

I have finished posting all of the letters Earl Adair wrote to Mary Bailey from October 1919 through June 1920 when they married. In every letter he writes about his love and missing her company.

Here are my highlights of these 60+ letters including links to the letters by their date. I transcribed exactly what Earl wrote.

Also, I was unaware of his interest in wrestling, especially a wrestler from Iowa, Earl Caddock.

October

4 Letter - Mary was with her Mom at 1456 Dean Avenue

Mary you had better take that picture on the wall down in the cellar to scare the cats away. (*Ed. Note: Probably a reference to photo of Earl that he sent*)

7 Letter

I may drive up in a car if the roads stay good. I traded my Touring car off and got another Touring car

19 Letter

Mary Dear I went to Mt Ayr Saturday evening and got you and got you a nice Diamond. I am sure it will look nice on you finger and you will be glad to wear it, wont you Dear. I took all the Blue Ribbon at the Institute I took \$24 in premium but some day instead of being I it will be WE won't it Dearie?

26 Letter

I sure will be proud to have you wear the diamond.

I should say not they aren't the last blue ribbons we will take, WE will show them who will take the blue ribbons.

28 Letter

It is certainly find that Mary Jane's is going to live at Bedford

November

11 Letter

My folks think that I got a mighty nice girl for a wife.

18 Letter

I will never forget the day that we spent together when we went out to Atlantic for I certainly enjoy it I never thought of having such plans as we have planed now that day

8 Letter

I suppose Mary Jane is at your house and you will find out about her plans. I hope they will get married in June don't you so we can start out in married life together.

26 Letter

You wont have to stand around on the street corner and wait on a street car when you get down on the farm all you will half to do then is to go out and start the Ford and start.

The folks has gone to Sunday school Sam is laying here a sleep and I am writing to my Dear Mary this beautiful morning . I wish that you was here so we could go out and take a joy ride together.

DECEMBER

3 Letter

There was a crowd met Monday and hauled wood for the church, the school house is about out of coal.

I think that would be alright for you to go over and stay over with Arthur and Bess, I think it would be better than teaching school (*Ed. Note: Address on letter is Arthur & Bess*)

5 Letter

We are still working in the timber, One thing about this coal Strike is if they can't get coal they will have to go and chop wood.

Mary Jane is sure a dandy little lady here and Paul will have to go some if they live a happier married life than we do Won't they Dear.

10 Letter

Papa's cousin is here and we are going to take him to Blockton in the sled, so I will send this to Blockton and mail.

12 Letter

My Dear If I don't get up Saturday I will be there Christmas If Marian does not come but I hope she does.

15 Letter

I stayed in Blockton and called Sam and told him to come and get me.

17 Letter

Dewey will be home in the morning, WE will make good use of him.

Dave Smith died Sunday and was buried yesterday.

22 Letter

Gail Staton and I was out car riding and hit a tree and kindly stoved us both up a little

30 Letter

Mary Dear I don't think that I will ever forget this Christmas for I certainly enjoyed myself.

JANUARY

2 Letter - **Mary is at new address 1004 W 28 Street**

Redding had a fire Tuesday night it burned the garage, Clint Smith stour and the Millinery Shop.

Harry Main is going to start the New Year with happiness. He was married today.

I hope Marian got to take in lot of the sights in Chicago and got back to Galesburg all right

6 Letter

I read your kind letter this morning my Dear, that was sure a nice poem.

Mary Dear it will be two years since we began going together the day you will get this letter. It was the Eight. Sam is going to carry the mail the rest of the week so I will have all the work to do in the day time.

8 Letter

Hattie was sure right about you making the very Dearest farmer's wife.

Dearie Just two year ago to night we went to Delphos to a Basket Ball game. I don't suppose you have forgotten about it

12 Letter

Pearl Herring got word that her mother was vey sick to come at once, So her and papa went down there to night.

21 Letter

Mrs Lee Hull died Sunday and Alta mother is about the same if anything she is a little weaker.

Mary Dear if you want to you can take a book on raising chickens when you get down here on the farm.

23 Letter

They had a party on Cash Baird he is going to Cal. He left this morning.

Sam has got two more day of carring the mail and he will be through It seems like it has been a month to me.

There was a lady called Sam up and asked him why he didn't bring her a letter from her Man in Kansas City I guess he is like me don't write very often

I would be glad to meet Hazel Burdg.

Sure My Dear you can go to the wrestling match with me.

Papa sold ten head of his cattle the other day I guess he will gett all of his cattle sold off in time so we can take thing over in our hands allright

29 Letter

Mary Dear the tenth of June would be all right with me

FEBRUARY

2 Letter

Aunt Ollie Died Sunday afternoon and will be buried tomorrow at Eleven O'clock.

