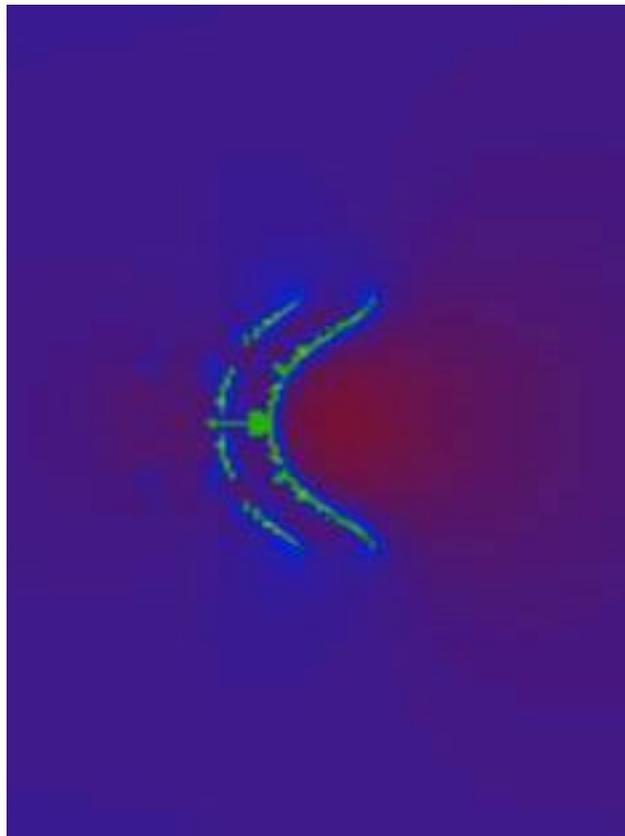


Leah



Rochelle Ratner

xPress(ed)

*Leah* by Rochelle Ratner

Cover Art by Jukka-Pekka Kervinen  
Copyright © 2004.

Design, Typesetting and e-Publishing:  
xPress(ed)  
Espoo, Finland

Copyright © 2004 by Rochelle Ratner  
All rights reserved

Electronically published in Finland  
ISBN 951-9198-51-2

WWW: <http://www.xpressed.org>  
email: [info@xpressed.org](mailto:info@xpressed.org)

Acknowledgements: some of these pieces  
have appeared in the following publications:

Clown War  
Hard Press  
RealPoetik  
Sidereality  
xStream

"Leah: A Sequence of Christmas Postcards," a booklet  
containing 8 poems, was privately printed by the  
author, Christmas 1978

## Foreword

I have a close friend who lived in Europe during the 1970s. He's the sort of person who has to think for days, sometimes weeks, before he can write a postcard to anyone; consequently his friends never heard from him except when he came in town once a year. Most other people I knew, including myself, dashed off postcards in a few seconds. I never realized how important these words could be until, rummaging through an antique shop in the late 1970s, I was fascinated by the pictures and messages on old postcards. I bought ten or so, all for holidays, thinking they offered more distinctive greetings than the usual Hallmarks.

While I glanced at the messages briefly, it wasn't until I got home that I realized most were addressed to the same person: Leah Graham (later Leah Carvell). Suddenly the words became more interesting than the pictures. I went back to that store several times, usually finding cards with intriguing messages to Leah which I'd previously missed.

I've always been accused of being a Romantic, and the image of lonely women working in mills during the early 1900s suits me perfectly. From 1905 to 1915, especially, Leah and her friends were putting their whole lives onto these cards, then sending them through the mail for anyone and everyone to read. To place all this in perspective: in 1900 one out of every thirteen homes had a phone, and the dial phone wasn't in general use until 1919; Ford's Model T did not go into mass production until 1910. Through the words contained in these pages we get a first-hand portrait of a time when visits were cumbersome and infrequent, phone calls possible but not probable; cards and letters were often the only way to stay in touch.

