

## THE LOVE LETTERS.

From Almon Rockenbach and Elizabeth Catlow.

[Spelling and word usage are as they appear. Some punctuation and words in brackets were added for clarity]

Deerfield Ill  
Aug 22th 97

Lizzie

I recved you letter, and think it is verry kind of you to think of me. The roods wer good, I got home about One Oc. I wasend of [off] my wheel from the time i left B. untill I got home. It was a lonly ride. I havend forgotten last Sundy night, and wished i could see you to night. The first Sundy it looks like rain, I am coming to see you. Wright soon.

yours truly  
Almon.

Deerfield Ill.  
Sep. 12th 97

Lizzie

I thought i let you now [know] that I got home save [safe] last Sundy night, but then moon light rids don't agree with me. I wished i could be with you to day I am geting lonesome. We are going to the Fair Friday and hope you will be thare. Ormon and May are going with us. I was hauling sand and brick all wheek for our house and ditent have time to think ore i would have written before this.

I didnt go to the picnic last night, my best girl give me the G.B. so I hat to stay home. I soppose you and Mr. S. hat a good time. I gess i must close you wil get of [off] redding all this.

*{ I GESS I MUST CLOSE OR YOU WILL NOT  
GET OFF READING ALL THIS TONIGHT }*

yours truly  
Almon.

Deerfield Ill.  
sep. 29 97

Lizzie

I recieved your letter and was glad to here from you. I cant come over next Sunday. I wish i could, it is a long time since I saw you. I will be over a wheek from Sunday Oct. 10. I am hauling gravel all wheek, thare is about four in. dust, we cant see the horses some times. Ormon and I are going to Libertyvill next Sunday. May is coming out Friday to hunt nuts so thay got something to give next winter. I must close.

Almon

Deerfield Ill.  
Oct. 18th 97

Dear friend Lizzie

I tought I wright and let you now [know] that i got home save and sound. It seams as if luck was with me when I come to see you, only the nights are to short, I tought on the way home of what i sead [said] to you, and am verry-very sorry. I hope you dont think for an instant that i ment it, you wont will you? I was husking corn all wheek and my fingers feel as big as a post. Preston sed if we two have to husk it alone we wont get thrugh till next spring.

Our house is about halve finished and it looks fine.

I am going to see the Everets and Deerfield play Base Ball to day, thay say it going to be a hot game.

I wish you wer going with me. Ill think of you jest the same. I must close.

Almon

Deerfield Ill.  
Oct 31 - 97

Lizzie

I recieved your letter and am always glad to here from you. I suppose you wer looking for me to day, I was ready to start but the weather looked so threatning, I was afraid to start, you now [know] it is so far. I wish I could be with you to night, it seams a long time sense i saw you. I will come next Sunday if the roads are not to bad.

We almost smother over here with smoak, the tinber is on fire for miles, it does lots of damage. Ormon got the contract to build the school house at Deerfield, it was let by seled bids, he got it by one dollar, he thinks he is the hole think [thing] now.

I gues i must close, it is geting late, I got another for you.

yours truly  
Almon

Deerfield Ill.  
Nov. 14 - 97

Miss Lizzie

I recivied your letter, and as I can not come to see you, i tought i let you now [know] that ive not forgotten you. I could not have come last Sunday if the weather was nice, for i had two teeth pulled and had an abscess on another, i had to much cheek to sell. I dont now [know] when i can come, i dont think i can come on my wheel any more this year, I have to try somthing diferent next time, i hope you are not looking fore me to day, i gess you got tired of looking for me, I am sorry i disipointed you, i wont next time.

I wished i could be with you to night, it makes me feel lonesome when i think of the nights we have pased together, thare must be some more like them, let me now [know] if thare is, but dont name to menny, oil is to expensive.

A load of us went to Wheeling last night to a dance, we had a fine time, I wished you wer with us, it didnt do a think [thing] but rain, when we went home. We finished husking corn Friday, i am glad we are trough, I am going to work for Mr. Easton to morow.

Viola, Irene and Preston went to Avendale yesterday, and are coming home to night. Ormon went home Saturday night with a basket of lunch fore them.

Sam shoat a wild goose Thursday, it was a big one, but we didnt do a thing to it at the dinner table, the cats got sick when thay saw ous, thay new thare part was small. I am wound up to day. I think you better come and see me, i think it must be leap year.

yuaers truly  
Almon

Deerfield Ill.  
Nov. 28 - 97

Dear Lizzie

I recieved your letter and was verry glad to here from you, it made me feel verry bad that you think I dont want to come, i now [know] it is a long time sense I saw you, but it is not my fault, I would of come if i could, you dont now [know] how much i like to see you if i only could with you a nother night, if i could only see you once a wheek. I was thinking of you all wheek. I am very sorry I disipointed you, dont find to much fault, you now i would of come if i could. I got over half way last, but the roads wer so bad, i had to go turn back. I dont now when i can come. I wished i could be with you to night.

O how i wished i could see you.

yours truly  
Almon

Barrington, Ill.  
Dec. 2, '97.

Dear Almon-;

I am going to Waukegan tomorrow morning, so I thought I would write you a short letter before I go.

I guess I will stay a week if the ice business don't commence before then, I am going to help Grandma Whitney when it does.

I am going to visit Aunt Lilly, 417 Ash St., 'am going to take Josephine with me. I expect to have a good time, wished you lived in Waukegan next week, so I could see you.

Almon will you forgive me for writing as [I] did before, I am very sorry you felt badly about it, please don't, for I ought to have known better.

If I can't see you it is a great pleasure to get your letters.

Belle has gone to the city to stay all winter I guess. It seems awful lonesome without her.

Please excuse lead pensel every one has gone to bed and I cant get the pen and ink.

Must close yours in haste.

Lizzie

P.S. Are you coming to Lake Zurich to work on the ice this winter?

Deerfield Ill.  
Dec. 12 - 97

Dear Lizzie

I recivied your letter and was glad to hear from you, I hope you had a good time at Waukegan, i wished i could have ben with you, it is awful lonesome over here. I dont think I be lonesome if i could be with you to night, it is so long sence i saw you, but i gess it is all my fault that i didnt see you for so long, I gess thare will be a time some day. I gess i will be over tow [two] wheeks from to day, Dec. 26th. I will let you now if i am comming.

yours truly  
Almon

Barrington, Ill.  
Dec. 19, '97

Dear Almon. I am awful glad you are comeing next Sunday, I was wondering if I was ever going to see you again.

I think you will be surprised to hear that I am back at Grandpas', his house-keeper left and he was taken sick and sent for me, so the very day I came from Waukegan I had to come up here, I didn't want to come.

Can you come and spend Christmas with us, we are going to have Xmas dinner at our place and I wish you would come and stay all night, then you could be here Sun. Dec. 26, too.

Belle is comeing home, and I think Aunt May and Orman are comeing too.

I shall be very much dissappointed if you don't come this time.

Don't forget to let me know if you are comeing or not.

Yours Cordially  
Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
Jan. 2 - 98

Dear Lizzie

I tought i let you now that i got home save, i only had to wate five minuits at Mayfair, the Barrington train was ten minuits late, i tought i would be to late but the Deerfield train was late to. I enyoyed myself at B., i always do when i come to see you, only the time was to short, the nights are not long

enough when i come to see you. I wished i could be with you to day, i am so lonesome without you, it will be so long before i see you agan, i gess i will have to look for that young lady that you was telling me i was ingaged to, dont be supriised if you get an invitation to the wedding. I was glad she didnt see us last Christmas night, i think i to have got the bounce, dont you think so, if you dont i dont now who should. I was invited to three surprise parties, T. F. and Saterdag night, but i only went saterdag night. I didnt have a very good time, i was thinking about you, i always do you now. Viola was to all three parties, she thinks she is the hole think [thing]. Did you halve any more Sleigh rides since i was with you, i enjoyed the ride if thare was no snow.

How is your Grandpa getting along, i hope he is well by this time, it must be tiresome for you to stay thare alone, you must get that Waukegan friend to stay with you some nights, did you get the ticket. I must close.

yours truly  
Almon

Deerfield Ill.  
Jan 19 98

Dear Lizzie

You must forgive me not writting before this, for i have ben sick for almost a wheek with the grib, and am not well yet. I wished i could see you now, i would feel much better, but you are so far away, i cant do no better - than wright to you. I now you would like to see me, you always do, i now. I am sorry i cant tell you you [your] wish for i have forgotten it, i never tought about it untill i recievied your letter, when i come to see you i will wish it on agan, if you will let me, i try and not to forget it.

yours as ever  
Almon

Barrington  
Jan 23, '98

Dear Almon.,

I am so sorry you have been sick and I do hope you will be well by this time.

I couldn't imagine why I didn't get a letter from you the first of the week. I surely thought you had found "her" you know, but I felt real sorry for you when I learned you were ill.

I have lost my job again. What do you think about me? Grandpa got well so fast that he wanted a change of house keepers, and of course I didn't object. So one came Wednesday night and I came home Friday.

Belle came out to a dance last Fri night and stayed until Sunday night. I am going in to see her and Aunt May soon.

I am going to a basket social at Lake Zurich, given by the Sunday school, next Sat night, if nothing happens to prevent. I wish I was going to see you then, it seems an age since Xmas to me.

I am making that tie I promised you when you were here.

The lamp is going out so I must close, hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain as ever  
Lizzie.

Lake Zurie Ill.  
Feb 3 - 98

Dear Lizzie

I tought i let you now that i got home all right last saterdag night, i was verry tirid when i got home, i walked to grayland, thare were no cars running, but i didnt care as long as i saw you, you was so kind to me, i wished you was here now, i dont have as good times as last winter, but i didnt come to have a

good time, i come to work, the house is packed full of peeples, thay got me in the cottage, thay are nicer men then last winter, it is very cold out here, but i dont mind it much, i working in the house it is not so cold thare. I come over Sunday the roads were verry bad, we droye [drove] in the felds most of the time. We had a tumble in a big snow bank, we went in head first, my helt is verry good cence i ame here, i wished i could see you now, cant you come out here, i wished you would, let me now when you are comming, i always think about you wen i am lonesome and some time when i am not lonesome, i ges i must close for i must go to work to night at seven oclock, we are going to work all night, i worked till five to day, you must excuse bad writting for i had to write in a hurry.

yours as ever  
Almon

Avondale, Ill.  
Feb. 7, '98.

