



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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N. M. McCay
Rust College
Holly Springs
Mississippi



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

Rust College
Holly Springs, Minn.
Dec. 7, 1942

Dear Lattie,

Evidently our
letters crossed. Yours
was sent to New
York, I hope you
have received it by
now.

The lovely Christmas
gift you sent me
has just come. Thank
you so very much.
Elnora received her
gift. Mama forwarded it

ment and living quarters
can be found she
is going to join him
and ^{is} looking forward
to using her gifts.

Ida is expecting
a "bundle from

Heaven" in June. It will
be the first child
born in our family
for 23 years so I
know it won't stand
a chance. Mama
wants Ida to come
home but she
said she wouldn't
risk Robert (her husband)
of the opportunity of
joining the Hospital

to her and I sent her
your New York
address.

Harriette will have
a letter there soon
I'm sure. She has
been up in the air
for about two weeks
because of her husband's
furlough from the
army. Right now she
is in Little Rock
Ark. She and her
husband went to
see his mother
after being here a
few days. If her
husband is stationed in
a fairly permanent
position when he
returns for his assign

Corridors in anguish.
Are you going to
remain at home
for the remainder of
the winter?

I have very little
faith in human
nature. Only through
the suffering caused
by a long hard
war do I feel that
most of the people
will receive democratic
treatment here and in
the rest of the world.
While I abhor war,
should we be
victorious now none
of the promises made
to the darker races would

he kept. This time the
young men of my
race are not going
to give their lives
to make the world
safe for democracy
without demanding
a share of it. I've heard
them say they would
rather fight for democracy
here than go abroad
for either way they
face death and here
they have more to gain.
Some have already
fought here - One soldier
I know ^{and his company} fought from
California to Washington
state last summer.

Try to look at things more objectively and make allowances for human failings. Only by an objective point of view can you remain sane in a civilization like ours. We expect those who are closest to us to understand us best but they seldom do. Most people judge others by themselves and those that deviate from their pattern are different, not understandable, for they see no reason

when they were on guard duty on the west coast. They tore up restaurants that refused to give them food and fought the white soldiers who tried to discriminate against them.

Don't be discouraged in your efforts to put human relations on a more sane and human basis. You have chosen a hard and often discouraging task, often the people you wish ^{to help} won't understand.

for trying to understand
them, no effort is made,
therefore wrong.

Mama and daddy
send best wishes!

I must close now
and drive mama
to town on an
errand.

Write soon

Love
Hilda

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



Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minn

Miss Laura J. Thusser
~~612 West 115th St.~~
~~New York City~~

Please forward if necessary



STATION H

P.C. this year.

Love
Hilda

Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.
July 5, 1942

Dear Lottie,

I had intended
that this letter would
reach you before the
last of June as I don't
know your camp
address. I'm sure you
must be having a
wonderful time.

I received your 'Thank
you' letter. I'm glad you
liked the little gift and

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that you had a nice birthday.

Did your reference to your trousseau mean that there will really be orange blossoms soon?

I got a copy of the June 23rd "Pis" to see Marion Anderson. She has a lovely home but I didn't come for her pajamas.

Last week I saw an article in a newspaper to the effect that Dorothy Maynor has married a minister who is connected with

Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. I had intended to clip the article for you but forgot to do so.

I'm not positive when I shall be in Chicago but maybe we can get together. Last year was rather disappointing and I have been so glad to be away from Whiteforce until I have not made any definite plans for leaving home again this summer. I have decided not to go to summer

school this year but to go visiting when the mood strikes me.

When I decide definitely I will let you know when I will be in Chicago.

Have you heard from your Cousin Jim Taylor? Since being here several of the former students have returned on furloughs. Seeing and talking with them has made the war more realistic than ever. Most of the boys who have gone to school here for the last few years are in the army, most

of them are now commissioned
 officers now. From time
 to time we hear of some
 who have been sent
 overseas. Its all so
 horrible and such a
 waste. In most instances
 they worked their way
 through school, the little
 help that they received from
 their families meant
 great sacrifices at home.
 Soon they will be dying
 like insects 'to preserve
 a democracy' that has been
 all but democratic to them.

I wonder what will
all of this lead to.

My sister's husband
did not have to go after
all the suspense and
worry they had. His
final examination revealed
that he could not hear
with one of his ears.
Now he is studying in
a defense radio class
and also acting as
instructor for some
classes in electricity.

Write soon and tell
me about your camp
activities.

