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Mary Helen Fitzgerald letters

Title: Mary Helen Fitzgerald letters
Collection No: MSS.374
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1894-1897

Abstract: The collection is composed of twenty letters written by Mary Helen “Nellie” Fitzgerald of Memphis, Tennessee, to William Fay, to whom she became secretly engaged in early 1897. Fay worked for Dixie Mills Cooperaage of Memphis but travelled to Michigan, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas during the period of the correspondence from 1894 to 1897. The content of the letters mostly concern the daily activities of Nellie, her family and acquaintances.

Donor: John E. Harkins, Memphis, Tennessee, August 1996.
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Biographical information

Mary Helen ‘Nellie’ Fitzgerald was the daughter of Michael Fitzgerald, an Irish immigrant and horse trader in Nashville, Tennessee, in the 1850s who moved to Memphis to marry Mary Eagan in 1861. Michael and Mary had four children: Stephen, John, Nellie and Margaret Agnes. Nellie married William M. Fay (d. 1939) on September 27, 1897, and they had two children: William Fitzgerald and Mary Helen.

Scope and contents

The collection is composed of twenty letters written by Mary Helen “Nellie” Fitzgerald of Memphis, Tennessee, to William Fay, to whom she became secretly engaged in early 1897. Fay worked for Dixie Mills Coopersage of Memphis but travelled to Michigan, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas during the period of the correspondence from 1894 to 1897. The content of the letters mostly concern the daily activities of Nellie, her family and acquaintances.

Related materials

MSS.373. Irish Society records.

Subject terms

Fay, William.
Fitzgerald, Mary Helen.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Harkins, John E., “The John Eagan-Michael Fitzgerald Families”, *Settlers of Shelby County, Tennessee and Adjoining Counties*, Memphis: Descendants of Early Settlers of Shelby County, Tennessee, 1989 (copy).
Correspondence: Mary Helen Fitzgerald to William Fay:
- 2 1894 September 24-1896 December 21.
- 3 1897 January 17-August 12.

Transcriptions

1. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Howell, Mich., 1894 September 24.

[page 1]

At Home
Sept. 24 -94

Mr. Fay

Dear Friend.

I received your letter some time ago, was glad to hear that you found your relations in Eau Claire all right.

My Aunt is from Little Rock here and we have a fine time listening to her talk. Kate & Earl Scarborough are here also, [page 2] they are going to stay only a few days.

I had a letter from John last Saturday. he said that you pass through Chicago on your way home. I hope you found all well.

I have not seen John Griffin for a week or so only at church yesterday, he took up the collection as usual.

I don't know what you mean by the cart stopping in front of the house, please explain All are as well as usual. I suppose John F. told you about his trip home.

Your friend
Nellie Fitzgerald

2. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, 1895 July 22.

At Home
July 22 -95

Mr. Fay

Dear Friend

We will be delighted to go to Miss Castx on Wednesday eve.

Your Friend
Nellie Fitzgerald

No Joke.

3. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Dixie Mills Cooperage, Memphis, Tenn., 1896 September 9.

At Home
Sept- 9 - 96

My Dear Will-

I learned this morning that Mr. Higgins had been here and that an engagement had been made to take Mollie & Babe to East End tomorrow evening. I thought it better to tell you so you can come later and so miss them; that is come when you think they are gone.

Your sweet heart

Nellie

4. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Dixie Mills Cooperage, Memphis, Tenn., 1896 October 15.

At Home
Thursday A.M.

My Dear Will,

I do not intend to go to John's, and if Mr. Ed. is not to sick I will still look for you about 6 o'clock to take supper with us, and spend the eve with me. Babe may go to Johns.

Your as ever
Nellie

Oct. 15 -96

5. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Howell, Mich., 1896 October 26.

[page 1]

Memphis, Tenn.
Oct 26 -96

My Dear Will.-

I received your letter this morning. I expected to have one from you while you were in Chicago but in vain; I am glad you enjoyed your stay while there. John wrote me that he was going to show you a good time. I know you never left Memphis until Saturday and would liked to have seen you again. I would have tried to be more cheerful if you had come. Mother was [page 2] very sorry that she did not know you were going so soon. She wanted to tell you good bye; and so did Babe, she said that she would not have gone out to John Griffin's that night, had she known that we were not going to see you again before you left. You don't know how I have missed you Will- especially on Monday & Saturday nights. John Griffin and Mamie were here one night since, and we saw them at church yesterday. We have a good joke on John- he had to get up and make a fire and get breakfast one morning, when the cook did not 'show up.' He said that he did not cook, but we won't have it any other way. I tell him I should be next door so that I could remind him of [page 3] all that I used to tell him. I was up town this morning and saw Mr Ed at a distance he was in a buggy and looked as if he might be feeling all right

There was a circus parade in town and an awful crowd of people on the streets.

