

# Kansas Memory



## Walter Vernon Pirtle collection

### Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

Letters written by Walter Vernon Pirtle to Louise Covey, Cullison, Kansas. The letters dated August-December, 1917, were written in Pratt, Kansas, where Walter was working for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. His letter of January 20, 1918, first mentions joining the U. S. Army and World War I. The March 3, 1918, letter was written from Camp Funston where he belonged to the Machine Gun Company 353rd Infantry, 89th Division. By June 5, 1918, he was on his way across the Atlantic Ocean to France. His letters written from July 1918 through April 1919 contain information about the war. After hostilities ceased on November 11, 1918, Walter's company assumed guard duty in the occupation force near Trier and Cologne, Germany. His last letter written from Germany is dated April 30, 1919. The 89th Division returned to America in the spring of 1919. Walter was mustered out on June 2, 1919, after fifteen months of service. Also included with the letters are postcards of Trier, Germany.

Date: 1917 - 1919

Callnumber: 2014-164

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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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Form 2621  
ROCK ISLAND LINES

Pratt Nov. 1, 1917

My Darling:

Again tonight I am going to start a letter to you and never get it finished this time, I started a letter to you last night at Eleven and at about 11:30 the night man came in and so I got no more written at all, and as it ~~were~~ was written on the typewriter, I tore it up, you see don't you that I worked last night until midnight for the night man while he went to Lodge and some social they were putting off last night.

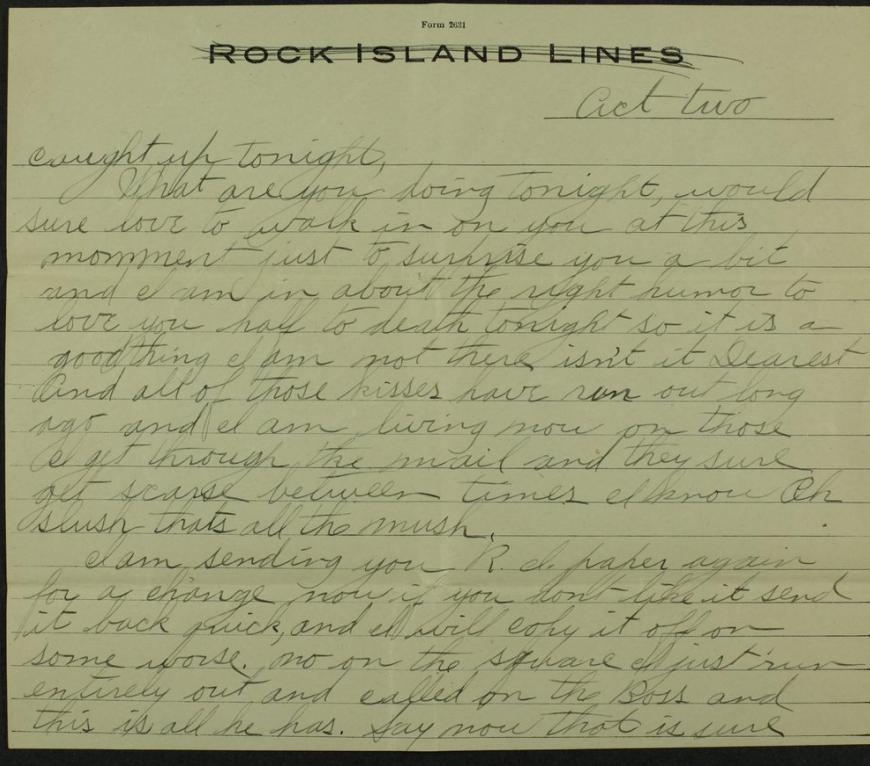
I am sure sleepy tonight my eye lids sure are heavy already and tis only 7:45 sure do miss that sleep when I have to work over-time but I will turn in as soon as I get this wrote so I will get