Questions arise as we leaf through these one-sided dialogues: how old was Leah? Did she really have that many sisters and cousins, or was "Sister" a familiar (possibly even religious) term? Who were these people who wrote to her again and again? Was the "Walter" she later married the same "Walt" that Irene S. warns Leah to look out for? And when did Leah marry? There are huge gaps in the narrative. Messages hint at sickness, death, struggle, possibly mental illness. In between cards, there were obviously letters, and often visits, but all we have to go by are these fragments. Piecing them together, searching for repetitive names and references, tempts readers to fill in the blanks until a life story emerges. Novels could have been written from the same beginnings. I decided the words were more interesting left alone.

All in all, I found over 100 cards. While many were not turned into poems, the sentiments recorded here remain untouched: line breaks, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation have all been retained, nothing has been edited out. In a few places where the pictures or words printed on the cards seemed relevant to the messages, I've added

a few lines to convey to the reader what the cards conveyed to me (hopefully within the line pattern dictated by the postcard format, then individualized by each correspondent). Increasingly with each revision, I've worked to keep my impressions within a subtle, if not silent, background.

There was one place where my own responses moved to the forefront, and that's in the "Interlude: Atlantic City" cycle. None of these messages seemed as interesting as others that I've included here, but I was born and raised in Atlantic City, as were my parents. Had I not recognized the pictures and checked the postmarks that first day I was looking in the antique shop, I might never have looked any further. I've placed this cycle in the center of the book, breaking the chronological order, but hopefully establishing a deeper, cumulative, connection.

Rochelle Ratner  
New York City  
November 28, 1994

St. Clair, July 17, 1905

There's a cannon  
in a corner of the park,  
on a bench nearby  
a man takes a long,  
white-dressed woman  
on his knee,  
looking helplessly up at her.  
She, one arm around him,  
uses the other arm  
to push him off

beneath,  
the single command:  
REST!

Dear Leah  
I thought this  
would remind you  
of Stanley  
don't be angry  
for I know  
you loved him.  
When are you going  
to answer my letter?  
I hope soon.

E.S.

The words written in pencil --

Someone tried their best  
to erase *Stanley*  
to erase *loved him*.

Postmark:  
Jan. 27, 1906

Dear Leah must postpone  
my visit, mother is  
very sick again, she  
is worse than ever  
will write letter and tell  
you all about it. am  
awful troubled about  
it for now she will  
not get well. Have not  
been in bed for two  
weeks. Yours as ever,  
E.S.

a dark-haired woman lies  
on a silk pillow

one hand  
draws her nightgown  
across her breasts,  
the other rests  
just beneath her cheek

five roses, pink and white  
lie bunched beside her

a fair, cherubic face  
lies just above  
holding in her hands  
two more roses  
to brush the sleeper's  
forehead

LIVE FOR LOVE, AND THOU SHALT BE,  
LOVING OTHERS, TRUE TO ME:  
LOVE I FOLLOW, FOLLOW THEE!

April 2, 1906

a blue snapshot  
of the old State House,  
New Haven, Ct.  
takes up most of the front  
and on the back: *this side*  
*for address only.*

The message is in ink  
but the pen must have been  
running dry, every other  
word or half-word  
is darker:

Dear Sister  
Monday morn.  
Annie is  
rubbing away  
at the wash  
tub. Was at  
Struble's  
yesterday from  
there went to  
Eyman's. I  
guess sledding  
is over for  
this year.  
Your Sister  
Minnie

There was once glitter  
in the building's foreground  
but most of it's worn off  
just like the snow, if you  
get the picture.

August 10, 1906  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Scene: the sea at night.  
Three men build a campfire  
in a little clearing of rocks,  
two rowboats anchored  
to other rocks

along the horizon she's written:  
Take a walk with me  
and we will have a talk with me  
along Conestoga and no one  
waiting for us. You see!

(over)

I will take advantage  
of all possible space  
to write to my two friends  
the Graham loaves.  
I think of all of you  
each day while I am  
running my legs off at  
the machine.

E.E.S.

Nov. 7, 1906

Even in log cabins  
ROOM FOR ONE MORE  
& set to leave

two men sit on donkeys  
while a third donkey, empty,  
drinks at the water hole

Dear Friend --  
I hope you are having  
a nice time  
down on the farm.  
we have more room  
for you

it seems as though  
you were away about  
a month  
please don't forget  
to come back Mon.  
morning

be a good girl  
& have a good time  
With love, Elsie

Postmark: Nov. 8, 1906  
Lancaster, Pa.

