



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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D. M. McCay
Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.



air mail

VIA AIR MAIL

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minn.

Rust College
Nally Springs, Miss.
July 16, 1941

Dear Latsie.

In the last two week I
missed you and talked
about you often.

You wasn't worry so much.
It only makes matters worse.
I think I understand your
mother very well, she couldn't
cause me to think differently
about you so suppose you
don't think about that any
more - promise?

Latsie here's my opinion of
the whole situation, though I
probably have no business having
an opinion at all. (Yet it
seems such a pity you
aren't happy when you have
every reason to be.) Your mother

She can only see life as she lives it.

wants you to be a sort of Brenda Fraiser while you, ~~if~~^{even} if you could be now, wouldn't like to live that type of life at all. She ^(I think) feels that with your financial and social position in your town there is a definite policy you should follow and a place you should hold. For the most part her ideas are what you would expect from a person who has had all the advantages she has. It seems only right that her only daughter should live as she has lived. Most parents feel that way forgetting that their children must determine how they want to live themselves taking into consideration their abilities and lack of abilities. I may be wrong ~~by~~ but your leaving won't be a solution to the problem in my estimation.

Really, from a remark I heard
 your mother make, I'm sure
 she'd like to have you at home.
 It seems to me if you could
 talk it over you could
 make her see how hard you
 have tried to please her and
 how miserable you would be
 trying to be if as she would
 love you and that you must
 live according to the dictates
 of your conscience. But you
 will ~~try~~ to also do as
 she would like you to as
 much as you could.

Why not go down to Rochester
 and be fitted for one of the
 new devices to aid your hearing.
 Then you'd be more at ease
 with the people your mother
 would like for you to be
 friendly with don't you think?
 I think it's worth trying as I
 have friends who have them
 and have been using them for

years. If the device doesn't help in your case you could give it to a charity hospital and the money wouldn't be wasted as your fear.

If I've been too presumptuous please pardon me.

Instead of having me come to see you why don't you come and visit us in August? When are you planning to go West? I'd like for you to come before summer school closes on the 16th. This isn't a very lively place at best and when school closes it is most dull as the teachers are off on their vacations usually.

When ^{you} write to Jim tell him hello for me also give my best regards to Sally.

The fourth wasn't very exciting for me either. We went to a picnic in the

afternoon which wasn't much fun we all agreed.

I've only begun The "Wizard of Oz". I like Vebanen's book. It was very "light" but interesting.

I haven't had the pictures developed yet I keep forgetting them. I'll send you copies though.

If you see any of the girls I met tell them hello for me. I'm glad Mopine got her autograph she seems so nice.

Write again soon

Loveingly
Hilda



THE HOME ECONOMICS BUILDING, WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY, WILBERFORCE, OHIO

PHOTO-TONE
POST CARD

8/15/41



Dear Latare,

I arrived here

Friday night after
a long ^(190 miles) but pleasant
trip. Berry did

most of the driving.

I'll write a letter
soon.

Miss L. J. Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota.

I hope you have
settled your plans for the
winter. Best regards to your family.



Eagle Post Card View Co., Inc.

H. M. McCay
Rest College
Holly Springs, Miss.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minn.

Rust College
Holly Springs Miss.
Sept. 1, 1941

Dear Lotcie,

I am writing now
and hoping this letter
will reach Little
Falls by the time
you do. It was
too late to reach
you in Washington.

We were so sorry
to tell you good-bye
in Memphis. I'm glad

you slept ² well on the train.

We had an uneventful trip back. After we had been here about 15 minutes we had a terrible wind and rain storm. and since then it's been quite pleasant until today and yesterday when it became hot again. I've been a little peeved at the 'weather man' for being on his worse behavior when company was here. I do come home

last week ³ and left for Vicksburg today. She was so sorry she didn't get to meet you.

Mary and Elvora send hello and say that they miss you.

You shouldn't have sent that money in your last letter for put that money in my purse. Elvora told me about you.

Mama says she received your letter and appreciated it. That she missed you also.

You'll love to come back and renew your friendships here. Maybe Dad will be here more next time, though he is often gone.

Mrs. Katon came today. She was terribly tired and I haven't seen much of her yet. She asked about you. She knew I was to visit you before she left in May or June.