I'm enclosing a clipping I
intended sending for ages. Laurie
Burge is teaching at Neword in Washington

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



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

Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.
August 5, 1942

Dear Lataie,

I couldn't possibly
come to visit you
now so I am answering
your letter right away.
It seems that I am the
world's 'busiest' person,
this spring & ^{summer} all my plans
have been worthless. I
thought I'd surely see
you in New York or
Chicago — for three

years a friend² and myself
have been planning to
go to N. Y. C. together.
Now with the war and
etc. I not particular
about going but she
is anxious still to go
so I guess we will
go the 17th or 18th of this
month. A cousin in
Detroit is expecting
me to visit her. If
possible I'll visit her
first and then go on
to New York for about
a week. Or I may just
join my friend in
Kentucky and go on to

New York from there.

My younger sister Harriette was married in Chicago July 31st. Her husband is a farmer schoolmate who is in the army now. For as long as ~~he~~ he is at Custer I suppose she will stay there in Chicago with Ida as Fort Custer isn't so far from there. This war has upset things so.

I don't remember the name of the man Dorothy Maynor married. He is a minister and connected with Lincoln

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University in Pennsylvania.

I saw several articles
relative to Roland Hayes
ill treatment in Georgia.
Such happenings as that
and others still worse
have made me very un-
appreciative of England & the
U.S.A.: charges of cruelty
against the Axis powers
its a case of the pot
calling the kettle black.
No wonder India has
the attitude she has.

I have about twenty
more letters to write so
I must close.

Sarah
Hilda

Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.
July 29, 1942

Dear Lotie,

I hope you received my telegram before you left New York. I was in Little Rock visiting my aunt and uncle. I had planned to stay only a week but stayed two weeks including the time I spent in Pine Bluff visiting friends.

While in Little Rock I got a little cotton bale favor ^{or} Souvenir at

a service station. I'll
send it to you soon.
We couldn't find any
in the stores. Evidently
they stopped smoking them
because of the war.

Did you ever receive
my last letter? I sent it
to your last New York
address.

I'm sure you must
have had a lovely time
camping with the Schylers.

Will you return to
New York next winter? I
haven't any idea what
I shall be doing now.
I was very unhappy
at Wilkesforce so I am

not going ³back there.
For another month I
am going to rest and
forget the 'cares of the
world' as much as
possible. Then, maybe
I'll find a position
for next winter.

You owe me two
letters now so I shall
expect to hear from you
soon.

Give my best regards
to your family and friends
and met while there.

Lave
Hilda

N. M. McGay
Box 278
Willerforce, Ohio



Miss Laura J. Musser
612 West 115th St.
New York City

H M M

WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY
WILBERFORCE, OHIO

June 11, 1942

Dear Lottie,
There is just a
note to say that I
will answer your
letters after I reach
home. I am having

2.

here Friday night
for home.

My New York
trip has been put
off for the time
being. I expect to
spend awhile in
Chicago this summer.
Maybe we can
meet there.

Right now I am
very tired and sleepy.
I have been packing
and straightening out
everything so I can
get away Friday.
Will write more later
Love Helen

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.

(22)

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NT = Overnight Telegram

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

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

ND87 9=LITTLEROCK ARK 17 1132A

1942 JUL 17 PM 1 26

MISS LAURA JANE MUSSER=

612 WEST 115 ST=

ANSWERED YOUR LETTER VISITING HERE SORRY WONT SEE YOU=

HILDA.

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

Rust College

HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI



Miss Laura J. Musser

Little Falls, Minn.

1866

1942

RUST COLLEGE

Commencement Calendar

Seventy-Sixth Anniversary

Friday, May 29, 3:30 P. M. High School Class
Day

8:00 P. M. Annual Musical Presentation

Saturday, May 30, 3:30-5:30 Field Day

Sunday, May 31, 10:30 A. M. Baccalaureate
Services, Sermon—Reverend Marshall
Wingfield, D. D., Pastor, First Con-
gregational Church, Memphis, Tenn.

8:00 P. M. Annual Sermon, Reverend M.
J. Stalling, Pastor Wesley Methodist
Church, Greenwood, Mississippi

Monday, June 1, 10:00 A. M. Annual Meeting of
Board of Trustees

8:00 P. M. Senior College Class Night.

Tuesday, June 2, 1:00 P. M. Luncheon in
honor of Graduates, Faculty, Trustees
and Alumni.

8:00 P. M. Founder's Day—Alumni
Anniversary

Address: Reverend J. B. F. Shaw, D.
D., Ph. D., Pastor Centenary Methodist
Church, Memphis, Tennessee.

Wednesday, June 3, 10:00 A. M. Commence-
ment Exercises.

Address—Reverend W. C. Newman, D.
D., Pastor First Methodist Church,
Corinth, Mississippi.

TO ALL THESE EXERCISES YOU ARE
CORDIALLY INVITED

Summer Quarter Begins June 8, 8:00 A. M.