GLASGOW, KIBBLE PALACE  
IN BOTANIC GARDENS

-- for *inland* postage only  
this side may be used  
for communication:

We received your card.  
I am on the bum list like you were.  
I was at the Doctors last night.  
Don't forget Mothers Postal  
on Friday.

from Lottie.  
Lottie Ressler

December 4, 1906

They use to call me Peachie  
but it is too cold for them now.

Geo. Flichtner

March 27, 1907  
EASTER GREETINGS

all I can reproduce here  
are the words

on the front you must  
imagine a cross, large,  
the kind you find in graveyards,  
with grass at the bottom

written all around it:

Dear Cousin

forgive me for not  
writing sooner  
I will write  
in a few  
days. Pearle  
went home  
this evening  
we had  
a nice  
time together  
I will  
miss her  
very much  
How are all  
the folks? hope they are  
all well. Your cousin,  
Alice

Now imagine a thin young woman  
in a long lavender gown  
draping a wreath of lilies  
across that cross.

July 28, 1907

FOURTH LAKE,  
ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS, N.Y.

Dear Leah,  
I am as lonely today  
as I was a year ago.  
I am not caring for anything.  
From Edith

and on the other side:  
(continued from Edith's card)  
she knows by this time  
whether the girls are any relation  
to ex-governor Pennypacker.  
There are now three kinds  
of things in this house  
Pennypacker, Penny  
& I won't write what  
I was going to.  
My unseen friend just now  
said don't.  
He always says don't to Edith  
and then she don't  
only she does sometimes.  
Aunt H. is so old fashioned  
and full of laugh  
that I must get the camphor to chew on  
to move my face when I can't laugh.  
My thoughts are continued.  
Emma S.

Aston Mills, Pa.  
Aug. 3, 1907

We live right  
near this  
school ask  
cousin Clara  
and she will  
explain it  
to you.

Blanche

Postmark:  
December 22, 1908

beside a picture of Old North Church  
in Boston: BOSTON RUBBERS ARE  
BEACON LIGHTS IN RUBBER FOOTWEAR

Dear girls, your card at hand  
Father will be in on Wednesday eve.  
should it storm stay at Grandpops  
till Thurs. morn.

Mother

April 9, 1909  
EASTER GREETINGS

Thought you might enjoy flowers  
when you come here early this summer --  
we are planting flower seed  
on the kitchen table  
but in boxes.

Lovingly,  
Nettie Waite.

Philadelphia, Pa.  
Oct. 21, 1909

Leah I am starting  
a new life in a  
new home and like  
it very much thus  
far but must work  
very hard. Myrna.

Battle Creek, Mich.  
Jan 25, 1910

MAPLE STREET IN WINTER

Dear Friend Leah,  
Received your letter  
am glad you are pleased  
with the book.  
am out of writing paper  
so will not write for  
a day or two.  
am going downtown  
to a dance tomorrow night  
given by The Caledoman Club  
(a Scotch Society).

Sincerely, Jas.

TO MY VALENTINE  
Feb. 2, 1910

Hello Leah  
how are you  
hope you are enjoying  
good health.  
I am well  
except for a cold  
two weeks ago.  
I went home  
sister Emma was  
complaining right smart.  
From your true friend  
Ella M. Smith

the delicate  
woman's hand intrudes  
upon the heart  
& the dove  
takes off

Verona Falls near Battle Creek, Mich.  
April 28, 1910

Here is where I went fishing last week.  
Not even a mosquito bite.

Yours truly,  
Jim

San Francisco, Calif.

July 15, 1910

I hope you will pardon my delay  
in replying to your card, but I have  
been ill and unable to write.

Would you like to exchange a few  
cards with my brother? If so add --  
Edwin J. Thompson, 3101 Calif St.  
S.F. Calif.

Sincerely,  
Daisy Thompson  
3101 Calif. St.  
S.F., Calif.

July 15, 1910

a Shirley-Temple,  
rosy-cheeked girl  
holds a bouquet of pink,  
five petalled flowers

a gold basket of them  
is under her arm  
and a strand of daisies  
borders the card

its once-glossy surface  
is cracked now, so that from  
the distance it appears  
mosaic:

Dear Leah,

here is a birthday  
postal for you,  
as I have forgot  
the date of your birthday.

