Statesville, C. Aug. 5, '97.

My Darling Joe: — Your letter of 3rd just rec'd. I have dinner ready and am waiting for the boys (they are hauling wood) so I will write some to you. I should have sent you a letter this morning but was not feeling very spry so did not get it done. You are getting ahead of me writing letters, but I'll pay you back some time. We are still keeping house. Elsie thinks I am rather free, I guess, but somebody has to take that position. I forgot to tell you of my afternoon last Fri. I went with Mrs. Kohn and Don over on the Catawba river to pick blackberries.

We went early in the morning and stayed all day. It was a lovely ride and we got about two bushel of berries and "jigger bites" enough to last all summer. I spent Sat. forenoon canning berries. I am so glad you can go to work again, you know how to appreciate it now surely. I have thought so much about you in your suffering and thought if I could only be with you in a home of our own you would not mind it so much. I hardly know what to say about school work, but I dislike very much to think of you being out of school this year. I would much rather you would borrow the money of some one if you could and be in school.

I do not like to think of you living out at work unless I could be with you, and I hardly like for us to marry this Fall, and ~~you~~ be out of school for fear something would prevent you finishing your College Course.

My eyes seem well when I do not try to use them for close work but they do not seem like they will stand any work at night. It seems that it will hardly pay to go into College unless they get stronger but I am trusting and hoping for the best. It seems to me that we have just come to a place where we can do nothing but give all into God's hands and trust for whatever is best.

Please do not allow me to influence you too much but you asked me to express myself and so I have. I am just willing to do any thing that is God's will and for the best. I believe that God has some work for us to accomplish each year and will lead us into it if we will just let him. I do hope and pray that you may be able to continue in your work until school opens and that a way may then be opened for you to enter school. I think $40 is what I can get from the Educational Board, and if I can enter school I think I can do with that very well. If you get a chance to come to Watsonville and have not time to let me know

please do not – for a moment allow that to keep you away, but if you can make arrangements for school that will soon be here. This is Thur. but you will not have to wait an hour in the hall or on the campus. I wonder if you do not – wish you could? and I would invite you in for a few moments I have heard two addresses this week by Mr Silvix of Wooster. I wish our Volunteer Band could make some definite arrangements for work next year. George Comfort lives at Wellandport Ontario. We a number of prayers go up every day for you and many of them have

been answered of late.
I wish I might sit on
the campus and study
with you. I used to sit
over on the East side in
front of the old Brown House
(I believe) and study History
Physiology, Grammar &c &c.
Clarence Stotterbuk is in
Columbus and will likely
come up and see us but
he shall not interfere
with your property.

Now may you realize
God's Spirit very close to you
in your daily work and helping
you to decide the difficult
questions of life.

Pray for me.

Your Real Sweetheart
Bertha Elizabeth Lambert

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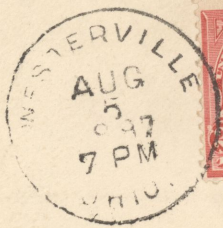

Mr. J. A. Harris
Box 219. Athens
Athens Co. Ohio