That was to bad about Mr Sisson. If Esther's is married she sure has kept it to herself.

Caddock got throwed in New York the other night, I sure hate that. *Ed. Note: I attached newspaper article*

12 Letter

I read your kind letter this morning my Dear

14 Letter

I wish Bess all the good luck I can while she is at the Hospital.

I havn't got any Valentine little piggies but I am looking for some pretty soon.

18 Letter

I am sure glad the baby girl and Bess is doing fine. (*Ed. Note: Probably reference to Bess (wife of Mary's brother Arthur) and birth of Elizabeth Louise (Betty) on February 16, 1920*)

20 Letter

Do you remember Inez Lynch and Keith Fisher they were married last Saturday.

A cousin was up from Oklahoma and he said they were plowing and sowing oats down there

25 Letter

They had a farewell supper at the church for Mr and Mrs Norris and Mr and Mrs George Eaton that are going to leave.

Ralph Jennings got hit by a car Sunday, the cars are getting so thick that they can't stay out in front of them. I did not hear how bad he is hurt.

There is going to be a big wrestle match in Des Moines Monday. If I come I will stay over and take in the wrestle match.

26 Letter

There is going to be a Short Horn Sale and Show in Des Moines the 9-10-11 of March that I want to attend If I don't get up Sunday I will be there then.

I sure would like to see the new Baby girl. (*Ed.Note: Probably reference to Arthur and Bess daughter Elizabeth Louise (Betty) Bailey.*)

29 Letter

We have got 31 little piggies, and have got eight more sows to farrow yet.

Do you remember Jim Parker he was down to our place one time when you was down here. He was married today. I think they are all going to get married.

Mama and Pearl Herring went to Des Moines to day perhaps you will see them by the time you get this letter

MARCH

4 Letter

I just sold 12 hogs they brought me \$447.13. We haven't got any more little piggies.

That is to bad Mary Jane and Paul can't decide on a date and place, I expect what Mary Jane says will go.

I want to thank you again for the tulip my Sweetheart

8 Letter

Stuart Hoover was in D.M. and came down on the same train I did so I had company all the way home.

12 Letter

Fred was in D.M. to the sale. The cattle didn't sell very well. They fell short about half what they were expecting. There was lot of people at the sale asking me if I brought you my Dear back with me. My Dear I didn't this time but it won't be be long till I can Will it Dearie

14 Letter

Jessie Crouch was telling Fern Seaton that she had a new Edison, Fern told her that She would come down and hear it someday. Jessie told her it wasn't down here She said She didn't think it was worth while to bring it down for so short a time, So I guess she is going to leave Redding.

I don't know if Fern is going to Mo. or not George is up about two or three time a week. Redding will be shy some more teachers next year.

18 Letter

No I didn't know Carol Andrews You folks always having company If it isnt some on else it is Me.

Mary Dear I think you can cook well enough to suit me I am not a bit scared about the cooking or any thing else There was a airplain came up to Redding from Albany Mo. and took Mr McAlvain back with him, they sailed to gether in France. Mc Alvain is the Banker in Redding, he is talking of getting one this summer.

22 Letter

This sure has been a fine day, I only wish that WE were close together so we might take a nice ride together, like we used to when you were teaching school in Redding or when WE went to Atlantic I don't think I will ever forget that trip for I sure enjoyed it. My Dear you being setting beside My Side that made it so happy.

My Uncle and Aunt from Okla. Uncle George and Alta and Pearl was her today.

I do hope your folks come out for I would like to see them. It may be a few year before we get to go back there. I have been over to Lyle Spencer tonight. I don't know if you know him or not. Fred married his Sister. Mary My Dear I am not a bit scared about you getting so I can't boss you around, Dearie I am not going to boss you for you may be right and I wrong

24 Letter - Mary has new address 1127 W 27 Street

Fred and Gladys has got them a little boy it was born this afternoon. (*Ed. Note: This is the birth of Maurice Adair*) It was Easter that we were all out to Baird's. That evening WE got George and Fern and took them for a ride. One day we took the Buick went to Clearfield, Diagonal, and Mt Ayr. It was that evening WE came down to hear the Edison.

APRIL

4 Letter

Mary Dear I don't believe I told you that I bought 100 shares in Oil stock for \$175 00 I don't know if it will make any money or not, I got a letter from the company saying they had those gass well and three oil well that was producing oil and gass now and was going to drill twenty five more well the next year it sounds pretty good. Sam is setting here playing cards all my himself. he is getting beat every time but he keep playing just the same.

5 Letter

Did I tell you that Mrs D.M. Smith died she was buried today

The aeroplane is going to get to Redding tomorrow Mc Elvain got to Albany this afternoon. Redding will be up with D.M. with the Aeroplane flights.