Send the date in  
as the others want  
to send you one too.  
We are all well except sister Emma  
she is still complaining.

Your friend Ida Smith

August 2, 1910

The Marion  
18 Web Ave.  
Ocean Grove, N.J.

Dear Friend,  
You ought to be here  
I know you would enjoy  
the Ocean  
It has been raining  
all day -- one day  
it is cloudy,  
the next day it rains.  
When you take your  
vacation this summer  
come to the ocean.  
Sarah Wiggins  
has a very nice place  
and likes it very much  
you can cook and bake  
there are a lot of  
private homes, they want  
girls. Let me know if you  
want a place. Katie.

Sept. 25, 1910

Flowers say it best

a windmill scene  
like a cameo  
in the center:

THO NEW FRIENDS COME  
YET TO THE OLD I'M TRUE,  
A FACT I HOPE THIS CARD  
WILL PROVE TO YOU.

Dear Leah what happened on  
Sunday Eve. Thought maybe  
you got an elephant.  
Ida and I talked  
until blue dawn  
began to break.  
Stayed until Monday.  
W. did not come.  
M.H. spent the eve  
with me. She was on  
the porch waiting on me  
did not get back until  
7:30. write something soon.  
S.

tho new friends come...

October 10, 1910

Dear Cousin

I will drop you this card  
for a general reminder  
that you owe me a letter.

I am all alone

Hubby is working.

He will be home for supper.

Please answer. Blanche.

December 2, 1910  
HEARTIEST GREETINGS

see --  
the flowers thrive,  
pink roses on  
the envelope or package,  
a pink ribbon around it

Dear Leah --  
Wish I was there  
with you today.  
The roads are so bad  
for one horse I am afraid  
we won't make it over there  
this winter.

I am still looking for your letter.  
I was up to Flora's yesterday.  
She wasn't very well.  
I suppose Jim & Nellie  
were married last night.  
John Knapp was also married  
last week.

When are you coming over?  
Please write me a long letter.

Love. Mabel.

Coateville, Pa.  
March 24, 1911

Dear Sister  
Mary told me  
to write and tell you  
that she has her cakes  
and pies all baked  
ready for you  
to come on Saturday  
and you are not  
to disappoint her.  
I have not worked  
for over a week.  
Hurt my foot.

J.H.G.

May 3, 1911

a gold-bordered card  
with a single rose,  
two buds (one broken off)  
and gold thorns

BEST WISHES

Suppose you have been  
looking for a letter  
long ago

I wanted to write  
but seemed I couldn't  
find time

Roy is up again,  
goes out a little.  
The nurse left last Sat.  
was here three weeks

Dr. Finney was here yesterday  
and fumigated the room.

Your sister,  
Harriet

Postmark:  
August 11, 1911

came to Lan.  
on Monday  
tending Mulinger's  
Funeral

went to  
Chris stayed  
till to day  
growing some

shopping going  
to Vandike's  
leave this after  
noon at 3 o'clock  
Mother

addressed to  
Miss Leah Graham,  
someone has written  
in blue pencil:  
Stamp

& not the usual  
green stamp  
but a red one  
on the bottom:  
postage due 1¢

August 20, 1911

Electric Power House and Dam  
On Dan River, South Boston, Va.

I was out driving yesterday:  
how is it going in "easy alley?"

Harry

Postmark:  
August 24, 1911  
Lancaster, Pa.

3 women in Easter bonnets  
crouch in an old beat-up crate --  
WE HAD A BOX SEAT.

Dear Cousin  
Well Leah I had better  
apologize for stinging you.  
That is the way a fellow has to do.  
I thought it was the Sat. eve before,  
I had forgotten it was last Sat. eve  
so I went to R.S. and it never struck me  
about it until I was out dancing  
then it was too late. Will make it up to you  
some time when I see you.

Ruth

Postmark:  
Coatesville, Pa.  
Sept. 7, 1911

Leah save me  
some sinerys  
of what you  
took from home  
I will fix it with  
you bring your  
camera with you  
when you come.

