

9-16-1917

Letter from Estelle Dietterich to her aunt, Mary Winn

Estelle Dietterich

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Morehead, Kans. Sept. 16 1917

Dear Aunt Mary:—

I will try to answer your very welcome letter which I received some time ago. We are all as well as usual except baby Clark and he is cutting his third tooth, an upper one, but it does not make him as sick as it does some babies, he has kept real well considering the terrible hot summer we have had, he is trying to walk alone now.

Well we have been here just six months yesterday, and are all just as happy as can be, and would not go back to the city for anything, I was afraid that Marie would be dissatisfied after the newness had worn off, for she was born in K. C. ^{and} had never been in the country but two or three times, and then only for a short visit, but she likes it as well as any of us, she has done

most of the house keeping this summer for I have worked outside all summer and she had to stay in on account of the baby, and she has done real well.

The drought hit us pretty hard as well as others, we won't have half a corn crop, but our kafir corn is fine and will make an ⁱⁿcrease crop if we do not have frost too soon, we have about ten or eleven acres, we have a 20 acre meadow of prairie hay, we had cut about $\frac{2}{3}$ of it before the rains came and it was very short, but it has grown ~~so~~ much since the rains that I think we can cut it again. We have had a little fruit in spite of the late frosts the drought and hail. I canned 21 qts. of cherries and $18\frac{1}{2}$ qts of peaches and we will have some pears and a few apples, I have canned 9 qts of beets, but we have had no tomatoes to put up yet just a few to eat, but the vines are full of blooms and small ones so I may get some yet to put up, I hope so for we are all so fond of them.

I think we shall have all the beans and turnips we want and black eyed peas. We had to dig the potatoes for

they would have later second growth after the rain, and we had $16\frac{1}{2}$ bu. besides what we have been using all summer, we only planted two bu.

I do not know what ground cherries are, nor how to get started with them are they good to eat or make jelly or what? I want to plant every thing I can that is good to eat. I did not do as well with my chickens as I hoped to I had all kinds of bad luck, the last setting I had 110 eggs in the incubator and set a hen the same time but we had a terrible wind and thunder storm and I only got 40 chicks out of the whole thing, then the rats took all of them but 14, they would catch them during the daytime for I had them shut up at night, we had to buy all our eggs and with feed so high too it was a big loss. Some of our neighbors are losing their chickens with ~~every~~ cholera but mine seems to be very healthy so far but I am giving them a preventative anyway and cleaning the house and using a disinfectant, to be on the safe side

that were big enough I have sold altogether
59 young roosters and we have eaten
a dozen or so, it seems as if I have
more of them than I have putlets
and I am so anxious to get a large
flock of hens.

I have not heard from Lou for a long
time, her son and wife were expecting
the store to visit them in Aug. so I
am rather curious to know what her
first grand child is. Nora never writes
to any of us anymore I do not know
what is the matter with her. We have
all written to her but she will not
answer any of us, then Jo wrote to
Iola. Well I will stop for this
time as I have another letter to write
With love to all.

Your niece Estelle

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Mr J M. Wims
Colorado,
Pa.

Mrs H E Dieterich R1

Morehead H