We are having awfully pretty weather down here; How is it up there? Cold I suppose. We had invitations to go to the Theater and to the Bicycle races but did not go to any of them. Well as it is near time for to post this letter if I want to get off to night, I will close

Yours forever
Nellie

Write often, and tell me if this is the correct address

Nellie

[top of page 1] I received the Boa's and think them very pretty. Babe says that she is going to

write you herself and tell you what she thinks of it. Nellie

6. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Howell, Mich., 1896 November 8.

[page 1]

Memphis Tenn.
Nov. 8 -96

My dear Will,-

Have you been looking for this letter? I should have been more prompted in answering, but thought I would wait for Sunday. We have had a little mission at St. Joseph's Church, the last half of this week, and we were expected to go to over there three times a day as usual. I am very glad it is over. [page 2] Well did the election turn out as you wanted it or not? I have not had a letter from Steve since and don't know if he is suited or not. John wrote since but never mention the election I suppose that he is not interested much.

Do you get the Memphis papers? I ask because Mr. L Blattaui inquired of Babe once if your address was the same, as it was the last time you went to Mich. she told him she thought it was and I supposed he intended to send you papers. Did you hear of John Saint being killed? he was shot last Saturday night on a street car by a man named [page 3] Miller. they had a political discussion and quarrel, which ended in his being killed. Old man Griffin has been very sick, he was not expected to live for a good while, but the Doctor says that he will get well now.

Matt. has been sick for a week but is better now. I was out to see her Friday and she was feeling first rate. She had soar throat. I am going out again in the morning. She talked awfully nice to me and said that it seemed like she had a talk with one of her sisters. Have you told her anything Will? I just felt like telling her everything, but of course didn't say a word. She said I looked a [page 4] little pale and asked if I had been sick. I told her I was feeling very well and I am, but some one else said the same thing, it was, Father Luessellia I believe, so you see I can't have those photographs taking yet, but you will have one soon any how.

Babe Mr Blattaui and I went to the Circus last week and enjoyed it very much. Mr Bacigalapo, Mr. Higgins Babe & I went to the Bicycle race last Tuesday night. I didn't think they were so very much. I don't know whether I told you that George Welsh had gone into the the Grocery business or not, but he has and has John Farral for a partner. What do you think of that?

Well as I want to write a letter to John this eve I guess I had better close.

With much love I am yours,
Nellie

7. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Howell, Mich., 1896 November 22.

[page 1]

Memphis, Tenn.
Nov. 22 -96

My dear Will,

I did have a good scolding in store for you, but since I received your letter I don't feel

much like giving it to you. It was all about having me wait so long for a letter; Perhaps you did not know it was over two weeks and not a line from you. Will every day over a week that I wait [page 2] for a letter seems to take me miles away from you and then when I do receive one it seems as if at least five hundred miles of the distance was suddenly cut off.

Matt was in to see us Friday afternoon and we enjoyed her visit very much. She is looking very well, in fact I never saw any one change as fast as she does; when she was sick about two or three weeks ago she did look badly, but you could not tell she was ever sick at all now. I had a short note from John the first of the week; he said that he was just back from Mich. and had a great time.

[page 3] It looks a little like snow to day, and we faer the change for we have had regular Spring weather so far. Well I haven't any news for I have not been out this week with the exception of going to Griffins, Aunt Hanah has been very sick for over a week; she caught cold waiting on the old man when he was sick, and Babe and I had to help Tom to nurse her. I think she will be all right now. How about all this news you have? I am afraid it can't be very good or you would have written it; any how I would like to hear it. And what is this about going to Texas? I was [page 4] so much in hopes you would not have to go at all, but if your going Will try and fix it so I can see you, if only for two hours or even one. If you can not, go through Chicago and have your photographs taken and send me one, you know I am afraid I will forget you if you stay away too long; and I did not have a picture of you. Are you afraid of that Will?