Rust College
Holly Springs, Mississippi
December 9, 1942

Dear Laura Jane,

Your gift to us is so lovely
and we appreciate it very much in-
deed. Both Everett and I think it
is the most unique scaled set we
have seen and we prize it even more
highly because you gave it to us. Thank
you many, many times.

Please forgive me for not writing
before now. I was very excited over

Everett's coming Lurlough and then yesterday he came we kept so busy visiting here in town and then his mother and friends in Little Rock. Arkansas.

Everett expects to be assigned to a new post soon and we plan to keep house. Your beautiful gift is a charming addition to our household equipment. A million thanks.

Sincerely,
Harriette Berry

Rust College
Holly Springs, N.C.
Nov. 29 1942

Dear Lottie.

Thank you so very
much for the lovely
Lanky case you sent
me for my birth-
day.

Mama sent to Inara's
package to her and I
sent her your address.
Am sure you will
hear from her soon
if not before now.
Now to answer your

its ugly head again.

The salad set you sent Harriette is lovely. It was very sweet of you. She is expecting her husband soon so she is 'all up in the air'. He was to graduate from Officers Candidate Training School. 1st. and has a furlough.

I'm enclosing some clipping you may find interesting.

How did you spend Thanksgiving? We had guests for

letter. You don't know Helma. I've mentioned her often, she was at Arkansas State the first year I was there. Evelyn Siggis didn't say anything that would indicate that she was angry with you. She is teaching in one of the Carolinas - I can't remember which just now.

Last week we were having beautiful spring-like weather. Now winter has reared

dinner. ⁴ The conversation was spirited and interesting and therefore saved the day as there was nothing else to do here. We don't have a football team this year. There was a game at the school across the street but having seen their team play once I had no desire to do so again. Evidently most of their seasoned players had been drafted.

Will you go home
for Christmas?

It's nice that you
have some interesting
work other than
your studies this
year.

For a few weeks
I have been busy
making an afghan
for Aunt Mollie
and a sweater for
Aunt Willie for
Christmas. Hally Sprung
is becoming having,
or maybe I should
blame my idleness.
I am considering

present ..

Lone
Hilda

going to Detroit after
Christmas. As yet
his not positive
about going. My
car is causing
me some worry. The
tires are more too good
yet I dislike storing
it. I know it will
be impossible to
get enough gas to
motor yet I may
be able to send it
on the train - my
fingers are crossed.

Write soon and
thank you so much
again for the lovely

21. M. M. C. Co.
Box 278
Wilberforce, Ohio



Miss Laura J. Murrer
605 W 115th St.
New York City

Box 278
Wilberforce, Ohio
May 14, 1942

Dear Laverie,

Please excuse me
for not answering
your letters sooner. This
is the most busy time
of year at most school
and with the threats of
bombed + novel, for some
time to come I thought
I'd better get in some
visits to my friends
in this vicinity while
I could. Didn't you get
a letter from me mailed

in Chicago². I visited my
sister and brother-in-law
during spring vacation and
wrote to you while there.

Incidentally I heard from
my sister Monday saying
Robert, her husband, has
to report for his final
examination for Army
induction Sat. They have
only been married about
four and a half months
so that is very hard.

I'm so sorry that
Marian Anderson couldn't
spend at least a night
with you. I'm certain
you would have enjoyed
the visit.

She is head of the publicity dept at
Bennett College, Greensboro N.C.

Do you remember Laila Taylor at Int House? She was on the Campus Monday. She was visiting in Columbus and was on the campus only a few minutes. We saw each other quite by chance as she thought I was still in Arkansas.

All the year I have been hoping to get to New York for a few days. I had thought that I would go for spring vacation but couldn't for various reasons. Saw a friend who lives in Kentucky and

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myself are trying to
plan a trip the latter
part of June but are
aren't at all certain
yet.

I suppose it would
be impossible to get in
touch with Adair now.
Every time Burma is
mentioned I think of her
and like you I wonder
did she escape the
city and find a comfortable
place to go.

Lair Taylor said she
had been in Atlanta recently
and had seen Ernestine
Anthony. He is going to write

to her. I haven't ⁵ written
to her in more than
a year now.

School classes here
June 11th. I will certainly
be glad as this has
been a rather disappointing
year. I'm not certain that
I can leave immediately.
Now I am trying to
decide whether to go home,
go to summer school
or visit in New York
for awhile and then
go home. The time and
gasoline situation add
to my problem.

This letter is being written at school in the midst of lack of confusion and interruptions. I hope you'll be able to read it.

Please don't wait as long as I have to write.

Love
Hilda

Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.



Miss Laura Jane Mussel
Linden Hill
Little Falls, Minnesota

THE SENIOR
CLASS

MEMORIAL

THE SENIOR
CLASS

The Faculty and Senior Class

of

Rust College

request your presence

at the

Commencement Exercises

Wednesday morning, June third

nineteen hundred forty-two

ten o'clock a. m.

