

Apr 30, 1892

Dear Cousin

I will try to answer your letter after waiting so long. I expect you think I am a dear old cousin, but I have started three different letters to you and I had company come every time before I could finish them my intentions were good were they not?

I know you will forgive me this time will try and do better in the future. Mamma got a letter from Aunt Sinda this morning saying that Helen was married. We never were more surprised. We thought she would let us know it, but Aunt wrote as though it was a surprise all around. She did not tell us where she is or where she is going to make her home. She said in one of her letters to me that she was coming to make us a visit when she was married. Tell her that we are expecting her and she need not try to surprise us for I am going to watch every train that comes in.

Mamma says tell Aunt S that she can sympathize with her she was not willing for Dora to marry but probably it is all for the best. Alice it looks as though we were going to get left but there is plenty of time for us yet don't you think?

We have one case of diphtheria here and the people are frightened out of their wits. I guess you remember Daisy Richards she has been going to school in Oroville and was exposed to it but did not know it. She came home and was staying with our neighbor that lives in the Fleming House and took sick with it. They took her home she cannot live. The Doctor says he could of cured her but it was working on her four or five days before any knew it and it had a good hold on her. Everybody nearly in town is exposed to it. The school gave an Entertainment and social dance Friday Eve she had fever then. I was with her all afternoon Sunday and she went to bed Sunday eve so I could not be any more exposed than I am. We are taking preventatives the Dr. gave us if we have it, it will be very light. I cannot taste or smell anything but sulphur we eat it and fumigate with it anything to escape the terrible disease. The lady that she was staying with has three little children and expecting to be confined every day. I feel so sorry for her.

Alice you will probably see me up there this summer if nothing happens and I do not die of diphtheria. I have been going below every summer and Papa says I can go up there this summer never have been in the Mills and think it will do me good. Will let you know when I am coming not before June. Write soon and tell us all about it. Goodbye love from all to all. Mollie

*Excuse all the mistakes my eyes are paining me so I can hardly write. Will send our pictures in a few days*

Gridley Calif.  
Apr. 30, 92.

Dear Cousins:

I will try to answer <sup>in time</sup> after waiting so long. I expect you think I am a dear old cousin but I have started three different letters to you and I had company come every time before I could finish them my intentions were good were they not?

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Gridley, California

November 29, 1892

Mrs. S.C. English

Dear Aunt, Mother wishes me to write and let you know the reason she has not answered your letters. I will try and answer all three at one time. She was very busy while Dora was here. She was confined here, was quite sick and did not get up for fourteen days. Her baby was five weeks old last Sunday. It is a little girl, has black hair and blue eyes and weighed eight pounds. It is a pretty little thing and we are all very proud of it. They have been below two weeks next Friday. It was only four weeks old when they left, but she felt strong and had good care while sick. We have not heard from them yet but expect a letter every day. I forgot to tell you the baby's name; Ethel Leona. The former is Jessie's middle name and she thought so much of it that Dora had to name it after her. Frank gave it the other. They both wanted a girl so are satisfied.

We had a letter from Bob the day before election and all he could talk about was to vote for Weaver. First letter we have received for five years. Papa answered it after election and told him next time he wrote to write about the folks and not Weaver. He said they were all well but Grandma is getting quite feeble. She walks back and forth to Mat's and Lizzie's about once a week and wants to see us all so bad. He is talking of selling and going to Washington and will bring Mother with them. Mother says she wishes they would so you could all meet again. She feels so lonely with no relatives here.

The Methodists gave a Thanksgiving dinner in the Opera House and a Chrysanthemum Fair which last three nights. It was fine. All kinds of buildings made of the flowers. It was grand. It was for the U.B. Minister. They had so few member that the Methodists helped them. They must of cleared nearly \$200, have not heard yet. I have not had a chance to see any of the Methodists yet what you said about your letter but will tend to it. Todd's have sold out and gone to the City to live. They all have good positions except Mrs. Todd and she has stopped sewing and is keep house and taking care of Grandma. Laura is working in a milliner store. I suppose you heard of Mrs. Taylor's death. They took her to the Napa Asylum and kept her five weeks and brought her home and only lived a week afterward. They brought her home to die. Her folks did not know she was so bad, but she did not know anything. Jim teaches school in the Country. Alice lives in the City and Mabel is going to the Normal at Chico. I must tell you the latest, Henry Taylor has left Mary. His old mother came up and made them a visit and the devil got in him after she came. She brought a cousin of his with her and Henry became infatuated with her and followed her. Mary has four children and expecting to be confined every day. There has been more trash weddings and separations this fall than ever was known before; kept things lively. When you come to Redding come on and see us. When you get that far keep on until you get here. Write soon. Give all my love also to your Sister. Helen and my nephew by law<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the news of the birth of Ethel Leona Burress, first daughter of Dora Porter and Frank Burress, granddaughter of Ellen Moore and Jessie Porter, this letter is most likely written by Mollie Porter, Dora's younger sister.