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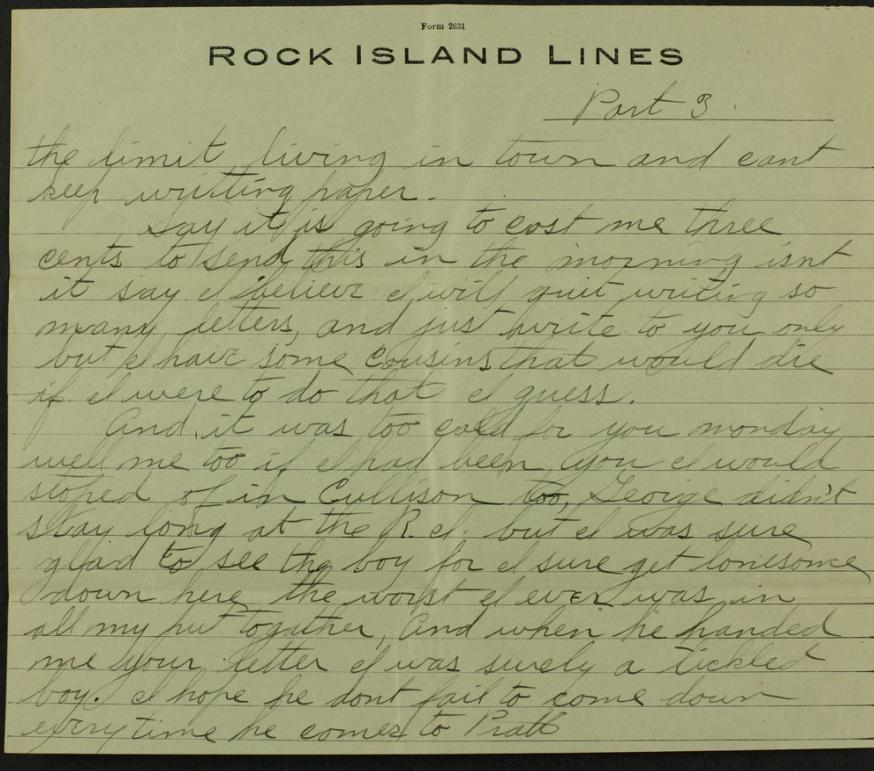


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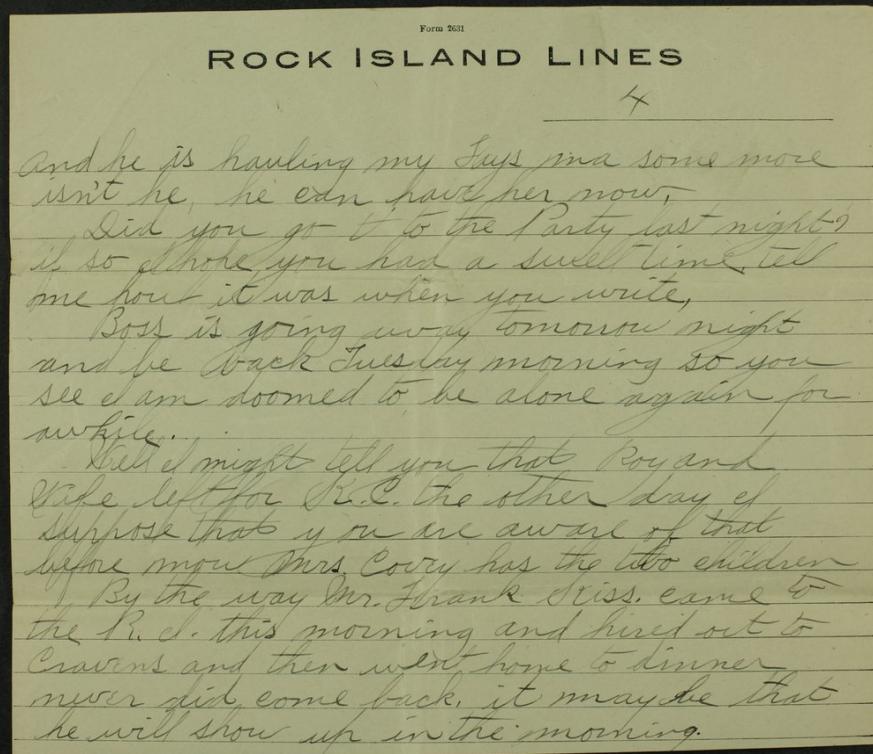


