

THE LAST KNOWN PICTURE OF HOME (Diptych)

Sept...
....City.....S....

Dear Children,

I am sending this letter to Edda as she is eldest and she will share it with you. I have been troubled and uneasy in my mind and I will be going away for awhile. I don't know how long for. Time will tell.

Your mother has not been well and it is a mystery what ails her. Doctor Will says there is nothing wrong with her that he can see and his notion is t.....

Two weeks ago she walked away one evening after supper and she did not come home for four days.

She did this before but this time I thought she was gone for good and all. When she come home she put herself to bed and did not get up again for a good many days. She mostly did not talk but just looked out the window toward the fields. Now she takes to standing by the side of the road by the west field for hours.

Myrna will come to stay and look after Mother. She is a patient and gentle soul and will be kind to her.

Do not worry yourselves.
I enclose twoKodaks that I think you will like to see.

Well that is about all.
Love Dad.

P.S. The picture of your mother was taken after harvest a few years before the difficulties. The one of the house is as far as I know the last known picture of home.

(includes two "snapshots").



MYRNA'S DIARY PGS. 18 & 24 Diptych

P.18 (left):

...so it is hard to know what can be done if anything. Only time will tell. They say that in the early autumn she put herself to bed and never did get up again. So I am here looking after things. There is no telling when Arlin will come back home as no one had any word from him as yet.

The days are getting shorter and there is considerable to do to be ready. I will have to see to getting one of the boys here to fix up some pieces of firewood and sharpen the shovel.

Tomorrow there will be a man coming to put some old things in boxes and take them away. It will be a relief to have that all done with at last.

I must recall to write to Sis to ask her the name of the lawyer man she thought so much of. The land is (...)

Margin notes: Roses boy Jesse WH 6 2195 M's diary p.18

P.24 (right):

...sets by the window and waits for only heaven knows. Meantimes I look out for the boxes to arrive that they sent. But it is still raining and they say many of the roads are closed. Arlin's shed is damp so I don't know where the boxes are to go.

The school is closed until they tell everyone different so the idle children are a pestilence. The worse ones were tossing pebbles at her window yesterday poor soul. I hope she don't hear them.

To pass the time away I bring her some jig saws and a few picture books from the book mobile. I read her some Verses but she is not up to anything requires much attention. Tomorrow I will try to go into town for a few small.....

(Margin notes: Sis lawyer WH 6 3168 Page 24 M's diary)



LOVE, EDDA (Dptych)

Right:

February 19
Boden SD

Dear Dad,

I am sending this to General Delivery Sellsburg as that is the last place you were heard to be at. I pray that it arrives to you soon.

Dr. Will is here every day now and Myrna has done her all.

Things here have taken a worse turn and you are wanted dreadfully. Will you please come home.

Respectfully your loving Daughter,

Love, Edda

P.S. please let us know your plan by telegram. I hereby enclose a dollar.

Left:

Sunday May 21

For Mother (this is ever your favorite)

The 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Sheperd I shall not want,

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures

He leadeth me besides still waters

He restoreth my soul, He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadows of death I will fear no evil for