This is Sunday and I went to first Mass with Mamma this morning so that I could write you a long letter and [page 5] I fine I can't write a very long one after all. Do you go to Father Ryan's church on Sunday? And of course you are praying real hard yet. I am afraid Father Ryan thinks that John and Mr. Frank Reilly are pretty wild sort of chaps, I am beginning to think so myself.

Now after I have posted this letter I am sure to think of several things I wanted to write you and did not. I am not going to speak to Matt of how things stand yet at least.

Write me real soon and I will be your loving sweetheart always
Nellie

8. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Howell, Mich., 1896 December 1.

[page 1]

Memphis Tenn.
Dec. 1 -96

My Dear Will-

I received your letter yesterday morning. I suppose it is cold up there for we have had lots of ice & as much cold as we ever have, and you know that gets just a little chilly here some times. You must take care of yourself, for I heard that you seem to be getting worse since you [page 2] went to Mich. It was Mr. Higgins who was telling me last Sunday night I told him that I did not know for I had not heard of your being worse. It seems as if he and Mr. Blattau were out to John Griffins house with the Deans, on last Sunday afternoon; they were having their pictures taken with Mr. Blattau's Kodak. He was told out there by some of them. We did not let him know that we ever heard from you at all. I have not seen John or Mamie since long before I wrote you last. I had a letter from Steve a day [page 3] or two ago. He has been promoted and is

in Louisiana with headquarters at Shreveport La. he says that he dont know how he likes it yet, but that it is a much harder territory than the one he had. I have miss placed the letter and can't give you his exact address until I get it from John, which I will do real soon, I suppose my next letter will reach you at Howell?

I wish you could spend Christmas in Memphis, John & Steve say they both will be home. I will write you a longer letter next time.

Yours forever Nellie

9. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Howell, Mich., 1896 December 13.

[page 1]

Memphis Tenn

Dec. 13 -96

My Dear Will-

I write you this evening so it will get to Howell by the time you do. It is Sunday afternoon and every thing is very quiet. I received your letter on Friday morning. I was so very glad to know that you were coming to Memphis in Jan. I only wish it was to spend Christmas [page 2] and not go away any more, would that not be fine, but never mind it will all come as we want it some day.

It is just awful to think of you up in that country where it is so cold and look at the difference here. People are out to day without wrap's and we have not one fire in the house. I will get that picture this week and if I was sure how long you would stay in Howell I would send it at once, but I suppose I will wait for your next letter so as to be sure of your address.

[page 3] Yes, John Manigan died on last Sunday and was buried with a Mass on Monday morning; although we knew that he would probably never get well we did not look for the end so soon and it was quite a shock to us all. His Father is almost wild with grief and they can scarcely do any thing with him. It is the first sorrow or trouble they have ever had, you know and it is very sad indeed.

I had letters from Steve & John this week expressing their sorrow at not being here. Steve's new address is Phinex Hotell Shreveport La. but [page 4] will come here before going any farther South. There is no use of my telling you that I will miss you more than ever this Christmas.

Your loving Nellie

10. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, 1896 December 21.

[page 1]

Memphis Tenn

Dec 21 -96

My Dear Will.

Your letter of a few days ago reached me this morning you don't know how worried I am since I read it. I had been enjoying the hope of seeing you next month; but it was all completely wrecked by you saying that you would see me in March or April. Now I know every thing is not turning out as you [page 2] wished and I had hoped it would. Just to think that you are so far away going from one place to another until you don't know where you are to go next; makes me

awfully blue; and Will I know you are far from being happy, away from your business and all as you are, but I had better stop writing this way are I will succede in making you as blue as I am myself.

I will send you this picture The folks at home here say it is just like me only a little too serious looking; so I suppose it is a good likness of me. Say, don't you ever do as you did in the last letter again but as it is done I will have to [page 3] forgive you this time on promiss that it will be the last. You know that your letters and an assurance of your love was gift enough for me. Yes I know that Steve will b disappointed in not seeing you.

I was in town this afternoon buying refreshments &c for a Mysery party to be given by the Young Ladies Sodality at St. Joseph's school hall on Tuesday night. I suppose it will be a really enjoyable affair I don't think Babe & I will go but it is real hard for us to get out of going. I saw a great many that I know while in town but did not have time to talk to them as it was late when I went up. I am real glad Kate wrote you so much news. I suppose as she gets [page 4] out more than a great many of us that she hears more than we do.

Try and not let this letter depress you for I just could not help writing as I feel. I could just lay my head down on this table and cry for hours, but that would do us no good so I will say good night and get on my knees and say my prayers instead. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happier New Year. I am your lovingly

Nellie

11. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Howell, Mich., 1897 January 17.