Mary

& on the front  
a typical Victorian  
pose

a woman  
in a long gown  
DREAMING OF THE  
HAPPY HOUR

rests her elbow  
on a coffee table,  
stares off into space:

sinerys? smergs? sinergs?  
smerys? sewing? what the hell  
does she expect?

December 30, 1911

ALL GOOD WISHES...  
...FOR A BRIGHT AND  
HAPPY FUTURE...

Leah, Edwin is  
an awful sick boy  
but is a little bit  
better now we are  
all just about down  
sick with the care  
but we have a  
trained nurse came  
last night. his tem.  
now runs from 102 to 104  
now just got it a  
little under control with  
the baths.

E.

Postmark:  
Jan. 10, 1912

a BIRTHDAY GREETINGS card.

Hello olde friend  
how does this weather  
sute you.  
I suppose  
you are slaying  
and you olde chum  
are slaying every night  
having a grande time  
I was home  
they are all well  
I tolde Margret about riting  
she said she was going  
to right to you  
I have not seen Molley Siles  
if I see her I will tell her  
I am well hope you  
are the same  
answer soon all ways glad  
to heare from you.  
I remain your friend  
Ella M. Smith.

Postmark:  
Feb. 20, 1912  
Lancaster, Pa.

Dear Leah,  
received your card.  
was glad to hear from you  
I am well & happy  
oh we are so busy  
over church, you know.  
Hope you are well  
by this time.  
Just think I am  
on my third double end warp  
it's that fine I can hardly  
see anything at all.  
Don't get scared  
I don't think that at all  
I know you would feel slided  
if you would not get a treat  
of then *ha ha*.  
Oh. Minnie is out  
clearing palings this eve  
pretty cold for that job  
let her enjoy herself  
I was young too  
and will do the same thing  
over again. Your friend  
Emma

Interlude: Atlantic City

March 27, 1907  
MARLBOROUGH HOTEL

Dear Sister  
Mary is coming up  
on Sat. Morn.  
on the 8:34 train.  
Alice and I was down  
at the school this morning  
but the teacher did not come.  
Your Sister Sallie

≡

July 3, 1908  
ABSECON LIGHTHOUSE

Leah we are having a lovely time  
Emma and I room together  
and go bathing every day.  
I am sun-burnt so I am blistered  
but am feeling fine.

Mazie  
Hotel Shoreham  
Virginia Ave.

≡

July 11, 1911  
Yachting Pier at the Inlet

Dear Cuz I forgot  
to give Loretta my address.

Will you give it to her?  
146 S. Tennessee Ave.  
Wish you were here. It's fine.  
(no signature)

≡

STEEL PIER BY MOONLIGHT --  
no postmark, no date

Leah

Let's take a trip in here  
tonight (I expect to).

Billah

≡

August 3, 1912  
SOLID COMFORT ON THE BOARDWALK  
women sitting in rolling chairs  
lined up against the rail:

Dear Friend will drop you a few  
lines to let you know  
I haven't forgotten you  
I guess you thought I did  
but believe me Leah I didn't  
Will write you a letter before long  
Friend Green

PS -- what do you think of this  
for a parade -- don't you wish  
you were one of them?

Westminster, Pa.

June 5, 1912

Hello Leah

I bin going to rite you

I have bin bissey cleaning up house

I hope you are well and home

how did you get along at the hospiddle

you said you had to be operated.

Let me heare from you

I am awfull sorry to heare it

I am well and hope you are the same

with love to you and rite soon

always glad to hear from you.

The carde looks like you.

Ella M. Smith

Postmark: Lancaster, Pa.  
July 12, 1912

BROWN HALL,  
MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF,  
FLINT, MICH.

Dear Leah,  
Had been to the country  
for a week,  
had a dandy time,  
lots of good things  
to eat. Uncle Geo.  
has been in Lanc.  
for five weeks.  
Went to the country Sat.  
Danby and Millersville.  
Had a letter from Aunt Sue --  
says she likes it.  
It sure is hot there  
these days. Hope you are  
getting better. Write soon.

Mary E.

