

Athens, O.

July 24, 1897.

Miss Bertha Lambert,
Westerville, Ohio.

Darling Bertha: Here
I sit 8:50 P.M. just when I
had hoped so much to be just
about entering Westerville and
if you got my letter this
evening you will be, rather
looking and longing hopefully
for my appearance. I most
wish you did not get my
letter this evening. I am
sorry, exceedingly so indeed,
that I cannot be with
you tonight, but it is quite
impossible now so I will
do the next best thing, i.e. I
write you a letter. I will
explain all. Uncle came
home with team or some-
how that I missed him. and

he went to Trimble at once
so I have not seen him at
all. I came out with Charly
to Uncle's tonight so I am in
the country again.

Lest you may think strange
of me not coming to see you
& explain all, but perhaps you
have guessed already. As you
know I worked only three weeks
and that broken time. I drew
pay for two weeks and expecting
to continue work applied
all possible to meet some
obligation. The other wk.
is yet unpaid and some
expenses go on just the same.

It seems necessary to be
as economical as possible
as I may have two or three
weeks yet to live according to
The Dr's statement ^{I am not fearful of hunger} and I can buy stamps yet.

I was thinking today that you
could not be blamed if you
should hesitate to unite your
fortunes for life with one who
seems so incapable to provide
a way for our being together
now, but I resolved to be honest
with you, and simply explain
to you the situation.

I do feel that our love
should not be trodden down
with such disappointments
as these, but I don't see how
to avoid it at this hr.

If things come about all
right I expect to visit you
at once, but I cannot say
just now how that will be.

You have been so very
patient and kind that it
seems now like an im-
position on you.

If you are waiting then we
are both disappointed.

There will be an excursion
of half fare to Col. tomorrow
but the first train leaves
Athens 12:25 - noon so it
gives only a short time
to be at W. I expect to make
you twice glad when I come.

I am so sleepy I think best
to retire. I think you could
keep me awake. I would
be willing to sit with you
even if you had eaten a qt.
of ^{I ate some for supper} milk. Good night.

Sunday morning 5:30.
While you are taking your
morning nap and dream-
ing of me, I will talk to you

Charley was out to see his girl
last night. The services
here today are in the afternoon
so I have all the forenoon
before me. I shall go out
to Town tomorrow and will
then decide what to do.

Only six who move and
school takes up again.
It does not look now like
it would take me so you
~~not~~ will have to be looking
for another "point". It sounds
rather favorable and nice
to hear of your prizing girls
just like the good work goes on
so encouragingly in every
line. I have not studied
much so far. We had company

most of the time while I was
at home, but I must get
to hustling now. I have
thought some of taking
up those Bible Studies. I will
send you word for those
Studies if I do so. Perhaps
I ought to arrange to take
a school for this winter,
there are four ^{open} schools in
Barns Tp. yet. I would rather
talk with you on that before
making a decision. If I
can get work at my trade it
will be more profitable than
teaching here. Somehow I can-
not help thinking that I will
be in school a part of the
winter, but of course cannot
think of completing the work
so far as I see now. If your
health will permit I shall

not think but that you shall
go on regularly. I am thankful
that things are so well arranged
as they ^{are} and if your eyes
get strong I shall feel that
we can suffer most any
inconvenience to atone for
it, so we will go on patiently.

A certain person gave me
a hint on long courtships.

Perhaps I am guilty but some
married people might have
done as well if they were still
courting. I meet some discour-
agements on school work and
especially on study for the
ministry, but I am becoming
almost discouragement proof
in those lines. I am striving
to live a calm Christ-possessed
life and aim to speak along
some lines only when questioned.

I have not had an opportunity
to tell father of our plans
but I know it is all right
with him. All seem interested
but of course say nothing. They
are all so kind to me and to
feel sure they wish me well
so far as they are in sympathy
with our work. One of the hardest
things for me is the fact that
the boys (my brothers) take so
little interest in church work.

perhaps I am at fault but
I have been asking that I might
be guided in dealing with
them. Do you know Mrs. Comfort's
address? I want to write to
him with reference to the
missionary work for this yr.

I don't know that I need say
more. My love still glows for you
and I feel so restful and happy
in you and feel so certain
that you were intended for me
and if we are permitted to
work together and I can make
the way pleasant for you, life
will be sweet to me indeed.

Do not think that I
am over discouraged at all
for I am not so much
so as I was last spring
sometimes while at W.

I tell you my circumstan-
ces and how I view these things
because I would feel hurt
if you kept such things
back from me.

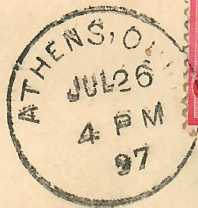
all will turn out well in
some way. I certainly do
want to see you, it would
be such a fine treat, just to
think I haven't had a kiss
for five wks, but I know
there are a whole lot ready
for me if I just go after them,
and you want to get rid of them
don't you? July 26 P.M. at town

I saw C.W. this morning and
he wants me to go to Charnsey
to oversee some repair work
tomorrow or next day, so I

will go there so far as I see. You
may address me here please.

Pray that we may be used
of God wherever we may
go. Your love, J. H. Harris.

Return to Box 219
Athens, Ohio.



Miss Bertha Lambert
Westerville,
"Franklin Co." Ohio.