There is going to be a wrestle match in D.M. Monday night, I have about lost my sport in the wrestle game since Caddock has lost out

6 Letter

Well the aeroplane did not get up it is coming up tomorrow that is what they say.

That was too bad about Arthur letting his car freeze up, I wish it would get warm so it wouldn't freeze anymore. I have been helping Fred today he is looking for some cattle bullpens from Stockport Iowa tomorrow

9 Letter

Fred sold four head of cattle the other day.

Ruth Fred little girl ask Gladys is she was going to have a Aunt Bailey. Mary Jane is sure a good one, I always did like her ever the first time that I seen her. That is too bad about her mother. It is sure bad to be sick

I sure would like to meet Paul to see what kind of a kid he is I seen his picture once upon a time.

11 Letter

I got my certificate for my 100 shares in the Central National Oil Company today.

The aeroplane has not got to Redding It stoped at Albany Mo and lit on the bottom and it has been to muddy for them to start it. I think they can find a hill around Redding to light it on.

13 Letter

I would sure liked to have been in Des Moines and seen the wrestle match but I was affraid that Caddock would get throwed and I didn't wont to be there, maby the next time he wrestle he will wrestle for the Championship again and that is the one we wont to see if it is in Des Moines. I am glad to hear that Betty Lou is doing so fine.

14 Letter

Tats is down here I don't know when he is going back, I would like to have them to come out some night when I was up for I think they are a nice couple. Sam has gone to town to a play, I stayed at home and writing to my dear Sweetheart.

20 Letter

The aeroplane has got to Redding, It has made six flights, I haven't took a ride in it yet or even been up to see it. If the river is not out maby I can get Mc Elvain take me across in his aeroplane but it is quite sure that I will be in D.M. sometime Saturday.

26 Letter

Talk about Raining I guess it did rain down here.

28 Letter

You tell Arthur I will see about buying the stock If I buy I will just buy five shares.

I can buy the Liberty bonds of Mamma there would be about \$40.00 or \$45 of depreciation on the bonds so the five share would cost u about \$600.00

Arthur is making us a good offer on it, It will not make him very much money

30 Letter - **Mary moved back with her Mom at 1456 Dean**

I have got the cylinder oil for the tractor, I have had it cranked up yesterday it is working pretty good there is a man coming next week to fix it a little but I will have him go all over the engine and tighten it.

The dinning room is 104", 50" for the large window, and 30 in for the small window.

MAY

2 Letter

WE had company today Uncle George, Alta and Pearl was down but I wish it was you instead.

Fred went to Indianola Friday and got back today I sure would like to went with him.

McElvain made a flying trip to Des Moines Saturday morning and back this morning

Dewey will get home the 5 of June

4 Letter

Did Arthur go Oklahoma I hope he got the two trades to go through.

Charley and Pearl was down yesterday and got some chicken feed ground.

Sam was down to Grant City and seen Miss Craven She told Sam she herd that he was going to have a new sister, I guess that is all true.

11 Letter

Mary I sent you the wrong border

The tractor sure worked find did not have any trouble, it is a little yet.

I got the pansy and bulbs home Mamma is going to set them out this afternoon

13 Letter

It seem pretty slow when the aeroplane fly over

16 Letter

Tell Arthur to come down we will try and see that he he get all the corn he want.

I went to My Ayr Friday go a tooth filled and a ring and done some more shopping.

You can send Sam Emerson one if you want to he is at the same place O.L.Whitlatch are but he will hear about when they get there.

18 Letter

That is to bad that your Aunt and Uncle wont be out maby they will come on surprise.

26 Letter

Fred took a ride in the Airplane to day he didn't think it was so much fun as he though it would be.

Arthur and Bess sure must had an enjoyable trip to Ames. I know how thoes blowout goes and no water.

May-Jun Letter

I got a letter from Arthur today saying he had seats reserved for us, I guess I will half to come

JUNE

1 Letter

We hang up the curtain in the parlor and Sitting room and found that there were one short for the little window in the Sitting room. did you make it and send it we have misplace it if you sent it. If you didn't make it will you when you are down town - get another curtain for the window and send it down and mama will make it, as you will have all you can do with out it.

We planted 4 acres of field pumpkins yesterday some watermelons and squashes today.

don't let this curtain worry you for it it will be all right.

3 Letter

Dewey will be home Saturday. I hope your mother is better by this time, mama got your letter today (Friday)

6 Letter

In regard about the minister I would like to have Mr Kirby for he sound like a nice man. I said that Mr Pruitt used to preach in Redding some years ago, WE thought it would be all right to get him, but Dear if you won't to get a Friend Minister from Oskaloosa that will be allright with us.