September 17, 1912

Would like you to  
be with us on Sun.  
come down to the stand  
on Fri eve if you  
can't come down Roy  
will come out am  
very busy just now  
helping in the tobacco  
Your Sister. Harriet.

Millersville Pa.  
Sept. 18, 1912

LET  
OTHERS SWEAR  
BY OATHS UNTRUE  
YET FAITHFUL  
I WILL BE TO  
YOU.

Dear Friend Leah --  
guess you thought  
you were never getting an answer  
to that card you sent me  
but I wanted to send you  
a picture of myself  
and it did not get good  
so I will send one later on  
if we ever get that far again.  
I took it at Manor Camp  
and it was a hootch. Ha Ha.  
Thanking you very much for the card  
hoping to hear from you soon again  
P.B.C. was on that picture  
guess that is why it didn't get good.  
Minnie M.

No postmark, but dated  
Oct. 8, 1912

one of those blonde  
helpless cowgirl pictures,  
a bust shot, cut raggedly off  
to enhance them

Dear Leah --  
this is my second attempt.  
I sent you a card  
on the 25th of Aug.  
but it came back to me.  
I trust this one  
will reach its destination.  
I am sending the old one as well.  
There may be some one on it you know.  
How are you feeling by this time?  
I have left the Cork Works Leah  
and feel much better sitting around home.  
I wish that were all I had to do  
for a few months. The girls  
tease me about getting married.  
What do you know about that.

Lucy

Millersville, Pa.  
Dec. 23, 1912

Well, Leah,  
almost Xmas time again.  
Hope you will have  
a brighter one than ever.  
Just got through making  
puffed rice candy.  
Wish you had some  
when it's cold,  
not this moment  
it might burn your mouth.  
come up some time  
I often think of you.  
In regards to presents --  
Dear that will be all right.  
I would not expect you  
to send us some,  
that would have been too hard  
so far away and what  
you have experienced already.  
I have received a beautiful ring  
(to my eyes) already as a present.  
I will write and tell you more.  
Tell Minnie I send her the best  
N.Y. wishes I know of.  
Your friend. Emma.

December 24, 1912

Well Leah are you  
still in the land  
of the living  
I never hear a word  
from you  
I hope you are better  
and ready to eat  
a 15 lb turkey  
for Christmas  
you should hear  
our youngsters  
they are almost wild  
Let me hear from you  
good bye and merry Xmas  
to all.

Lizzie

Leah from Edith, 1912

GOOD LUCK  
AND GOOD HEALTH  
IN THE NEW YEAR

Dear Leah,  
this is Sunday morning,  
and it gives me great pleasure  
to write a few lines  
to each of my dear girls  
in the snow-crowned hills  
of Graham farm.  
I wish so often  
that your home was nearer mine,  
that we could just walk over  
and see one another.  
Mother said the other day  
she wished she lived near your house.  
I asked her why.  
She said so I would get  
another basket of things.  
She forgets most everything  
but that she remembers.  
Today one year ago  
our dear Helen was lying asleep  
not to waken again till the voice of God  
calls her.

Many happy years to you. Edith.  
Harrisburg, December 29th

Jan. 18, 1913

BEST WISHES

Dear Leah

Frank says if you aren't  
going to have any company  
Sunday we will be over.

Let us know.

You know if you did  
Frank would come back home.

Tell Lena she had better  
look out for Walt,  
he will run away  
with some of those women  
to coming. If Frank  
had went I would have  
went too.

Irene S.

Postmark: Harrisburg, Pa.  
March 3, 1913

Dear Leah, glad to hear  
you are able to work again  
and hope I can come  
to see you soon. did the  
girls get the cards I sent  
them at Xmas? When  
you write again tell me some  
thing of the boys. do they talk  
yet? as ever, Edith.

Harrisburg, Pa.  
March 9, 1913

Dear Friend Leah  
I wish you ever such  
a joyful Easter  
celebrating the resurrection  
of the One who guards  
your pathway.  
Isn't he leading us  
different than we thought  
a few years ago?

