit. This is all the letter paper I have. It gets used up very fast. Alice wrote you a letter last Sunday but it has disappeared and has not been found. I think Margaret chewed it up.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Nov. 3, 1899

Dear Mamma

I think the velvet does not look quite as well as I wish it did. I will not use it but instead ask you to get some blue ribbon. The width should be of that in the neck and sleeves and put on in some pretty way. I will have Frank put in some stamps to buy the ribbon with. You might get enough for a hair ribbon.

I hope you will have nice weather and hope Alice will be good. Frank is so lonesome for Alice that he don't know what to do with himself. I think I miss her more than when she went before.

I went to Mrs. Anderson's yesterday and I expect to have my dress and jacket tomorrow night. She is to charge me \$10 for the work. That is not as much as I expected to pay.

I sewed some yesterday and a little more today and have finished my hat. It is quite plain but Frank thinks it looks real good.

We think Margaret misses Alice. I ask her where sister Alice is and she looks all around but she plays with all the playthings and is real good all by herself.



I am making doughnuts this afternoon and want to get some cookies made before supper.

It is just lovely out today; not as cold as yesterday. If it is cold so Alice needs something for her hands you can get her some mittens or woolen gloves. I had thought of trying to get gloves if she is going to church.

With Love  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Nov. 14, 1899

Dear Mamma

I will try and write a little but one of my eyes is rather bad and I can't see much. It seemed alright Saturday but when I got up Sunday it was pretty bad and pained me all day and some yesterday. I think it is a little better today.

I am quite undecided about when to start for Chester. The babe was sick all last week and is not feeling just right yet. Her food doesn't agree with her and she is getting thin again. For two days now she has been eating raw milk diluted and with lime water in it and has kept it down fairly well.

Fred came here Saturday but that will not hinder my leaving. He is not working and says he can keep house for Frank. He is real handy about doing things around the house.

We got up our sitting room stove yesterday. Our cook stove gives better service since we got some chestnut coal in place of the stove coal.

One of the Martel girls, I think it was Anna May, was married last week to Carl Hazelton, brother of Winnie who used to come to the R.E.C.I.

Prof. Eggleston told Frank that they are rushed with school work. They have 50 day scholars and 38 evening scholars.

I can't see to write anymore

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Nov. 21, 1899

Dear Mamma

I did rather plan to leave here last week but Dr. Thomson told me I couldn't go away with my eye as bad as it is now. I am planning now on Thursday but am very uncertain. It may be Friday or Saturday before I can get away. My washing will be done today and if the clothes get dry enough to be ironed tomorrow I expect that I can come Thursday but I don't plan for certain. I rather think I shall take the Flyer instead of the mail because then Margaret can have a nap in the forenoon and will not be so ugly.

The baby is doing better and keeps her food down much better than she did. She is eating uncooked milk diluted with water and with lime water in it.

The engagement of Ella Spafford and a young man from Seattle, Washington has been announced and the wedding will be in February.

Arthur Fuller and family left Sunday night on the sleeper. He came up Friday night for them. Bertha expects to be very homesick. Mrs. Sawyer is all broken up and thinks she has an empty house. She says she is going to borrow Margaret to take Hazel's place.

(cont'd)



I am writing this before breakfast so that Frank can mail it this morning. We have our breakfast together, Fred, Frank and I, at 6:25 each morning. We have to make a lot of noise to wake up Fred. I am getting up all the time at 5:30 now.

We got Margaret some "weak ankle" shoes to help hold her up because one of her ankles seemed weak and I was afraid it would not get strong without help. The shoes are higher than the others and have a stiff counter up to the top. They can be worn on either foot and I call them a very homely shaped shoe. She seemed to think she could not walk at first but gets along better now. Do not be worried if I don't come.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 17, 1899

Dear Nanna

I presume you think I ought to have written sooner but I was so tired I couldn't. I got along very well on the train and Mr. Waite was on the lookout for me. I think the baby caught more cold. It was snowing and blowing when we got home. It began to storm when we were at the summit but the snow did not amount to much.

It is rather cold and disagreeable today. I went to church but did not take Alice because of her cold and because she had nothing to cover up her ears.

Tell Bessie that I saw Mrs. Chapman in the car today so that I think she has recovered from her shock of last spring.

My hand is troubling me so I can hardly write.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 24, 1899

Dear Nanna

We have had a very stormy and disagreeable day. Alice and I went to church in the wind and came home in a storm of rain, sleet and snow. Mr Cooley did not preach, having been called home yesterday by the death of his only sister. His wife read his sermon.

I heard last week that Vida Billings Grant has a little girl born during November.

A.D.Francisco of Center Street was buried Wednesday. The paper called it congestion of the lungs.

Frank's father brought Alice a small tub and rubbing board. The board is meant for real use. He brought Margaret a small wooden horse on wheels which she is very much afraid of and refuses to touch. The baby has a rattle.

Mrs. Flannery brought today another rattle for Rose, an alphabet book for Alice and a doll for Margaret. The doll is one like Mary had, all made of a kind of plaster with the arms and legs held on by elastic. I don't imagine it will last long but she thinks it is pretty nice.

Frank's father brought me a chicken all ready for cooking. We had already bought one for our dinner tomorrow.

(cont'd)



I took Alice downtown Wednesday evening to see the pretty things and she had a fine time and did not want to come home. She saw some little tubs and boards and quite admired them. When hers came I said "It's just like what Alice saw downstreet" and she said "No, Lulu's all paint; little tub downstreet no paint," which is true. Those she saw were unpainted and hers is blue outside and white inside. I didn't suppose she would know the difference.

Frank is very tired of carrying Christmas bundles and expects a good many more this week. I have not bought, made nor given any presents this year.

Lulu

Rutland  
Dec. 31, 1899

Dear Mamma

We are all quite under the weather with our colds. Mine is pretty bad today, Alice is just coming down with hers, and Rose is on the gain. Since Monday night Rose has slept downstairs so she would be warmer. Last night was surely the coldest night we have had.

Alice and Margaret were very much pleased with the handkerchiefs. They were washed Wednesday and I was afraid the color would all come out but it didn't.

Georgie's picture and Auntie Vi's present are all I received this year and I ought not to expect because I didn't give.

I gave Mrs. Collins two of those little pins and she was very much pleased. She came and ironed two hours for me and refused to take a cent for it.

We received yesterday an announcement of Chick's wedding. I suppose you have one. I was quite surprised to get it.

Montie Fuller was here at noon Friday. He said he thought he would stop at Chester on his way back tomorrow.

Alice is quite upset because she couldn't go to church today and wear her new mittens. She hasn't had a chance to wear them but shows them to everybody who comes in.

Nettie Douglas was married in Chicago last week. I don't remember the man's name. It wasn't the one she was engaged to here several years ago.

Frank worked  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours on Christmas day although it was called a half holiday and he will have about as much work tomorrow.

Didn't Mary go to church with a Mollie Cheney? She was married about two weeks ago. I thought she was in school with her. We have had five meals out of our two chickens and the last one isn't gone yet, but we are about tired of it.

It is awful cold today. Frank is not working and we had planned to go to the farm but it was too cold with our colds to go.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 7, 1900

Dear Mamma

We are all (except Margaret) coughing most of the time. Our colds are better but our coughs still hang on.

Alice went to church today. She stayed to Sunday School and she seemed to enjoy it.

Mr. Spafford is having his house all papered and painted up for Ella's wedding next month. She and her husband will go immediately to Paris to finish her musical education. He is a musician of some kind.

Miss Anna Lord who taught school in the old West Street building when we first came here, was married last week here in Rutland.

Lulu Porter who went to the R.E.C.I. was married to a man named Rugg last Wednesday. Did I write you of the marriage of Ruth Barrett's mother? She married a Judge Hurd from New York.

Bessie and Daisy Field's father died early yesterday morning of softening of the brain. He was at a sanitarium in Burlington.

Alice is very much pleased over some new shirts which I made for her out of those pieces of red underwear. They are larger and longer than her old ones and certainly are warmer. I think they will wear her until warm weather.

I went to see Mrs. Morgan and Agnes today. They were packing up Grace's things to send her. She is to begin keeping house this month.

The annual parish meeting comes this week Wednesday and the ladies serve a free supper. Afterwards there is to be a free talk by Dr. Perrin.

Monties does not like it at all at Hartford. He said if only he could get the money he would go to Harvard. He says that two or three of the professors are fine but the others don't amount to anything.

My eyes are about as they were when I was in Chester.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 16, 1900

Dear Mamma

I didn't get any time to write yesterday because we went up to the farm. Mr. Fuller came for us at nine o'clock and Fred went up with us. The ride up was very comfortable but when we came home it was snowing and blowing.

I went to the parish meeting Wednesday night and heard Dr. Perrin from Boston. They raised enough money, \$1000, to pay off an accumulation of running expenses. They hired Mr. Cooley for another year at a salary of \$1200 which is an increase of \$200.

Fred told us that Mrs. Hussey told the lady he boards with that Emma was coming home here when school closed and was to be married to a young man from Poultney. I think it is a mistake and that it is Miss Chadwick who boards at Mrs. Hussey's who has the Poultney fellow because her home is in Poultney.

The old church carpet has been cleaned and turned and is put down downstairs. It makes the dining room much pleasanter.

My cough still hangs on but the others do not cough much now. Alice said that she was afraid that she would get more cold if she went to Grandpa's, but I don't think she did.

The dry goods stores are offering great sales now. Sterns store has got to move because Ripley, who owns the block it is in,



got mad and rented it to Kissane. Both Sterns and Kissane are having removal sales and things can be bought at almost any price. It is said that Sterns has bought the block where Houghton, Higgins, and McClure's shoe store are and will occupy the store which Houghton now does. If he (Sterns) does that I suppose Houghton will be having a sale.

Alice seems to look forward to next summer and talks about how she and sister are going to camp. She is to sleep in Aunt Mollie's big bed and sister in her little one, but she insists that Frank and I cannot go. She says she will be glad when summer comes so she can wear her pink muslin dress. If she outgrows it she will be very much disappointed. I put the mixed dress she wore at camp onto Margaret yesterday and it looked as if it was made for her and she thought it was fine.

We are having a little more snow this morning. I haven't yet heard what Papa thought of the house after he saw it.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
January 22

Dear Mamma

I am having quite a "tussle" with my cough, but guess it is getting some better. Frank says it sounds better. I am taking what was ordered for Frank about a year ago, and that is honey and whiskey. Every time I cough I can't stop until I have vomited up everything in my stomach. That is very disagreeable and uses up my strength.

Frank was sick yesterday and could not work in the evening and I had to go out and get someone to make his evening collection for him. He has gone to work this morning but I think he ought not to have.

We had a big fire here yesterday morning. It began about six and the release didn't sound until half past twelve. There was a strong wind and the water froze as fast as it was poured on. The wooden building where Stearn's furniture store is was ruined. The stores of McClellan and Farmer, Miss Slattery and H.C. Durkee were nearly drowned out. The fire began in the top of the building and burned only in two stories but they poured three streams of water into it for nearly five hours so everything is pretty well wet through. The building was quite a picture yesterday afternoon and some of the electric wires were so loaded with icicles that they broke down.