Dear Almon-;

I was so pleased to get your letter I could have hugged the mail-man for bringing it, (but I didnt). I am glad to hear you are feeling better, I was so sorry your head ached so while you were here.

I don't think I will be out home while the ice weather lasts. I am going to stay with Aunt May until Orman comes home.

When the ice business is over can't you come home by way of Avondale, I wish you could.

Belle was here yesterday afternoon, she said John Brasil is seriously ill, he has stomache trouble, he had to give up his work, he can't leave the house. I feel so sorry for Belle, she feels so badly about him.

Belle and the boys came over after me the other evening and we went to the theatre, it was a splendid play, and I enjoyed it ever so much, only I should have enjoyed it much more if you had been with me instead of someone else, but then you know, you said you didn't care if I did go with someone else.

I wish I was at Lake Zurich this winter, like I was last winter, but then I am having a real snap in here, there is hardly anything to do.

O say that box of candy was just fine, only I would have enjoyed it ever so much more if you had only been with me to help me eat it.

I am glad you have work in the house when it isnt so cold, do be careful and don't get hurt.

If I do happen to come out there while you are there, I will let you know.

I am going over to see Belle some afternoon this week, I think.

Please write as soon as you find time I like to get your letters.

I am sorry you have to work at nights too. Well good bye.

Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
Feb. 13 - 98

Dear Lizzie

As i did not come to see you Sunday, i tought i would wright and let you now i have not forgotten you, only the time is so short when i come to see you, but it is better short then never, i gess you are glad you got your mortgage payed off, i think that was cheep for half the monney, mabe you dont think so. I come to see you some time if i havend got any mortgage, i am always happy when i am with you, i wished i could be with you to night, but that other gentleman will entertain you wile i am gone, i hope his mortgage is not as large as mine was, ore you would not have any more for me, i hope you dont think i am rude, the roads are very bad out here, the sleighing is all gone, thare is lots of water, i wished it would freze so i could goe skating with my best girl.

i am working hard cence i came home, Preston and i got work till spring, we got another job to cut wood, we have got eighty cords to cut, i must close.

yours as ever  
Almon.

Deerfield Ill.  
Feb 28th 98

Dear Lizzie

I recieved your letter and was verry glad to here from you, I didnt think you was going to write any more, it was so long sense I got a letter from you, three wheeks just think off [of] it.

I tought about you all the time. I tought you must be sick, that you didnt write, ore got on the track of some one else. I wished I could see you to day, it would be so much better then writting. I cant tell you half by writting. We had such a good time the last time we were together, I wished thay would come oftner. I could stay up all night with you and would not get tired if had another - to day I feel contended for this wheek, I mabe down to see you next Sunday night, it I can get leve, I dont now if I will find the place, I never was out that way. We have lots of snow out here, we have got the best sleighing we have had for years. I went to a dance last night, we had fifteen on our sleigh. I got home at four oc this morning, it was a hard croud at the dance, I am ashamed to say I was one of them. I wished you could half ben with ous to engoy the sleighride, but it would not ben any credit to you to have ben to the dance, dont think I was one of the toughs.

Mr. Eli Ott and bride have left for thare home in Can. he is the happiest man in Can.

he was to our home before he was married but I wasent home, he sed he was comming to say good bye but it stormed so after the wed. I didnt get to see him. I dont think he will goe to Barrington on his wheel any more.

Sam is gon tow [two] wheeks, we didnt here from him yet, gess he is got home sick by this [time].

Ed Ott and another jum [chum] of mine are going to leve for Iowa to morow, thay are all leving this part of the country. I will be the only one left. I dont now what I do if I would not have you to wright to. we are making wood every day, but we drive to the woods so we have a nice cutter ride every day, it is about two miles. I wished you would not have to work so hard, dont wate so long before you write next time.

yours as ever  
Almon

Deerfield Ill.  
Mar. 13 - 98

Dear Lizzie

As I can not come to see you today, I will write and let you now I not forgotten you. I wished I could be with you today, it seams a long time sense last Sunday. I always have a good time when i am with you, only the time is so short, I could have stayed a little longer with you last Sunday night, I had to wate forthy min for my train, but it didnt take long to get to Deerfield. I slected most of the way, if the train wood half went trough I gess I went to Mil.

Did you see that other fellow sense I saw you, I ges he thinks his six wheeks are almos up, I dont blame him, he dont want to whare out his shoes for nothing, I hope he will get left, think off me when his time is up.

The roads are awful bad out here, we cant hardly get trough, it snowed last night. did you here that Harris and Fooley failed fore \$50,000, I dont now if Ormon got all his monney, I dont think he did. I didnt get mine, I got a check but I dont think it is any good, I worked for charity.

I am yours as ever  
Almon

Chicago, Ill.  
Mar. 16. '98

Dear Almon;

I will answer your letter tonight, for if you are as glad to get my letters, as I am to get yours', I am sure this one will be welcome.

I am sorry you had to wait so long for that train, I am sure the time would have passed quicker if you had waited here. don't you think it would? but I am glad the train did stop at Deerfield, and didn't take you to Milwaukee, for if it had I am afraid you wouldn't have come back.

Yes, I have seen "that other fellow" three times since you were here, he says the time is up a week from next Sun. Mar 27, can't you come to see me that Sun, and then it wouldn't make any difference if his time was up, for you have first claim and if you don't come I don't know what I will do. I guess I will go to see Aunt May then, I won't be at home when he comes, but do come if you possibly can for I would like to see you, for it does seem a long time since I saw you.

I have been over to see "the baby" twice, "it's a peach", the first time I went there Orman was down on his knees scrubbing the kitchen floor, he knows how to scrub alright.

Ma and Pa were in the city this week, I was surprised to see them. Mamma is at Aunt Mays now but Papa went home yesterday.

Belle was up to the Lake helping Aunt Lydia keep ice boarders for a while but she is home now, I got a letter from her the other day, she says she is married, but I guess she is fooling. She said all the people in Barrington were congratulating John, guess I will have to wait for futher particulars.

It is getting very late, I waited for all the children to go to bed before I started to write, so I wouldn't be bothered. Ma told me H. & F. failed, papa lost \$13.00 I think, I am sorry you didn't get your check cashed before he failed.

Do be a "good boy" and write me next Sun, say you will come to see me the 26th, wont you please!

Must close I remain as ever yours  
Lizzie

P.S. I got a letter from Gertrude & she says' she is going to be a nurse if there is war. You'll come and say good bye before you go to war won't you?

Deerfield Ill.  
Sun. March 27 - 98

Dear Lizzie

I recieved your letter and was verry glad to get it, I wished I get one every day, thay are always welcome. you must excuse me for not writing before this, I suppose you will be looking for me to day, I wished I could have come, I like to see you very much, you sed it was my first chance, I wished I could have come and clamed it. I dont think the other fellow wood have got a chance [to] claim his, as long as I was with you, bute you are your one [own] judge, you mabe woodent ask my advice, but I now you will be a good girl. it makes me feel very bad that I could not come to see you, I now you will be looking fore me, you always do. you now I am not boss and thare is lots to do on Sundays to, if i am gone, I now you would not want me to lose my gob [job], but I would do anything for you if i could. It is only three wheeks sence I saw you, it semes about six. I congradlate you on your new brother in law, I gess thay are over thare honey moon by this time, dont you wish it was yours, thay dont have to write any more letters. I gess you will be the next in the famley, dont for get and send me an invitation, you wont will you.

I gess I go to war before mine comes off, so dont be suprised. I will come and tell you all about it before I go. I think Sam must have went, for we havend herd from him yet, I gess he eloped with some girl. I must close. dont wait as long as I did before you write. so good bye.

yours as ever  
Almon

Barrington  
Apr 3 98.

You are cordially invited to attend a birthday party on Belle Catlow on Thursday evening Apr 7th at her home.

Mrs. J. G. Catlow

Chicago Ill.  
Apr 4.

Dear Almon.

I didn't write to you last night but I thought of you just the same, I hope you won't think I have forgotten you if you don't get this letter in time.

I wish today was last Monday so I could see you again.

Aunt Em & Uncle Ted celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of their wedding day, tonight, and the house was full of people, I tell you I have been busy getting ready for them. I even worked on Sunday, but I don't care, I am going out home Thursday night for a visit and I hope I'll see you at the party. Ma and pa were in to night they went home on the midnight train.

I think as long as you didn't go until the midnight last Mon. night you might have come over here and spent the evening with me. I wish you had. I would have liked to had you come.

That box of "Lenox soap" is fine. I wish you were here to enjoy it too, I should like it much better if you were, I am sure it would be sweeter.

Have you heard from Foley yet? I hope you will get it O.K.

I must close it is after midnight and I must get up early tomorrow and wash and get the house in order so I can go home.

I couldn't find my pen tonight. I guess one of the children borrowed it, so please excuse pensil.

Is your mother feeling better I hope she is.

I am sleepy so good night. I will write better next time.

yours lovingly  
Lizzie 321 Flournoy

Hope the roads will be [good] so you can come to Belles' party, I should like to see you.

I guess I won't send you a stamp this time, will wait until I see you.

Deerfield Ill.  
April 10 - 98

Dear Lizzie

I got home all right last Thursday night, it wasend very cold, I wished you were with me. I think you would enoyed the ride. I now I would if you were with me, but I didnt get verry lonesome, I am getting used to going alone, I always must you now.

I got home at three oclock. I didnt get verry much sleep but I didnt care, as long as I saw you, only the time was to short. I suppose you had a good time after I was gone.