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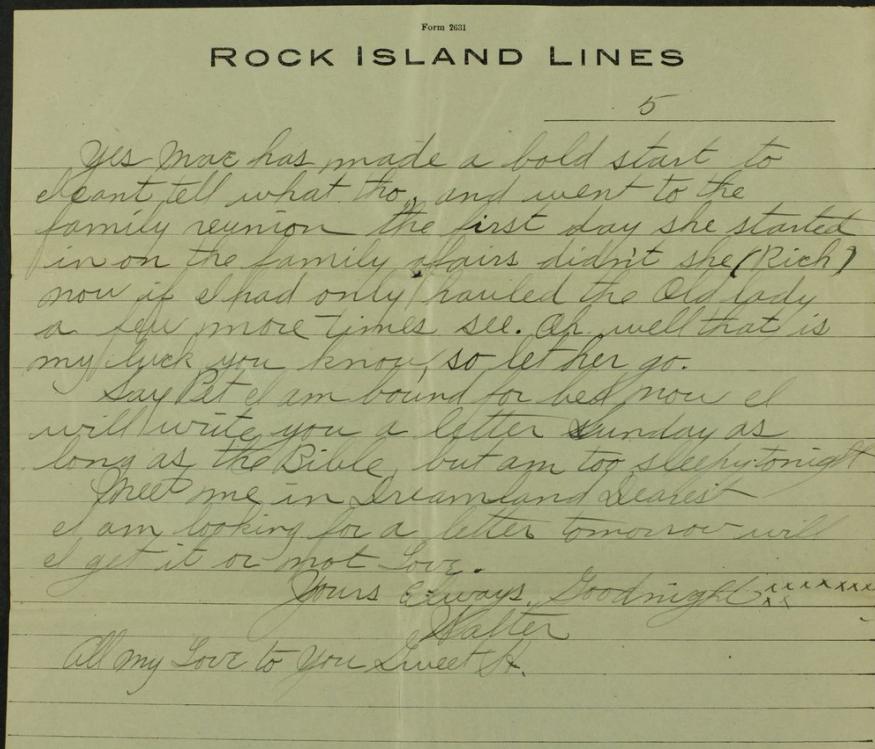


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# Kansas Memory

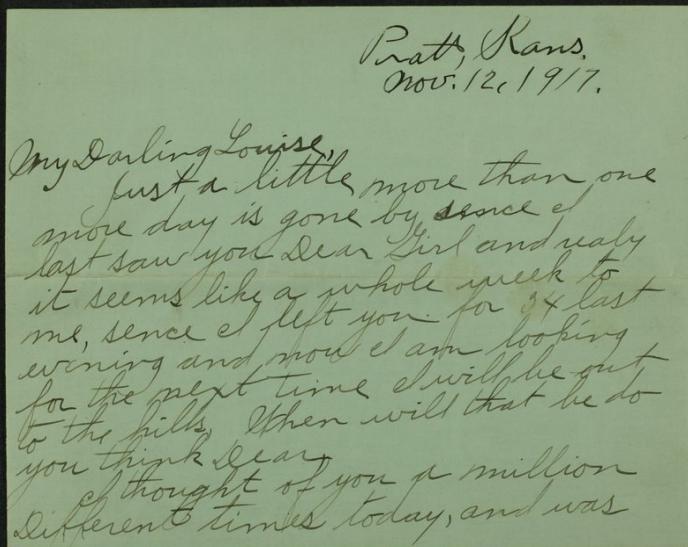
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trying to decide what you were doing, did you do that wasping that you were talking of yesterday if you felt like I did when you got up this morn I'll bet that you did not, for I found I could hardly get out, felt like I had had a fight but maby I will live over it, so you know of a remedy if so may it to me please I think if I dont get too sleepy about the time I get this wrote I am going to take this down and mail it at the Depot so you will get it tomorrow and on time see.

I am wondering now when I will get your letter next about Wed. morn I am looking for it and now you must remember you are a letter behind and next one will have to be a long one; see, to get catched up with me.

Say dear what did mamma have to say to you last night if I may ask? I'll bet she said not a word at all. Still I today decided I should turn over a new leaf (Play it is new year) if you are trying to decide what that would be I will ask you to remember that promise.

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that I made you Sat. night or  
Sunday morning which ever it  
was, I am going to make that good  
see if I possibly can although  
it may be a hard one.

Say why didn't you say a  
word about that card game you  
had the invite to and we would  
sure of went out and learned  
them the game.

