

LETTER FROM LIDA LYMAN TO HER DAUGHTER. CECILE PAQUIN

South Haven, Mich. Oct 25th 1907

My dear Girl,

I feel like writing and when I do nothing else takes its place. Have been tearing carpet rags for Anna since getting supper work done but got tired of it. Have done over thirty lbs. for Grace and have just commenced for Anna. Can't say I really like to do it, but they just cant get the time to do it so I do it for them. It takes a lot of time to cut and tear thirty lbs., some of them, of course, need to be cut all the way. Rag carpet hardly pays in one way but in another, children sdll a nice carpet, and that worries one.

While I think of it, how nice your room must look with new painted border, can see every room, and every part of it and what is in all your rooms, all three families, at any instant it comes into my mind. Those thought pictures are strange things. When Uncle Hen was in Phoenixville, Pa. I wrote him and asked him about many places around the old home and where the neighbors lived, he answered and said "when had I been back there?" But I never have since the fall of the year I was nine but I can see the house and rooms, and street and so many things just as well tonight as ever. How many things in all lives after one is grown up come before one's mind's eye, many that we never speak of to any one, some bring pleasure, some tears, some regret, some we would be glad to change if we could "But the mill never grinds with the water that is past". But I had better come back to every day things.

Pa and I are alone as we always are evenings. J.K. Barden comes once in a while but he works hard now days and doesn't get down. I seldom stay alone when Pa goes if I can go with him, I get too lonesome, and takes time to get over it. Three times this week he has gone to Klbble for a load of coal and I went with him as far as the girls. I can sew quite a little for them in three or four hours, and one with four and the other with three never lack for sewing. Yesterday Grace had commenced to clean the house they are going to move into. Edgar has been sick for a few days so could not help, he stayed with his mother and took care of Elva, and Mr. Rice helped Grace. He is fine help too, his remarks were rich, he does not swear before me, thank him for that. He is very kind to Grace. They will be comfortable when they get things cleaned, and can step out doors without getting wet feet, I will go over next week and help with fixing her carpets over. Grace is alway well. She received your birthday present. It hurts her that she hasn't the money to send back, where she would like to so well, she has the heart to do it. I don't think money would be worshipped so, but there is so many places where the want of it is so hard to bear, that at times, it seems the only thing needed. I know Anna cries at Christmas because she cant send presents to Park Falls. She begged me last year to tell you all not to send her anything as it hurt her so, and the worst is she will never be any better off. I see no chance for her in the future. George works but goes back instead of gaining any. They have enough to eat and keep them warm but where they get enough to live on is more than I know. Six of them and they havent any money at all, but I dont know why I write this but one thought runs into another. I am glad you children in P.F. are not as hard up as Anna and Grace for money, tho you have all seen times when it was scarce. I have often wondered in the years that have gone where this and that was coming from but in a way it came and time moved on and we have more to be thankful for than most families after all.



Pa and I are well and have every comfort we need if only you children wasn't so far away. Keep your minds out for rooms for if we live and are well, we will surely come to P. Falls next winter. Some of you can find work for Pa, he has homesick spells for Park Falls and I do too, but we must bear it this winter.

Elder Briedensteins have taken their phone from the wire. Mrs. B. was here the other day, and she said they had it to pay and then had to pay when they phoned home as they went to a neighbors to phone in Ganges. I know they will be calling here and I wont carry a message without they pay me five cents for it (without it is sickness or death) for Elder B. is as able to pay phone rent as we are. I would go one meal less a day before I would give up phone. I would be lost without it, would feel as if ship wrecked on a desert isle. I only meant to start my letter and here I am running on.

Yesterday a present came of a very extra nice black hose for Pa the handwriting looked very much like Cecile L. Paquin on the cover, were they Christmas in advance? Pa was pleased with them. Think they are the best woolen ones I have seen in many years, as Pa is always in choir before everyone, his stocking often shows and nothing looks as well as black. They will be worn on special occasions, thank you.

This country is so dreadful poor I don't know where Christmas will come in this year, tho everything one has to sell is good price, tomatoes only 5 cts tho and at Kibble only 4 cts. Will stop for tonight. We seldom go to bed before ten, get up in good season too. Pa is going to town in morn to get sugar barrels. Rank wants eight barrels of potatoes. He sells part of them to pay for his, they are so much higher there than here that it pays him to do it. It hurts to think he did not care to come home but a big city life weakens home ties.

Sat. night just done dishes but had late supper. Pa went to South Haven this morn and had late dinner and supper to match it, I have been feeling horrid blue this P.M. and no reason in the world for it only Sat. afternoon is so lonesome and your letter made it worse. I would so like to see you all, going to Park Falls has spoiled us, dont know how we are going to get thru the winter. We will have to go to Jackson Co. or we will be so lonesome. Sat night is always the worst, wish I could see Jean and Guy rolling over the rug. Suppose Guy has grown quite a little since we left. (someone is going by quite an event). No doubt he will be quite company for you to go on street at night. Wish he had Rank's Harry to chum with, pleasant young chap not any town alrs just a boy. Nine last spring you know.