Ma. and pa. went to Chi. yesterday and are to Ormans to day, so I am the boss but only over my self, I ges every one is boss. Sam came home today, he ses he got a good place, he dont do anything but chars, he is going back to night. We havend don any sawing yet, it is to wet, it rained all Friday night till Sat. noon. Bell party was just in time, it was a splendid night. I dont think I could go now the roads are so bad but you wod not care if I came ore not, there were so many other yong men thare. you didnt have a good time as long as I was thare, you had to take care of me, the others were all your old frends. I wished I could be with you tonight. I didnt hardly get a chance to talk to you thursday night, I cand hardly wait till I can see you, I coming as soon as I can get off. I let you now wen I am coming.

the boys out here say thay got thair cow bells and tin boilers redy fore me,



I told them thair boilers would fall to pecies with rust before thay would get a chance to use them, dont you think so. I think I will wait for some old maid. I must close.

yours as ever  
Good by dear  
Almon

Chicago Ill.  
April 17, 98

My Dear Almon;

I started a letter to you three or four nights ago but didn't finish it, I intended to answer your letter before this. I was very glad to get it, I was not expecting it because I thought you wouldn't write until this Sun. but I am awful glad you didnt wait.

I am afraid you didn't enjoy yourself at the party. I am so sorry you didn't, I will tell you, what a "good time" I had, after you left, I wished you could have stayed all night, yes I am sure I would have enjoyed the ride home with you.

I just got back from Aunt Mays a few minutes ago. Orman and Mr. Vocal went to Lincoln Park on their wheels this afternoon and Mr. Vocal broke down, his foot slipped and broke the spokes in the front wheel, he was a little mad I guess.

It seems a long time since I have had a good visit with you. I wish I could see you next Sunday. I know you will come if you can get off. I will stay home and look for you anyway. I will think of you if you don't come.

I am sure I would not have enjoyed myself at the party at all if you hadn't come.

I came back Sat. morning, I got a new pen and thought I would use it to night but when I got the ink bottle I found that one of the kids had filled it up with water so of course I couldnt use it. I am writing with a short pensil, I think, you will have to guess, at what you cant read of this and I will tell you the rest when I see you. I must close and write a letter to mother and Belle, they will be looking for one and I havn't written since I came back.

Try and come Sun. please for I am anxious to see you.

Yours as ever  
Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
April 24 - 98.

Dear Lizzie

I recived your letter and am always glad to here from you, I now you will be looking for me to day. I wished I could have come I like to see you again. I think I could pass another night with you, it is so long that we had a good time together.

I never get tired off seeing you if it was every day. I think off you every day and am sorry I could not come to see you to day. I tell you all about it, why I did not come to see you to day next time I see you.

The war has begon, I am ready to goe if thay can make use of me, but the folks dont want to let me goe. I didnt here nothing else but war the last wheek, its war in the morning when I get up and war when I goe to bed, but I always think of you dear. I come and say good bye before I goe.

I comming to see you next Sunday, I wished I was with you to day instead of writting this letter.

I remain yours as ever  
Almon

Barrington  
May 13 98

Dear Almon;

I came home with Belle last night. I thought I would write and tell you so you would not write to 321 Flournoy. I am awful glad I am home.

I left Uncle Teds Tues. and Belle and I had a good time visiting until Thur. We went to Lincoln Park yesterday.

John Brasil was at the train to meet Belle last night and he took us to a show that happened to be in Barrington.

I hope you didn't miss your train last Sunday night, you didn't come back so I guess you got there in time, I hope you did.

I must close I am writing this in a hurry. I hope I will hear from you soon.

Yours Lizzie

P.S. I guess Orman and Aunt May are coming out to the Lake Sunday. I wish I could have a good visit with you again.

good bye dear

Deerfield Ill.  
May 17 - 98

Dear Lizzie

your letter arived last Friday, but I didnt get it till monday, than forgot to give it to me. I wrote to 321 Flournoy last Sunday and was just going to mail it when I got your letter. I ges you think I am not going to write. I got home all right, when I was to see you, I had a verry nice time, I wished I could see you agan. I cant hardly wate till I see you again. I did not think you would goe home so soon, I dont blame you, I woodend off stayed my self. I got a letter from Mr Foley, he sed he never got my check. I think he is telling me a big lie.

Viola went to Ormans on Tuesday and is not home yet. From your Loving Almon

P.S. Excuse bad writting I was in a hurry.

Barrington Ill.  
May 22, '98

Dear Almon;

I was very much pleased to get your letter yesterday, I was just beginning to think I would have to send you a stamp.

I am glad you didn't send that letter to 321.

Mamma and two of the children have gone to Waukegan to visit Aunt Lilly, and Belle and I are keeping house, gardening and tending to the chickens and ducks etc. We have lots of fun cooking, we tried all of the reciepts [recipes] in the cook book, except some we didn't.

John B. and Belle were out rideing this evening, they are sitting in the parlor now.

John wanted me to write you and ask you if you could come here decoration day, May 30, and the four of us, Belle, John you and I would go to Dundee, Elgin or some place like that, in a two seater. I think we would have a good time if you could only come. I do wish you could, if you can will you please write right away so John can speak for the livery rig before hand, because it is hard to get one if you dont engage it.

He said we would start about 9:30 A.M. or maybe not until ten so you would have plenty of time to get here, wouldn't you?

Papa went to the city Sat. morning and he bought a heavy bay team to go with the threshing machine this fall, he started to ride one out but it tired him so he hired a boy to ride them the rest of the way, at Edison Park and he took the train. The team just got here, it is eight o'clock, he left the city sometime this morning. I don't know what time, the boy that rode them wasn't as big as Chester.

Well I must close, hoping you will get this before you plan to go some place

else on May 30.

Besure and write as soon as you possibley can whether you are comeing or not, try and mail it so it will get here Wed. or Thur. night.

I do hope you can come, I know you will if you can.

Believe me your loving  
Lizzie

P.S. When I finished this letter I laid my head down on the table and went to sleep. Belle & John came out of the other room and took this letter and hid it, wasn't they mean, but they said they didn't read a thing but "Dear Almon" so I forgave them, but I wont goto sleep next time.

Yours  
Lizzie.

Deerfield Ill.  
May 24 - 98

Dear Lizzie

I recivied your letter to day and was very glad to here from you. I thank you and Mr. B. ever so much for you invitation, and am verry sorry I can not come. I like to see [you] again, it is so long sense the last time.

I think the four off ous could have a splended time together. but you now how I got it. we got so much milking now, I can not leve. I now you will be disipointed wen you get this, but I cant help it, it makes me feel awfull bad that I cant leve, you mabe can have a good time without me.

I am hauling hay every day. I was to Ft. Sharidon to day, and am going to Hiland Park tomorow.

Sam was home Sunday, he sed he was on the end of the world.

Be a good girl Dear and dont get mad at me becous I am not comming, you now I wood do anything if I could see you.

I must close it is getting late.

I remain yours as ever  
Almon

Barrington  
June 1, '98

Dear Almon;

Are you looking for a letter from me?

I know I ought to have written before this but I have neglected it. I thought of you just the same.

I wish you were with me now. I could tell you what I cannot write.

I was dissappointed when I recieved your letter but I am not angry with you dear, because you did not come, I know you would if it were possible.

Belle went with John to B. and the horse they had tried to run away with them, he took them up an embankment 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet high across two sidewalks and a vacant lot, but they came home a live.

I guess I will go to the Lake this summer and help Grandma Whitney, she told mamma Mon. that she wanted me if I would come the first of June, so I think I will go soon. Ma is up there today.

I haven't been any place since I came home except once, I went to the city last Thur.

I must close or I wont get a chance to send this with Chester.

Yours lovingly  
Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
June 14 - 98

Dear Lizzie

I recieved your letter and was very glad to here from you. I suppose you were looking for a letter long before this, I dont now why I didnt write. you will forgive me wont you dear. I tought of you every day.

I would like to see you very much, it is so long sence I saw you, I dont believe I now you any more.

Orman and May were here Sunday. thay went back Sunday night. it takes the two of them to take care of the Baby.

I was to Rockford a wheek agoe las Thursday, I wished you could have went with me. I think youed enoyed it. I dont now if you are at home ore at Lake Z. I think you will get this all wright. I hope it will be welcome. I must close.

good bye dear  
I remain yours as ever  
Almon

Lake Zurich  
June 19, '98

Dear Almon;

I am going to write you, but you don't deserve a letter one bit, I think you are just a little mean for dissappointing me for a whole week. I looked for a letter from you every day, it was three weeks and I never heard a word from you, I feel like scolding you, if you were here I would, I suppose you are glad you are not here. I guess you are tired of writing to me, and don't want to see me either for I don't know how long it is since I saw you, it will soon be a year I think.

I thought you would surely come today, it is such a lovely day and there is Camp Meeting too, but I didn't go, I am up to the Lake now. I came, the 17th, do you remember the 17th of last June?

There is going to be Camp Meeting next Sun. too.

I went to the Ball Game between the Everetts and Unions the other Sunday with Belle and John, I was glad the Everetts won the game. I looked for you that Sunday because I thought the ball game might have an attraction for you if nothing else would.

I must hurry and close because it is supper time. I hope you will not wait as long as you did before, that is if you want to write to me, if you don't, let me know and I won't look for any more letters from you.

Yours Truely.  
Lizzie Catlow

Deerfield Ill.  
June 23th 98

Dear Lizzie

I recieved your letter, but it was not the kind I was looking for, you could have saved part of them pet words. I now I ought not to have waited soe long before I wrote. But I dont think it is have as bad as wen you stayed down at 321 Flournoy and went out with another fellow, wen you new I was comming, and you now I never sed a word about it.

I tought to much of you, to hurt your feeling.

please Lizzie dont carry this any farther, I think it will be all right when we see each other again. I am comming to see you a wheek from Sunday July 3 and mabe the 4 if I am welcome, if not I can goe home again.

I must close for it is getting late.

Yours truely  
Almon

Lake Zurich  
June 26 '98

Dear Almon;

I got your letter this afternoon and you don't know how glad I was to get it, I have been sorry all the week for writing to you the way I did, you wrote a better letter than I expected or deserved. I am always saying something mean to you and you are always so good not to get angry with me, maybe you are through now, but I don't blame you if you are.