Truly your friend,  
Edith.  
S

April 30, 1913  
Quarryville  
Cousin Clara B. Minney

postmarked two days later

Dear Cousin Leah  
I received your beautiful  
and much appreciated present  
and thank you very much.  
I was sorry we could  
not come to the wedding.  
Come and see me sometime  
if you are not above coming  
to a little cabin like this.  
Conveniences and luxuries  
are to be found in the most  
humble dwellings.

color postcard of a  
large two-lane pier,  
rowboats docked between  
the lanes, and far out to sea  
one of those large slides  
you go down on a burlap bag:

SHOOTING THE CHUTES. DREAMLAND.

August 14, 1913

Dear Leah,  
glad you like it  
and hope it will do you  
lots of good.  
Aunt Sue is better,  
she was not over the hills.  
Took dinner with Harriet  
and came back Tues.  
went today again.  
Aunt Rose went with her.  
Brimman's like it.  
We sure had so hot  
weather since you were gone.  
Love from all. Write soon.

Mary H.

Miss Leah F. Graham  
Lancaster, Pa.  
c/o Stehli Silk Mill  
-- Worker 45 --

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
September 5, 1913

Dear Leah,

this being your birthday month  
if I remember rightly  
will send this card.  
Did you get my last letter?  
am getting anxious to hear from  
you again.

How is work down there?  
Working is very dull here,  
but weaving is rather good.  
am making out better than  
I ever thought possible.

E.E.S.

September 10, 1913

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,  
STATE INSANE ASYLUM,  
TRENTON, N. J.

Dear Leah:

I received  
your sweet card  
you don't know  
how I missed you  
after you had gone.  
I just got home  
last night  
I was up in the  
dining room after  
you left. Write soon.  
From Peachie

Los Angeles, Calif.  
Dec. 10, 1913

Dear Leah,  
I wish you could see  
this beautiful country --  
I can hardly describe  
its beauties.  
I am happy with my  
loved ones at last.  
I am enjoying it all  
so much and think  
the climate will be  
fine for me.

Auntie

December 21, 1913

Dear Leah good  
old Xmas again  
The saddest one  
I have ever met.  
Remember me  
to loved ones at  
home. Yours as  
always, Edith.

December 29, 1913

COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

clad in her finest,  
a young woman  
carries a suitcase  
and a bouquet of roses

Dear Sister,  
Try hard to come home for Xmas.  
This doesn't seem like Xmas weather.  
We had lots of company today,  
Uncle Joe's girls, Eyman's girls,  
& Mr. & Mrs. Messner.  
We will be busy this week  
have not got our cakes all baked yet.

Your Sister,  
Sarah

Postmark:  
April 11, 1914

THE TALK OF THE TOWN

or at least three old women  
in their Easter bonnets

one holds a cup of tea  
while another leans forward  
casting a finger out  
to make her point

on the back,  
in pencil:

O you Kid

If you will do the cooking  
I will do the eating  
Expect to hear from  
you soon

Happy Easter to you  
Now you guess from who

No date or postmark.

Dear Leah  
will send your Christmas  
greetings home for suppose  
you will be there.  
Have been looking for a letter  
from you for quite awhile.  
Ada has gone to Florida --  
did you know that?  
How is Annie,  
did another little stranger  
come to see her?

As ever,  
Edith

Hospital, Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Leah  
this is my 30th postal card  
and I am tired  
scratching yours in love  
Edith.

No date, no postmark.

December 31, 1914

I will send you  
this card to let  
you know that  
we are still  
on the map we  
will look for  
you soon don't  
come on the 10th.  
We are all well.  
Wishing you a happy  
New Year.

Mrs. R.

Postmark:  
Lancaster, Pa.  
May 19, 1915

TO MY SWEETHEART

excuse pencil

Dear Leah,  
Just a few words  
to let you know that I will  
be looking for you Sun. morn  
Let me know if you will come  
in the morning then I will  
wait for you in the  
cloak room. S. School is at  
9:15. I will be disappointed if  
you don't come in the morn.  
I want you to go along for  
dinner. Hope to hear from you.  
Anna S.

Postmark:  
October 12, 1915

Birds-Eye view  
of Susquehanna River  
and City of Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Leah

I am here  
because I am here.

Where are you?  
Maryland or Pennsylvania.

Let me know soon  
if not sooner.

What is Ann's R.R. No.  
and your No. at home?