Alice and Margaret were very much pleased with two tin trays which Frank bought for them to eat off of. Alice's is red with a gilt border and a "cupid" in the middle. Margaret's is nickeled all over. I think I like the nickel one best as the finish will scratch off of the other. My tablecloths got so dirty that I thought I must have something.

Little Richard Simonds is pretty badly off and I don't see how he can last long. He is bloated so his ankles are more than six inches through and his hands are awful to look at and his face is fatter than my Margaret's. He has no feeling in his limbs and does not suffer any. He has no control over his bowels and kidneys and is lots of care for his mother. We are all pretty sure that he cannot last long unless there is a decided change for the better soon.

(cont'd)



I am planning to go to Stern's sale and see if I can get Alice some stockings. Mrs. Kingsley showed me some that her husband got there Saturday night at 5¢ a pair. He bought 20 pairs, some cotton and some woolen and all of good quality. The woolen are better than I paid 25¢ for. Mrs. Simonds went to the sale Saturday but said things were not especially cheap. There were only a lot of old-fashioned buttons and braid and things that she said they had in stock somewhere for twenty-five years.

I have hardly done anything last week because of my cough. I would not have gone out yesterday if I could have sent but I don't think I am any the worse for it. Alice was very much displeased because I would not take her to church.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 27, 1900

Dear Mamma

We are having a big snowstorm this forenoon. I was surprised when I got up to find about a foot of snow; it was warm and pleasant all day yesterday. Alice and I went to church and Sunday School.

We have all been sick last week just as Frank was on Sunday. I had an awful time with diarrhea and the three children all had the same trouble. Frank had to stay at home all day Wednesday. It was the first time he has been out of the office because of sickness since the day Rose was born. We are still coughing but are not as bad as a week ago. Dr. Thomson has dosed us all.

We had three fires, with four alarms in less than three hours early Friday morning. Clarke and Mathews bicycle shop just west of the library had a small fire, Colvin's store burned a little in the second story, and Metzger's awning shop was entirely burned out. The stores which cannot have removal or fire sales are rather out of fashion just now.

The Sunday School had a supper Thursday night and cleared \$25.25. It was a chicken pie supper and they charged 25¢. I was not well enough to go.

Richard Simonds is still alive and I am surprised that his strength holds out. He looks very bad in his face and is very weak. He does not suffer any and does not feel badly anywhere only he is weak.

Today's paper says that Ella Spafford will be married Feb. 7. Isn't she a little older than Bessie?

Mrs. Morgan and Agnes went to Salem Wednesday to visit Grace and I was told that they were to stay there a month.

Rose is rather "cranky" this morning and I am holding her and writing. I haven't got much done and it is time for the mail now. I don't suppose this will go today because Angier cannot get to the office through the snow in time to catch the mail train. I guess Frank will be all tired out by noon walking about in the snow.

I am thinking of making a short cloak for Rose out of the blue wrapper Bess sent her. She has worn it only once and as her clothes are getting shorter I think I will try to fix it over for her. It will get moth eaten if I put it away and had better be used.

Frank said (when he was in Chester) that if you moved he would give you two days to help, and he has told me to write and tell you so.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Feb 11, 1900

Dear Mamma

We have had a lot of rain and the snow is almost all gone. Alice said today that when she "went to bed and got up again" it would be summer and all warm and she could wear her pink dress and go outdoors. She talks all the time about how she and sister are going to camp next summer but the rest of us can't go because there wouldn't be any room for us. I asked her who said she could go to camp and she said that when she was down to Chester and slept in Aunt Mollie's bed that Aunt Mollie said she could go.

I had a letter yesterday from Inez about the Perry book which is to be published and am making out the dates for her today.

The young peoples society are to have a Valentine party Tuesday night and want Frank to wear his uniform and help them in their post office. He hasn't decided about going. I was rather planning to go but can't if he does.

Alice has a new pair of shoes and is very much pleased because they are lace shoes instead of button. She says she and sister are twins now.

Rose sits up in her crib and plays with different things. Alice and Margaret keep her supplied with playthings. She had the dipper and my rubbers yesterday and seemed to be enjoying herself. She is very interesting and plump.

Margaret says everything she hears. Today when the pie was brought on at dinner she said "apple pie" and clapped her hands. When she says something new she is very much pleased about it.

I guess this will have to be mailed in a post-office envelope because I haven't any and Frank will have to take it and mail it.

I am thinking of making a short cloak for Rose out of the long wrapper Bess sent her. Ask Bess if she ever 'wet a piece of it and how it came out. Rose has worn it but once and I have to make her something.

I don't seem to think of much news today. Frank's foot is better than last week.

Yours  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 18, 1900

Dear Mamma

Today is Margaret's birthday. It hardly seems possible that she is two years old.

We did not go to church today because Frank walked home to see his mother. She is quite sick with the grip. He found her up and better than she expected.

Dr. Thomson told Mrs. Simonds Friday that Richard could last only a few days. He did not think he would last a week. I have been surprised that he lived so long but think Mrs. Simonds and the family did not consider him so sick.

I am making Alice a dress out of that light gray cashmere which she had two years ago. It has a yoke and sleeve tops of turquoise blue silk and promises to be very becoming and pretty.

I had a very urgent invitation from Hope last week and wish I could accept it. Her school closes this week and does not reopen until March 16 so she has quite a vacation. Frank says the only objection he has to my going is the fact that it is generally bad weather in March and the roads would probably be bad.

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I had a call Thursday from Kate Russell. Her school closed last week and doesn't begin until April 16.

Last Sunday afternoon Alice said that "what people put pennies in in church was most like what Mamma pops corn in."

Hope wrote that she was at Grandma's the week before and she was quite poorly. She said that Auntie sent for them to come down.

Charles Sterns has bought out Houghton and Morse and they will not do business again in Rutland. Merchants Row will be pretty well mixed up in another month. Kissane is to have Sterns old store. Sterns is to have the stores of Houghton and Morse and Marshall and Tyrrell. M&T are to have McClure's shoe store and McC. and Station A. are going into the store which was formerly occupied by the Marble City Underwear Co. Colvin is having a fire sale and Ross, Huntress and Aldis Ross are the only dry goods stores not having a removal or fire sale.

Margaret talks all the time and says "what that is" most of the time. She says anything she is told to and I think she talks plainer than Alice. They don't seem to have any trouble about understanding each other.

It is quite cold today and has been snowing. Frank said he was colder riding down than walking up. The walking kept him warm. His lameness is about gone.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 26, 1900

Dear Mamma

I think Leslie didn't have very good weather for his Shrewsbury visit. He expected to drive to Rutland yesterday and leave here this morning but it was so stormy and windy that we did not expect him.

I finished Alice's gray dress and she wore it yesterday. I put some narrow white beading on it and ran baby ribbon matching the silk through the beading. It makes a very pretty dress and only cost 55¢ so I call it cheap.

Rutland had a big fire Saturday night. The Ripley mill at Center Rutland burned to the ground and one man was burned up in it. The fire alarm was out of order, The harness on one of the teams broke, The steamer bursted and the cars ran over the hose and cut it in two, so they had quite a time all around. The Herald this morning said it was the first time in 26 years that a life has been lost in a fire in Rutland.

I didn't have much of an idea of accepting Hope's invitation although I wanted to very much. Frank said to go if I wanted to but he was afraid the weather and the traveling would be bad.

Emma Hussey's gentleman is from Swanton and his name is Wallace Tobin, Grace wrote me. It seems Emma was engaged before she went west, as Grace has known of it as long as that and thought I also knew of it.

Margaret talks all the time but says "what that is" most of the time, and Alice still says "what for?" We tried to get them to say Schenectedy when Leslie was here but they decided that it was too much to undertake and I didn't blame them.

Richard Simonds is still alive but very weak. I saw him yesterday, the first time in ten days, and he has changed very much. He does not suffer any and does not know that he will probably not get well.

I met a Mrs. Wilber at church yesterday who is a sister to

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a Miss French who used to be at Mrs. John Baxter's and came to our church. She said Miss French wished to be remembered to Papa and she made several inquiries about him, all for Miss French's benefit.

Leslie left two shirts and a pair of pants here for George. I told him I didn't know when or how they would get to him but he said you told him to leave them here.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
March 5, 1900

Dear Mamma

I read part of your letter aloud to Frank and Alice seemed to think that she and Margaret could go off alone alright. She said she would take care of sister and hold onto her hand and says she knows just how to go.

I am at work on the third summer dress for Alice, all of old material but will wear for one summer I guess. I shall make her several of quite dark print or calico.

Margaret has been wearing Alice's old pink aprons and looks very pretty in pale pink; much better than I thought she would.

Mrs. Dr. Hanrahan was buried yesterday and had a very large funeral. She has been sick a number of years.

The man who has been running Mr. Fuller's farm left the 1st day of March and the man who was to take his place was snowed in over the mountain and couldn't get over so they have had quite a time. Guy had to stay at home and Mr. Fuller had to bring the milk to Rutland himself and doesn't enjoy it.

During Friday and Saturday we had rain, snow, freezing and thawing, and yesterday we had more snow so the roads are in bad shape and the walking is very bad.

Margaret thinks the oldest rag doll is the best and calls it "Bilolie" (Viola) very plainly. If she succeeds in doing anything I ask her to, she says "I did" and she says "dear Mamma see" a good many times a day. I think she is very interesting and when she is alone she doesn't get into much mischief. Alice thinks Margaret might go to Sunday School but I think she will have to wait a while longer.

I thought Leslie would wait over and not attempt to go on the sleeper. It was so late he would have had quite a time waiting for it.

I have been writing while the children are eating their breakfast and they joggle the table so much that it is hard to write. They have finished so I must stop and go to work.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
March 12, 1900

Dear Mamma

You have probably heard that we have John Spellman for Mayor. I told Frank that I was ashamed of Rutland. He has turned off everything and everyone he can and put in new men and there is no knowing just what he will do.

I went down to Carter the optician Saturday noon to see about some glasses. He gave my eyes a very thorough examination and gave me a pair of glasses to wear all the time for a month and then I am to have stronger ones. I showed him the glasses which Dr. Thomson gave me and he said one reason that I couldn't see much with them was that they were in wrong. The right lens was in the left eye. He changed them around and I found I could see real well with them. I had never thought of such a mistake as that. I think I shall be able to see with these pretty well. Mr. Carter thought the glasses which would fully correct my sight would be too much of a strain on my eyes and so gave me some a little weaker. He says I am quite far sighted.

Alice was quite provoked because she could not go to church yesterday but it was quite cold and the wind blew hard so I kept her at home.

Alice told Frank that she would be a boy and wear pants if he would buy her a sled. Yesterday she struck Margaret so Frank told her her hand was naughty and snapped it with his fingers. She went into the pantry to cry and soon came out and asked him "who would snap Papa's hand when Papa was naughty?"