I went to see Aunt Clara last  
night and they had been looking  
for me all afternoon so she said  
Roy was not there they are all

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in good health, and say of course  
I had to give way that I was just  
back from the country, but listen  
Walter Cinnamon and family  
are moving to that little town  
where he works, they go today  
so she will be none the wiser,  
Dell and Charley came in on  
33 last night, they missed #1 in  
the morning and so, I went to  
the R.R. Depot after leaving Boys  
and talked to Dell about an hour  
she was all flustered about how

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She was going to get home and I told her that Jim was waiting for them I knew she would find out that I was out there as soon as she got there any how next time you can look for me down on 1 instead of 33 and then we should worry about the rest see.

If el would only allow my self el could worry tonight about the war the last news picture it awful black we have sure lost this war if it were not for praying you dear it would not be half so bad, but to

think of you and el in a happy home and then to look to the time when el leave for Terance is almost more than el can stand, but for there is one thing worth a world of gold to me and that is that el can think of a sweetheart over on this side of the sea that is true to me, and if el should return will be looking for me, and if el should not return that love of yours that el take along will be the one great comfort to take to the yours, you will begin to think that el have the blues well el may

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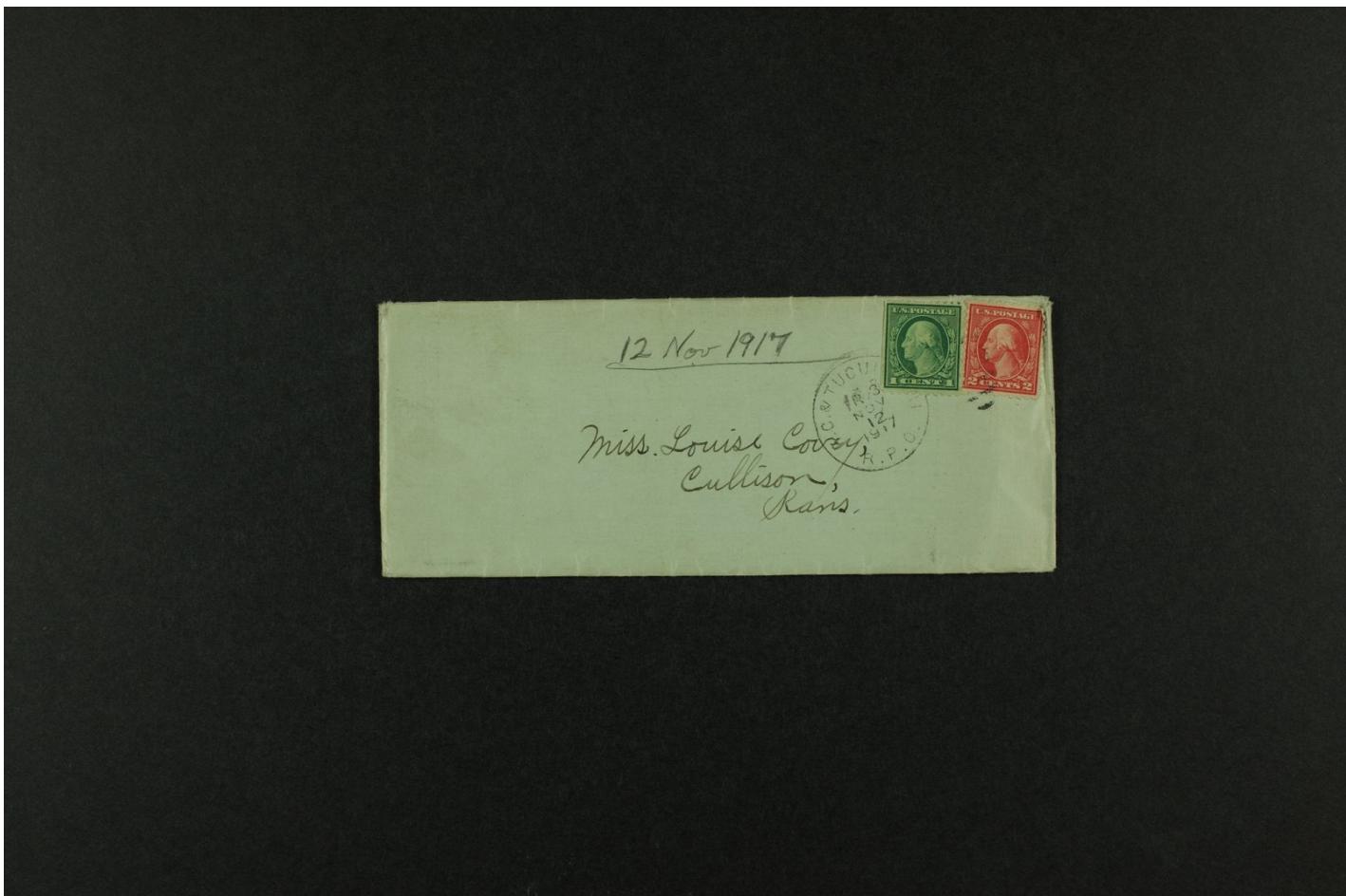