[Page 1]

Memphis Tenn

Jan.17 -97

My Dear Will

You told me to write you on Sunday so I waited until to day; though I came near writing the day I received your letter. The weather is just beautiful, a great many people were at church without wraps . It looks as if I always have something sad to write of. This time it is of Will Nelson's death; he died last Friday a week ago and was buried on Sunday afternoon. Mollie was here as you know and Kate came [page 2] over on Saturday with Earl Mollie & Kate went home yesterday morning. It was very sad indeed. We had no idea that the end would come so soon. Well how are you getting along and what do you find to do with your self? Do you feel alright? and have you gotten well of that cold. I was thinking of you the night you left here especialy about the time you were to start. Imagine how I felt when Carrie Kelly, out at Will Nelson's wake, asked me if I had heard that you were in town one d ay during the week: When I told her I had not heard it, she said that some one was telling her you were and that you staid at your brothers [page 3] part of a day, as you were only passing through here. Mr. Blattau was here over night this week and told us that he was told that you were here one day. I suppose that he heard it from the same sourse. I guess it is all right; Mr Ed no doubt told it that way. I wish you were here all the time that all. So you came near telling Matt all about it, did you? If it is pretty all week I may go over there some day and perhaps tell her all she wants to know.

I don't know any more news as we have not been out at all and I think I will close and go to Vespers this afternoon and say the rosary for you and I. Your loving Nellie.

12. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Arcade Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, 1897 January 31.

[page 1]

Memphis Tenn
Jan. 31 -97

My Dear Will-

The last of your letter is a mystery to me, I don't know what I did for you a week ago Sunday. What was it? About that other; I dont think we need fear very much about it reaching Memphis, as the Young Man who wrote Babe does not know many here and is in correspondance with no one else. I dont think he knows the people that Carrie Kelly and [page 2] the McCune's are acquainted with; so we may never fear of it reaching here. [Nellie may be referring here to her secret engagement to Will, according to donor John Harkins, who claims a missing letter attached to the envelope dated January 20, 1897, refers to the engagement.] It has been very cold here for a week and looks like snow again to day. I went out to Nellie Manigans and spent Friday night with her and yesterday morning we went to the farm to see Aunt Ellen and Tom. It was a pleasant day and we had a nice drive, spent a pleasant day and got home just before dark. We found Aunt Ellen well and Tom feeling first rate. I had letters from Steven and John this week they both seem alright. I was sorry to hear of Susie Baron having sickness in the family. I heard Matt in [page 3] the choir, but did not see any thing of her after Mass to day. I didnt see John & Mary at all I dont think they were at church.

All at home here are very well. I hope you have kept well since you were in Texas.

I will write a longer letter next time.

Your loving
Nellie

13. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Arcade Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, 1897 February 7.

[page 1]

Memphis Tenn
Feb. 7 -97

My dear Will-

We certainly have had a very rainy week. I think we had only one sunshiny day, and that was at the begining; nothing but rain all week and still falling today - A dark rainy Sunday, seems bluer than any other day. We have had only one caller, that was [page 2] Nellie Manigan, she was out to spend the day with us on last Tuesday, she said all out her way were well. Well, what do you think Mr Higgins called on Nellie M- one night last week. I suppose he thinks as Aunt Ellen is not there that he will try it again. Yes, out to the country to see Aunt Ellen & Tom will be an awfully nice drive for us when you come back. Ed Manigan goes out at night about once a week to see them.

So you think you will move around some next month? I will be glad of it for I [page 3] know you must be getting tired of San Antonio, you have seen all there is to see by this time. Why not go to New Orleans or Mobile about the first of March and attend Mardi-Gras that will be held in those cities on March the 2nd. You have never been to New Orleans so now is your

time; you could spend a week in sight-seeing there easily. Then as you say you could come to Miss. & Ark. attending to your business. Dont forget to go to Shreveport to see Steve I want you to suppr ise him I have never told him you [page 4] were in Texas even, so when you walk up on him it will be a complete surprise. We had letters from John during the week and one to day- but have not heard from Steve since week before last. After this month (and this is a slow one) I will be expecting a letter from you saying you are coming back to go away no more, at least for some time and it will make me so happy. Your loving
Nellie

14. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Arcade Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, 1897 February 14.