Saturday a Dolan boy was run over and killed in the Rutland depot by an engine which was backing up to the Flyer.

Richard Simonds is so weak that he cannot lift his hand and has to be lifted into bed on a sheet. I don't see what keeps him alive. I was there last Tuesday when the doctor was there and he didn't think he would last a day and he seems to expect him to go anytime. It is awful walking; so slippery. Frank says he is quite lame as it has been slippery for more than a week.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
March 18, 1900

Dear Mamma

Montie was here Monday afternoon and told us about his trip to Chester, and said it was suggested that he bring Alice along with him. I told him that I would like to see him try it.

I am trying to make clothes for Alice. Josephine gave me a tan colored jacket and I think I can make a nice one for Alice out of it. The sleeves were quite good sized and the front whole so the pieces are large. I was ripping on it yesterday and Alice thought I might put the pockets into the coat I made her.

I went to a Y.P.C.U. social last night and did not get home until 11:30 which is pretty late for me.

We are to have some stained glass windows in the church pretty soon now. The man with designs was here today. The windows are given by different people. The young people are giving one dedicated to Ernest Gutterson. The Unity Club dedicated theirs to Mrs. Weeks. Mr. & Mrs. Patrick gave one for their daughter. Mr. Royce gave one in memory of his boy. Dr. Woodhouse's sons gave two. Mrs. Wardwell gave one for her husband. A Mrs. Dyer gave one for her husband and Mr. & Mrs. Cooley each gave one. Most of them are to cost \$30, some

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more. I saw the designs the artist had and they were lovely.

We expect the family in the other side of the house this week. It will seem queer to hear noises from there again. We had a lot of snow on Friday and the walks are some drifted. It has melted today and is warm tonight and will probably all melt off.

Alice enjoys Sunday School and likes Dorothy Bigelow very much indeed. Dorothy is five years old but quite young for her age.

There is some talk at the post office of changing the routes again but the carriers are rather opposed to it. Frank is a little afraid of having evening work again but hopes he will escape it. I would dislike to have him have to work every evening again.

The Singer Sewing Machine Agent is going out of the business and out of town and wants to sell some second hand machines cheap. Frank is going to look at two. I may have one right away. I don't like the make real well but if it was a good machine to be sold very cheap I would take it for the sake of having it this spring.

The children have light colds; nothing serious.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
March 26, 1900

Dear Mamma

I have lost the letter in which you wrote about the machine needles and have forgotten the size you wanted so if you will write again I will try and get them.

Alice's red aprons have not been mended yet and do not need it. Margaret's new ones have had new bands on the sleeves.

Frank's mother brought some pieces of pink print so each of the three children can have a pink dress. I am at work on the fifth dress for Alice. I expect soon to get white lamm (?) and make them each a nice white dress. I haven't done anything about Margaret's clothes yet but expect a few of Alice's will hand down.

Rose has got so big and fat that her dresses will hardly go on, especially the sleeves. She can wear some old ones but will have to have her petticoats shortened first for they are longer than the old dresses.

Mr. Bragg, who was in with Mr. Marshall in the firm of Marshall and Bragg, committed suicide Friday night. It made quite a stir in town as he was a very popular young man. No one can guess any reason for his doing it.

One of Rutland's banks is closed today because the cashier, Mr. Mussey, has been acting rather queerly and his accounts are to be investigated.

The man who rented the house has moved his goods in and is here most of the time since Wednesday, but I haven't seen anything of his family yet. We are not very favorably impressed with him but if he pays promptly that is the main thing.

I suppose Montie goes back today. I have not seen anything of him since a fortnight ago. Vernon Worcester was here yesterday. He is very anxious to try taking the baby's picture and says he is coming up pretty soon to try all three of them. I hope he can get some good ones. He has made several of Carrie Bigelow's baby.

I am using a Singer machine all the time I can but have about decided that I don't really like it.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
April 2, 1900

Dear Mamma

I will send you some copies of the Herald of last week which have the most about the Mussey affair in them. You remember the Mussey boy was at camp one summer and was homesick. This is his father.

Richard Simonds died Friday night and was buried yesterday. Alice does not know anything about it and did not see anything of the funeral as I kept her in bed. I did not think she would understand and did not need to know.

Frank began his new work today; delivering mail only in the business section. He has five trips a day and has evening work again. He has the 8:45 trip every evening. We will have to have our dinner at 11:30 and our supper about seven. He does not like it at all; there are so many stairs to climb.

We bought the Singer machine which I have been trying and paid \$15 for it. It has bobbins like yours but no shuttle, or rather perhaps I should say that the shuttle does not come out. I have a set of attachments with it and like it better than I expected to.

The new tenant's name is Griggs. I haven't seen the woman yet but Frank says she is not any more attractive than the man, and I certainly do not like the children. They have four children. The oldest is 7 years old but she is not here. The next two little girls have been in here twice and I think I shall have to keep the door locked as I did with the Wiltsie children. Alice and Margaret have played on the front piazza several warm afternoons and the little girls have played with them without any trouble yet.

Alice thinks I ought to make some clothes for the dolls and I told her I would when I got all the summer clothes made for the rest of us.

Rose is wearing Margaret's cast off dresses and I have cut off her petticoats. She looks odd in colored clothes.

Alice has just dropped and broken the little dish Grandma gave her and she has had a hard crying time about it. She has eaten her oatmeal out of it and in trying to help herself to more, she dropped it. I am sorry because I wanted her to keep it until she was older.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
April 9, 1900

Dear Mamma

You had not written anything of Leslie's plans until your last letter and I have heard nothing from him. The day your letter came I had one from Walter which told me just what yours did. If it is not asking too much I would like to know a little more about it and think I might have been told sooner. I would like to know what kind of a position he is to have, why he makes the change and where he is going. I don't suppose I shall see him. I think he might have written to me something about it.

I think running my machine is beginning to tell on my back. I made Alice's jacket and cape, two waists and three coats for Rose last week and that was quite a lot of machine work.

Frank's new route keeps him working about ten hours a day so far and is just using him up but there will have to be a change soon as it is against the law to work more than eight hours.

Did Mary pass the teachers examination or doesn't she know yet? I am writing while holding Rose and she wants to help.



Rutland, Vt.  
April 23, 1900

Dear Mamma

I hope you are not having any trouble with Margaret. Alice went home with Frank's father today. It was all her own plan only she planned to go with him Saturday if he came and he told her then that he would come for her today. She says she is going to stay three days.

Grace Morgan Brown has a ten-pound baby boy born last Tuesday. Agnes wrote to us Friday and I heard it from Mrs. Hill Friday afternoon. Alice, Rose and I went to see Mrs. Hill and she gave Alice a pot with a pansy plant in it with several blossoms on it. She gave me a Lady Washington geranium.

Alice did not make any fuss after you and Margaret left and has not since. I expected she would and think she has been real good about it. The house has been quite empty without Margaret and it seems as if I have a lot of extra time to work.

It is raining this afternoon. I am afraid it may make Alice homesick. She took Polly Cologne with her. I made her a new dress out of a piece of cotton cloth and Alice thinks it is quite fine.

I have a hard headache and seem to have forgotton what I intended to write. I suppose I will hear from you when you are coming up.

Lulu

Berlin, Mass.  
May 3, 1900

Dear Mamma

You will see by the heading on this letter that we are here. We came yesterday on the 11:15 and got here at 5:45. We had a very quiet and peaceful trip; neither of the children crying on the cars.

Margaret makes herself perfectly at home and has settled down for a good time. Rose had a crying time this morning and the cat acted quite scared out of her wits and left the room in a hurry.

Aunt Susie says she can't do anything while I am here except watch and tend Rose.

It is raining hard today so I guess it will be a quiet day. I am quite tired this morning and I think the children are some tired from yesterday.

Mrs. Charlie Waterman was on the train. She went from Rutland to Chester and visited with me most of the way. Margaret made friends with all the conductors and trainmen and expected them to lift her off the cars. Rose objected to eating cold milk but finally got used to it.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
May 21, 1900

Dear Mamma

I came home on the mail train Thursday and had a hard trip because the cars were crowded.

I thought Grandma much better than I expected to find her and Hope and Aunt Susie thought her better than since her sick spell in February. She took Rose and could hardly lift her and was surprised to find how heavy she was. We weighed Rose and she weighs 17 pounds but seems to me heavier than that. Margaret weighed 32 pounds.

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Alice could not come home Saturday because it rained all day but came yesterday. Mr. Fuller was here Friday and told her that there was a little doll and a broom here for her. After that they couldn't keep her but today she told her Grandpa that she was ready to go back with him, but I guess she won't go just yet.

Alice told Mrs. Fuller that she was going to camp by and by and Mrs. Fuller asked what she would do for a little girl. Alice said she wouldn't go until Mamma and sister came home and then sister Margaret could come and be Grandma's girl.

Margaret is very fussy but as she cut her first stomach tooth yesterday I do not blame her much. I think all three of the children show the effects of having been away.

Agnes Morgan is very low. The Doctor says now that she has quick consumption and will live only a short time. He has called it other things until a week ago. She takes nothing but brandy.

Huey Dyer and family and his father and mother are moving to Springfield onto a large farm belonging to an uncle and aunt. It has just been deeded to Mr. Dyer on condition that they take care of the old people the rest of their life. The farm is said to be 600 acres and quite valuable. I think it is the place that Mr. & Mrs. Dyer have visited when they have driven down to Chester.

Today is another rainy cold day. Our garden stuff does not grow much.  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
May 29, 1900

Dear Mamma

I remember that the summer that I painted the kitchen floor was one summer that Inez was there and I am very sure that it was not in '95, and it must have been '94.

Did I write you that everyone was indignant about Charles Mussey's sentence? He was sentenced to seven years but will only stay about 5 and a half if he behaves well. The general opinion is that he has \$100,000 laid by to live on when he gets out.

Tomorrow is circus day as well as decoration day and the letter carriers from all over the state have a meeting and banquet here, so there is quite a little excitement here for us.

Mr. Wright from Montpelier preached here Sunday and when I spoke to him he spoke about camp. He said he wanted very much to go if only to run over for a few days.

I have been feeding Rose crackers since I came home and she likes them very much. She teases for it whenever she sees a cracker and they seem to agree with her nicely. I keep her on the floor all I can. She does not creep yet, but rolls all around.

Margaret is real "touchy" because her stomach teeth are just coming through. She is rather trying to get along with.

I have not thought much more, one way or the other, about Alice going to camp. She seems to think she is surely going sometime. She will have to have more clothes before she goes anywhere and I don't just know when or where she is going to get them. I am trying to get a white dress made for her, but it is rather slow work.

I am planning now on putting out my washing and ironing so as to get a little more time. I have to take so much time with the children outdoors that I don't seem to get as much done as I did before they played out. If I only had a fence I would not need to watch them so closely.