I hope you have gotten rid of the cold you had in Washington.

I am not going
 to teach in Atlanta
 after all. I had another
 offer that seemed much
 better in some respects.
 Deciding what to do
 was some job. I got
 released from Clark
 now I am going to
 Wilberforce Ct. in Wilber-
 force, Ohio. Am keeping
 my fingers crossed.
 Dr. Brooks made
 me decide in favor
 of the other school. While
 he was here he told
 me he had asked

6
the Methodist preacher
in Pine Bluff how
many times I had been
to Church. Clark is
a Methodist school
line know the president
and lots of the Church
officials connected with
it for a long time. Dr
Brooks' attitude made
me think that the
others would feel
as if they could try
running my life and
I wouldn't have that
at all so I was glad
when I got the new

position. 3.

I hoped you have
gotten settled for the
winter.

Did you see Jack II
in New York? Don't
hold out on me.

Before I leave I am
going to burn Vernon's
letters and picture.
That will mark finish
to that affair definitely.

While the watermelons
were at their best
daddy was shipping some
to friends so I was
afraid to wait until
you got home.

I have one the addresses
you asked for.

Mrs. C. J. Griffin
Rust College

Mrs. P. J. McIntosh
Rust C.

Mrs. W. O. Spright
1393 South Parkway
Memphis Tenn.

Mrs. L. D. Williams
896 Mississippi Blvd.
Memphis Tenn.

So write soon
Love
Hilda

W. M. McCay
Runt College
Holly Springs, Miss.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minn.

Rust College
Holly Springs Miss.
Sept. 8, 1941

Dear Letaie

It was so sweet
of you to send us
all such lovely gifts.
Really you shouldn't
have done that.
I took the gifts to
Marion Spright and
Aunt Lucille
Friday.

I am in the
midst of packing.

Sent me Fatsie
I'll write a note
from Wilberforce
soon.

Love
Hilda

which I sincerely
despise. Early Thurs-
day morning I am
going to leave for
Wilberforce. Perry is
going to go with
me to drive.

Did the books
I sent you arrive
home safely?

Lots of people have
asked about you
and told me how
much they enjoyed
knowing you while
you were here.

Thank you again
for the gift you

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NT = Overnight Telegram

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

6M FJ 8NT

HOLLYSPRINGS MISS JUNE 17 1941

MISS LAURA JANE MUSSER

LINDEN HILL LITTLEFALLS MINN

DETAINED WILL ARRIVE FRIDAY 1120 AM VIA STPAUL

HILDA

849A JUNE 18

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11M FJ 7

CHICAGO ILL 920A JUNE 281941

MISS LAURA JANE MUSSER

LINDEN HILL LITTLEFALLS MINN

ARRIVED SAFELY WILL WRITE FROM HOME SOON

HILDA

1009A

W. M. May
Rust College
Italy Springs, Miss.



Air Mail Special

Fee Claimed by Office
of First Address

Miss Laura J. Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minn.



Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.
June 13, 1941

Dear Lottie,

We are both
excited about my
visit I'm planning
to have here
Wednesday the eighteenth
and will arrive
there on Thursday
about 11:30 A.M. If
that date doesn't

Now as I'm expecting
to see you soon.

Lane
Hilda

2

suit with your plans
let me know please. If
I don't hear from you
before then I'll know
that that date is
alright. Lntsee I'm going
to stay a week.

Evelyn Diggs finally
wrote. She's getting
along nicely still. She's
going to summer school
and later to camp in
one of the New England
states.

I'm not going to
write a long letter

W. M. McCoy
Purdue College
Holly Springs, Miss.



air mail



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Garden Hill
Little Falls, Minn.

Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.
May 31, 1941

Dear Leticia,

I hope you didn't think that I'd forgotten you. Especially when you were feeling so badly about your friend's passing. I've been away from home for a few days and just before I left time was at a premium.

To say I am so sorry about your loss will do little good I know. You can

I'm sure you are glad to be home again. By June New York isn't the pleasant place it has been all winter.

Commencement week is in progress here. That means we are always very busy. This year we are expecting more guests than ever as this is the 75th Commencement. The Alumni especially have been urged to come back and join in a campaign for funds which the college

always cherish her memory and be grateful that you had the opportunity of knowing and being guided by her.