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will bring Mother with them. Mother says she wishes they would so you could all meet again she feels so lonely with no relatives here. The Methodists gave a Thanksgiving dinner in the Opera House and a chrysanthemum fair which last three nights it was fine all kinds of buildings made of the flowers it was grand. it was for the U. S. Minnie. They had so few members that the Methodists helped them they must of cleared nearly 500 have not heard yet. I have not had a chance to see any of the Methodists get what you said about your letter but will send to it. Todde ~~of~~ have sold out and gone to the City to live they all have good positions except Mrs. Todd and she has stopped sewing and is keeping house and taking care of Grandma. Laura is working in a milliner store

Dec 3, 1894

Gridley Butte Co CA

Dear cousin I would like to see you how are you and how is auntie? Alice has finished her dress and it is very pretty. It is all gray. I had a letter from Edna yesterday. She wants to see me so bad that she is crazy. Are you going to school? What reader are you in? I am in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and I am nearly through it. Are there many bears up there? I am going in the other room. Christmas what do you want for Christmas? From your loving cousin Jessie Porter

Jessie wants to tair this letter up.

She wrote it in about 5 five minutes.

She says her papa keeps the storr therefore she can afford to use plenty of ink.

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Gridley

December 6, 1915

Dear Aunt and Uncle -

I have been intending to write you for some time but it seems like I never find time with two babies to do anything but wash. If it was not for my babies I never in the world could live through this terrible trouble. I miss mama more every day and I can't hardly stand it to go by the old home and not be able to run in. You know mama and I were together so long after Mollie was married that we were like chums.

I hope my children will love me like I loved my mother and be as good to me as I tried to be to her. And I hope I will be as good a mother as she was for she was the best mother a girl ever had.

She tried so hard when I was a girl to do everything to make me happy and tried to be young with me and take me places when I know now that she was tired lots of times and would of rather stayed at home but would not spoil my pleasure.

Papa is living with me when he is at home. At present he is down to Dora's but was up last Thursday but did not have time to write you and thank you as they, (he and Dora) came up to attend Oliver Porter's (Uncle Bob's boy's) funeral. He was only sick a week from a cold that developed into pneumonia and caused him to have hemorrhages (I don't think that's spelled right). He was only seventeen. Poor boy he suffered something terrible.

Now we all want to thank you for the apples and jerky or venison. It certainly was fine. Every one enjoyed it even the babies. All the neighbors had a sample of both and they liked the apples so well that they asked me to write and see if you had any more of the same kind and how much you asked for them? And how about us getting some potatoes?

Mrs. Richards would like one or two boxes of apples like those and I think some of those good potatoes and Wesley Serviss wants some apples and potatoes and we want some so write and let me know how much the apples are a box and what you ask for the potatoes and how many potatoes could you send by parcel post or would they come just the same as the apples did? Let me know as soon as possible and I can let you know how many we all will want.

Orin and Albert were almost sick when they heard about deer being so plentiful. They thought they might of hit one as they were so thick, but I doubt it, don't you?

I am glad to hear Helen has such a good baby and sorry to hear Sally is not well? So Irene is going to try double harness. Well I hope she does well and gets a man that will be good to her for she is certainly a dear, good, sweet girl.

I suppose you wonder how I found this out? Mollie read your letter to me.

I do not know much new only Bob and Ida have another baby girl. Mr. V.P. Richards youngest son was married Thanksgiving day in San Francisco. He is a surgeon.

I must send my love and say good night.

Jessie Serviss

Gridley Dec. 6 185

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us getting some potatoes?

Mr Richards would like one other  
boxes of apples like those + I think  
some of those good potatoes and  
Wesley Serriss want some apples  
+ potatoes and we want some  
so write and let me know how  
much the apples are a box and what  
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4

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I do not know much news only ~~Bob~~ Bob and Ida have another baby girl. Mr. T.P. Richards youngest son was married Thanksgiving day in San Francisco. He is a surgeon.