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They are asking to get up and I guess it is time as they have been in bed two hours or more. Alice does not sleep much during the day but it rests both her and me to have her go to bed. Margaret sleeps well every day.

I suppose if any of the folks go through here they will stop and stay here.

Yours truly  
Lulu

Rutland  
June 4

Dear Mamma

I meant to write yesterday but I did not get it in. We had a hard rain all day.

Agnes Morgan died this noon. She had been gaining for the past three weeks.

Some of Alice's dresses which I expected her to wear proved too small for her and those aprons I made her in Chester have given out. I bought material for five dresses last Thursday and am now at work on the third. I am making her two sailor suits; one of red duck and one of blue pique, both trimmed with white duck.

Frank has a carrier's meeting tonight and will mail this if finished in time.

Have you heard from Leslie yet? I should think it was about time. I was planning to send him one of Rose's pictures but shall not until I hear from him. I had the pictures taken in Hudson as a surprise for Frank. We think them very natural. Frank says the hair is certainly quite natural; it was a warm day and I had a hard time keeping her still.

I told Alice that perhaps Aunt Mollie was coming and she is quite impatient to see her and looks for her every day. I must stop.

In haste  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 11, 1900

Dear Mamma

I am enjoying the first of my hay fever and it has nearly got the best of me, but I presume it will let up in a few days. One of the mail carriers is trying a new remedy for hay fever and Frank is talking of getting some for me.

I have finished Alice's clothes and am planning to let up a little in my sewing, but I presume I can't.

Agnes Morgan died very suddenly. Her mother thought her only fainting and Dr. Gale thought she would live until fall or at least two months longer. When Grace got the telegram saying Agnes was dead her husband had left Salem because he had just received word that his mother in Glens Falls was dead and the two funerals were at the same time. Grace was quite upset and had to be dosed to keep her out of hysterics.

Jennie Dyer Eastman went to Springfield with her folks and expects to stay until August 1st.

We here all think Rose's picture is a very natural one and as pretty as she is to anyone not a relative. Generally strangers do not think children are pretty as their own relatives do.

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We have had radishes out of our garden and I think the other things are doing nicely. The first radishes did not come up very well so Frank planted two more lots.

Rose sits on the floor real nicely now. She does not creep but rolls all around and seems to get where she wants to. She prefers to play with the stove.

I should think Mary might stop over here even if she were not obliged to, but don't suppose she will. Alice tells everyone that she is going to camp with Aunt Mollie. Ethel Ballard is going to be in Chester for commencement, but I don't know who she visits.

It is hot again today.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 20, 1900

Dear Mamma

I suppose you have heard from Mary before this time and that she has written all the news.

Mrs. Daniels, Clansie Barrow's mother, was buried Sunday. I believe she died very suddenly. Bertha Cary's mother died last week. I think you knew her at one time. Mrs. Cary was quite deaf.

I told Mary that I would rather Alice wore out her old dresses in preference to her newer ones. She has four new pairs of stockings, two pairs of pretty good ones and two pairs of cheap ones for more common wear. I will let her bring her little broom and parasol and one doll. I think that is enough to keep track of. She suggests taking her tub and washboard but I did not encourage the idea.

I told Alice that I should tell you not to let her keep her fingers in her mouth and not to let her chew her apron. Alice seems to think that if Margaret wants to she can go to camp with her and keeps asking her if she doesn't want to go.

Frank tells Alice that he is coming up to camp after her; his vacation comes the last half of August. I don't suppose he will go away unless I go too, but perhaps I can get him started. Alice does not stay where she is told to as well as she did last summer, but I think the other children coax her away.

I hope you will make her mind because it is so hard to make her mind after she has had her own way a little while. I have not let her go up to the farm again because she did as she chose up there and I had such a hard time after she got home.

I say that I have got my sewing all done. I made a muslin top for my go-cart parasol Monday. It has two ruffles around the edge and one at the center where it fastens onto the rod. My muslin cost me only 30¢ and there was less than a half-day's work. Frank and I both like it better than one I looked at down street which cost \$2.25. I have been washing some things this morning and the water has made me sneeze.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
June 29, 1900

Dear Mamma

I hope the baggage came along all right. I don't see why it didn't go as it ought to.

I put in a slip from the Portland paper. Isn't that a family you used to know when in Auburn? The same paper states that Uncle

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Oscar is to stay in Portland another year.

Yesterday was a very hot day; the hottest we have had yet, but today is some cooler and threatens rain which we need badly.

Rose is getting a good many bumps now. She pulls the chairs over onto her. She pulls herself up onto her knees and then the chair comes over onto her. She has fallen out of her crib twice in a week.

The children in the other side of the house have one bad notion and Alice has begun to learn it. Probably you will see signs of it. When they are outdoors they don't seem to think it necessary to go into the house to the closet, but use any time and place. I told her that she would be whipped hard if she did it.

Mr. Worcester was here Saturday and tried the children's pictures but I don't know how they turned out. He has a new camera, larger than the old one. If you will write Leslie's address I will send him Rose's picture. Frank says she will be grown up before he gets it.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
July 5, 1900

Dear Mamma

We celebrated a little yesterday and as a result Margaret has a bad cut on her forehead and I am afraid it will leave a scar. We four went on the electrics to Center Rutland, leaving the cars just this side of the cemetery near a spring. We had only a short walk from the car and had a real nice day. When we had gone back to the street to get the car to come home, Margaret fell against a stone step and cut a deep gash an inch long. It bled awfully all over her dress and onto me. We had some old cotton along and got her some cleaned up before the car came along but she was a hard looking specimen when we got home.

The Sunday School is to have a picnic next week up at the Fire Clay Co.'s place. I am thinking of going. Emma and Mattie Hussey have been urging me and Mrs. Hussey offered to take baked beans for my dinner if I would go.

I have just mailed a picture of Rose to Leslie and presume he will write in his letter if he gets it.

Hope wrote that Eva Hastings and her mother were going to camp.

Rose is spending her time trying to stand up. She can get onto her knees but hasn't got onto her feet yet alone, but she wants to.

Will return Leslie's letters soon as I get a big envelope; probably tomorrow.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
July 13, 1900

Dear Mamma

We went on the picnic and are hardly able to crawl around today. We rode in a barge from the church, about three miles and a very rough road. The children were very good.

I saw in the paper a long description of Waite Johnson's wedding in Burlington Saturday.

Bertha Fuller and children were expected last night on the sleeper.

I am going to send a little bundle to Alice. It is a little jacket for Polly Cologne made of outing left from the nightgowns I have just made Rose.

(cont'd)



I am making a new wrapper and will put in a piece for Alice. It was only six cents but seems to be very pretty and washes well.

I saw Emma Hussey's gentleman yesterday and he is very nice looking and I should think very pleasant. I did not speak with him. I am too tired to write more.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
July 19, 1900

Dear Mamma

I presume that Georgie has told you about his stopping here over Sunday. We were all glad to see him. I had cherries to can and so was busy. It took over two hours to stone the cherries.

Today I am busy with currants. Frank brought home six quarts for jelly and I have been washing them and have just hung them up to drain. We have had but one lot of green peas, but can have them anytime now. Our garden is doing better than last year.

Rose is feeling better than she has any day since Friday. She has been awful fussy and cranky. I think perhaps she got a little cold at the picnic. Just now she is scolding because she can't pull one of the brass handles off of the bureau drawers. She is very persistent.

Emma Hussey's gentleman is still here and I heard that they were to be married this week but she has said nothing to me about it; and I have not spoken to her about it.

Arthur Fuller had to go to San Francisco with the soldiers; the regiment which Waite Johnson is in. It is on the way to China.

I went down street Monday and bought material for six sheets and a tablecloth so I have a little work on hand.

I thought of you this week because five of the dry goods stores have been having competition sales of napkins and they were very cheap. Very good ones were 50¢ a dozen.

Tell Alice that cousin Hazel is up to Mrs. Sawyers and is going to stay all summer.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
July 24, 1900

Dear Mamma

We have all felt the hot weather and it seems as if I could not stand it to stay in Rutland all summer. Frank says he will go to camp on his vacation if I will go too, but he will not go unless I go. He also says I had better ask if you can take me in before that time. If you have room I would like to come up before then and stay about two weeks, but if you need the room we won't come at all. Of course I would not expect anything better than the old style of things; straw bed, etc.

I am pretty well except my hay fever and that is pretty bad. I thought that would let up at camp and is the best reason I have for starting out. I think I could make it alone all right; I got along so well on my Mass. trip.

I saw in today's Herald that Mr. & Mrs. Gibson had quite a serious runaway. The baby was hurt the worst; a rib broken and several bruises and cuts.

(cont'd)



I had a short call from Frank Holden last Friday. He said he was here on business for Mr. Rentiss. Mrs. Morgan and Grace were in town last week and Grace was here Thursday evening. She brought me a china plate which belonged to Agnes and which her mother wanted me to have.

If you think you can put me up, write about the various boats. But don't crowd out others on our account as I may not be able to come anytime. I have run out of ink and will have to take my envelope to the neighbor's to address it.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
July 30, 1900

Dear Mamma

If nothing happens to prevent it, I think now that I will start Thursday morning arriving on the noon boat. Frank does not think it best for me to risk catching the late boat as the mail train is so often late.

In haste  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Sept 4, 1900

Dear Mamma

I have been very busy ever since I got home and did not seem to get over my trip until yesterday.

I had to cut over part of the apples we brought home and can them to save them.

Frank's father brought six quarts of garden blackberries Wednesday night and I had those to can. The house was awful dirty and dusty because Frank left two front windows open and all the dust from the road came right in.

Walter took home about two dozen Champlain apples in his grip. The plums we brought to keep for him just kept and there were about a dozen good Sunday morning.

I am quite sure that Alice's slippers and my crocheting were left behind and Alice says that Polly Cologne's shoes and stockings were left up there. I brought home Chick's darning needle. Please tell him that I will send it to him if he needs it.

I saw Frank Holden yesterday afternoon. I suppose the school begins today.

Alice says she is glad to be at home and has not regretted coming yet.

The hard sidewalks are bothering Frank's feet and the first two days they were quite tender but have got over that.

In a hurry  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Sept. 11, 1900

Dear Mamma

We are having a hard wind today and it is rather chilly and showery. I expected rain because the county fair began yesterday, and it generally does rain during fair week.

I have had another lot of blackberries, some crab apples and peaches and am about sick of canning.

Winnie Hazelton, who came to the R.E.C.I. when Grace Morgan did, was married last week to a Burlington gentleman.

Our church has two more new windows, gift of Lorenzo Woodhouse. The paper says they are valued at \$1000, and Frank saw them last Sunday and he says they are very handsome. Frank took Alice and Margaret to Sunday School and they had a fine time. They walked down and back and were pretty tired. Alice said "she took Papa."

Miss Chawes sent Alice and Margaret eight Mother Goose books. They had an advertisement on the backs of the back covers and colored pictures inside. She told me she was going to send them but they are much better than I expected to get.

Rose has been rather under the weather since Saturday but I think she is feeling better today. She is happier.

