could eat. Den went a fishing in the morning and caught five monstrous fish out of the river. Tell Mother we had some ripe strawberries here the 17th of this month. They were delicious. They came from the South. But I must stop writing for this time. Write as soon as you get this. Tell Mother to write.

[Written in the margins:]

My love to all. Many thanks for your picture.

I will send you a piece of Ida's dress and for trimming. I forgot when I sent Addie's letter. There I just gave a beggar seven cents, want that liberal now. All the change I had except Co script. I don't suppose you know what kind of money that is, but I do.

If you have some bulbs and plants to send me, send them right away, just as soon as you can, and oblige.

Ellen

Note: This letter begins with news written by Almon Spaulding and his wife, Mary E. Spaulding ("Lizzie"). Ellen's words are at the end.

Eau Claire, July 16/71

Dear Sister,

After so long delay I will try and answer your very welcome letter. I know I have sadly neglected you by not writing before but you must forgive me and I will do better in future. Those seeds and bulbs came all right and doing nicely.
I would not take money for them.

The summer has been very warm and dry. The spring wheat will be almost a failure. Corn never looked better. And other crops look midling well.

Ellen and Jeff and children are with us today. I brought her home with me Friday night. She is going to stay until tomorrow night (Monday). We have talked a blue streak ever since she came. We are not going to let her ever go back only to visit so if you want to live by her you will have to get married and come out here and live to. Jeff says tell father my place is worth a $1000. He has got a nice place. Land is coming up all the time. Father would not know Eau Claire in two years they would have had two large fires this summer and they are now obliged to build with brick which will make the place make quite a city appearance. But I must stop to get dinner and El is going to write some too. Oh I must tell you little Carrie is just as cunning as she can be. She talks plain as any one and is as good as a kitten. Now write soon and tell Birdie to write too. Give our love to all inquiring friends, especially Father and Mother. And write how mother's health is. Tell her I think of her every time I look at my flowers, and hope she takes as much comfort with hers as I do with mine. But I will say good bye until some future time when I will write you a longer and better letter.

Mary E. Spaulding
Dear Father,

As I don't feel like writing in this letter where it is full of trash, but as Ellen has waked me up, I will say that I have got to be a miller again, have got a man living with Mary. They are getting along fine. I had to come home 2 days this week and cradle my winter wheat. It will go 25 bu per acre. Spring wheat is going to be light, not more than a half a crop. My norway oats are very nice. Corn never looked better at this time of the year. Potatoes are nice. The bugs have not done me any damage this year.

A W Spaulding

Well: Addie. I must fill this sheet. Of course, we are having a nice visit out in the country. Went a blueberrying yesterday, picked ten quarts. I suppose you have lots of berrys, enough to pick close by the house, without going away after them. I think it is about time you answered my letter. Tell Father that Charles received his letter, for I don't suppose he has answered it yet. So good bye for the present.

Ellen

My love to Father, Mother and Birdie,

Ellen

Eau Claire, March 17, 1872

Dear Father and Mother,

We received your letter yesterday. It was advertised.