College Auditorium

CLASS MOTTO
"Victory Through Labor"

Miss Elnora Louise Rush

W. M. McCoy
West College
Haley Springs, Miss.



1238

Miss Laura Jane Musser
The Borkhous for Women
63rd St & Lexington Ave.
New York, N. Y.



Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.
Sept. 27, 1942

Dear Lotie,

Please excuse
my delay in answering
your letters. I was
more than glad to
hear from you but
for the last month
I have been in
one of my now-better-
writing-stages that come
on periodically uncalled
for.
I had a grand

and there was so much noise from the airplanes. We spent a week in New York and had a grand time. I didn't notice that the people were any different than before the war. The night we arrived the city seemed to have an unnatural quietness and the absence of the bright lights seemed very strange. Both in New York and Washington we were caught in blackout practices. We had no warning at all in N. Y. We

trip. I joined Thelma, my friend, at Frankfort Ky. where she was acting librarian at the state college for the summer. The next afternoon her mother and sister came for us and drove us back to Lexington. We spent the week end there and went to Washington arriving there Tues. morning. We stayed there three days with a friend of Thelma's. The weather was agreeably pleasant to our surprise. Washington was too crowded

were on a 5th Ave.

but an awk way
home. It lasted about
thirty-five minutes and
no one was alarmed.
We all felt that it
just must be a
practice blackout. I
guess maybe we
still think it can't
happen here.

I'm sorry you
weren't with us.
I saw Evelyn Digger
and Pearl Fauman.

From New York we
went to Niagara and
parted company. I spent
three days with a
cousin in Detroit.



I'm glad you've heard from Adelaide Martin. Is her address the same and is she still teaching?

The summer has simply flown. I haven't any plans for the winter at present except that I'll be here for a while, how long I'm not sure.

You wrote me last year that Claudine had married but I didn't know Helen wasn't with you. Everyone is having trouble trying to get adequate help. Helen had been with you so long I know you miss her.

Something better here
at home.

It's very sweet of
you to want to buy
presents for Elvira
and Harriette. Elvira
is at home in
Starkville, Miss. She
is going to teach
at Mound Bayou
this year.

Harriette is home
once more. Soon after
she married her
husband was sent
from Fort Custer, Mich.
to Nashville. She spent
a short while with

The student body here
is almost entirely
composed of girls. The
boys are all in
the army.

Mr. Schuyler may be
correct in his statement
of Negro-white relations
here in the South
but I haven't noticed
any difference. It has
never been satisfactory.
The whites are determined
to keep things as they
are but that will
be impossible. We
aren't going to help
fight for ~~the~~ 'democracy'
for the rest of the
world without demanding

8
him there. He was
sent to Chemical
warfare school in
Maryland so Harriette
come home. She is
hoping he'll be
stationed somewhere
after graduation
that it will be
possible for her to
join him.

I hope you
will enjoy yourself
this winter.

Lovingly
Hilda

Rust College

HOLLY SPRINGS
MISSISSIPPI

L. M. MCCOY
PRESIDENT

June 28, 1942

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Little Falls, Minn.

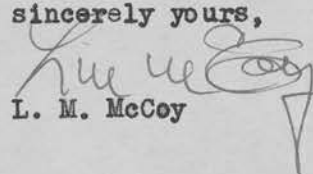
My dear Miss Musser:

I am taking the liberty to write you a brief letter and also to send you my annual report. From it you will see that we are making an attempt to move Rust College to Memphis and it is going to take around \$200,000 to do it. We are asking our friends to come to our rescue in this matter for we are put in a position of buying around a half million dollars worth of property, suitably located for the college in every respect for just about what it would cost us to erect the building lost by fire and equip it.

Memphis as you know, would be a far better place for the College than Holly Springs. I am sure you will not only be sympathetic toward the move that we are attempting to make but I am quite sure you will be of as much help in the move as possible.

With best wishes and thanks, I am

Very sincerely yours,


L. M. McCoy

lmmc/mc

Rust College

HOLLY SPRINGS
MISSISSIPPI

L. M. MCCOY
PRESIDENT

Aug. 5, 1942

Miss Laura Jane Musser
Lindel Hill
Little Falls, Minn.

My dear Miss Musser:

Thanks for yours of the 28th with check enclosed for \$10.00 on the relocation of Rust College. I thank you very much for the amount sent and for the willingness to assist in helping us to raise the funds necessary by calling to the attention of your friends our need and the opportunity to give to a worthy cause.

We are having it plenty warm down this way. I hope you are having better weather for it has been hot in these parts.

With best wishes and thanks, I am

Very sincerely yours,

L. M. McCoy
L. M. McCoy
m

lmmc/mc