Any how for some reason I have  
been all day long thinking of you  
and the more serious things of  
life, If I could only see you again  
tonight I would love you half to death  
once more. Now love I am going to  
quit before you get the blues too.  
I will go to the P. O. and mail  
this, then to bed to dream of you,  
Saw you last night in my dream  
Meet me in dream land dear heart  
Goodnight my Darling,  
XXXXXX XXX XXXX XXXX XXXX  
a million of these  
To the only one I have  
Yours faithfully  
Walter

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# Kansas Memory

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I thought this afternoon that I would go over to see Aunt Clara this ~~evening~~ evening and then write to you when I got back, but foolled around here with the boys too long, I was over there last night and they were fixing to go to bed so I did not go in at all, I went to town and pranced around for a while and got out there too late now I don't know rather I will get to go out there any night this week or not as I have to work until 7 this week. Jerry worked until 7 last <sup>week</sup>

Pratt Kans. 11/18  
Sunday P.M. 9:15

My Dearest Girl:

Sunday night this is and nine o'clock, it would be entirely too late to write to any one else in the world but I sure must write a line to the one I worship before calling the day all over and going to dream land. When I come home Jerry had company here so we all joined in a jolly time for awhile and now before I hardly

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realized it the clock says nine.  
Are you in town tonight  
elf bet you are and are  
beginning to think about  
going to the hills once more  
arent you love, or perhaps  
about now you are in church  
like we all should be, wish  
I were up there I would  
preach you a sermon and  
take my ~~text~~ text from  
the Bible too, it would be  
on love mostly el guess, or  
it might be on fighting if  
el happen to catch catch you  
out of humor about some  
thing see. One whole week  
is gone since el last saw  
you isn't it Bet seems like  
a month to me. Say Girl  
move to Pratt will you so  
I can see you without so much  
trouble.

Your letter el rec'd Friday  
evening sure glad to see it  
too for el had the blues last  
week awful bad until el  
saw that letters and it sure  
put some sunshine into  
life again, without those  
letters el would be a subject  
for the Asylum el guess or  
for the Army one dont know  
which it would be maby  
both.

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KANSAS  
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I thought el told you that  
you should come down and  
cook for me while Mrs & Mr.  
Gravens were gone, you sure  
do mind well el must say.  
I guess the Mrs. will be back  
tomorrow or Tuesday morning  
and Mr. Gravens el can't tell  
when he will get in he  
was in Dalhart this afternoon  
el got a wire from him and  
said he would be in Dodge  
city tomorrow.

I got another car load of  
material in last night at  
four o'clock and had to check  
it all by my self this time  
did not like it one bit  
but Boss gone so had to put  
it out but all over now  
we have the greatest luck  
at getting these ears Sat  
evening or Sunday nearly  
every time.

I believe el am loosing more  
sleep instead of catching  
up, as el worked one night  
last week. Friday night  
to see that 12 Reel Feature  
(The Spoilers) came in at 12  
and last night got to bed at  
12:30, and now it will soon  
be ten again. I guess you  
are even by now aren't you  
as I was going to work this  
morning I thought how fine  
it would be to be in the

# Kansas Memory

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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
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country so I could sleep till  
nine. I'll get a doughnut that  
you made Geo. build a fire  
this morning as it was a  
cold one. Oh you tomorrow morn

Say how do you suppose I  
manage to get out at six  
and no alarm clock, well  
the Hello Girl calls me each  
morning, that beats an alarm  
clock a million ways don't  
you say it does.