I find I have one of your towels among my things; one made of two little ones sewed together.

A small black kitten has been hanging around here for three or four days. Alice is very much afraid of it and when she goes to bed wants her door shut so it can't get into the room. I can't seem to make her believe that it can't get into the house. She will not play outdoors if it is in sight.

We all laughed Sunday to see Mr. Milo Eastman riding a bicycle. I think he is the funniest one I have seen yet. He rides as if he were used to it.

We have begun living on sweet potatoes. Both Alice and Margaret like them this year. We had some grapes yesterday but Alice seemed to have forgotten all about them and did not know how to eat them.

It is dinner time so I must stop.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Sept. 19, 1900

Dear Mamma

We are having some pretty cold nights and last night had quite a frost. The days are warm after about ten o'clock.

I had a call Sunday from Montie, one from Grace and also Mattie Hussey. Montie expected to go back to Hartford today. He spoke about using the automobile and said if it were his he would swap it for a good horse and buggy but his grandfather thinks a good deal of it.

Friday I went to see Junie Eastman's baby. It is quite pretty and large. It is named Thelma.

Next week is the state convention here in Rutland. I am to contribute toward one or more meals. Dr. Atwood and Dr. Perrin are the only speakers whose names I can remember. I would like to go but cannot.

Alice and Frank went to Sunday School again Sunday and Alice tells everyone that "she took Papa." I presume he will go with her until I can. He doesn't care much about it but I think he enjoys meeting the people.

(cont'd)



Our Champlain apples are nearly gone and have begun to be rotten at the cores. We have made some jelly out of the skins. Frank likes it better than any other jelly we have.

Grace was here again yesterday morning. She left her baby in Salem with her mother. A family were to move into their house Monday and she was getting out the last of the furniture.

I have not got a girl yet and expect to have to advertise but rather dislike to. I must have one pretty soon. The Rutland wrapper factory is to be enlarged and I suppose that will take in some girls. I understand it pays better than the Chester factory. The Chester one has been advertising for help in our Rutland Herald. Frankie Holden is working at the Brock House but I think not permanently.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Sept. 30, 1900

Dear Mamma

It is not so much a question of our being willing to wait until November as of our being able. I don't know how I made the mistake of setting the time in December, for I am sure when I come to figure it more closely that it is due in November. If I keep on as well as I am I shall be all right but Frank cannot do much more than he is doing now and he has outside work in the garden which ought to be done, so I hardly know what to say. I suppose we might let Bess hold herself in readiness to come if sent for before that time. If you expect to come this week we can talk it over then.

We expect to get some more furniture this week. If Bess is put in with Alice and Chick comes when you do, we can keep him and would be very glad to. Please give him the invitation from us all.

I had a call from Lena Bemis Friday. She was here to attend the convention.

I saw in the paper that Mattie Spafford had been to Montpelier to attend the wedding of Emily Lucia and a doctor from Fairhaven, Mass. I thought probably it was quite an affair.

Lena Bemis said that Myra was to start tomorrow to go to work for Miss Williams. She wrote to me that she was to work for Mrs. Hosmer.

Alice wants the snow to come because she was promised a sled this winter and she is getting impatient for it.

I don't seem to think of much to write. I have been busy all day and am rather too tired.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Oct. 7, 1900

Dear Mamma

We are having very warm days now and I think we all mind the heat as much as in the summer.

We have taken the bottle away from Rose and had very little fuss about it. She eats cracker and milk and some potato and bread but prefers cracker and milk.

I have used up that old shaggy waist of Mary's and made Alice and Margaret both dresses. I got dark green cashmere for skirts and yokes and the waists and sleeves are of the light. The two dresses are just alike and I think quite pretty. I thought when the light

(cont'd)



wore out, the two green skirts would make one dress.

Alice is well fixed for winter clothes but Margaret has no everyday dress. I have ripped up the little red henrietta and intend to get something to put with that and make a plain everyday dress to wear under her aprons. She will also have to have a cloak. I presume Rose will wear her cotton dresses all winter.

Frank is going to advertise for a girl. If we get one before you come I shall have to recall the invitation I gave Chick but we may not get one. I am afraid I have been doing too much in my efforts to get things straightened around and the house in good shape. We have a bed in each room upstairs and will have another room papered this week. They are all newly whitewashed.

Alice had some new shoes last night and wore them to Sunday School today and complained of being very tired. I told her it was the shoes that made her tired but she wouldn't believe me. I am going to let her wear out her slippers in the house because I don't want Margaret to be always having hand down things. I see the Chester church has a minister from Boston. The Herald gave quite a description of Sue Hadley's wedding. I had quite a call from Mrs. Edgerton last Sunday and her husband came after her. Alice is quite anxious for Bessie to stop over here a few days so she can go to see "Aunt Army". I am so lame I can hardly get out of a chair today but guess it won't last.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
October 18, 1900

Dear Mamma

I send today a bundle with two aprons and a pair of stockings for Alice. I did not intend to let her visit you now for several reasons but last Saturday morning I felt so very miserable that I thought it would be a little relief, and I felt as if I had got to do something to make things easier. I have felt better since and yesterday and today have felt pretty well. My girl is coming Sunday so I will get a little rest.

Rose has been awful cranky for two days and we think it is another tooth.

I ripped up that gray plaid cloak which was Doris' and turned it and made Margaret a very plain everyday dress to wear under her aprons. I got out the first short cloak Alice had (the brown checked one made from a jacket of Mary's) and tried it onto Rose. I found it a real good fit and so today have crocheted her a brown cap to wear with it.

Frank's father is not as well and the doctor is very discouraging. He says he does not think the foot will heal. Tonight Frank says they think the only hope is in an operation, and I guess not much hope in that. Frank feels as if he ought to be there but they all say he cannot do anything. He does not like to leave me but he is going up Sunday and can go any time after the girl comes. They call his father's trouble a sort of blood poison resulting from his diabetes which has been so bad for so long. They are all quite blue. Frank is so nervous tonight that it is very hard for him to even sit down.

I thought Alice could put on her wool dresses now instead of warmer undershirts. It would save a little of the wear on the shirts as they are quite a little worn. The red calico dresses were intended to be aprons this winter.

I hope Alice will continue to be good.

Lulu A. Fuller



Rutland, Vt.  
October 25, 1900

Dear Mamma

I think if the hot weather keeps on I shall give up entirely. The heat of the last two days has seemed to pull me down badly. Yesterday I could hardly get around.

My girl came Monday night. Her name is Margaret Erwin. Our Margaret calls her "her" and will not try to call her by name.

Agnes Abbott, who gave shorthand lessons in Chester and who is Jimmy Loomis' step sister, was married last week to a Mr. George Fletcher. We wondered if he was one of the Chester Fletchers.

Mr. Fuller does not improve and they think he loses strength. Frank walked up there Sunday and was there when the doctor was there and talked with him. The doctor did not encourage him at all but told him there was some hope. He said if he took off the foot the sores would break out above, and if he took off the whole leg they would break out again. Doctor says it is all the result of the diabetes and I understand that is the way the disease ends. Frank is, of course, very much worried and is hardly able to work. He feels nervous if he doesn't hear every day.

I had a call from Mrs. Coolley Monday. She said Daisy Granger was very sick, was operated on for appendicitis and then after it was done, it was decided that she had typhoid fever instead.

There are about twenty-five cases of diphtheria in town and lots of whooping cough. There is lots of sickness so Dr. Thomson says he can't get to bed at night. I am feeling a little better today but am glad I have someone to do the work.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Nov. 7, 1900

Dear Mamma

Today has been just lovely and made me want to get outdoors. Margaret played out all she could.

The Ladies Aid Society are to have a "rummage sale" soon and I have been trying to hunt up something I could give if I were called upon, but I don't seem to think of anything suitable.

Rose walks alone most of the time now; can walk across the sitting room quite nicely.

There is quite a lot of sickness all around but we are all well. I am rather expecting the whooping cough as some on the street have it. The Simonds children have not had it but if they do, I shall be afraid of Margaret's getting it.

John Cramton was buried today and had an immense funeral. All the stores and most of the shops closed during the service.

I have been thinking that if it kept cool Alice would be needing her undershirts and winter cloak, but I thought I would not send them unless they were needed. Margaret keeps telling that she is going to Chester. When I ask her how she is going, she says Grandma will come on the cars and get her. When she wakes up in the morning she calls Alice and says she wants her to come home.

Frank's father is about the same. Jo was here today and said that Dr. Thomson said today that there was no change either better or worse. Frank went up Sunday and got a lot of snow apples. We are having what we want from there. Margaret and Rose both eat them.

I am rather tired and will stop now.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Nov. 7, 1900

Don't tell Alice or you will have to bring her home. She has another little sister, a strong, fat baby. Born in the evening quite quickly without any complications. Lulu is doing well. I am too tired to write more.

Love to all  
Frank

Nov. 10, 1900

Lulu continues to do well. The little one sleeps all day and howls all night. Last night the nurse did not sleep at all until I got up this morning and relieved her. I think Mrs. Wescott is quite satisfactory as a nurse, and as housekeeper and childrens nurse Margaret Erwin is excellent. I am so tired for lack of sleep that I don't know enough to write a letter so please excuse this.

Love to all  
Frank

Rutland, Nov 18.

Lulu thought she would write you today so I put it off. I have been too tired to write during the week. Lulu is doing finely; was dressed this morning and sat up sometime. Babe is well and good. Rose has been pretty fussy but I think it is only because she is trying to get more teeth. We have not found a name yet, or at least we have not decided on one. I think I know what it will be, but it is not fully decided as yet.

I had to stop to pick up Rose, and all the ideas about a letter which I had when I started have vanished. Lulu will write soon.

Kiss my baby for her papa.  
Frank

Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 5, 1900

Dear Mamma

I have been working on Margaret's cloak and guess I have got it all cut out but it was an awful puzzle. The skirt of it has eight pieces in it so there will be a lot of seams but perhaps they won't show much.

Alice still thinks we might call the baby Polly Cologne and says she will find a new name for her doll. She says she will give Rose away and that she doesn't like her but I think it is because Rose tries to take her things when she is playing.

Only one of the little dishes is broken yet but I expect they will be as Margaret throws them around in great shape and drops the boxfull several times a day.

Alice has teased to go out and play in the snow but I have not let her because she coughs some, especially in the mornings. She saw Rachel out with her sled today and wanted to play with her.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 12, 1900

Dear Mamma

I finished the blue cloak Saturday and think it looks real well. It has a cape coming down over the elbows. That and the sleeves are edged with grey fur from that old cloak of Doris'. The cloak is lined with that cotton and wool plaid dress which Mary made for Alice and it makes a very good lining.

Yesterday I made Frank a new winter uniform cap. I ripped up the old one for a pattern. It was very dirty and some moth-eaten. It stayed up at the office all summer.

I have emptied my feather bed and am going to begin on my pillows tomorrow. I put the feathers into an old straw bed tick.