I must send my love and say  
good night

Jessie Lewis

Gridley Dec 13 1915

Dear Bother & Family

This leaves us all well as could be expected I have been down with my stomach for about six weeks but am better now we received the apples & that venison it were fine well I just got back from Dora's I told Mollie to send you some Figs she taken them up to her to dip I she has not sent them yet Albert told me the other day he would send them the kids taken all of the oranges & walnuts while we were gone well times are quiet here nothing doing it is raining here & has been for two days

Well how are you all getting along I suppose you have plenty of fried venison to chew on this winter have you heard from the folks lately I wrote to Lou twice to send me Alice Address but she has never sent I would like to write to them if I knew where to Address the letter well I will have to close as I can't think of nothing to write Love to all

Yours Truly

J.L. Porter

Gridley Dec 13 1915

Dear Brother & Famley

This leaves us all well as could be expected i have bin down with my stomach for a bout six weeks but am better now we recived the apples & that venson it were fine wel i jest got back from Doras i told Molley to send you some Figgs she taken them up to her to dip i she has not sent them yet albert told me the other day he would send them the kids taken all of the oranges & walnuts while we wer gon wel times are quite here nothing douing its is raining here & has bin for two days well how are you all geting along i sopse you have plenty of dride venson to schew on tihs winter have y u heard from the folks latley i wrote to Lew twice to send me Allis Adress but she has never sent i would like t write to them if i new where to Adress the letter wel i wil halft to close as i cant think of nthing to write Love to all

Yours Truly

J.L.Porter

Biggs December 14, 1915

Dear Uncle and Aunt

I will try and answer your letter. I always write in the hurry so I don't suppose you can make it out half of the time. We are sending you a few figs by Parcel Post. You ought to get them when you receive this letter. We would like to of sent you some olives, but haven't any cured yet. There are not many this year. In regard to the rice you spoke about, we have to pay 8 ½ cents here in the store and Albert went to the mill to see what he could do and they do not see in small amounts so I did not know what to do. Almost if you wouldn't save much on it by the time you got it up there if you get it from the store but I will send you some if you want it.

Tell Uncle Vete father received the apples and venison but I don't suppose he wrote and thanked you for them. He depends so much on us girls now and was at Dora's when they came. We all had a sample of them.

I see by the Bee where Irene has the marriage license well joy go with them. Tell her we wish them much happiness and success.

She is just a little older than Norma and I would feel dreadful if she should think of such, she graduates from high school this year and we hope to send her to the University. Then they can go out in the world independent. We all thought lots of Irene it would be nice if they would come down this way in their honeymoon. Are any of your family going to be with you for Christmas? I am going to have the Xmas dinner here for the first time.

Mother always wanted it there 'til last year. She was so poorly we had it at Jessie's and I said then I am afraid we will never have Xmas again at mothers. It will be the saddest one we have ever spent but it comes to all of us doesn't it?

Well I must close and wish you all a Merry, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope you two will not be alone up there.

Your loving niece,

Mollie Ditzler

P.S. I inquired at the store this morning and they said by taking 50 lbs. they thought could let you have the rice for five cents. Would have some this years in a few days. Let me know if you want it.

Biggs Dec. 14 - 1915

Dear Uncle & Aunt:

I will try and answer  
your letter I always write in  
a hurry so I don't suppose you  
can make it out half of the  
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have the rice for five cents.

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if you want it.

Everette, Washington

Dear Sister and Brother. I will write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. Well I have washed bed clothes and carded wool, hoed weeks 'til I am so sore I can't hardly get up stairs with the wood. Well Cindy how is Mandy? Is she going home or not? Did her daughter in law get well? I hope her son makes her a home but I am afraid not. You would be better off if you would go to Helen's this winter. I sure wore my welcome out the way they talk to me. Dave talked to me like I was a half-witted. Well I will come there the next time from home if ever I am able to live up stairs. It is too hard to go up and down. There was some stories when I was there from what Edna said she did not want me to talk about Mandy. I told her that was not in my line of business. That it took the bans to tattle that is something I ever done since I been married. I never had a word in my life I have lived here 23 years and never had a word so I will not commence now. I wish you was here so I could help you. Well tell me how you are and Vete lot of love to all and Helen's family lot of love.

S. C. Porter

Ererette Wash  
Dear Sister and Mother  
I will write you a few  
lines to let you know I  
am getting a long  
well I have washed bed  
case and carded wool  
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so sore I cant hardly  
get up stairs with the  
wool well Sunday  
how is Monday is  
she got home as nat  
did her daughter in law  
get well I hope her boy  
makes her a home  
but I am a fruid nat

you would be better  
if you would go  
to hellers this winter  
I sure were my wela  
me ant the way they  
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business that it took  
the hands to tattle  
that is something I  
never done since I  
has married I never  
had a word in my  
life I have lived here  
23 years and never  
had a word so I will  
not come inence now  
I wish you was here so  
I could help you  
will tell me how you  
are and what lot of  
love to all and the  
family lot of love  
B C Potter