Aunt May and Orman came out Sat. night & Orman is going home in morning but May is going to stay a few days.

John and Belle drove up here this after noon they are going to camp meeting to-night.

John wants the four of us to go some place together the fourth, if you would like to, I would enjoy it ever so much, he said he would speak for a two seater, and if you are going to be here the 3rd. then he would come up and we could make arrangements for the fourth then.

I have lots to tell you when I see you so I guess I won't write any more.

I hope you will for give me. I know I was bad for writing what I did but I felt so lonesome and wanted to see you so, and well, I don't know as there is any use in trying to smooth it over, I wish you would burn the letter. don't dissappoint me next Sunday, for I want to see you and tell you all I cant write.

With love. From your bad girl  
Lizzie

Lake Zurich  
July 17 '98

Dearest Almon;

I was glad you reached home safely after the fourth, I was so sorry your head ached so badly that night, your ride home must have been lone some, or did you have enough to think of to keep you from being lonesome. I hope so.

I suppose you are working hard every day.

It keeps us busy here, we had fifteen boarders here today, had ice cream for supper, I ate a dish for you. I wish you were here to enjoyed it.

It seems like an awful [long] time since I saw you. I wish I could see you next Sunday or if you can't come then I wish you would come a week from Sun, can't you.

You must be getting good to go to Church Sun. mornings, that is right, be a good boy dear.

Aunt Mays baby is sick, they are going to see the doctor today.

I suppose Orman got over there alright yesterday.

I am writing this letter five o'clock Mon. morning. I started it last night, but didn't finish it.

I must hurry and close and get to work or they will discharge me, and then where will I go?

If you don't come next Sunday, I'll look for a letter saying you'll be here the next Sunday.

You want to see me as badly as I want to see you, don't you.

Bye bye dear  
With love  
Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
July 24 98

Dearest Lizzie

As I can not come to see you today, I tought I write to you, and let you now I have not forgotten you. I like to see you ever so much, it seams about two months sense I saw you. I will come to see you next Sunday, if the weather and roads are

not to bad so I can come on my wheel.

We finished haying yesterday and I am not a bit sorry.

I got hurt a wheek agoe Sat. and am not all right yet. I fell trough the hay rack and hurt my side. I could not do an any heavy work all wheek. I think I would not mind it if I could be with you mon, I am so lonesome to day I dont now what to do. I almost came to see you to day, but my side hurt soe, if I ever got thare, I dont believe I got back for a few days. I must close.

from your loveing  
Almon

Lake Zurich  
Aug 3, '98

My Dear Almon:

I am going to write you a short letter as I said I would, although I really haven't much to tell you, it is such a short time since I saw you, yet it seems long.

I hope you got home safely, I am so sorry you have such long, lonesome rides to take, but then it is pleasant to think you are taking them for my sake: we had a good visit Sunday night didn't we, I guess Belle and John did too, because Orman said John just had time to change his clothes, they got up a quarter after two, and it was after midnight when John left Belle, so you wasn't the only night hawk.

Aunt May asked me if I would like to drive over to Deerfield with Orman, and her when they go, so may be I'll come if nothing happens, so you be sure and be home, don't go to see your other girl, let her wait untill some Sunday when I am not there.

Orman just got home tonight, it rained so they couldn't thresh, and they all came home, may be John and Belle will go to Devel's Lake tomorrow on that excursion. I must hurry and finish this letter it is getting late.

How did you feel Monday? was the stack crooked? I felt O.K.

I hope you will be carefull and not try to break any more hay racks, Orman may need them when he goes on the farm.

I hope your side is better and do be careful and not hurt your self again, for my sake dear.

I think I have written a long letter and I will look for a nice long one from you soon, so don't for get me.

Bye bye Dear  
your loveing  
Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
Aug 7th 98

Dearest Lizzie

I recivied your letter and was verry glad to here from you, I wished I could be with you, I wished I could be with you instetd of writting this letter today but I am awfull glad you are comming next Sunday. but I am sorry I have to disipoint that other girl, but never mind, it will be all wright. I wished you were here to day.

I got home all right Sunday night ore monday morning, it only took me about an hour to ride home.

I was to a funeral to day but I was glad when I got home, it was soe warm I almost smothered. we were trashing [threshing] yesterday but didnt finished yet. I started this letter Sunday but didend finish it. I tought I finish it to day, monday noon, we just got trough trashing, and I must hurry, for I havend much time.

I must close, hoping to see you next Sunday.

Good bye Dear  
from your Loving  
Almon

Lake Zurich  
Aug 10 '98

My Dear Almon;

I recieved you letter this noon, was delighted to hear from you.

I really havn't much to write you to night, but I thought I would let you know that I am not comeing next Sunday. Aunt May and Orman are planning to go to the wedding Wednesday, so of course they wont come Sunday.

I would like to see you but I'll have to wait until you come to see me, which I hope will be soon.

We have twenty seven people here now, it keeps us busy. I must close and go to bed so I won't be so sleepy in the morning.

I suppose you will go to the wedding and dance with all the girls there, and kiss the bride, alright, kiss her for me. Well good night dear and pleasant dreams, don't forget to write to me Sunday, will you, I'll look for a letter from you so don't dissappoint me.

John and Belle drove up last Sunday and took me to the picnic at the village, wasn't they good, only I wished you were with us.

I must close for this time, I remain as ever.

Yours  
Lizzie

Hope you'll have a lovely time at the wedding, just think of me while your there won't you.

Loveingly Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.

Dear Lizzie

I recieved your letter and was disipointed that you could not come to see me to day, I like to see you verry much, if it would not be for that wedding, you be here by this time. Viola and I are going to the wedding. I wished you were with us, I think we wood have a splended time, dont you think soe. dont you wish it was your wedding, I now i do. we would not have to was [waste] so much time writting, but it is a plesure for me to write to you, but I lik to be with you all the time.

I am thasing [thresing] almost every day and am getting tired of the job. I was staking oats for Mr. Easton three day last wheek.

I must close for I here the wedding bells ringing. I will kiss the bride for you, but I rather kiss you.

good by Dear  
Loving  
Almon

Lake Zurich  
Aug. 18 '98

My Dear Almon;

Are you looking for a letter? I was going to write you last night but it was so late that I went to bed, I thought you would be to the wedding and wouldn't care whether I wrote or not; But I was thinking of you until I went to sleep.

It seems an awful long time since I saw you. I want to see you real bad, but I suppose you will be over as soon as you can for I know you want to see me too. Nearly all of the boarders are going to leave Sat. and there won't be many here Sun. I wished you were comeing Sun instead of a week from Sun, be cause I would have more time to visit with you, but if you don't come I'll know you must have a good reason.

One of our boarders walked up the road toward Spunners[?] today to shoot pigeons and he fired a shot and George S. rushed out and pitched onto hime & cut his head open with a club & he broke the gun over Geo S's neck then Bill came & they both pitched onto him the boarder & grandma ran down the road and stopped them, if she hadn't, they would have surely killed him, his face is all black and

blue. I saw the fight and it nearly made me sick, the sight of blood did any way.

He got a warrant & are going to have him arrested tomorrow morning.

May & Orman got home about 3:30 A.M. Orman never went to bed at all, poor fellow, I bet he is tired today. May took a nap this afternoon and she feels too funny for any thing tonight, she has been trying to read this letter, I guess she couldn't, it is such poor writing, I guess you'll have to bring it over and let me read it for you, won't you?

Did you have a good time at the wedding?

Good night with love & kisses.

Ever Yours  
Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
Aug. 21th 98

Dearest Lizzie

I recieved your letter yesterday, and was verry glad to here from you. I wished I could be with you to day, it seams a time that I saw you.

I try and come next Sunday if I can, I would feal contended if I could be with you all the time, and I think you would too, would you not Dear. but our time will come some time, and then we will make up for lost time but John and Bell will make up for ous dount you think soe.

I had a fine time at the wedding kissing all the girls, but thay were no kissis like I get from you. we got home at four Oc. A.M. I didnt get much sleep. Mother went to Chicago Saterdag and is going to stay a fuew day.

I am going to play Ball at Half day to day, and it is almost time for me to start, so I must close for this time. good bye Dear sweet hart.

with kises and love  
Almon

Lake Zurich  
Aug. 24, '98

My Dear Almon,

I recieved your loveing letter this noon and of course I was very much pleased to get it.

We haven't any boarders this week and didn't have any last Sunday. I went home Sat. night and stayed there until Sun night, when Belle and John took me back, it was a lovely drive, I wished you were with us. John wanted to know if you were comeing next Sunday. I told hime I thought you were, so he said if I was sure, he would speak for a two seater buggy and we would all go for a drive Sunday afternoon, wouldn't that be fine, so you must be sure to come, I am sure you ought to come, it is so long since I saw you, it is the longest month I have ever passed, has it seemed long to you?

I am glad you enjoyed yourself at the wedding. I am sure you are mean to kiss all the girls, and I havent had a chance to kiss a single boy, but just wait until I do, I won't refuse like I did the other time when I was in the city. I have a chance soon, next Sunday won't I, that is if you come, if you don't come I won't kiss you when you do come, so there, I know you will surely come now.

I was thinking of you all day Sunday and was glad you didn't come over, it was such an awful hot day but when I got your letter and you said you were going to play ball, I thought you liked to play ball better that [then] comeing to see me but never mind dear, let the ball go next Sunday and come to see me and I will for give you, don't think I am scolding, for I know it is a long way over here, I wish we were not so far apart.

It is ten o'clock dear, so I must close, will tell you the rest Sunday.

I remain as ever  
your darling

P.S. I guess John wants to start between one and two so come earlier than you did last Sun you came. Bye Bye dear.



Lake Zurich  
Sept 4, '98

My Dearest Almon:

It is just a week ago today since I saw you and I haven't written to you yet, I started a letter but didn't finish it last week.

Did you get home safely? I am so sorry you have such long rides to take and yet I want you to come, if I didn't, you wouldn't have to take them, would you?