Been quite cold here today froze hard last night for Oct. Suppose H.C.'s started two barrel of apples to Eva tonight perhaps they sent for them. She, Mrs. H.C., told me they were sending them. In all, we have some over a barrel in the cellar culls and all, but we seldom eat an apple. It dont matter we would buy a bu of sweet ones if knew where to find them that is the only kind I care for to eat. George Bridenstein has quite a few but they are so fond of them dont suppose they have any to sell. Zella eats apples all the time when at home. You remember Eva was spoiled child but she is real nice now, tall as I am and quite ladylike one cant tell how a spoiled child will turn out. School has such an effect on them.

Am so sorry you have so much headache I thought Haddy gave you medicine last winter that helped you why dont you use it all the time? Some people live on medicine for long life think if you would take a cup of hot water with soda in it three times a day it would help you wonderfully, Pa has used soda all his life and few men of his age are as capable as he is, always busy at something his head never aches any more, his knee is better now, it may be worse before he gets his six acres of corn husked. But he is going to make some kind of rigging, he calls it a horse, so he wont have to get down on his knees so much, has husked a few shocks to feed the pigs, have two very nice pigs to kill. I have pulled bushels of pig weeds for them among the grapes this year I rather enjoy doing it they like



them so, hurts the tender shoots of grapes to much to cultivate them all out. The old stock was killed you know. Haven't eaten a bunch of grapes, or a peach this year, haven't seen a peach only when in Cleveland. Our grapes may come next year but dont know when the peaches will come. Talked with Jennie Barden a while this evening. They send their cream to Chicago now, and doing well at it, and saves her so much work. Dont know just how they do it but they take it to So Haven and suppose it will go on cars now. Perhaps it has all the time. Tomorrow is the last trip of season for boat. The lack of fruit has been hard on boat line.

Cant Lauren find another place for his tamarack lath? Pa has been wondering, anything connected with his work interests Pa and me to as far as I understand it. We had looked forward to a visit with Lauren and havent got over it yet when in its turn it runs throu ones mind. I will have to stop or my letter will get to long, wrote quite a long one to Nina today she looks for a letter quite often. No one gets time to write but me. Anna and Grace have their hands full Anna cleans house on Sat so the girls can help, Eva fine worker and Zella when she wants too. Zella washes woodwork.

Our preacher came last night so we will have regular service once more, four weeks since we have had the usual form. Hope your keeping Rev. O. will turn out for the best. One must please the crowd and the others make the best of it. Think of making at one social more than our aid makes in a year. We didnt take in 80 dollars this past year in our aid, and wont this year to come as every one thinks it will be worse than this year.

Will read and go to bed, we sleep very good. Last night did not wake until morn, usually wake once or twice. Sunday night: wind groaning, a wild night. Went to church in rain this morn, not hard rain tho. Had to drive Ed's little buggy think that will last forever. I like to use it to go over the girls, better then the top buggy. It slips along so easily. Our top buggy not home from town yet. The blacksmith is gone from Hawkhead, makes it bad for blacksmith work. We had a fine sermon from our new pastor, he is not as old as I wrote, he is only 60, Mrs. Pease says he looks ten years older than your father and think he does but he has wooden leg and walks old, but his brain isnt wooden. His wife is not here yet but hope I will like her. How do you like Mrs. O? of course you are acquainted with her. Don't she amount to anything in aid? You have never said. Our pastor's wife the past two years was simply nothing, in aid, no good no damage.

Just stoped and llt my little kerosene stove to make Pa a cup of tea. He has taken quite a notion for a cup of tea and bread and butter Sunday night since we have the little stove. Am so glad you like the Cady boys. I don't know the younger boys, but Frank has always been so kind and pleasant to me, that I would go out of my way quite a little, to do him a kindness. Know he is rather wild or so they say, but there is nothing so kindly as kindness, in this rather sad world to so many. The boys will never amount to much but it is worth something to be plesant to live with. You can help them to live straight, a word now and then does a lot of good. I am glad Guy is doing well in school. Hope I will live to see some of the grand children men and women. Grandmother McClellan lived to be 83, my mother 75, Aunt Maggie 75, Aunt Sallie did not want to live. I do, life is so pleasant and we have so many to live for. Death has no terrors for me, but if I know anything in another world seems as if I would always be looking for the children and hoping they would come, but I must get away from this subject. I will go and drink a cup of tea with Guy, he never grows old to me. Lunch over, just looked out doors never saw a darker night, enjoy your electric lights, wish we could. If my letters are too long say so, a letter is never to long for me. I have several I ought to write now but they can wait, will close. This in morn: suppose you are just coming from church does he have the first Sunday of month musical nights as he did I would like the illustrated sermons best, the love of music or singing was not born