Thou art with me,

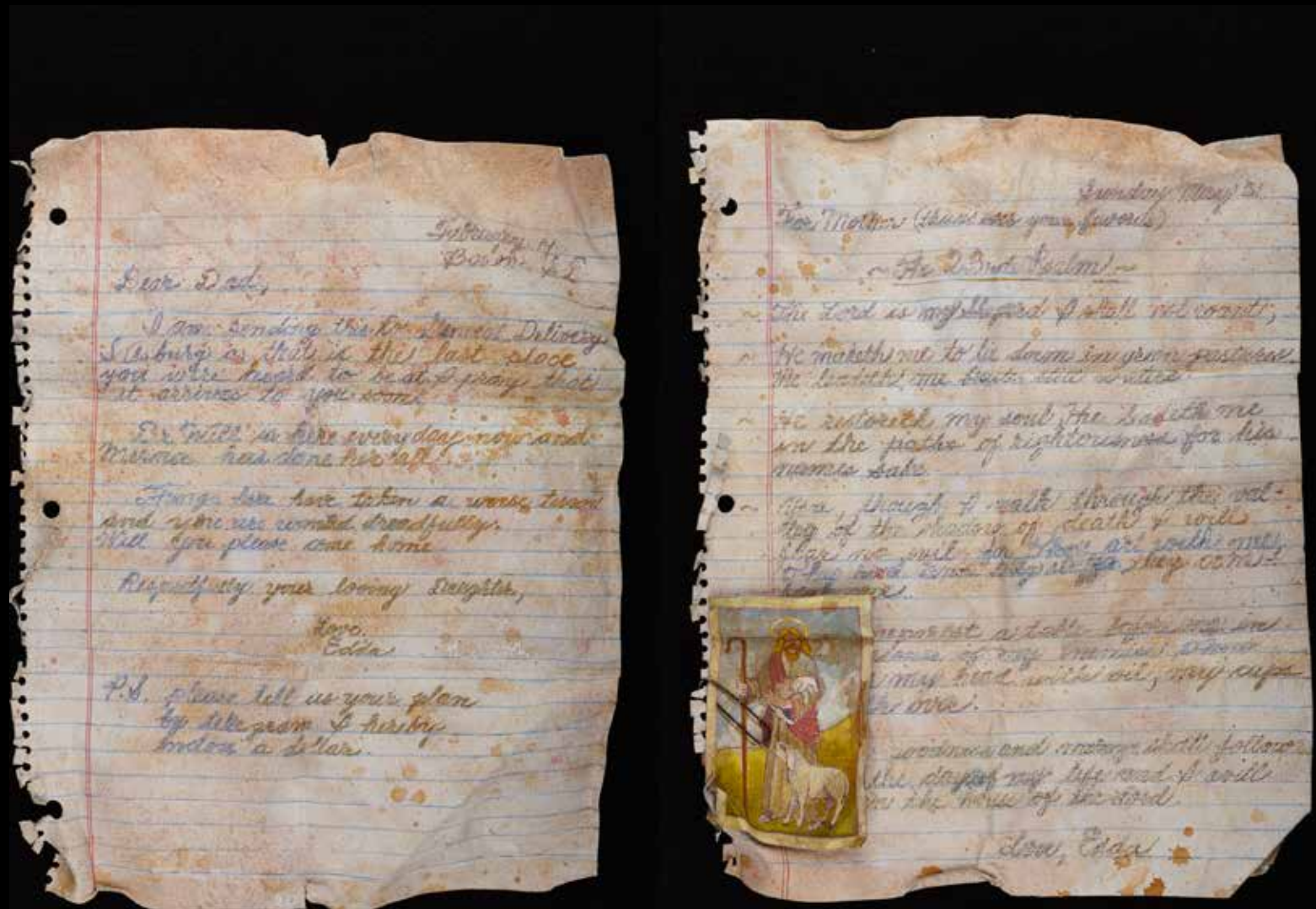
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Thou anoints my head with oil, my cups runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord.

Love, Edda

(Includes a small "holy card" affixed by Edda as a gift.



4.) BUS TICKET

January 26

Myrna,

Here is the bus ticket you wanted sent. If you don't use it save it for me as they may not be running the busses for a while.

