

[Letter from Ned Barker to his sister-in-law Olive Knight; Ned was married to Olive's sister Lillian Drinkwater who died in 1922]

April 8 – 1923
14 Georgianna St
South Braintree 85 Mass

My Dear Sister and all the Folks at Maplelawn Farm:

Now dont you go and through a fit when you find you have received a letter from me – For I can assure you if I had written you every time I have thought of you – you sure would have had some letters – But some how it made me feel blue to even think of you dear folks and I could not write – But in 14 months old Father Time has done a good deal and I feel now that I can perform the task all right – I received a very nice letter from Arno some time ago and feel ashamed not to have answered it before now – I am going to try and make this one do for you all – Arno's letter was full of encouragement to me (Poor Brother, I feel very sorry for him and trust by now he is getting along fine) and I want to thank him for the kind words he expressed for they did help me a whole lot – I have no fault to find with the "Divine Power" – though sometimes inscrutable in its dispensation "yet doth all things well" I fall in submission to His will – as death is the ultimate end for which we were born – The two great mysteries – "Birth & death" can the human mind reach to any conclusion of these great mysteries? I received a card from Arne and I want to thank him for his kind remembrance and trust that the little Easter gift I sent him arrived all O.K. and that he enjoyed using the same – I received a lovely card from your dear Sister and no words of mine can convey to you how thankful I was – when one is all alone and away from ones friends a little message like yours goes a long ways in cheering one up and helps to make life worth the living – I was at Portland when Allie received a letter from you people and believe me we were all glad to learn you were still in the land of the living – I sent your sister a little Easter gift from Portland and trust you received it all O.K. – I am coming down this summer and I dont want to see you standing over the hot stove keeping the coffee from falling over – I reckon you have had some winter there? The snow is all gone here and the frost is all out of the ground and for two or three days it sure has felt like the spring had come – I am in the old home just as Lill left it and expect to stay here as long as I stay on the road – I have been real well this winter for which I am very thankful – It has been a hard winter on the road and the Power[?] is in very bad shape I hardly make a trip that the old Hag dont give out and I am all the way

from 1 to 3 hours late and all the boys are just the same – I wish I could look in on you dear folks to night for I know it would be a treat to go a long way to do – Well Sister mine – drop me a line if you can – Just a line on a card and I can assure you I will be more than greatful to you for it – trusting and hopeing you are all well as can be expected will close with love to you all

Ned