October 9

1943?

Dear William:

This letter should have been on its way to you long ago but somehow time rushes by without giving us a chance to catch up with ourselves and in spite of the fact that you & Philinda are so often in our thoughts we seem very negligent about letter writing.

We do send sincerest greetings to the "Birthday Baby" William and hope for many, many celebrations of that day. We regret that so many miles prevent a real celebration – but we can have one when you come

home, which we hope will be soon.

At present our weather is superb – cool, crisp, clear & with a benign moon to lend radiance to our little world. We enjoy the country & are trying to take care of our few social obligations while the weather remains this way. With school in session it throws most of our activity to the week end.

Our family came from Washington a week ago – the first time they have been here since Laurence & I have been married. They stayed with the Mitchells & on Sunday we had 15 for dinner in the country – all our family – even

Mrs. Ned came. She has been out a little after her long siege following the broken hip. She & Ned had dinner for us all Friday at the Inn & she managed that quite well too. One leg was almost 5 inches shorter than the other but with use & care she can wear normal shoes now & there is not much difference between the two legs in length. Of course, she has a full time nurse & moves about the house in a wheel chair. They moved her bedroom downstairs.

As you probably know – we have sold the farm in Coshocton Co.

We think we are very fortunate

to be relieved of that debt. It was too much work with no return & John liked his interest for which no one could blame him & he also likes having the mortgage paid – which certainly more than covered the value of the farm. So everyone is happy.

Your father seems to be feeling quite well. He is very proud of his sylph like lines and is "holding back" on his food to keep them. If he could only find someone to help in the store. He has so much heavy lifting to do & that is the thing that is hard on him physically. To unload tons of iron, nails etc. is

not a joke at 59. He is really remarkable I think.

School is really going quite well this year. It is the most agreeable year I have ever had teaching – and that fact is not due to the very substantial raise in my salary – which leaves me with about the same paycheck when taxes are removed – but if I consider what it would be with the old basis minus taxes I am truly happy about it.

We have been enjoying some of the most luscious pears that

Lillian sent us. The flavor is delicious & they are the largest avocados I

have ever seen. She says that

they are both well and able to carry on.

We just received your letter of Sept 3 – which made us very happy and interested us much. We shall pass your message on to Mel. she has felt very keenly her father's death. They were very close in spite of the length of time since the children had seen him.

You perhaps know that his wife is a quite famous artist, the former Marjorie Wintermute her mother being a Culver – of the military Academy family – old army people. She is very close to Mel & we do hope that when she comes east will stop here. There is a Johnny Schiffeler, you know – aged about three – its quite a family.

We look forward to your letters and with much love to you both in which we both join. – Sarah –