[page 1]

Memphis Tenn
Feb. 14 -97

My dear Will-

In writing the date I notice it is St. Valentine da , so it is only right that I should be writing to you; for' you are my valentine now. I am writing in the fore-noon to day, as it looks as if it were going to be fine all day and I will go to Vespers this afternoon (as Babe and I went to first Mass this morning) I may also go to Aunt Hanora's for a while. [page 2] For the last day or two the weather has been like Spring itself, but of course we shall have some more cold weather before Spring realy opens. I had heard of Carrie Kelley's brother getting a divorce and that they were going to Hot Springs but didn't know that they had gone yet; Mr Higgins was telling us of it. He was here last Sunday night, he had spent the afternoon at Nellie Manigan's house. Babe & I accepted an invitation from him to go to see "The Prisoner of Zenda", and went last Thursday evening. We enjoyed the play very much; It was one of the best things that has been here this season. Of course I should have enjoyed [page 3] it dubbly if it had been you I had gone with, you know that without me telling you, Don't you ? Aunt Maggie Welsh spent a few days last week with us, she seems very well and in good spirits. I didn't see Nellie or any of her folks this week but heard from them that they were well. I had a stye on my eye the first of the week and it kept me in the house; I looked as if someone had given me a black eye: it is almost gone now. We had letters from John and Steve this week, they are well & alright. Will I don t like to write you every time that I wish you were back, but I do wish you were here for this afternoon , that we might [page 4] take a drive behind[?] Roxy You must not think I am getting out of patience or anything like that for I am not and we will have lots of pretty weather when you get back. Won't we?

Your loving Nellie

Mamma & Babe sends there love.

15. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Shreveport, La., 1897 February 23.

[page 1]

Memphis Tenn
Feb. 23 -'97

My dear Will-

I was a little disappointed at not getting my usual letter from you; but attributed the cause to your having changed your address. I was very sorry to learn that you had been sick, and hope you are well and alright by this time. Mr. Blattau was out here last night; he had lots of news of you. He told us that you had left San Antonio on the fifteenth and [page 2] gone to Mexico for a while, and that you were very much improved in health. And that you expected to be in Memphis for the races. How is that for news? I think he called for the purpose of telling us what he knew, for he is the last person we expected to call. Sunday afternoon we went to a lecture at St Joseph's church- on the way home we met Mr. Blattau and Mr Shannon, this side of Georgia Street. Babe & I gave them a very cold bow and never slackened our pace at all thinking by treating them in that way we would get even with them for slighting us some time ago. You can imagine our surprise in [page 3] in seeing Mr. Blattau last night. I have about come to the conclusion that cannot be suppressed. Babe & I went to see John Griffin's wife one day last week, found both of them at home and as happy as two 'sunflowers'. Mamie Dean was there also, it seems that she spends lots of her time there. We did not go to Matt's as it was too late but Mamie said that she was well. You certainly surprised me with your photograph- I received it this morning and think it just splendid as do all of the folks. Why did you not tell me of it in your letter? I am afraid if I should show it to our friends they would not think you needed so much travel for your health. Do you?

[page 4] I notice the death of old man Isler in this morning's paper, We had been told that he was very sick last week; Miss Maggie was sent for and is home. I feel real sorry for the family.

We had letters from John last week but none from Steve but I suppose we will get one in a few days.

Your loving Nellie

16. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Shreveport, La., 1897 March 3.

[page 1]

Memphis Tenn
Mar. 3 -'97

My dear Will-

I would have written you a day or two sooner, but I thought that I would have more news after the Mardi Gras celebrations which were held here yesterday. We went to town in the afternoon and viewed the parade some of which was very good although it was quite short. The streets were crowded, the greater part of which were [page 2] negroes. We saw only a few that we knew and came home on the first available car. What have you been doing all week? Did you see much of Steve?

We did not get a letter from him in two weeks. We did not hear from John either. Well lent began this morning and Mamma, Babe & I went to Mass. You must write me a long letter and tell me all you have been doing
Your loving
Nellie

17. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Jonesboro, Ark., 1897 March 9.

Note on envelope: "If not called for in ten days return to #806 Main St. Memphis Tenn."

