It makes me think of home, Mother's nice feather beds and woolen sheets. I have got some quilting to do yet this fall, and I wish you were here to help me. Ida was over here last week. She has got four music scholars now taking lessons of her. It makes her feel independent now I tell you. She says she will learn Mira for nothing.

Mrs. Vinton was over here Sunday night, wanted to know if I had heard from Father. Now you tell him he must write to us and let us know how his health is. We think of moving but have not found a good house yet. There is lots of houses we can get but they are no better than this one. Well Birdie I must stop for now. I told Mira to come home at half past eleven so to take this to the office. Tell Mother I got those papers. Next time I will write more news. They are having great excitement over election now. They have a torch light procession every night with the band. It looks nice I tell you. Be sure and write soon, and a long letter. No more for Mira has come and waiting. Give my love to all the folks. Tell Adda to have her picture her husband and baby's and send to me.

Ellen

April 29, 1877

Dear Mother and Sister,

It has been a long time since we received your letter. I
waited some time to see Almon before I wrote to you, and then I did not get any satisfaction from him about what Uncle Frank said. Lizzie said she did not wonder that Mother thought Almon had forgotten her for he had not written to her since he got back, but she said she was going to sit down and write Mother a long letter when she got to Uncle Frank's, and she would tell her all about it. So I suppose you have heard from them before now. I hear that they are very much pleased with Illinois. She did not blame Al for being sick of Nois after seeing that place. I have been waiting to see what the prospect for my coming home would be, so to tell you. But Jeff has not sold out yet, but expect to every week. I suppose you have seen Jim since he got home. We have not heard from him. I presume Len's folks have. We have not seen them since he left. We are all well as usual. But the baby has got a hard cold. He grows awful fast. I bet you never see such a nice plump baby brought up on a bottle as he is. He has got one tooth cut through. Mary was over one day last week. She had awful sore eyes, said she was afraid of infirmation in the eyes, have not heard from her since. Charles and Ida and Susie have all joined the church this winter. Mary joined the church a year ago. I don't know but it more than a year ago. I have forgotten. They had the greatest revival here this winter that ever was held in the Northwest. They had over four hundred converts on this side of the river, and then they held their meeting on the east side in
Music Hall. They had forty converts in one night. Sam Wilkins says there is to much of that G--dam Cartrite in Ida and Susie to make them good Christians.

We are having an early Spring. Farmers have got their grain most in. Friday it commenced to rain and turned in to a snow storm, snowed all day yesterday and to day, but it is warm. If Jeff sells his land and buys a couple of lots in town, I want to come down there and stay while he builds a house. He is at work for the Co now and will stay there all summer. I am bound to go home this summer if it is possible.

Now Mother I will pay two hundred dollars on the mortgage if the other girls will, and you must not worry about your business. You will see that you will get along just as well to go slow and let them wait until you can pay. There is not any one that will crowd you. I have been thinking that may be Almon will try to get that note off Uncle Frank. I understand that Father gave his note. I don't know as Uncle would let him have it, but they are there and if they agree and get along all right, Al may make a turn a take it up. Almon took Uncle Frank's place for three years if they agree. He rented his farm to Will Stevens, his brother in law, sold his cows and team. I don't suppose they will write to me. In fact I never asked them to. I will have to stop writing for the girls want to send their letter with mine. Now Mother I want you to write to me again. I shant excuse you from writing any more. If I
had thought you could write such a good letter and write plain, I would like to have you write often. I will write more often than I have lately. Well Birdie we have not named our baby yet. We like the name of Dewitt but not Edson. We have thought of calling him Addison Dewitt and call him Addie but we can't decide upon any name yet. Write to us as soon as you get this and let us know how you get along. Do you make sugar this Spring, and tell me all the news. Give my love to Maranda and all the rest. The girls have had their letters written ever since we got your letter and Carrie's got awful dirty. So she thought she would copy it and she has made it look about as bad as the first one. She can write real good but she has written with a book in her lap and it don't look very nice. Well I commenced this Sunday and if I don't send it off pretty soon you won't get it this Summer.

Ellen

Eau Claire, Wis., June 27th [1877]

Dear Mother an Sisters,

I received your card an also the box all right. Many thanks for them. They are all growing but the fuchias. I could not make them live. I am agoin to send Mother some after the Fourth. I want to get a spotted lily for her. I wish I knew if Mother had a white double fuchia (white center) and scarlet outside. I have one. I thought I would not send