Rose is climbing all the time now. Yesterday she was on the dining table and up in the kitchen sink, and today she was on the table again. She stands up in the chairs most of the time.

Alice, Margaret and I went to Sunday School Sunday and they seemed to enjoy it very much. Margaret talks to anyone and everyone she meets. Yesterday I took the two oldest down street and they had a fine time looking in the store windows.

Alice is writing and says that she is writing that she has the nicest little baby sister in the world and she is writing about going to see Mrs. Coolidge's baby and she says it is a "boy baby sister." We saw Amy Marsh Edgerton on the car but Alice did not remember her at first, but I think she did later.

Alice and Margaret are playing with the box of buttons and are having a nice time. Rose is very much put out because she can't have some too.

The "Social Sewing Bee" sent the baby a little pink and white sock, feather stitched with pink and tied with pink ribbon. The "Bee" consists of Millie Fuller, Florence Wood, Etta Patch, Mrs. Smith, Edith Fuller and two or three more. I hadn't heard of it until Mrs. Cooley told me the day she took me sleigh riding.

Frank subscribed for the Herald to be sent directly to his father and said he would send our copy to you three times a week if I thought you would like it, and I told him that I thought you would even if none of the others did and that they would probably read it if they got a chance.

It is blowing hard outdoors and is rather cold.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Dec. 20, 1900

Dear Mamma

I was very glad to get the gloves and think I can wear them as I have tried on one.

Alice told Frank that she would rather have a new doll for Christmas than a sled and I think she will not have much use for a sled, so today we brought home two and I have begun on the clothes.

Frank and I went to a parish meeting last night and after the business was done the men served a clam chowder supper.

Mattie Wheeler's father was buried today. He died suddenly of heart trouble.

Arthur and Bertha and the children are here. Mr. Sawyer is very low with typhoid fever and the doctor told them to send for her Saturday.

(cont'd)



Frank took Alice and Margaret up to his father's Sunday and they had a real nice time. I had planned to go and take all the children but Frank thought it too cold. I have had one sleigh ride.

Guy Fuller has been sick in bed since Saturday with the grippe and the girl who was helping was sick two days, so Josephine has her hands pretty full.

Tonight a bundle came from Auntie Vi containing handkerchiefs, one for each including the baby.

I am thinking of making me a walking skirt and haven't any kind of a pattern. I thought I would write and see if Bessie had a skirt pattern which she would lend. I could probably enlarge or reduce one.

The baby is behaving pretty well nights now. She sleeps from about 9:30 until 4:30. Frank wishes she would sleep a little later, until 5 as he has to get up then.

Frank says he can afford three cents a week for the Heralds for awhile and he will send them as long as his father has another copy of the paper and he would have sent them before if his father had not had them. I feel lost without the paper every day.

Our sleighing has all melted off today and I am afraid the little snow storm of this afternoon will not help it much.

Yours very truly  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
December 27

Dear Mamma

I have been rather under the weather all the week since Sunday and so have not written. Sunday we -Frank, Rose, the baby and I- went up to the farm and I was quite used up. Monday night I took Alice, Margaret, and Margaret Simonds to the Christmas tree, and Tuesday and yesterday I didn't amount to much.

Last Friday afternoon I took Alice and Margaret down street to see the "pretty things" and they had a nice time and we bought a doll for Rose which I dressed. Alice and Margaret have already broken the heads on their dolls. Your bundle came while we were gone Monday evening and Margaret told A.&M. that Santa Claus brought it and Alice firmly believes it. I took the handkerchiefs which Auntie sent to the Christmas tree. Mrs. Flannery gave A.&M. each a book and Rose a basket of candy. Walter sent me a photograph of himself; I think it the best he ever had. Frank gave me a bottle of lavender water and a new silver thimble. I think that is all we received except what you sent.

Frank says that the name you sent does not fit as he had just named the baby. She is to be Florence Agnes, for Agnes Morgan. Neither he nor I feel that we could ever call her Dorothy. I used to like the name but dislike it very much now.

Alice and Margaret were weighed on the post office scales last week. A. weighed 41 pounds and M. 37, and I weighed 137. We all had on our outside wrappers.

Alice is quite anxious to have you come here so you can tell her papa how to tell stories as she thinks he does not tell them as he ought to, especially the story of Cock Robin.

The bundle from Miss Williams came today and was given to Frank at the office. He opened it there before he noticed Alice's name on it. He brought it home tonight and she will see it in the morning. It is the prettiest little set of dishes I ever saw. They are china and decorated with flowers and gilt stripes. There are six cups, six saucers, teapot, creamer and sugar bowl. What is Miss Williams' address?



The other dishes have got badly broken and I don't think there is one set left. I found Margaret with four plates in her mouth and when I asked her what she was doing, she said she was washing her dishes.

Rose refused to touch her white rabbit at first but has decided that it won't bite, and Margaret insists on calling it a horse.

The skirt patterns came alright. I wasn't in any hurry and don't expect to get my cloth before the middle of January anyway.

This is the last end of my letter paper. I am expecting a visit from Grace Brown next month; she hasn't decided just when. The lace is very pretty but I don't know what to do with it.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
January 3, 1901

Dear Mamma

I remember you asked what Frank paid for his barrel of crackers and I have forgotten to tell you. He said they cost 7¢ a pound which was a saving of three cents on each pound. They are keeping nicely and are about two-thirds gone.

I am wondering if you could stand a visit of about a week from me and the children. I rather want to visit Chester before you go to camp, and I also want to get rid of my girl. As my sewing is all done now, I didn't know but what I could combine the two. If you or the girls have any dressmaking to be done I could help about it. If everything was alright I would like to come next week, but if you think it would be too much, I shall not think of it again.

The baby has not eaten in the night for nearly three weeks, that is not between ten and five. I began today giving her a little in a bottle but she did not like it real well.

I find that I shall have to let Margaret go. I found some of my clothes missing and found them in her room and she had been wearing them. I found one of my little guard rings broken, and although I know she hasn't many clothes here, I also know that she has money enough to buy more and has had time to get her others if she has any more. I haven't said anything to her. I hate to have a row but I have made up my mind not to stand it. The work is not being done as well as it was and the house looks badly. I found out after you were here that she didn't change the clothes on the bed for you and I had told her to. Other things she has not done when asked so I feel as though I am not getting as much return as I ought to for my \$3 a week, and I will not pay it and do more than half myself. I won't say that I think she intends to carry off anything because I don't really think so, but I think she can afford to buy her own clothes better than I can afford to have my best ones worn out by her.

Let me know as soon as you can about my visiting you.

Yours truly  
Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
January 8, 1901

Dear Mamma

I had planned to start for Chester today but I found Saturday morning that I had quite a bad sore throat which was so much worse Sunday that I had to call in the doctor. It is almost well this morning so I think I can come Thursday on the mail. I could go on the flyer but Frank can get me started on the mail and he can't on the Flyer.

We had a snow storm all day yesterday but it is not good sleighing here. I notice most folks are on wheels.

Mr. Worcester gave me a small calendar with a picture of Margaret on it. The picture is reduced from the one taken last summer.

I am going to try to get this into today's mail.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
January 22

Dear Mamma

We all caught cold coming home but I guess our colds are better now. I was so sick Sunday that I thought I was in for a hard case of "grippe", but I felt better yesterday.

Grace came yesterday noon but she does more work than she makes. I have an awful cough but guess it is letting up a little. I forgot the bottle of chili sauce and left quite a few clothes on the clothes frames.

Frank's father was on crutches Sunday and felt real well.

It is awful cold this morning. It was so warm yesterday that it is a great change.

When our train got into the depot Frank was waiting for us but I didn't see him. I had Rose on one arm and the baby on the other going along the car when he got in the back and came along behind me. He said "Let me take one of the babies" and Rose put out her arms and said "Papa" and hugged him. He had to be at the office at five so he couldn't go home with us, and Rose cried and cried when he left us.

In haste  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
January 28, 1901

Dear Mamma

I have been quite under the weather with my cold and cough but Dr. Thomson gave me some medicine Thursday which seems to be helping me but which I don't like to take.

I saw in last Wednesday's paper the notice of Lena Bemis' death and I was much surprised. The paper gave the cause as catarrhal consumption.

Alice has had another spell of earache. I am expecting Dr. Thomson today to examine her ears because I think she does not hear as readily as she used to and ought to, and I want it attended to.

We are having a little snow this morning but not enough for sleighing. There hasn't been sleighing enough any day for the letter carriers to go on runners. They have had to be on wheels every day.

I saw that you had forgotten those pictures of the children so I brought them home with me. I found among my handkerchiefs two that do not belong to me so I suppose they got mixed up with mine while in Chester. I found my missing mitten rolled up with a stocking. I didn't bring the other book which I intended to but guess I didn't leave anything of importance.

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I am going to begin on summer dresses this week. I shall try to get some dark gingham for Alice and Margaret and I expect Rose will have all the old ones which Margaret wore last summer. Some of them were Alice's and are rather faded but she isn't old enough to know any better.

I am glad that Grandma is doing so well. Give my love to her and Auntie. I am hoping this will go in today's mail

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 7, 1901

Dear Mamma

We are all feeling better than we did but I have to wipe four noses besides my own. Dr. Thomson told Frank to bring Alice to the office as he had rather examine her ears there. He said it was inflammation in the throat passage and gave her some medicine to be taken for three days and then he wanted to see her again. The medicine seemed to fix her alright. He said the trouble was a form of catarrh.

I am expecting a girl from Fair Haven whose name is Lola Westcott and who wishes to attend the R.E.C.I. and work for her board. I thought I would get a little help and then Alice could go to school. The kindergarten is almost opposite the Institute so Alice could go and come with someone. Miss Westcott is to take shorthand and typewriting and does not expect to be in school all day; then I can get out the last of the afternoon. Frank says he knew her family when he was tuning pianos, and has stopped at the house.

Does the doctor think Grandma will get around on her feet; that is, is the bone knitting? I didn't know but what she would have to stay in a chair.

Frank's father is around on crutches now and feels real smart.

The car shops where Fred has been working turned off thirty-five men last Thursday, Fred among them, and he is quite discouraged. They have been rushed with work and no one knows why they discharged them.

Auntie Vi wrote me about that straw hat early in the fall but of course of course there was no hurry about it.

I have made up Alice and Margaret's Christmas calico and bought dark gingham for four more dresses. I shall call that enough for them and make some shirt waists for myself next. The new gingham in the store windows are pretty bright colored and there are a lot of plaids.

Frank asks when does Mary have a vacation and is she coming to Rutland? I have to stop for dinner now.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb 13, 1901

Dear Mamma

I have been expecting my new girl ever since Wednesday but she cannot come until her mother is feeling better. I believe she has the grip.

Mrs. Griggs has a little girl born last Sunday night. Mr. Griggs cleared out Thursday morning and no one knows where he is. He drew all the pay coming to him at the scale works and bought new clothes and a hand satchel and has left town. Mrs. Griggs was sick abed with grip for a week before her baby came. I pity her.

