I should not worry a bit about the loss in weight, because as a girl and during your early married life, you seldom weighed much over 100.

I think you understand the delay in getting a marker for Etoile's grave is occasioned by the inability of the marble company to secure a stone of the size and coloring of the marker we now have.

I hope your little colored girl will prove to be a veritable "Topsy" in disposition, but perhaps with a little clearer idea of what she should and should not do.

In regard to the quilted robe and Spanish shawl, I think I should not be in a hurry to do anything with them. I know that none of us would want to have anything in our possession that was in any way connected with Joe, and if later on it seems best to return those articles to him, that might be the best thing to do.

Thank you for speaking of the hat which you think Dorothea could wear. I shall hold your letter until Gertie's return and then let her pass it on to Dorothea.

Once more I want you to remember there is no necessity for trying to divide things with me excepting as to those of no intrinsic value but of great sentimental value. I do not recall that Etoile ever gave us one of mamma's spoons nor the German silver spoon, but Gertie will know about it when she comes home. I don't think there is anything in your letter that should make you hesitate to have Gertrude read it.

Your writing seems to improve with every letter which indicates that you are indeed making recovery.

I doubt if there is any way to follow up anything that may be due Etoile in Macedonia. She may have a record somewhere, but we haven't seen anything of that sort here.

I am very glad that you found the storage receipt. Did you ask Julia Blackhurst if there was anything that she wanted?

I mentioned having spoken for mamma's old music to Gertrude and she would be delighted to have it, and as I said before, we would take great pains to preserve it.

Lots of love

from your brother