Latsie & I can come to visit you anytime after the middle of June that will be most convenient for you. The climate there is so different from the climate here that I'd like for you to tell me what kind of clothes to bring. I hope my delay in answering hasn't interfered with any of your plans for the summer.

needs so⁴ badly because
of the fire last year.

Too my sister Harriette
is graduating.

Did you see Evelyn
Diggs before you left
New York? I finally wrote
to her but she hasn't
answered.

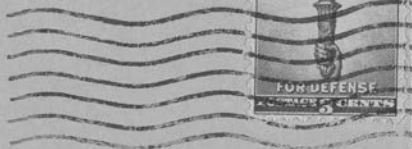
Mrs. Eaton returned
from Chicago yesterday.
She has been there
studying since Christmas.
She asked about you.

I am quite excited about
my visit. I will write
soon.

Love

Hilda

W. M. Mcay
Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.



Miss Laura J. Muser
605 115th St.
New York, N. Y.

Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.
April 28, 1941

Dear Lotsie,

I only wish I had
your capacity for
letter writing. It is really
something to be proud
of and treasure. Literally,
I am always bowded
down with shame
because I neglect writing
my friends.

The baby is darling.
This picture is the
only one I've seen so
I'm very glad you
sent it. I can't imagine
what happened to the
other one. I'm sending
this one back as I'm

Simply use up all of
your energy.

Last evening we
listened to Dorothy Maynor
broadcast. Of course
it was enjoyable. She
sang two spirituals with
the Chorus.

Now I must go to
town to shop for a
birth day present for
my Aunt and a
Wedding present for a
friend. After that I am
going to write to Evelyn.

Love
Hilda

afraid this is the only
one you have at
eight months.

Lotsie I'm afraid I'll
have to write something
back to you that you
wrote me last fall.
Your real friends always
want to help you when
you need them to, other-
wise they really aren't
friends at all. So don't
worry any more for
there's no need. We
all have to do a little
shoulder crying at times.

The years I was in New
York I loved the winters
and the ~~spring~~ ^{autumn} but by
spring I was depressed
at times and glad to leave
when school was out.
I think its the place
you go there. You

W. M. McCoy
Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
605 West 115th St.
New York City

Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.
Feb. 27, 1941

Dear Latsie,

I was so very
sorry to hear of your
illness. Long before
now I hope you have
completely recovered. Be
careful and don't overwork
again. That seems to
be the mistake I made.

Thank you so very
much for the lovely
Valentine. At the time
I was in Little
Rock and had fallen

She didn't want me to leave for she is rather lonesome. She hasn't any children and my uncle isn't always there.

Right now Aunt Mallie, the one I use to tell you about, is visiting her. Since being at home I have done absolutely nothing but read and knit. I even take my meals upstairs. Now I feel much better.

I'm sure you enjoyed your little niece while you were at home.

There hasn't been a baby in my family since my sister was born 21

down and skinned both my knees, - Have you ever heard of such at my age - I didn't feel like going down town so I couldn't get any greetings.

The doctor said that I am anemic again. I am beginning to doubt that and have confidence in him. Now I am tired of doctors but after a while I am going to change to another. I am really taking care of myself now. Since Jan. I haven't done anything at all. I stayed with my aunt until last week.

4

years ago. When there is
one I'm sure the family
will spoil it terribly.

Evelyn wrote me last
fall for the first time
in about a year. I'm
ashamed to say I haven't
answered except to send
her a Christmas greeting.
I have just about last
touch with all my N.Y.
friends. I'm such a poor
correspondent!

I hope your mother
is better too Latsie. Did
you go to Rochester?

As much as I would
like to I'm not at all
sure I can visit you
this summer. It's awfully
sweet of you to ask!

me. Maybe I'll have a
secret for you later.

Write again soon and
forgive ^{me} for not answering
sooner.

Don't work too hard
this Semester.

Mrs. Eaton was over
Sunday and asked about
you.

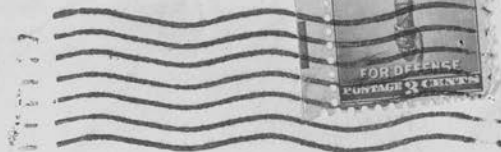
Love
Hilda

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

President's Office

Rust College

HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI



Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill

Little Falls, Minn.