(cont'd)



I have finished two gingham dresses. They are alike in every way. I will put in samples of the gingham (12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per yd.). I got seven yards of each. That will make two dresses; quite plain ones for forenoons. I am letting down and fixing some of Alice's last years ones and don't intend to buy but one more for the two of them, and that will be a white one.

When Frank was at the post office Sunday, a young man told him he was coming down to our house to see Bessie as he understood she was in Rutland. Frank was very much surprised, and disappointed the young man by saying she was not here. I thought that if she wanted to come, she needn't wait to be invited.

We are having a rather long time of cold weather and are getting pretty tired of it. I am having quite a time with sore hands; have had several cracks which bled. For three nights I have covered my hands with resinol ointment and worn a pair of old silk gloves so I wouldn't stain the bed clothes, and my hands have been much better. Frank's hands were badly chapped and he finally got a cake of resinol soap and he said tonight that they had not bothered him at all today. I like the soap very much.

Our cracker barrel was emptied the second day of February, lasting two months, which is just Frank's expectation of it. We have eaten about a pound a day since then.

Frank's folks are now talking of renting the farm outright and moving to town. If they move into the other side of this house they will build on a shed and make a few other changes. I suppose it will be decided very soon.

The children are bothering so I don't know what I am writing.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 21, 1901

Dear Mamma

We are having quite a time here with coughs and colds. Alice and Margaret are some better than they were, but Rose and Florence are no better. Frank went to see the doctor tonight; Florence wouldn't eat and coughed quite a little and it seemed to hurt her. She and Rose are to have flaxseed tea and Florence is to have camphorated oil on her chest.

Mr. Griggs returned to his family today, having been gone two weeks. He had not left town but was staying in a "rum hole" on Wales Street. His father sent money to buy his family food and fuel and pay on the rent. He had sent money every month for rent, but it was used elsewhere.

I went to a "stocking social" at the church Tuesday night. I have the paper which came in the stocking and if Bess or Mary would like to use it to get up one they are welcome to it. The stockings were made of all kinds and colors of material and were six or seven inches high with a gathering string at the top and each one put in twice as many cents as the size of his or her stocking. My stockings are 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  so I put in 17¢. This paid for supper and entertainment.

The gray dress you made for Alice has worn through across the front down at the bottom. She climbs and crawls on it so much. She is much harder on her clothes than Margaret. I am having no trouble with Margaret now and she and Alice began sleeping together Saturday night. They have a board along the edge of the bed and Margaret sleeps on the outside. She and Alice both enjoy it very much and are very good.

(cont'd.)



I haven't been down street since I got those gingham but I expect to go in a day or two. You didn't say how much you would want to pay for percale. I think I will have Frank get samples and wash them before buying any. I haven't got my gingham dresses done; am working on the last one. I expected to let down some of Alice's old dresses for her and Margaret and plan to buy one more for them and that will be a white one.

Florence has just waked up crying so I must stop and take her up.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Feb. 25, 1901

Dear Mamma

I think if I had been a little nearer or if I had known anyone going to Chester, I should have sent Alice and Margaret to you Saturday for a few days.

The baby has been pretty sick since Wednesday, and Friday we thought we could not prevent her having pneumonia. Since Friday afternoon she has had flaxseed poultices on her chest, changing them as soon as they get cool. She has to take flaxseed tea every hour and have camphorated oil on her chest besides. Yesterday she began to eat more so I think she is better, but Friday and Saturday she wouldn't eat hardly anything. She strangled so when she coughed that I was quite scared.

Frank was at home Friday afternoon and Saturday and did not have to work yesterday, but he is working this morning. The baby makes very little trouble for one so sick. I thought I would write today because if she got any worse I might send one or two of the children down for a few days, but I hope I won't want to. Frank thinks her lungs are almost or quite free from congestion this morning.

Alice wrote a letter to "Aunt Mollie" but it is lost this morning. She said she wrote the numbers from one to twenty-one and thought Aunt Mollie would be glad to know she could count that much. I think Margaret can count just as far.

In haste  
Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
February 28, 1901

Dear Mamma

The baby is quite a little better but she still coughs pretty hard, and when she gets to coughing throws up all she has eaten. She doesn't sleep as well as she did. We left off the poultices Monday night and I guess she was as glad as we were. She fussed when they were changed.

Margaret evidently remembers some things she hears. She kept saying yesterday "We be good all the time, me go to Grannie's house all lone", and Alice keeps asking if she can't go too. Alice is learning some more letters off of her blocks and is trying to learn the letters of her first name, but it is rather slow work.

Rose says lots of words now but will not make friends with strangers. She eats potato whenever she can get it, and eats lots of it. She doesn't seem to be able to get through those big teeth which have been troubling her.

Frank's folks have found a tenant for the farm and are now planning to move down town, but not into this house. If they settle far from here, Frank says he shall move to be near them. He says he doesn't expect since he talked to Dr. Thomson, that his father will live until hot weather.

Yours in haste



Rutland, Vt.  
March 8, 1901

Dear Mamma

I will keep your percale until you ask for it if there is no hurry about it. I got the samples at Ross, Huntress last Friday. I got cloth for new sash curtains, six new crash towels, eight pairs of pillowcases and two outing nightgowns for Margaret, and had it all made up Tuesday night.

I am having to get along without using my right thumb and it is rather a hard job to wash dishes without getting it wet. I have a sore place beside the nail, caused by a hang nail, I think. It has been swelled up three weeks and was so painful it kept me awake at night. Frank thought it was a film, but I thought it needed opening and poulticed it four or five times. I tried opening it but did not get any relief so I had the doctor last Sunday and he gave me a lotion for it and told me to leave it alone and not to irritate it. It reminds me of what I have had years ago and called runrounds. I think I shall lose the nail; it feels as if it was going to come off.

Alice had a little more cold and seemed slightly deaf again, so I asked Dr. Thomson for something for her. He thought she would outgrow it but I didn't want to run any risk, so he gave her some pills to take and she feels pretty big about taking them.

I am having quite a time trying to write and it looks pretty bad after it is written, and I guess I will stop now.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
March 13, 1901

Dear Mamma

I have just done up a bundle to go by express. The handkerchiefs are some which were mixed in with my things when I came from Chester.

I had not even opened those skirt patterns until this afternoon, and I find Bessie's pattern is not all there. It hasn't been opened here so I think you must have taken it out by mistake when you took out the jacket pattern.

Alice has had quite a fit of jealousy over Margaret's new nightgowns. M's were small, especially the sleeves, and Rose's were small for her, so I passed M's down and Florence will have Rose's. I put in a piece of M's nightgowns. I asked for outing, but in the store they called it dornet flannell. I think it might wear quite a while.

My thumb is better and I haven't had a cloth on it today. The children are all pretty well just now. Rose talks a lot and tries to put words together. She says almost everything.

I went this morning to see Mrs. Steward. They moved up here from Clarendon about two weeks ago and are living on Elm Street. I hadn't seen her since I left Clarendon but had seen the girls several times.

I have been sewing on last years dresses, letting them down for this year. I believe I had rather make new ones. I fixed some sleeves and yoke into Alice's white dress and fixed it so I like it better. I used up the white waist I made for myself in fixing her dress. It was the same material.

I think your percale is real pretty and Frank says it looks like you. All the pieces I saw were black and white or else very bright, and I didn't like the real bright ones.

I wrote to Grandma Sunday. I hadn't written since her fall and I guess I owe everyone letters, but I hate to take daylight for writing and am generally too tired at night.

(cont'd)



My girl I expected had to give up coming this term because her mother was sick, but I think she expects to come next term.

Florence grew quite thin while sick but I think is getting plump again. She smiles at almost everyone who speaks to her.

We all stayed awake Sunday night. The wind was awful and we were all scared. I told Frank I knew the front window was coming in. He said he heard the kitchen chimney blow down three times, but it was alright in the morning.

Will send bundle tomorrow.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
March 18, 1901

Dear Mamma

When I sent the samples to you I marked with pencil on the back of one of them the price  $12\frac{1}{2}\%$  and the width. I did not mean for you to pay express as I had been intending to send back Mary's book and thought I would save money by sending everything at once.

I sent away for a new shirt waist pattern. It only cost 10¢. I got it mostly because I wanted a new sleeve pattern. There is a lining with it. The size is 36 inches. If it would be of any use you are welcome to it. All the new waists have that style of sleeves but I don't like them.

I saw in the evening paper about Mrs. Gibson's boy, and wondered if they wanted a girl this time.

I am making Margaret a spring jacket out of that little red henrietta dress. It is lined with the flannell which lined the old plaid cloak of Doris. The jacket is all done except buttons and buttonholes. I am planning to get brass buttons; they are worn on most anything, especially on red.

Florence sat up in the corner of her bed for an hour this morning and again this afternoon. She grinned and stuck out her tongue when anyone came near her.

Rose says almost everything now and thinks she can say anything she tries.

I fixed Alice's dress by ripping off the skirt and sewing it onto the bottom of the waist (which went down under the skirt about three inches). Then I turned up another hem. Now the red sleeves are all worn out. You did not give me any pieces like that; at least I haven't seen any. I want it to last another month. Margaret is through the sleeves of her everyday dress.

Alice Coolidge came up here Thursday and brought Rose a little silver spoon and Florence a crocheted worsted jacket, white with a pink yoke and pink cuffs and pink on the edge.

My marguerite is loaded with blossoms and they are the largest it has ever borne.

Alice and Margaret went to Sunday School and they each had a penny. After it was all over, I found that Margaret had refused to give up hers when the time came and brought it home with her.

My sore thumb is much better. Yesterday and today that bunch on my hand is troubling me again.

Rose has another front tooth through, only five in all. It does seem as though she was awfully slow about getting her teeth.

I am writing with three to help me, and don't know what I am doing. It has grown much colder last night and today. Must stop for supper.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
March 27, 1901

Dear Mamma

Your letter came today. It went to Marlboro and Auntie sent it directly to me. I used the lining part of my shirt waist pattern and cut a corset cover by it and when I tried it on I thought it was large for the size.

I am wishing now to make a plan so I can go to Burlington when Frank goes to the convention. Dye and Kingsley are going and their wives expect to go. I am laughing at Frank about his going, because one of the events is a dance and reception and he never danced a step. The convention lasts a day and a night. He will leave here at 8:30 in the morning and get home the next day at 11:15 a.m.

I will accept your offer of Leslie's coat and will ask you to send it by express as soon as convenient. I am going to sew for myself now and let the others get along for awhile. I think they have more clothes than I have.

Will Georgie drive the horse to camp? I should think it would be cheaper than horse fare on the cars.

Frank is planning to be off from work for a month this summer and says he will try and get the time when you would be apt to have the most use for him at camp. He wants to go up there but will not unless he can help and save you some hired help or other help. He will speak for his vacation in good season hoping he can have it when he wants it. He has always taken what was left and thinks it about time he had a choice in the matter.