We had a house full to day but they are all gone except those five boys that were here last Sunday, they are going to stay until Tuesday morning.

Belle and John are going on an excursion to Devils Lake next Sunday and I guess mother and father will go to and I am going home and take care of the children so I'll be home all day alone Sunday. I wish you were going to spend the day with me, don't you. It won't be long before we will spend our Sundays together will it dear.

We miss that little baby and Aunt May too. Orman said that some one was going to bring Aunt May home Sun. I hope you will be the one to bring her.

We went to see the threshers last Friday and had a lovely drive and stole some apples on the way home. I suppose Orman told you about the fire and all the other news, so I guess I had better close.

Grandpa got home this morning, he brought some cake, it was fine, it was better than [than] the cake Aunt May brought from the Ott wedding.

I am so sleepy that I just dropped my pen, so don't you think it is time I went to bed. I may write to you again this week and I may not. Bye Bye darling, with love and kisses, until we meet again.

yours with love  
Lizzie

Does the baby cry much? I hope she dont.

Deerfield Ill.  
Sep 7th 98

Dearest Lizzie

I recieved your letter and was verry glad to here from you, I tought you never was going to write, it seamed so long to wait, but it is better late then never.

I reached home all right Sunday, when I was to see you. Mother sed it was day brake wen I got home, bet [but] it was not so bad.

I am going to work the farm next year, and it will be room for you to dear, see I wont have to take them long rides many more times, are you not glad.

I am going to start to plow as soon as we got the corn cut off. the folks talk about moveing in about two ore three wheeks, I dont now whare I am going to stay then.

I like to see you verry much, I have so much to tell you, if you are going to be home next S. I mabe come to see you if I can, but dont be shure.

from your loveing  
Almon

Good bye dear with kisses

Lake Zurich  
Sept. 9, '98

Dear Almon;

I recieved your letter this noon. I thought you was going to write Sunday, so I have been looking for a letter from you all the week.

I don't know whether you will get this letter before Sunday or not but I thought I would write and tell you that I intend to go to the city Monday to work for a lady in there and I do not know how long it will be before I will have a chance to see you again, The place it [is] out to Oak Park, it is one of the ladies who was out here this summer, and she wrote for me to come in the first of this week, but I wanted to wait until after Sun. thinking perhaps I could see you before I went in, but I didn't like to write and ask you to come because you say I am

always teasing you to come, so when I got your letter to day saying you might come, I thought if I wrote you about going away you would surely come. I am going home tomorrow and will spend Sunday at home so if you come you will know where to find me.

I am baking bread tonight, wish you were here to help watch it.

Grandma has been teaching me how to make button holes to night, just think of it, what a know nothing I am, but never mind dear I will learn, and we will get along alright, won't we.

You will try and come to see me Sunday, I know if you possibly can, we will have lots to tell each other.

If you don't come Sun. I will write to you when I get to the city and let you know how I am getting a long.

My address will be 318 Washington Blvd, Oak Park. To. Pitts.

I must close, the bread is most done, so bye bye dearest with a good night kiss.

I remain as ever yours only

Lizzie Catlow

Oak Park

Sept. 12, '98.

My Dear Almon

I came to the city this morning, it takes an hour to come from the north western depot.

I looked for you all day Sunday and was so dissappointed. I don't know how I can see you again for a while, although I want to see you as much as I ever did, if there is no other way I can go to Aunt Lilly at Avondale and meet you there.

O I will be so glad when we have a home of our own and then I wont have to work out. I am so home sick this after noon, I dont know what to do. I cried part of the time, just think of it dear, I tried to think of every think [thing] pleasant, all the happy hours we have spent together but it only made me fell worse, so I just gave up. papa didn't want me to come but I thought I would have more money to get things with when we needed them, so I came, it isn't a hard place and maybe I wont be home sick long. write to me right away, wont you darling and tell ma all about how you are getting along.

I won't be so home sick when I get a letter from you, so write as soon as you get this. I am longing to see you dearest, but I dont know how I can, so bye bye with much love from your Lizzie.

318 Washington Blvd. Oak Park. to B. Pitts. ans soon.

Deerfield Ill.

Sept 13th 98

My Dearest Lizzie

I recivied both of your letters to day, but I new you were in Chicago some where, it is hard for me to keep track of you. I wished I could have seen you before you left. I would have come S. but I hurt my eye Sat. while cutting corn, and am lucky that I saved my eye. you would not have nowen me Sunday if I came to see you, it was all swelled shut, it is all black and blue now, but is getting better. I guess it will be all right soe I can goe to the fair Friday. I tought I see you thare, if I didnt see you Sunday. I dont now wen I can come to se you, it would take me all day to get to Oak P and back again, the time you get trough with your work, I would have to leve. I would not hardly get time to give you a kiss. but never mind Dear, be a good girl, and I will always think of you, and it will not be long before you can be with me all the time.

Ormon and May went to F. Y. S. night, thay will soon be liveing at D. and digging at the earth. we will finish cutting corn this wheek and then I am going to plow for my self. I wished you were going to be here the first day I start and see our beginning, but not our finish. I bought a new harness yesterday but havent got any horses yet. I guess I am going to put one on my self.

I must close, hopeing to see you soon. good bye dear with kisses

from your Loveing

Almon

Oak Park  
Sept 18, '98

Dearest Almon;

I recieved both of your letters and may be I wasn't glad to get them, you are a darling to try to cheer me up. I felt so much better after I got you last letter. I'll try not to get home sick any more.

I like my place ever so much. I am sure I couldn't find a better one, except with you dear, and then that will be home sweet home. I am trying to make some little things to make our future home pleasant and pretty.

Yes I do wish I could be there to see you start.

I am so sorry you hurt your eye. I do hope it will get better soon. I am sure you will need both of them, I don't see what you wanted to get rid of one of them for.

I have Thursday and Sunday afternoons to go where I please, so I will go to Aunt Lilly's next Sunday to meet you, if you can come let me know as soon as you get this, if you will be there and then I will write her, to let her know I am coming, so she will be at home. I think I can get there about four o'clock in the afternoon. if you can't come I won't go. I'll wait until you can come so write and let me know.

Clara Meade came over to see me to day, was awful glad to see her, I tell you.

I guess I'll close, hopeing you eye will be alright dear and remember I am always thinking of you. write soon.

with love & kisses  
Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
Sep 22th 98

Dearest Lizzie

I recieved your letter and would not care if I get one every day. I am so glad you like your place, it will meake the time seam shorter. I suppose you have all your oll fellows come to see you by this time.

I try and be one of them next Sunday Sep 25 if I dont get hurt, I will meet you at avondale, so be shure and be thare, for I want to see you verry much: I have lots to tell you.

I am plowing every day. I came home tonight for the first time this week. I am bording with the folks that live on the farm and am going back in the morning for the rest of the week.

If you dont get this in tim to write to your aunt Lilly, come any way.

I must close for it getting late. from your loveing Almon good bye Dear with kisses.

Oak Park  
Oct 2, '98

My Darling Almon.

Perhaps you think I am never going to write you again, but I have thought of you all the time and would have written before but I did not know where I would be, so I waited until I got a place. Well I've got one now. I tell you, I came here this morning.

Sunday morning a poor day to start on but they came after me Sat night about seven and wanted me to come. It is at a boarding house not far from the other place I was at, I get four dollars the first week and 5 after wards but I tell you, I have to work to get it too, but if I can stand it, I won't care, for it won't be long that I'll have to work so hard, will it dear. I am anxious to be with you always, I know we will be happy, don't you, I won't have any time to do any sewing here, it is so late before I can get through, I don't have to wash or iron. I am glad of that for the washings would be so large here.

I don't know when I can see you again dear. I have Sunday afternoons, but it is four or five before I can get through with the work, I dont have to be back for

supper though, so may be we can manage some way to see each other.

It is late & I am tired, so I must close. write me a nice long letter sweet heart and remember I am always thinking of you and our plans for the future.

How are you getting along with the plowing? did your father care because you stayed alnight, well I must close and write to Belle. I do wish I could see you oftener but I'll have to wait patiently. I suppose you want to see me as badly as I do you but "there will come a time some day".

Your loveing Lizzie

with a good night kiss. my address is 113 Home Ave Oak Park Ill, To Rogers. now write soon because it is so long since I heard from [you].

Deerfield Ill.  
Oct. 9th 98

My Dearest Lizzie

I recivied your letter and was verry glad to here from you. you will be getting tired waiting for my letter, but I codent write before this. I onely came home once last wheek and then it was late. I onely had time to read your letter. I wished I had one to read to day from my darling. I wished you would not have to work so hard. five D. a wheek is big pay, but I now you will have to work for it, dont you think it is to hard for you.

Ormon moved out here yesterday and May is comming tonight. I was unloding furniture almost all day. the folks are going to move on Wednesday. I wished I was going to but I have to stay here and take care off the horses and cows. I am going to buy som of the cows, so I got something to do next winter. I will finish plowing this wheek and I am [not] one bit sorry.

It dont seam like home as long as you are not thare. I now I will be happy wen you are with me. and I will try and make you happy. can you not com out here some time wen May lives here, and I will show you the place where Oour future home, it is a fine place, and i think you will like it. We will have a place that we can call home. wont that be fine. I wished I could see you oftner, so we could make our plans. thare will be so much to get ready but it is lots of time yet. I dont now wen I can come to see you. it is so far out of the way and I cant stay over night for I will have to be home in the morning to do the chors, for Orman is going to buld a barn for our folks, and he got to leve early in the morning. any time you can come out he let me now and I will send you a ticket. you will try and come once before we are married wont you dear sweethart, it wood please me veary much.

I must close for this time. with much love for now and the future.

from your loveing sweetheart  
Almon

Oak Park  
[?] Aug 98

Dearest Almon;

Have you forgotten me entirely, or what is the reason you don't write me. I have been looking for a letter and I am so dissappointed each day.

If you only know how badly I want to hear from you I know you would write.

I like my place and I guess I will stay, it is just a couple of blocks from the Oak Park depot.