Say I claim Arthur pulled  
one on you ha! ha! he was  
seeing what he could clean  
no more lights will Anna  
see up there for I will turn  
it down next time c.

I had a notion to freeze but  
thought it would be lonesome  
in the dark.

Uncle John is getting tired  
of this Court stough, but he  
is like chig cant quit.  
There is big excitement in  
Pratt over this manslaughter  
case.

Oh say! How did the Boys  
come out on thier skunk hunt  
the other night hope they win.

And Geo. I expect is feeling  
better now it has rained on  
his Rye.

Say Gray is mine tell Geo. for  
last night when I taken the  
mail to the depot who should  
I see there but Mr. Bales and

# Kansas Memory

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KANSAS  
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He said he was going to  
Wichita and to go along also  
he had sowed 600 acres of Rye  
and to come out and live we  
would make it up in whiskey  
I built right to the old man  
in good shape, at least a forty  
pound talk and now Geay I  
think will be mine without  
any trouble (Really don't you)

I am going to guess that you  
are on the way home about now  
and cold my my, but that new  
coat will keep you warm in  
good shape I think, I have  
not saw any in Pratt this  
week as keen as your coat  
on the square, has Geo got  
over that buckle yet.

Just as I sit down to write  
this Jerry left to go take  
his girl home from church  
said he would grab her as  
she came out of the church  
and now he is back said  
she would not let him  
hang around long tonight  
he isn't as hard to get rid  
of as I am is he Girl.

Uncle John said Bertha  
was coming along in pretty  
good shape now.

I've got over the blues about  
the war now again (Guess  
I will enlist and be a man)  
when ever I do, dont want to

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KANSAS  
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get away from you that bad  
but guess we will have to  
part for the war some day,  
but you said you would be  
right here waiting for the  
return that is all I want  
and all I can ask Dear Love  
to know that is all the encoura-  
gement I will have and if I will  
feel then I have you to fight  
for and they will have to  
shoot me twice to keep me  
from coming back to you S. H.  
Oh yes I was about to forget  
to tell you that promise but  
maybe you have thought of  
it now, even if you havent  
I can't tell you now, so wait  
till I get to the hills.

Say it is now 10:30 time I  
were asleep and you to so  
guess I will let you go, altho  
I could easily sit here and  
write you until morning  
but it would take you a  
week to read it.

