

Minneapolis, Minn. March 14, 1946.

My very dear Brother-Cousin;-

I was very sorry to hear of Gertrude's serious illness, but rejoice that you were able to bring her home again in a very much improved condition. I hope all is still going on well, and that your great anxiety is over.

I would have written many times in the past three weeks, if I had been feeling up to par; but this is the first time I have sat down to the machine to do any writing, as I have not been feeling up to ~~par~~ ^{par}. It has been a long hard Winter, continued cold up to a few days ago, when it turned warm, and now our snow drifts have nearly disappeared. I have been spending a great deal of the time in bed; not in extreme pain, but too weak to enjoy sitting up.

Everything has been going on quietly and peacefully here. The presence of the boys do not disturb me at all; they are so quiet, and so helpful and kind. Phillip is taking an eighteen months' course in Electrical Engineering at Dunwoody Institute, and after he finishes he expects to prepare for a home and marry his school-girl sweetheart. Milo is still suffering from his experiences at Owinawa, and though working daily, is taking treatments at the Veterans' Hospital. Our George is well and eagerly looking forward to the fishing season, when he hopes to have sport over the week ends. He is the Naval Mechanic, 25, and is my favorite.

My last letter was written about Feby. 20th, when I wrote a birthday letter to Grayce. I am now owing a letter to Kathryn, who is so kind as to write me often. It seems that she has not been very well lately, and her relatives in Rome are trying to persuade them to sell their home at Jackson, and move back there. I think it would be a great mistake, when they have their home so nearly paid for.

I must get up strength enough to go down town soon, and pay my taxes for another year. They are considerably higher than they have been for several years. I also face the possibility of having to put considerable money in repairs this Spring. I should have the house painted again, and I may have to have an Asbestos roof. I would not mind if my income would cover it all; but I have to dip into my principal for these larger expenses. If I only live a few years, I may get by nicely. My property has never had a dollar of incumbrance, and I pray that I may never have to resort to that. Of course my heaviest expense is Mrs. Olson as housekeeper, and Mr. Cook as caretaker outside. Of course, I can not get along without this help.

My friends are fine about sending me splendid reading matter, that gives me much inspiration and comfort. Our International situation is anything but inspiring. We are asked to make many sacrifices for the poor in other lands, and I am only too willing to help. I would like to cut down to two meals a day.

My thoughts are with you and Gertrude at this time, and I pray that all may be well with you both.

When the streets dry up I hope to get out a little, and walk half a block a day. With four cars in the family, I may have an auto ride once in a while.

With loving remembrance,

Lillian.