It will soon be three weeks since I saw you and I haven't heard from you in all that time, just think of it dear.

Papa was in to see me last Friday night and I was awful glad so [to] see him, I do get so home sick and long to see some one I love, if we wasn't so far a part.

I guess Belle is comeing in, to work, next Sunday and I am going to meet her at Aunt Lilly's but I am not sure yet.

How is Aunt May and the baby. what have they named it.

I must hurry because I am writing this in the morning, and I ought to be at work.

How are you getting along with your work now, be sure and answer right away, or I'll think you have found some one else to go to keeping house with you in the spring and then I would have to look up another job.

I dreamed that something happened that we didn't get married, that you said you liked some one else better, but I dont believe in dreams, do you dear.

Well bye bye darling, hope you are well and happy.

with love  
Lizzie  
115 Home Ave  
Oak Park

now do please write just a little letter so Ill know every thing is alright.

with kisses  
Liz.

Deerfield Ill.  
Oct 14th 98

Dearest Dearest Lizzie

I recivied your letter and you dont now how glad I was to get it. I think it is real mean you did not get a letter from me before this. I wrote to you last Sunday and went on purpis Sunday night to mail it but the post office was closed, and monday morning I went off real early and forgot to give it to some one to mail. you dont now how it worried me to think of you down thair all alone and not a word from me in three wheeks. But dont be angry with me dear. I will try and do better after this. I finished plowing to day and came home to husk corn. the folks all left to day. it was hard for Mother to leve. she cried almost all day. Preston and I are staying here. I am awfull lonesome, to night I feel like last. I wished you were here with me to night. it would seam like home if you wer here. but we will soon have a home of our verry own and then we wont have to write any more and we wont worry about one another. wat does your Papa sa about ous getting married, does he approve of it. I Love you dearly. I think I can support you, and I think we will live hapely together. it seams so hard that we cant see each [other] oftner. thare is so much to plan and get ready, whare two would be better then one.

Dont you think the place is to hard for you, you ought to get some easer place. But you now your business best.

May is got lots to do and the baby is not verry well, it is getting teeth thay say, it is no fun to move and every think is up side down yet.

I must close fore it is getting late. excuse me fore writeing with ledpencil, thare is no ink ore pen in the house.

From Loveing sweethart with a good night kiss.

Almon

P.S. in one letter you got 113 and in one 115 for Di. I dont now wich.

Oak Park  
Oct. 27, '98

My Darling Almon;

I guess you think I have forgot all about you, but I haven't, I have thought of you all the time and it has made me feel badly all the week to think I neglected writing to you, but it has been half past ten and eleven every night for the last two weeks before I could get to my room and then I am so tired I just tumble into bed and think I'll write to you the next night & so I have put it off. I know you'll forgive [me] if I promised not to do so again, well I am going to leave as soon as possible.

I went down town to day and spent all my money, wasn't I a peach.

Well I have good news for you, or at least I think so. I am comeing out to see you next Friday night, if possible, Nov 4.

Edna Prusia is comeing out with me. she wanted to come out, so I am going to manage to come the same time and I am just dyeing to see you dearest and I could

have a nice long visit with you if I came Friday night & stay until Sunday.

If you will send me a time table so I'll know what time to take the train. I will go to Gray land and can you meet me at the train dear, if you can let me know.

If I have time I'll write to Aunt May & tell her we are comeing, for she wouldn't like it if she didn't know it, but I wish you would be sure to meet me. and if nothing happens to prevent, I'll be sure to be there and then you send the ticket and time table, send it to 318 Washington Boul'd, for I want to leave here Sat. night if I possibly can.

I must close, it is so late, will tell you all the news when I see you, I am happy thinking I'll see you soon.

Belle is in city, John & her are engaged, I am so glad for she feels happier now, have lots to tell you when I see you darling. with lots & lots of love from one who will always be true to you.

Lizzie

you had better tell Aunt May we are comeing for I may not have time to write, but may be Aunt Lilly will write, I didn't think of that.

Bye Bye dearie  
with kisses  
Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
Oct. 29th 98

Dearest Lizzie

I got tired waiting for a letter, so I tought I write one my self. what is the matter dearest, dont you love me any more. if you new how I am waiting for a letter, I now you would write to me. it almost brakes my heart to wait any longer. I was thinking about you so much the last wheek, I just gave up last night and cried, because I could not see you for so long. is thare not some way that I can see you again before we are married, it is not long and we ought to make some arrangements, dont you think so dearest.

I hope you are well, and dont woark to hard dear and tire your self out. you must be getting lonesome out thare all alone, ore have you got some one else. but you would not goe back on me woould you dear, you loved me so much.

we got lots of work now but we dont do much, it rain almost every day. Ormon and I bought all the corn, so we got lots to do. we bought a carlod of heifers at the stock yards last wheek, 38 head, we have got 50 head together now. it takes lots of work to take care of them.

May and the baby are well. you ought to see the baby now, you would not now her any more, she is so big and fat, she laughs all day.

Can you not come out here and stay a wheek ore two, that I could see you every day. I woould be contented if I could see you every day. it wont be long before we will have a home of ower verry one, and then we wont have to worry for we will see one another every day.

If you can come out here, let me now and I will send you a ticket. If not let me now whare I can meet you and when.

Our uncle Offerle came to see us Sunday from Offerle Cansas.

I must close fore it is getting late.

Good bye Dearest with love and love kisses and more when we are married.

Good bye Dear  
From your Loveing Sweet heart  
Almon

Oak Park  
Nov. 2, '98

Dearest Almon;

Did you get the letter I wrote you last week, I gave it to a man to mail and I was afraid he forgot to mail it and you didn't get it. I wrote and told you I

was coming out there Friday night Nov 4. if you could meet me and send me a time tables or tell me what train to come on, and what time it leaves Gray land.

Edna Prusia is coming with me.

I have left the boarding house and am staying with Mrs Pitts this week.

I got your last letter and was awful glad to get it. I am sorry you had to wait so long for a letter, but we will make up for all delayed letters when we see each other, won't we dear, be sure and tell Aunt May we are coming won't you dear. I can hardly wait until I see you, it seems so long since I saw you. if you haven't sent the ticket by the time you get this letter you had better send it to 85 Woodard St. because I will be there Friday. with love & kisses until I see you darling.

Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
Nov. 2th 98

Dearest Lizzie

I recieved your letter to day, it was a long time coming. I suppose you will be waiting for the ticket. you can get a train at Grayland at four oc clock, it get to Deerfield four fifty, and one at 5-20 at Grayland. Ormon will be there to met you. he is working for my Father at Der, if he is not there Viola will be there to met you. I am well, hoping you are the same.

Your Loveing  
Almon

Deerfield Illinois  
Nov. 2th - 98

Dearest Lizzie

I send the ticket to Oak Park to day. But maybe you left before it got there. I didnt now where to send it, I did the best I could. I tought I write to Avondale, that if you left Oak Park before the ticket got there, that you mabe could get the ticket before you came out here, as the ticket dont belonge to me. Ormon and I just got home from putting up Auction Bills, we are going to sell the heifers next Monday.

Mrs. Whitney and Mrs. Jair came to see May yesterday and stayed all night.

you can get a train at Grayland at 4-5 Oc. in the evening ore one at 5-35, but you better come on the first one if you can. Ormon works at D. and he will be there to met you.

I wished I could come to meet you but we have so much work we cant both of us leve.

I will tell you the rest.

I must close, it is getting late. Good bye Dearest.

from your Loveing  
Almon

Oak Park  
Nov. 7, '98

My address is #107 Maple Ave. Oak Park.

My Darling Almon

Per haps you will be a little surprised to get a letter so soon, but I know it will be welcome just the same.

I got here safely and am in my new place now. I know I shall like it for they try to make it pleasant and home like for me and if you were only nearer, I would be perfectly content, but I know it wont be long and you will be as glad as I, when we can be together, wont you darling.

I was so happy when I was out there because I could see you, and your folk were very nice and treated me splended, I hope all will be well.

I sent the ticket to Viola this morning, let me know if they got it, when you write next time. How did the sale turn out? was papa there? and did you sell them

all, your interest is mine too, isn't it darling, and I am anxious to hear how my future pardner prospers.

I wish I was out on the back porch playing "post office" as Viola calls it, even if it was a little cold, those were the best "stamps" I ever got.

I am awful glad I came out there, I had such a lovely visit with you, and every one else. I am sure I will like it over there. I would like it any place with you dearest. lets us write to each other real often, for I love to get letters from you dear, and I have more time now. I get through real early in the eveing now, and I'll write you a lot of letters. I am going to try and do some sewing in the eveings now. I have no more room to write and I am awful sleepy too, so Good night mine own and pleasant dreams with a whole lot of love.

Lizzie.

Deerfield Ill  
Nov 13 / 98

My Dearest Lizzie

I recivied your letter and was verry glad to get one so soon.

I now you will be wating for this letter. I was so tired, I cept putting it of every night, till today, I had a little time. but I never forgot you one minmit, I always think off you when I get tired ore lonesome. I am so glad you engoyed yourself wen you were over here. it would be so nise if I could see you every day, and I now you would not care if I could be with you all the time.

May sed ower trouble will begin wen we are married, but we have troubles now, and we are not married. it would be better if we could share them together. we will be happy wen [we] live together. we love each other so dearley, we cant help but be happy.

I am home all alone to day and I am awful lonesome. I wished you were here now. it would seam like home then. it is not long to wait and then we will have a home of ower verry one.

Ower sale tourned out as good as we exspected, we sold 25 head, we cleared \$92, on the 25 head, and we got the best heifers left.

Ormon and I were to the Stock yards Friday to buy another car load of cattle, but we could not get what we wanted, so we didnt buy. One of ous are going down Tusday.

the baby is getting fatter every day. she missed Edna the next day. we got the ticket all right. wen should I send it again. we had such a splended time together, mabe you will want to come again soon.

It is so hard for me to get off, I dont now wen I can come to see you, but dont think I dont want to come, for you now I never happier then wen I am with you. I cant play Post office to night. I must close for this time.