I always get them mixed.

Your chum,  
E.S.

January 24, 1918

Dear Cousin Lillie

Well Leah this is winter weather  
we are having. It has been  
a long time since I saw you.  
We are well and hope you are  
the same.

Sister would like to know  
if those two Brubaker women  
-- old maids they were --  
still work at the silk mill.  
She would like their address.  
If you know will you please write  
and tell me. They sold cushions.

Your Cousin  
Clara B.G.

Oakland, Calif.  
March 26, 1923

Dear Leah,  
Hope you are well.  
It is spring here  
Trees in bloom  
Celeste has been with me  
three months. Love  
& best wishes to all.

Sallie

Postmark:  
April 13, 1930

May this be a glad  
Easter for you it  
is not a very bright  
one for me. But am glad  
for the One who arose from  
the grave on this day.

F.

P.S.:  
Had your card ready to send  
when your greeting came  
to me. Am so sorry for dear  
Harriet.

Huntsville, Ontario, Canada  
July 2, 1936

TALLY-HO INN ON BEAUTIFUL PENINSULA  
LAKE NEAR HUNTSVILLE, MUSKOKA, CANADA.  
INFORMALITY, DELICIOUS MEALS, HOMELIKE  
ATMOSPHERE ARE FEATURES OF THIS RESORT.

This is our cottage for the weekend.  
Having a good trip,  
not too much rushing.  
Kids loved Niagara Falls.  
Came over to Canada last Thursday.  
Nearly froze Thurs. nite  
in unheated cabin!  
Have been comfortable since, however,  
made sure there was heat.

Love,  
The Lebos

Kingston, Tenn:  
November 29, 1941

Dear Aunt Leah & Uncle Walter

We're having a wonderful time.  
At present we just came off  
of "Cling Man's Dome"  
which is 6,000 feet  
above sea level.  
Of course nothing like Pike's Peak.  
Coming down had a flat tire.  
Fine weather for a trip.  
We're going to Nashville Sat. night.  
So long.

from Horace and Edwin

Iris Gardens and Swan Lake  
Sumter, S.C.  
May 3, 1946

Dear Aunt Leah & Uncle Walter --  
I am sending you a picture  
of the Iris Gardens which  
I spoke of in my letter.  
I was out to see them  
Sunday a week ago and they  
are more beautiful than I  
had expected. There are  
swans on the lake, one  
of them had young. They were  
feeding them when I was there.  
A lady out there said that people  
traveling from countries of  
Europe say they are one  
of the most beautiful  
scenes of their travels.  
Tobacco is planted out already for  
several months and corn and cotton  
is up here. Love Horace Write

March 6, 1948  
Columbia, S.C.

a black & white picture  
of the state capitol building

Dear Aunt Leah & U. Walter  
I know I have neglected writing  
but I have been quite busy  
working at Walgreen's  
& playing music.  
am not playing as much  
as I was.  
I get \$25 a week  
& 1/3 off anything  
I buy in the store.  
Your nephew,  
Horace.

10 March 1949  
Bournemouth Poole  
PAVILION & ORNAMENTAL GARDENS

Hello Mrs. Carvell --

Thought perhaps you might  
like to get an idea  
of what my Hometown is like --  
it really is a beautiful place --  
right on the seafront --  
hope you are well --  
Ida Krick

The address says USA  
at the end, from the date  
it looks like it must be Europe

The stamp costs 2d  
says *postage* on one side  
and *revenue* on the other,  
a crown with a young king  
to wear it

Ocean City, N. J.  
August 26, 1953

Dear Carvey,  
We left home Sun. morn. early  
arrived here in time for breakfast.  
Weather is hot and perfect for  
the water. Will see you soon.

Love, Smitty

July 25, 1955  
Shannee-on-Delaware

Dear Cousin Leah,  
Surely did enjoy  
your visit with me.  
A friend of mine  
drove me up to the  
Poconos last evening.  
Crowded with Tourists.  
We went to a Fireman's  
Carnival, took (3)  
chances on a Car.  
Wish me luck.  
Glad you got home O.K.  
I have three eggs in Beet sauce.  
With love, your cousin,  
Dorothy