We all join in love to all. Gortie say he would like to see Lranpa Pauldin.

Note: The following two letters were written by Jeff after Ellen’s death. She died sometime between 1880 and 1885.

Eau Claire, May 19th

Dear Sister Bertha,

I am so glad that you wrote to me for it has let in a little light where it was looking dark. I have heard so many stories about the poor boy. One is that Mother Spaulding is a goin to throw him on the town and a good deal more. One thing certain, you people there do not understand the situation here as well as I do. The trouble is hard times and no sines of being better. Two thousand men in this city out of employment. Those that are at work can not get mutch for it. I am not at work, was laid off last fall, and this spring have not worked half the time. In the last six months the rest of the time have had to hire board and when poor Ellen was taken away, it cost so mutch that I could not get out of debt untill about the time of the flood. And since that time I have not had work, so it is no wonder that I am hard up. Another thing that I am shure of. I am not to blame for it. I may have made mistakes in past years but in this I have done the best I could. I am now living in hopes of better times. I sent Carie a little money a month ago to get the boy some cloes, suposed she done
it. If I could get what C. Wm. Spaulding owes me, I would be all right, but I never expect to get it. Ellen had given up getting anything of him. We trusted his honesty, have found out to our sorrow how honest he is. I could tell you lots if I was a minto.

Yes the boy should go to school and look like somebody, for he is as good and smart as any other boy of his age. And I am the only one whom it belongs to to suport him. I am fully aware of all of the facts in this matter. I understand some have said that I sent them down there to get rid of suporting them. I never thought of such a thing. It was to get them in better company, to get Bugie out of town, and get Carie away from a low Irish dish that she was runing with. Girls that work out here don't have many friends. I should have kept house right along but it did not look so at the time. Another thing, how could I leave them children winters alone in this town. It is a bad mess but will be better sometime I hope. Poor Ellen. How I miss her. It seems unjust to take her a way from the children. Did Mother Spaulding get the dispatch I sent her and about what time a day. Every thing was done that could be for her. That disease take them all if it gets a hold of them. I did not know she had Pnemonia untill a few hours before she died. Oh I could tell you lots if I could see you.

Do you want the boy and why did Em take him a way from
you. Write to me at once and let me know. I think you have
as good a rite to him as any one. Asa does not want him. He
only would take him if it was necessary. I think he was
ashamed of him. He is not big enough to pick up stones, nor
I won't have it any longer. Say nuthing but I am a goin to have
him a way from there.

I will try and get hold of some papers to show you how
times is here. And if any one says that I don't care for the
children or that I am trying to get married, tell them they
are L F. Nothing makes me madder.

Jeff

Sterling Dec.

Sister Bertha

I received your letter in time but did not write until
I got settled for the winter. I am halling logs in mills with
four horses for the same company. I was very much
disappointed to hear that Bugie had not got any shoes yet and I
can prove to you that it is not my fault. When Tip Hill was
here I wanted him to take some with him for the boy but he did
not have the room in his trunk. Vintons made them believe
that it was impossible so I told them to let Tip have the money
and let Tip get the close. They said they would. And just
before he started Tip told me that Vinton said he would send
him a P. O. order in two or three days. So I kept watch of the