Good [bye] Dearest with Love Kisses, From your Loveing

Almon

Oak Park  
Nov. 21, '98

My Darling Almon;

I suppose you have looked for a letter before this, and I know I ought to have written but I thought I would wait.

I hate to tell you what I am going to write, I dont know what you will think of me, any way I guess you will think I am of not much account, well I have lost my other place, it wasn't really my fault though I hadnt been there a day and a half, when another girl came, an old friend of theirs I guess, and wanted the place, so I stayed the week out and they hired the other girl, but I don't care, I have another place now and I am going to try and stay until Xmas, they do not know I am going to leave so soon though.

John was in to see Belle yesterday, I wish you could have been here too, I want to see you so badly. I do wish we could see each other oftener, but I'll try and be



content for a while longer.

Just think, Thursday is Thanksgiving, Belle and I are not going home, it will be the first time in my life that I have been away from home, and I hope the last time too for next year we'll have a home, won't we darling.

I am glad the sale turned out well, isn't this bad weather to husk corn. Hope Aunt May and Baby are well, give my love to them, all that you don't want. I am going to write to you real often, I said I was before but I havent yet have I, wont you write to me Thanksgiving and tell me all the news. wish I was going to be with you dear. write soon.

with love  
Lizzie

My address is 204 Clinton Ave. Oak Park, Ill.

Deerfield Ill  
Nov 27 -/ 98

Dearest Lizzie

I recivied your letter and was verry glad to here from you. I now you were looking for a letter befor this.

we wer so bussy, I didnt get time to write before to day. we got ower corn all home but not all husked. we got another car load of cattel. we got 57 head. we didnt have ower stabels ready wen the cold weather came. we worked about 18 houers a day the last wheek. I am comming down to the citty, as soon as we can take care of the cattel alone. Cant you meet me when I come down. I dont [know] what to do that I cant see you to day. It is so lonesome here. Preston left last Monday, I wished I could leve soon. I am getting tired of watting. I was thinking of ower wedding the other day and how much trouble it is to your mother. dont you think it is, would be just as well not to have any wedding. But you can suit you self about it, you now best about it.

I was to Deerfield last Sunday and my Mother told me that May told her that I got to Pay 1/3 of the store[?] Bill for my Board, and it mad [made] them awful mad. she told me we better get married as soon as the peepel move out. I havend got much Monney and May wants to get that if she can. I tell you more if I could say. Dont let now one see this. Mother sed I should not tell any one. I must close. I must goe to work. My Love to you. Good bye Dearest with a Loveing kiss.

Your Loveing  
Almon

Deerfield Ill  
Dec 7th 1898

Derest Lizzie

You will be looking for a letter long be [before] this, but it is better late then never. it is so cold I am hugging the stove every night. I havend any thing else to hug.

I suppose you cant hardly wait till you can goe home.

You will soon have a home of your own, wont that be fine. I will get a chance to see you then, wont I dear. I think I can meet you Dec 20 down town, tell me wat time and whare.

My Sister Mrs Plagge sed I could invite you to a Xmas Dinner at her house and she would like to have you come if you could. May is talking of going to Lake Z. Xmas. if thay leve Xmas, I cant come to Barrington. I try to come if I can.

I went home Sunday. I dont now witch to call home. we will soon have a home of ower verry own, it will be fine wen we dont have to write any more. I didnt think Belle would get married so soon. we might just as well get married the same time and call it a double header.

Ma has ben quit sick but is getting better.

the Baby is well and makes lots of noise. May think she can talk, I gess it must be French. we sold a heifer Monday, it cost ous \$26 and we sold it for \$40. it taks

lots of work to tend them all.

I must close for this time. I remain yours as ever, from your Loveing  
Almon

Good night with a Loveing kiss

Oak Park  
Dec 13, '98

Dearest Almon;

I recieved your letter last Sat, of course I was glad to hear from you. I always am, I looked for a letter before but I knew you were busy.

I am sorry your mother is sick, hope she will be well by this [time].

I am sorry you can't come Xmas. I have planned on your being there all a long, may be something will happen so you can come.

You may thank your sister for her kind invitation but you know dear I couldn't leave home this Xmas, it will be the last one I will have at home.

Belle is comeing out and I guess John will be there too. I do wish you could.

I wrote to Clara and asked her to come but she hasn't answered yet.

I am going to Aunt Lilly's next Monday, after I leave here, and I think the best way would be for you to call for me there next Tuesday, don't you? and then we could go down town together, because I know of no good place to meet you and we might not find each other. come in the morning if you can, because I want to get back in time to catch a train home, for the folks are going to meet me Tues night.

If this plan suits you or if it dont, write right away and let me know, so I'll know what to do, and what time you will be there, so I'll be ready.

I must close. I am writing before breakfast. bye bye darling.

with love and kisses  
yours forever  
Lizzie

Barrington  
Dec 21 '98

Dearest Almon;

Did you get home alright. I did but I was awful tired.

I am not going to the lake before Xmas so I'll be home Sat night and I'll look for you. I told Belle you were going to meet her on that train if you could.

Chester is helping up to the lake and he said Orman was comeing home last of this week so if he does I'll expect you Sat night and some one will be there to meet you, and if you don't come on that train I'll look for you Sun. morning on the 10:30.

Mamma wants me to stay home and help her until Xmas & I don't know what I'll do after [that].

Little Mary is quite sick to night, I hope she'll be better in the morning.

Well dear I am awful sleepy and I hope to see you so soon that I wont write any more. with love and kisses, till we meet.

yours forever  
Lizzie

Lake Zurich  
Dec. 28, '98

My Darling Almon;

I'll just write a little letter to you to let you know where I am, I suppose you can guess where I am.

you had not been gone but a few minites when James came and wanted me to get ready and go right up with him so of course I went "to make my fortune" as Belle and you say. O well it wont be long and they needed some one awful bad to help them.

There are 29 boarders. some sleep on the floor. there are 37 of us all, and

only three wemon folks but we get along splended. I only wish you were here as you were two years ago.

I don't know how long I'll stay, but it won't be more than two weeks, I think.

I really ought to be getting my sewing done now but I'll have to hurry up when I get started.

I've got something to tell you when I see you. I don't think I'd better write it, it isn't very important so it'll keep alright until I see you. Orman and Preston got here alright and seem to be happy. How is Aunt May? Orman said she didn't feel very well. Tell her James killed Jack, the dog, and skinned him.

I must close for it is late. I wrote this letter in ten minites. I am awful tired and sleepy too. I guess I'll never make up for all that sleep I lost, hope you have, I was afraid you would miss your train. write soon won't you dearest. I'll save some kisses for you.

with lots of love  
Lizzie

Lake Zurich  
Jan. 1 '99

Dearest Almon;

This is New Years night and I am going to start out good, by writing a letter to my sweet heart, I wish I could see you instead.

I have been nearly sick all day. I have taken cold and my head aches, I wish you were here to kiss it away darling, it seems so long since I saw you but it's only a week. Mother and father came up here today and they said grand pa told them yesterday that they would have to leave the farm by March 1. Uncle Ted is comeing on only two months notice, just think of it, they don't know where they will go yet but I guess they will move up here and live in the cottage until they can get a house built. papa has so much to do in the next 2 months.

We couldn't have a wedding now if we wanted one, so I think the best way will be, to just get married and I'll come over and stay at Aunt Mays as you want me to, until we get settled. I will be awful busy until then because mamma will be getting ready to move and there is all of my serving to do, but then we'll get along alright. Belle had to leave her place. she started the washing and couldn't finish. she is going to Aunt Lillies'. I don't know how long she will stay there, the doctor said she must have perfect rest for a few weeks. I am so sorry for her. I wish it was so she could come and stay with us now, don't you, dear.

Orman is working hard and is tired. he said I should tell you and Aunt May that he was alive and kicking and that he thought he would be home next Saturday, whether the ice business was over or not. they say it will take two weeks to fill the ice house. just think of it, if I stay up here two weeks longer that will only leave a month before we are married.

Preston was sick the other night but he is all right now I guess. He works right alone. James has the tooth ache and his face is all swollen up. Grandpa came home sick last night but is better now. I'll write all the news so you can tell Aunt May, I know she will want to know, and every one is so busy they have no time.

Grandma is awfull tired, well I am too, so I must close with lots and lots of love for you my precious. hope I get a nice long letter from you soon. think of me darling and remember I am always thinking of you. you may tell Aunt May the news but dont tell her all I have written. wish you a happy happy new year with kisses, I remain yours forever

Lizzie

Deerfield Ill.  
Jan 1th 1899

Dearest Lizzie

I recivied [your letter] and you dont now how glad I was to here from you. I wish you a happy new year. I was working all day and didnt get time to think of the new year. I suppose you had to work all day, but never mind, you will soon be yourr boos [boss].

I got home all right. I run allmost all the way to Barrington last Monday morning. I had to wait about five minites but the train was late. I wished I was at L.Z. making ice, that I could see you.

It is awful lonesome here. I dont get a chanse to goe any place, thare is so much to do, I cant leve the place.

May and I watched the old year out and the new year in.

Edna Prussia ~~Edna Prussia~~ was here all wheek, and is going home tomorow.

I wished I could be with you to day instead of writting this letter. I am comming to see you before ower wedding day, but I dont now wen I can come. I will let you now wen I can come. dont work to hard Dear.

I must close for this time. Good bye Dearest with Love and Love kisses.

Your Loveing  
Almon

Lake Zurich  
Jan 4 '99

My Dearest Almon;

I recieved your ever welcome letter and of course you may know I was glad to get it, I wish I could get one every day, and I know you like to hear from me so I am going to write you a little letter tonight, but I guess it is your turn to write but that dosen't make any difference.

I am so sorry you had to walk to Barrington that morning, next time I'll try and take you up, if I can.

You had better wait until I go home befor you come over, I'll let you know when I go, and if you come on the train, I'll meet you or papa will.

I have not heard from Belle this week.