Alice thinks she might have one of Lowry's kittens but doesn't know just how it could get up here. I asked if it couldn't come in a letter but she was afraid you hadn't any envelopes big enough to put it in. She thinks it queer that somebody doesn't write to her; she thinks Aunt Mollie might.

You will see in the papers about the city hall burning down. I guess everybody but us was there to see. We heard the alarm but didn't know what it was until the next day.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
December 27, 1901

Dear George

The children were all delighted with the things you sent them and I think that collar is too fine for me to wear. Alice is especially pleased, for she received four books and can read some in each of them. They each have more than twenty things and I am almost crazy trying to remember "whose is whose" and in trying to have them leave each others things alone. I put away some without letting them see them and when the others are broken will get them out.

My face is still so much swollen that I am living on "spoon vitals", mostly cocoa and coffee.

The youngest of the Donahue boys, George, is working in the post office and when Frank mailed a bundle to Mary, noticed the name and began asking about you. He has just been appointed clerk; he stood pretty well in the examination. The other boys work at the scale works and are "some wild" or at least that is what I have heard.

I have so many letters to write that this will have to be rather short.

Yours  
Lulu A. Fuller  
27 Jackson Ave.



Rutland, Vt.  
January 10, 1902

Dear George

I think you must be in league with the milkman when you bought those dishes for the children. They want to use them three times a day and Rosana says when she uses the milk pitcher "me get milk all me own self just the same."

I have looked for the children's pictures every day this week and am quite anxious to get them.

We are all except Margaret the victims of colds, and handkerchiefs are in great demand.

Santa Claus brought three tea sets here and I am having quite a time keeping Margaret's and Rosana's apart, as they are just alike and each claims all she can get her hands on. Rosana owns two tea sets, or at least the "remains" of two.

Florence stands up holding onto things and walks by pushing a chair in front of her. She cut her first tooth last week and I am in hopes she will not have any more sores on her head. She has just had two awful ones; one was over two inches in diameter.

I am quite under the weather today and have had to give up and get a hired girl. She is to come Sunday and I expect some "spooning" because Guy Fuller has been much "interested" in her for over two years, and sees her about seven nights in the week.

Remember me to Mr. Fred Parker. Alice remembers his playing on the harmonica and wanted me to get her "one of those things that Fred who was up to camp with Uncle George had to put in his mouth to make music on."

I hope the sofa pillow came up to your expectations. I like it the best of any I have made and it was much admired here in the neighborhood.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Fuller

Rutland, Vt.  
April 5, 1903

Dear George

I like your picture very much. I think it is real good. I wish I had some of me, but can't foot the bill at present. I also want a good one of Rosana.

When Mamma was here she brought a military coat of blue broadcloth which you had made, and I am planning to make me a jacket out of it. I thought if I could get it on as it is now, I ought to make out to fix it over.

I have been trying to buy ready made dresses for the children but only one store here has any and they are all made the same; only a little difference in color and I think I prefer a variety.

Florence is growing fast now. Yesterday she tried to jump rope with a string. She had watched the little girls next door.

Mamma says you have taken out life insurance in the same company as Frank's, through Mr. Farrar. Is yours an endowment policy? Frank's is not as he was rather too old for that kind when he took his out. His premium is due this month. He pays \$26 a year and doesn't think it high.

Margaret is still rather frail from her sickness of last summer. It will be a year in May since she had the measles. If she doesn't pick up soon, she never will and I don't think she is ever going to be well again.

(cont'd)



Alice has just lost her first tooth. She was quite mad when I pulled it out. The new one was through before the old one was loose, but I loosened it and pulled it out with my fingers.

I suppose you saw in the paper about the Reindeer sinking at her dock. She was worn out. The paper said that her engines were the only thing of any value.

We will have another law suit to interest us now that Patch has now hit. John Woodfin (Lincoln Iron Works) is going to sue the same lodge. I don't see how Patch is going to collect his \$2500. The men certainly have not that in their hands.

Have you seen a copy of the new "Union" paper? I don't think it will run long. We were quite amused because at election time it did not support the "union" candidate for mayor.

I think it is doubtful if the folks get to the island Wednesday. There have been no trains over the new road for three days and there is three feet of water over the track, and Railroad men say the filling is badly washed out between Burlington and Allen's Point. The track is under even more water between Alburgh and Rouses Point. The paper says the lake has never been so high but once.

Florence is helping me so much that I can hardly write at all.

Yours truly  
Lulu A. Fuller

Rutland, Vt.  
June 29, 1903

Dear George

I hear you are going to camp soon and so am writing to ask you to stop over and make us a visit either or both ways. It seems a long time since I have seen you.

I heard today from Leslie about their girl. I suppose they think it is all the baby in the world.

Yours very truly  
Lulu A. Fuller

Rutland, Vt.  
August 2

Dear Mamma

I am putting in a piece from the paper which I thought might be interesting to you. The Mrs. Watkins is the one who has been over to camp once or twice.

I did not know when Bess would be leaving so sent a little birthday gift to her in Alice's letter.

Yesterday afternoon I went to see Mrs. Wiltsie who lived in the other side of the house. Her husband died very suddenly of heart trouble in the night Thursday and she is left with five little children and not a cent coming to her; the youngest child not six weeks old yet. She is almost crazy and I am not surprised.

Aunt Julia went home Wednesday, she said she had a good time.

I canned five quarts of raspberries yesterday but do not expect to have much fruit this year as everything is rather scarce. I had ten quarts of raspberries the day Walter and Sadie left.

Walter wrote me of his new position. I supposed from what he said that he would be married when he got it.

(cont'd)



Frank wants to know if he comes up if he shall bring blankets. He says he can sleep in a hammock if it is at all warm. He also says that if he gets up there and can't work to pay for his keep that he won't stay. I am afraid he will have to stop working if he doesn't feel better.

Margaret and Rosana are rather impatient for Alice to come home.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
August 9

Dear Mamma

Frank's vacation starts next Saturday and he expects to start that day. I believe on the morning train because he wants to stop a while in Burlington, but I don't think he has entirely decided on his plans. He went berrying today but didn't get many; two quarts of raspberries. I am afraid I won't have much fruit canned this year. All the blueberries are 18¢ and I haven't tasted of them at that price. I went down to Mary Jane's today and she gave me some string beans. Those will be the first fresh vegetables I have had this year. We didn't have a garden and Frank doesn't like store vegetables and won't buy them, so I haven't had anything.

Mrs. Hussey is quite a little better. Her hands are the best that they have been since she was first sick. She was at Sunday School last Sunday. Mattie is here now, but I don't know how long she will stay.

If you think of anything you want Frank to get, you can send word as late as Friday and he will get the letter in the evening. I wish he could be persuaded to take a little time off after his vacation. Perhaps you will be alarmed when I tell you that he has had his old teeth out so that he will be able to eat when he gets to camp. He says he thinks if he doesn't have the toothache and can eat, he will grow fat.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
August 19

Dear Mamma

We are getting along pretty well alone, fully as well as I expected and I hope Frank's vacation will do him some good. I wish he could be persuaded to stay another week. I think he ought to.

I cut out ten new nightgowns Monday and am working on them now. I wanted to get them all done this week and next, but am afraid I can't as I am doing some extra cleaning up. I have just washed all the windows downstairs this morning. I began at just six.

I asked Millie Fuller yesterday how Edith was and she says she is pretty badly off and is not expected to last much longer. Millie said she didn't suppose she would have lived as long as she has.

I noticed in this morning's paper the marriage of Daisy Hutchinson's mother. I heard it was to be quite a long while ago.

Mrs. Hussey is much better and has been to S.S. for two Sundays. Mattie is here now.

I presume Walter has written you the date of his marriage. I had a letter from Hope but she didn't say when hers would be.

I have been writing while the children were eating their breakfast and now they are through. I will stop and get ready to mop my floors.

Lulu



Rutland, Vt.  
Oct. 9, 1903

Dear Mamma

We have had two rainy days but the rain was needed.

The letter which Mr. Sheldon wrote to Frank has just turned up. It was post-marked at South Hero on September 12, and held there until last Thursday. I suppose it was not delivered because it did not say Eagle Camp on it but I should have thought that after delivering so many for Frank at camp they would have known enough to send that one there, too.

I had a letter from Sadie and one from Walter this week. I hadn't heard from them since they left camp. I thought I would hear from Mary, but haven't yet.

I suppose you will stop here on your way home. Rosana and Margaret are saving their school papers and things to show you.

I made a cloak for Alice out of Ada Woods dress and have made her a skirt out of that blue flannell coat which was Georgie's. It made an eight-gored skirt, but I made plaits on the seams and it is a very pretty skirt. Today I am fixing a dress out of Margaret's old brown serge and some light brown mixed goods.

I ripped up that heavy brown military coat, and as it is just like that old blue cape of mine, I think I can make me a jacket out of the two. I don't really like to wear my golf cape for church, and don't see just how to buy a jacket. I don't really like the styles in jackets this year; they are not planned for short fat folks.

Florence has a time every morning because she can't go to school when the others do. She is very cute and talks much more than even a month ago.

Lulu

Rutland, Vt.  
Nov. 5, 1903

Dear George

I am trying to write you a letter today as I believe it is your birthday. I fight rather shy of birthday presents since I sent Bessie one and she replied that she didn't care to have her birthdays noticed and had rather not have attention called to them in any way, but perhaps you would not be quite so sensitive.

I suppose you will be in Chester for Thanksgiving. I want to very much but am some doubtful about it. I don't feel right to go without Frank and I don't suppose I can persuade him to go.

I presume you have heard of Mrs. Gutterson's death. It seems one of the saddest things I ever knew of and has caused a lot of indignation and talk. I think Mrs. Gutterson and Edith Fuller will be very much missed by the church folks.

Rosana enjoys the kindergarten very much. She goes with a little Johnson boy who lives near us. They keep tight hold of hands and are quite a picture.

Margaret is doing finely in the first grade and doesn't seem to have any trouble in keeping up with the work.

Frank is growing fat, or at least his clothes are getting tight for him and he still weighs as much as when he came from camp.

I am sewing all the time and guess I will keep on for sometime. I am making me a jacket out of your heavy blue military coat. It was something of a job to get it pieced up. The blue flannell coat you had made a nice skirt for Alice, so you see we don't have much new here. We use up everyone's old clothes.

(cont'd)



Every morning Florence cries because she cannot go to school with the others, and if I didn't look out she would follow them off. She is very cute just now and goes up to the little store on our street all alone to spend her pennies for candy. Fred and Guy give her pennies if she will kiss them, so now she offers to kiss them and asks for the penny afterwards.

Alice and Margaret have been disputing about what they will name their children when they get married and have some. They were inquiring a few days ago if folks ever had more children than they wanted.

Well, I guess I have wasted enough paper for once. I don't know when I shall see you again but presume I shall sometime. You will know I do think of folks once in a while even if I don't write often. I am nearly dragged out with my work and don't do a good deal that seems more necessary than letter writing.

Yours very truly  
Lulu A. Fuller