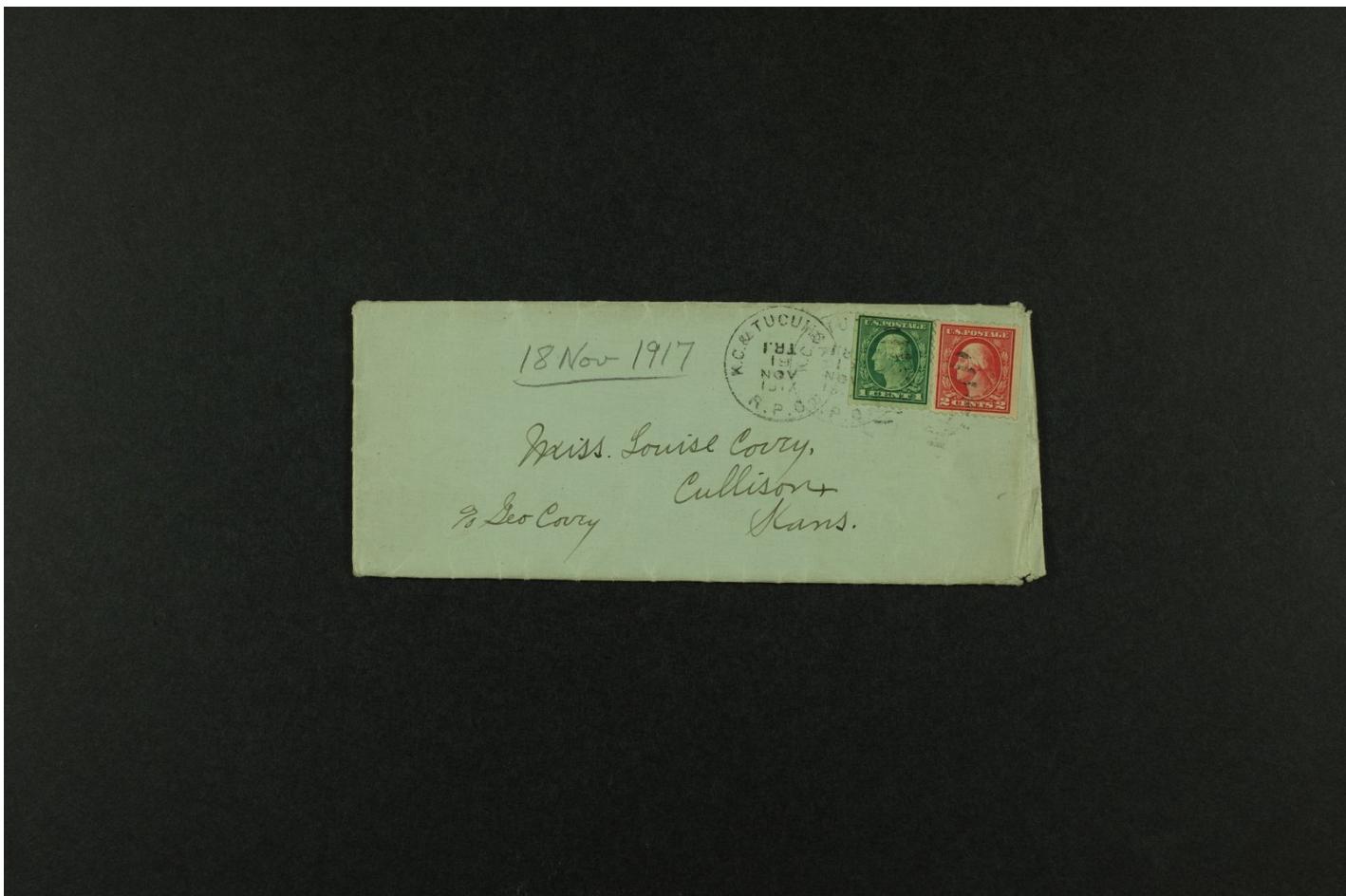
Looking for a letter real  
soon, I remain Your  
own, lovingly. ByeBye XXXXX  
Oceans of love

Walter.

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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Form G 23		ROCK ISLAND LINES		150M 8-17 M-82714 00005		
		INVENTORY OF MATERIAL AND PRICE BOOK				
At		Pratt Kans.		Nov 25	1917	Division
QUANTITY	UNIT OF QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE		AMOUNT	TOTAL
			UNIT	PRICE		
<i>My Darling:</i>						
2						
3		Say love if el had some fisher up				
4		Here's you'll use about an hour of good				
5		Rock Island time in writing to you a				
6		letter to the one that el didn't get yesterday				
7		el sure was blue when el got home last				
8		nights and the <del>Mrs.</del> "said no letter Walter"				
9		el kept wondering and trying to figure out				
10		why finaly el happened to get through				
11		el think still that you had answered				
12		the letter el wrote you Sunday morn for				
13		that reason had not written, but you				
14		missed of dropped me another line just				
15		for my sake, or my sake, or your sake				
16		or Gods sake, or some other reason,				
17		Say can you read this, and will				
18		you excuse this paper el thought price				
19		was some stationery here but find there				
20		is none at all, so when you get this read				
21		for long sake burn it an any project that				
22		el wrote you a letter on it at all,				
23		Rock if you will excuse the paper and				
24		so on and come set on my desk and loan				
25		me your ears for a while el will try and				
26		relate to you the happening which transpired				
27		in the city of Pratt the past two days				
28		altho' there has nothing taken place only				
29		clown to the show last night, and say				
30		how did you like that picture, pretty good				
31		wasn't it?				
32		What kind of a time have you been				
33		having the past day or two, and especially				
34		today are you at home or are you down				
35		to Daddies, where ever it is el wish el				
36		were with you if it is in jail just so				
37		you were there el should worry. el am on				
38		the job all day today as luck always go				
39		we rec'd a car load of material last				
40		evening had to unload it today the				
41		Boss and the other men are over there				
42		bottling it off now, el just came back				
43		from over at Jerry's joint el invoiced				

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KANSAS  
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## CHANGES IN PRICES

NOTE — Prices during the ensuing year must be posted currently, so that at all times correct prices will be available for making bills, etc.