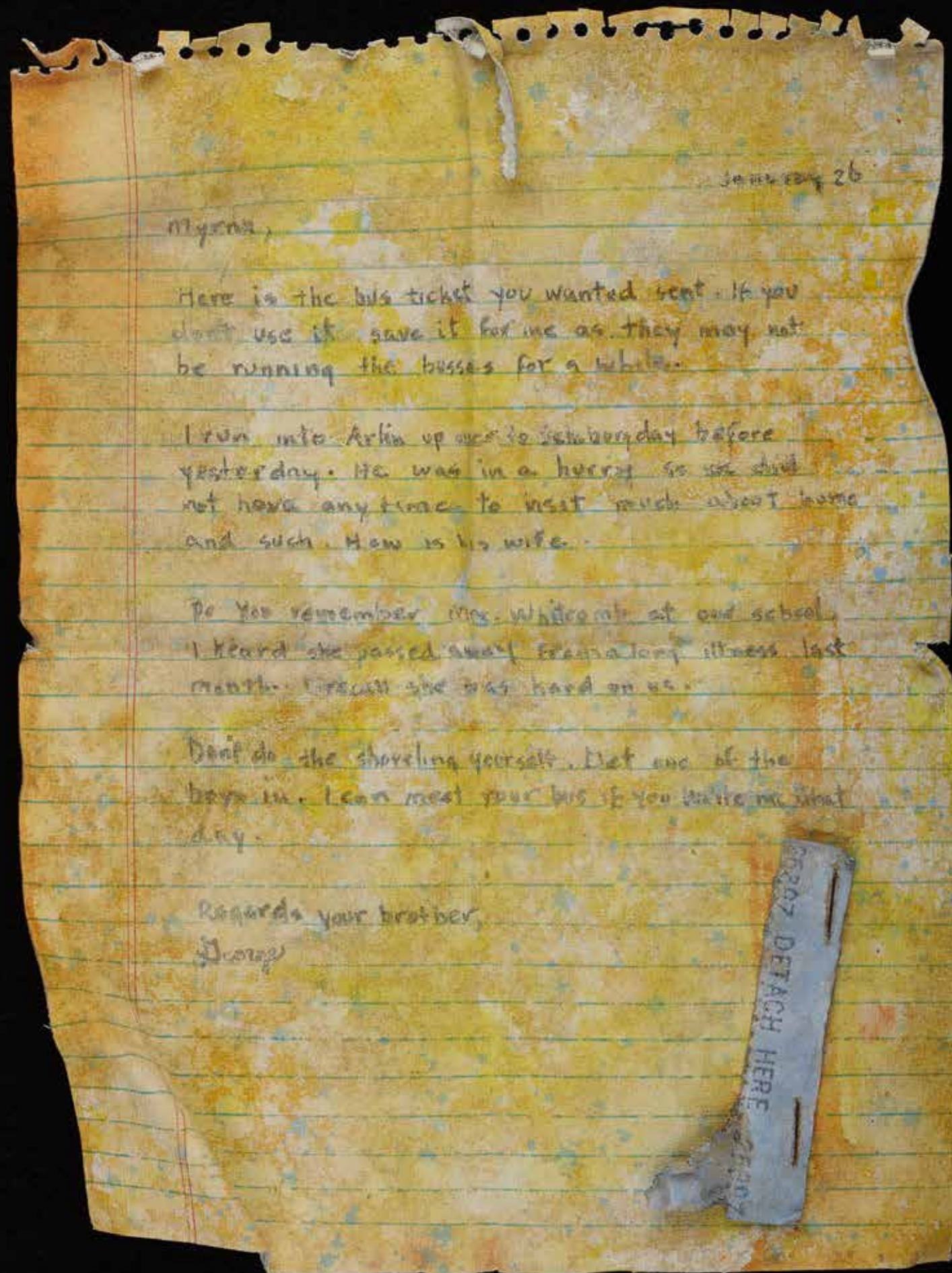
I run into Arlin up over to Sellsburg day before yesterday. He was in a hurry so we did not have any time to visit much about home and such. How is his wife.

Do you remember Mrs. Whitcomb at our school. I heard she passed away from a long illness last month. I recall she was hard on us.

Don't do the shoveling yourself. Get one of the boys in. I can meet your bus if you write me what day.

Regards your brother,
George

(includes a bus ticket stub stapled and torn away)



one of Aunt Mary Ellen's
letters - (last page)

that something happen that she never told about and been living
with for a long time. She was at school years ago with my mother and
Mama says there was something happen at the school. Whatever it was
her daddy took her out of there and she never did finish up.

It has been a long winter allright but just another one and April is
upon us now. Were getting some thaw but its most of it mud that
tracks in to the house which is a cross to bear. Now Ginny is married
and gone I been helping some over at the Saturday suppers at the Eastern
Star as it keeps me from being lonesome.

It has been a long time and I hope that you and your family
are well and keeping busy how the Good Lord likes. If you ever
over this way it would be pleasant to have a visit. I still keep a
picture scrapbook with some photographs from the old days.

I was mighty glad to be of help.

Your old friend,
Mary Ellen Gray

P.S. Don't worry about me telling anybody.

ONE OF AUNT MARY ELLEN'S LETTERS (last page)

...that something happen that she never told about and been living with for a long time. She was at school years ago with my mother and Mama says there was something happen at the school. Whatever it was her daddy took her out of there and she never did finish up

It has been a hard winter allright but just another one and April is on us now. Were getting some thaw but its most of it mud that tracks into the house which is a cross to bear. Now Ginny is married and gone I been helping some over at the Saturday suppers at the Eastern Star as it keepme from being lonesome.

It has been a long time and I hope that you and your family are well and keeping busy how the Good Lord likes. If your ever over this way it would be pleasant to have a visit. I still keep a picture scrapbook with some photographs from the old days.

I was mighty glad to be of help.

Your old friend,
Mary Ellen Gray.

P.S. Don't worry about me telling anybody.