[page 1]

Memphis Tenn
Mar. 9 - '97

My dear Will,

I received your letter this morning, also three others; one from Steve, one from John and one from Mollie Nelson all in one mail. In Mollie's letter she said that she heard Mr Fay was in Mexico getting fat. I wonder what she would think if she knew you were in Little Rock when she was writing that.? Mr Blattau & Mr. Higgins was in [page 2] Little Rock last Sunday week with four other young men of the Y.M.I. They were on business for that association. Mr. Blattau gave Mollie the news of you I suppose. I hope none of the folks that know you saw you. Mr. Blattau has not been here since his trip to L. Rock. Mr. Higgins was out Sunday, Florence Donohue has told him news of you, just exactly how much I don't know for, I did not want to appear too interested. Your friend Michel died a San Antonio and was buried at Little Rock last week. Dont you worry much at what Mr. Higgins knows, for maybe he don' t know all. I think if he did he would have told [page 3] it; which he did not.

We were very glad to see Steve last Thursday only sorry his stay was so short I think he looks very well, he said that he was very much surprised to run across you as he did. Well since lent began we don't do anything but go to church and starve. I came near forgetting to tell you Mr. Ed Fay & his wife were here last Saturday night. I happened to go to the store and there was Mary she said that she & Mr. Ed were coming to my house when they got through up there, so they did and we spent a very plesant evening. They both look real well. I have not seen Matt since we have so much rain that [page 4] we don t get around much. It is very cloudy and rainy today but if it clears up this evening I think I will go out to Nellie Manigan's house I know she is lonesome this kind of weather. Tom is getting along fine he is ploughing now, only a little at a time though of course. I am so very glad that you will soon be in Memphis

Your sweetheart
Nellie

P.S Give Mr DeBonde (if that is the way you spell it) our regards and tell him that we have not forgotten him. Nellie

18. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Memphis, Tenn., to William Fay, Dixie Mills Cooperage, Memphis, Tenn., 1897 May 6.

At Home
May 6' /97

My dear Will,-

I intended writing this note yesterday, to tell you how much we enjoyed those "berry's, but Steve came home yesterday morning and said, that you had promised to come to supper with him last night;- so I was sure I would have an oppertunity to tell you of the

enjoyment in person, but was disappointed.

I tried to fool you in addressing this - Did I?

Your Nellie

19. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, French Lick Springs, Indiana, to William Fay, Dixie Mills Cooperage, Memphis, Tenn., 1897 July 13.

[page 1]

French Lick Springs

Ind.

July 13 -97

My dear Will-

It may seem strange, but on account of the cold weather, I think our time here will be limited. We only brought summer clothing with us, and are about to freeze. I suppose we will brave this week, we would like to stay until Sunday, but unless it gets warmer we can not. I don't like to make you feel bad by telling you of [page 2] this weather, but it is true. You did not tell me where you were going to. I hope it was to Cedar Gap, for I know it must be cooler there than in Ark. We were sorry to know that Mr. Blattau had a chill and hope he is well by this time. I wrote Ed Nelson but he has not answered yet, ask him if he has cut his finger or anything of that kind. We had a drive yesterday to New Baben Springs a place about three miles from this, I wish you could have seen the roads. They were all hills & hollows with regular fishing ponds in the here and there. We went with a Mr & Mrs Shea from Louisville.

[page 3] Last night was so pretty and such bright moonlight; I looked at the moon and wished I was at home and that you & I were out driving; but it won't be long before we go home, two weeks more will be as long as I want to stay from home. Well you must write me often and the time won't seem so long. Tell me all about every thing.

Your loving

Nellie

Mamma is so glad that you fixed every thing for her, she said that she will thank you herself when she gets home

Nellie

20. Mary Helen Fitzgerald, Ocean Springs, Miss., to William Fay, Dixie Mills Cooperage, Memphis, Tenn., 1897 August 12.

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Ocean Springs

Miss

Aug 12 -97

My Dear Will

What in the world can be wrong, I wrote you last Saturday and have not had an answer yet; surely you received it. I addressed to Cedar Gap, Mo. I will address this to Memphis as you said you expected to reach there by the last of this week. If you know how often I go or send for the mail, to the post office [page 2] you would write me. I can tell you no news for I am too worried for any thing.

I feel well enough, but I can not get fat if you dont answer my letters. Mamma has been feeling the last few days but for a day or two she was not so well. If you are in Memphis go out to see Babe often and write us how she is getting along.

This is a very quiet place and we have plenty time to sleep. Mr. Blattau sends mother Mph. papers and I supposed shall have to write him a note of thanks before long. I think if I don't get a letter from you tomorrow I will be ready to start home Sunday. Your sweetheart

Nellie

Address.
Egan Cottage
Ocean Springs
Miss.