

3923 Seeley Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515
May 12, 1991

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bierley
61 Massey Drive
Westerville, OH 43081

Dear Paul and Pauline,

Thanks again for all the meals and running around. I hope the 286 computer will give you some improvement in performance.

I had mentioned to both of you some letters that Joseph Harris had written from Portsmouth, Ohio, in the summer of 1896. I have enclosed transcribed copies of three letters in which he gives some mention of his surroundings, the water in particular. He also mentions an Aunt Fanny Rardin and a "Dr." that he associates with her. There is also a mention of a Willard and Joe and I wonder if any of these people hang in your tree. Please let me know if you can make any connection. It is also unusual to find in one of these letters the first occasion in which I have found Joseph even mentioning his mother and her death. Oh, how I wish I had his diaries!

I talked to Pat Harris Barker in California today. She mentioned to me that she would be interested in buying a few *autographed* copies of the Sousa book, donating one to the library at Cal Poly. She has talked to the band director there and he has a copy of your book, but was very excited about the prospect of acquiring an autographed copy for the Institute. It may be appropriate to mail Pat a catalogue that she can share with the director there.

I must close as my overgrown lawn awaits a trim.

Regards,