Rust College

HOLLY SPRINGS
MISSISSIPPI

L. M. McCOY
PRESIDENT

October 20, 1941

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minnesota

My dear Miss Musser:

This comes to state how much I appreciate your letter relating your interest in Rust College and the people that it is attempting to point the way of a more complete and useful life. As an integral part of the population of the peoples who make up this great country of ours and even underprivileged and unprejudiced as they are they are being called upon and are responding nobly to help guarantee the "American Way of Life" to all the peoples of this our United States of America. Many of our boys have been called (studenta) within the past two months. Not a one has complained or attempted to evade the call which proves that our people generally understand the real heart beat and intent of this our great country and especially of those who take the pains to see and then do something about the conditions that are wholly un-American, inhuman and deplorable beyond civilized thought which submerge a large part of the American population both Negro and white far beneath the American standard of life and opportunities for improvement. But this of course is not the spirit of our great country but of those who are blind and deaf to the welfare of all the peoples. This too in time through patience and faith will pass away.

We certainly thank you for your check of \$25.00 to help on our new building which we need so very much.

I'm glad that you made the talk at the Methodist Church in Little Falls for Reverend Johnson and his congregation. We are attempting to have our Singers who are now in your state under the Supervision of Miss Doney to include the Methodist Church in Little Falls on their tour sometime in November. Hope you may hear them.

I am sure your people can hardly believe that church houses, school houses and huts such as the pictures you showed them could be a part of our "American Way of Life". Yet nearly one tenth of the American population - Negroes - are forced to live like that in the most wealthiest country in all the world.

I see that you are a champion of right and we hope that you may win many disciples to your way of seeing this problem of problems in our American life.

We shall be glad to have some of our young people correspond with some of your little pupils. You may expect this to begin soon from this end of the

line. I think it a fine idea.

Again thanking you for your most encouraging letter and the excellent donation toward our building project and with sincerest regards and every good wish from both Mrs. McCoy and myself, I am

Very sincerely yours,

L. M. McCoy
L. M. McCoy
w

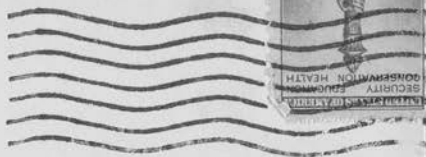
lmmc/mc

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

E. M. McCay

Rust College

HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI



Miss Laura J. Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minn.

Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.
Sept. 4, 1941.

Dear Latsie,

It was so kind of you to send me the beautiful handkerchief and case. I appreciate it and thank you with all my heart.

Your letter came to me several days ago. I have not answered because I was certain you had not reached home.

We have certainly thought of you often, and felt anxious about you because of the attack of stomach trouble you had. I hope it did

not give you more trouble.

We have had it very quiet on the campus. Dean and Mrs. Harris and the ladies from the Teachers Cottage and Girls' Home went on vacations, Mrs. Mcintosh, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Griffin also. We have been the only ones left on the campus.

Mrs. Eaton and her concert group returned Monday evening. They have gone to their homes now.

It is kind of you to take an interest in our work here. We appreciate it, and feel encouraged when you say you think the work is worthwhile.

We are wishing for you and your parents health and happiness.

Sincerely yours,
Edna M. McCarry.



Miss Laura J. Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minnesota.

E. M. Mc Coy.



HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI



Holly Springs, Miss.

July 15, 1941.

Dear Miss Musser,

It was a joy to have your letter saying you enjoyed Hilda's visit. She enjoyed every minute of her stay there. I am glad she had the opportunity to visit you, and at the same time to see a part of our country that was new to her.

She has told us of its beauties and we feel better informed than before. The souvenirs are beautiful that she brought us, and those from Burma that you gave her are truly interesting.

My husband has been to Minnesota, but it has not been

my good fortune to see your beautiful state, We thank you for your cordial invitation to stop at your home. Should the opportunity be ours We shall be happy to accept it.

Miss Musser, we have a very humble home, but if you will visit us some day we shall be very happy. It will give us pleasure in doing all we can to make you comfortable.

My family joins me in thanks to you, your parents, and household and friends for making Hilda's visit so pleasant. She speaks of you so often that we feel we know you already.

She joins me in best wishes to you. Sincerely yours,
Edna M. McCoy