John asked papa's consent Christmas day, for Belle. I wished you had asked him, he would like it so much better if you would, if I am not even worth asking for I am surely not worth haveing. I wish you would ask just to please me darling if nothing more. Mamma says she is saveing a bag of flour for us and papa says he has plenty of potatoes, so we can have something to eat any [way].

Nearly all of the new [boarders] left to day, there are about eleven left, we had 27 this morning. Orman went to get his due bill and Bruce told him to go back to work, he would tell him when he wanted him to quit so he killed time all day, but he says he is going to put in his time just the same, he is tired, he has worked several nights, he has taken cold I guess, he is lyeing on the floor now, he don't feel very well tonight, Aunt Lydia gave him some hot lemonade.

Aunt Lydia has been sick all day and grandpa felt so mean he didn't go to the city, guess he will go in the morning. Preston went home today, I guess the poor fellow was home sick or something, so many of the men have had the "grips".

I suppose Preston will have told you all the news before you get this.

I wrote all I could think of about Orman, so be sure to tell Aunt May, because he hasn't written home and I am sure she will like to hear any thing about him, he often says he wishes he could see the baby and wonders how she is, I hope she is well. Orman helps us fine when ever he is around.

Well I have written a long letter but there isn't much in it after all. I wish you would write to me real often for I love to get your letters, it don't take long to write a letter. I've only got one stamp left, I'll have to send home & get some money before I can write again, so you'll know the reason if you don't get a letter soon. well good night darling with all my love and a kiss to you dear.

Loveinly yours  
Lizzie

Friday Morning.

Dearest Almon

I forgot to send this letter yesterday.

Orman was sick all day yesterday, he didn't work, he feels a little better today, he has the "grip", he say maybe he will be home tomorrow or next day. Clarence was sick all last night. Aunt Lydia never went to sleep until after two this morning. I wish the ice "biz" was over, am tired of it.

Deerfield Ill.

Jan 8th 1899

Dearest Lizzie

I recivied both of your letters, and you dont now how glad I was to get them, thay would be welcome every day. you mabe will be looking for one before you wrote the last letter, but I now this one will be welcome, wont it Dear.

We wont have to write much longer to each other only five wheeks more, until I can call you my very own, wont that be fine, but I must ask your pa. I ought to have asked him before this. I will ask your papa to please you and to please him, next time I come to see you.

I sorry Belle had to work. I wished we were married that she could come and stay with ous. it makes her feal so bad to be sick, she is so tender hearded, but she will soon be married then she wont have to work hard. the baby is feeling well and is dooing lots of crowing to day. Ormon got home last night and is quite sick to day. I had to do all the work alone to day, and am not feeling well eather. I am getting tired and discouraged the way things are going, but I have to keep ploding on to the weary end. I am thinking of you every day and it makes time pass much quicker, and I now you are dooing the same. if could only see you to day, and you would now the rest.

I must goe to work, so I must close for this time, my Dear Loveing sweet heart with a good bye kiss.

From your loveing  
Almon

Deerfield Ill.

Jan. 15th 1899

Dearest Lizzie

I was wating for a letter from you before this, but never mind Dear, I own you a letter, and it wouldnt make any diference if I didnt, I write to you any way. I never get tired of writing to you my Dear sweetheart. I suppose you are home by this time and are glad of it. I wished I could [be] with you to night. It is so long that I saw you. I am thinking of you all the time. it wont be long till we can do ower thinking together. we will have lots to think about till we got ower home fixed up and get settled down. I was to ower future home Friday and asked the people wen thay were going to move. Thay sed thay would move by the middle of Febuary. I was to Deerfield this afternoon to see Mother, she is sick and is verry low. You wood be surprised if you saw her. But we hope for the best.

She sed she was getting a bed ready for you but she cant finish it now, she thought you would have to do the rest. It makes me cry to write this.

My uncle Mr Myer is verry sick and dont expect him to live.

It is only four wheeks more until we are married, and we have lots to get ready til then, you wont have much time to get ready, but we will get married just the same. If your Papa will let me have you for my Wife, do you think he will.

I had an invitation to a party last night ant I went. I got tired of staying at home. I danced all night and danced home sweet home at two Oc this morning. Dont get mad at me Dear, I got tired and lonesome staying at home and didnt now what to do. I thought of you all the evening.

It is getting late and I must get up early.

I must close for this time. I am well hopeing you are the same.

From your Dear Loveing Almon  
with a good night kiss

Barrington Illinois  
Jan. 15 '99

My Darling Almon have you been looking for a letter. I know I ought to have written before but I have had my hands full for the last week. I came home Tuesday eveing and Ma went to the city Wed. morning and left all of the children home and she stayed at Aunt Lillie's until Saturday night. I told her I could manage the babies alright, but the very day she left, John took sick and I had all I could do to take care of him and before Sat. night, everyone of them were sick, pa and all, and there were two hired men to cook for. I tell you I was glad when she got home. Johnnie is quite sick yet. I am going in the city Wed. I guess, to do my shopping, and comeing out Sat night on the same train Belle and you came out on Xmas. couldn't you meet me Sat night at Mayfair and come out here and spend Sunday with me dear. I want to see you. I'll have lots to tell you.

Papa got a postal card from Uncle Ted asking him if he would stay on the farm another year because the man he sold his milk route to, backed out and he couldn't leave of course pa will stay as it is almost impossible for him to move in two months the way he has things arranged.

I am sorry darling you are discouraged, hope things will run smoothly and you will feel better.

I will have to hurry with my sewing, time is flying, and I haven't started yet.

I have thirty dollars to do my buying with. Aunt May paid nearly that much for one dress so you see, I'll have to make my money go a long way as it will have to buy all my things, sheets and pillows cases too, but then I'll manage alright and we will be just as happy too, won't we darling. I hope we will be happier.

O what do you think, Mr Chase wants to come and board with us, when we are married, I told hime he would have to ask you, he won't stay at the Lake any longer. I guess he is comeing here this week to stay a while. he says he will go south in the spring if we won't board him. I'll tell you all when I see you.

Papa is on jury, he has to go in tomorrow morning, I dont know how long he will have to stay but he thinks he can come out nights.

If any thing should happen so that I could not come out on that train Sat. night, you look for papa, and you can come on his ticket, but I think I'll be on the train.

You had better write to Avondale for I will be there after Wed. and I would like to hear from you this week. I do not know whether I'll write again or not, but please let me know if you are comeing or not.

Well I must close it is late. I have written several letters this eveing and am sleepy.

Hope Orman and May and baby are well and you too dear.

Belle isn't working now she is visiting. She wrote and asked me if I would like to have her help me with my sewing, I told her of course I would but I don't know what she will do, she is better and thinks she will find another place.

Well my dearest bye bye with love and kisses until we see each other, which I hope will be soon.

ever yours  
Lizzie Catlow

Deerfield Ill.  
Jan 19th 1899

Dearest Lizzie

I recivied your letter and was glad to here from you. I think [I] can meet you Sat. eve at Mayfair, if nothing gets in the way.

Mother is a little better today. I gess she will get along all right.

I will tell you the rest wen I see you. I must close.

From your Loveing  
Almon

Barrington Ill  
Jan 26 99

My Dearest Almon;

I got home O.K. about 10:30 A.M. I have been busy ever since.

How is your mother dear? I hope she is better. I have been looking for a letter from you.

I'll send you the ticket so you will be sure to come.

Gertrude is here sewing now, she is makeing the wedding dress now, it is very pretty. I know you'll like it.

I must hurry and close for I want to write to Belle and I'll see you next Sunday, so I won't need to write any more this time. with all my love to you darling.

from your loveing  
Lizzie

Deerfield Ill  
Jan 26 1899

Dearest Lizzie

I did not get a chance to mail my letter to day. Mother is verry low and May is going to D. to stay all night with her to night. if M. dont get any better, I wont come Sat. night. Mabe you would better come out here if you can. if you come, try and get to Deerfield before my train leves. my train leves at six Oc.

I must hurry for May is wating.  
I must close.

with love  
Almon

Barrington  
Feb. 6 99

My Darling Almon;

I know you will be looking for a letter from me so I will try and write you a short one.

Nearly every body is sick here, Papa was sick all last week, but is better now. Josie and Ruth are both very sick. we sat up all Sat. night with them, they are a little better this morning.

I was so sick all day yesterday that I couldn't set up, but I feel better this morning, the folks say the thoughts of getting married makes me sick but I know better.

Gertrude left Sat morning. my sewing is nearly all done. I can finish the rest after we are married.

Belle is comeing out next Sunday morning.

Well I must close and get to work, there is so much to do that I'll have to work sick or well.

I recieved Viola's card ok. I hope your mother is still improveing.

Did you get home alright with all those bundles?

How about the stove pipe damper?

Well I must close for papa is going to town and I haven't ate my breakfast yet. I was so sick, I couldn't write yesterday. well bye bye dear, I know if you were here to give me one of your loveing kisses, I would feel better, with all my love and kisses for you my darling until I see you again.

Write and tell me when you are comeing and how, if you come on the train, be sure and let me know which one, so some one can meet you. If you go in the city Monday, will you bring me some roses, some white ones.

Were the invitations alright? must close, write soon.

Your "valentine"  
Lizzie

Barrington Ill  
Feb. 9, 1899

My Darling Almon

I recieved your letter O.K., you didn't ask for a ticket but I am going to send you one just the same. I do wish you would let me know what train you are comeing on, it is so far and you will have your things to carry too.

I sent papa's ticket to Belle.

Every one of the children are sick. Chester and ma don't feel well either. I guess they all have the "grip".

Nelson was sick here three days and then he left.

Mary Patten was up to the Lake last Sunday with her new beau, she is engaged to him, I don't know when the wedding will be.

must close, with love.

P.S. We recieved Aunt Mays acceptance a few day ago. I am very sorry you mother can't [come]. dear, I should like to have her here ever so much, but I am glad she is getting better.

Papa got some corn near Barrington Centre the other day.

Bye Bye my dearest, will see you soon and let me know what train you'll come on wont you dear.

with a loveing kiss  
yours Lizzie Catlow