Division

REQN. NO.	PRICE										
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some of his material for him, so he would get caught up he sure did get behind again, and for sympathy I went over and took off a bit of it for him. She have a big heart fits on the right side too.

My dear the main reason for writing this letter this PM. I want to go over to Elony old Aunt tonight and want to get this away on the morrow so you will get it tomorrow, and could not do both in one evening and get to bed at eight could el.

Uncle John is on the job today the first time he has been on for a good while he is off the jury until next Fri. then he will get another sieve of Court

He told me he came every year taking this day off and going out to Cullison to see Fletcher but of course did not make up his mind to do so and is still on the job say I have made up my mind that if your Uncle isn't going to be there I will take \*I out to Cullison next Sunday if you are not going anywhere now listen if you have anything planned for everyday just say so and I will put it off a week see and at that if the Boss should go to general the first like he says he is going to or may not got to come any more but I will send you a wireless about Tuesday M.

I have taken up all of the R. d. minutes that I can right now, must get busy and get some work done just got about a hundred letters here to ans. it is Company mail tho.

Now will say Bye Bye.  
so far as it gets I will send your letters as it comes, that will be about Tues. clothe GoodBye for a while X X X X  
All love to You Dear.

Yours ever  
Walter

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Pratt Kans.  
Nov 27. 1917

My Darling Ann:

One more night I am  
lined out for a letter  
to you, in reply to the  
one I rec'd on the Monday  
morning mail. I could  
hardly ~~think~~ wait until  
noon that day for I knew  
that that letter would  
be there for me.

How kind of a time  
did you have on your  
way home Sunday  
night hope you had  
a dandy big time.

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2

I was here just a minute and Jerry came in, he said he tried to join our bunch at the church but could not get to us at in time I swear I did not see him till you, altho. he might of been there,  
Sure was an enjoyed three hours that I spent that evening dear, if they only came oftener, it would be greater indeed.  
And say I expect to be out on \* Sunday morn and I expect that train

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Walter Vernon Pirtle collection

B  
will be 10 hrs. late that  
day, "that is my luck"  
But late or early I will  
be out on  $\frac{1}{2}$ . But listen  
Pet, I am looking for an  
answer to this before  
then, so you better write  
quick, so it will get out  
to Pine street before it is  
to late, Oh yes you said  
maby you would stay in  
town Sunday now don't  
you forget to tell me, or  
I might go to the country  
and you not be there,  
I sure fell to Mr. Childus  
I believe he is an ideal

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Walter Vernon Pirtle collection



7

young man, wish I could  
be in quarters with him  
when we get to camp  
but I guess no such good  
luck as all that for me.  
How is that old Pal of  
mine I hope he is better  
by now, I would like  
to see that fellow, I'll bet  
I do see him next time  
what do you say, maby  
he can tell me a good  
trick to pull on you or  
maby give me a bit  
of fatherly advise, or both.  
I went out to see  
Aunt Clara last night

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5-

she is still in good health  
and say yesterday was  
her birthday. I did not  
know it until I got  
there and she told me  
it got me a little to  
for I wanted to get the  
old lady a present on  
her birthday, why didn't  
you tell me about it, I  
guess you did not know  
it either, did you,  
Say where are you going  
to spend Thanksgiving, I  
guess I will work all day,  
I don't want to let the work  
get behind for Sunday, and  
will work all day to keep it up.

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6

That Methodist Preacher  
would do better if he could  
read, I noticed that he  
quoted his text wrong the  
other night, and he never  
did change it either.

In your letter you said  
it seemed as though I  
thought you did not think  
as much of me as you  
might, no girl could not  
intend to make the  
impression that I believed  
you did not love me, I  
know you do, you have  
proved it to me I know  
and I am proud of that

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7

love, I ask for no more  
proof than what you have  
given me dear, you are  
true el know, And dear  
you surely have no  
reason to doubt my love  
for you for if el had  
not loved you more than  
life itself el would not  
have given up a girl  
in Okla that ~~sp~~ was  
true as gold to me, But  
el assure you again there  
is no more Foothie, it  
is all Louise now, But  
as you said you had no  
objection to me writing  
to her el am going to