

Stranger

Sky

Feb 21. 1937.

Dear Robert.

I am writing you few lines
as we have not heard from
you for some time are you
sick or what I's wrong you
never have waited so long
before bout writes we are
gettin long very well to
day was Emily's Birth day
and we hid up their

Bert and Burt was their
too Lester has bin sick for
3 weeks or longer he took
the flew and took back set
his bin real bad af he rate
that he was some better
week go to day was the
last letter he wrote us if
you want to write him I am

gives you his address:

Private Lester G. Cook.

New Hospital 14th Avenue

Start Nurse Sky.

we are vity uneasy about

Lester and we ^{have} got to think in

you are sick Robert if you

have filled out that blank

just fill it out your self and

have some of the men where

you work to sign their

names on the back when

it says for 2 witnesses to

sign don't fill out that

white space on back

down at the bottom of

the page that's for Mr.

amburgay to fill out

or some other no name

public to sign if you will

read that blank carefully

you find just below where

it says for to have notorie
 to fill this out if it can witness
 if not fill it out your
 self and have 2. witnesses to
 sign it and also it says
 you dont haft to swear
 to it when it asks you
 if you cant ^{help} help you have
 any other brother that can
 the children just said they
 are in debt and need what
 they make to take care of
 their own families you tell
 them that you are poor
 & chooling and that you
 are not very strong and
 dont make much money
 and its all you can do to
 take care of your self

Robert why dont you
come home and rest
up ^{your} you fell better and
wee would be glad for
you to come. Dad seems
to be well satisfied and
workin hard we all
miss him and the little
children rite soon and
come to us any time you
can I close with love
Mammie

P.S. all the other children
filled out their
blanks their
selves

Mr. surbrgy told
me for them to
fill out the blanks
their own selves and
he would fill out at the bottom

up the page

Mrs. Wm Cook,
Sturgeon, Ky.

STURGEON.
FEB
22
P.M.
1937
KY.



Mr. Robert N. Cook,
Y.M.C.A.
Cincinnati,
Ohio

Sturgeon, Ky.
Sept. 30, 1937.

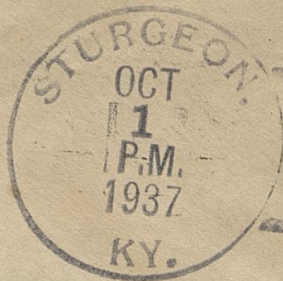
Dear Robert;

How are you? Moma
has been to the post
Office this morning
and didn't get any letter
from you, she is getting
worried because you
haven't written or had
somebody to write.
We all want you to
come home as soon
as you are able to
be brought you have
some one to bring
you part of the way
and we will meet you,
you know it will

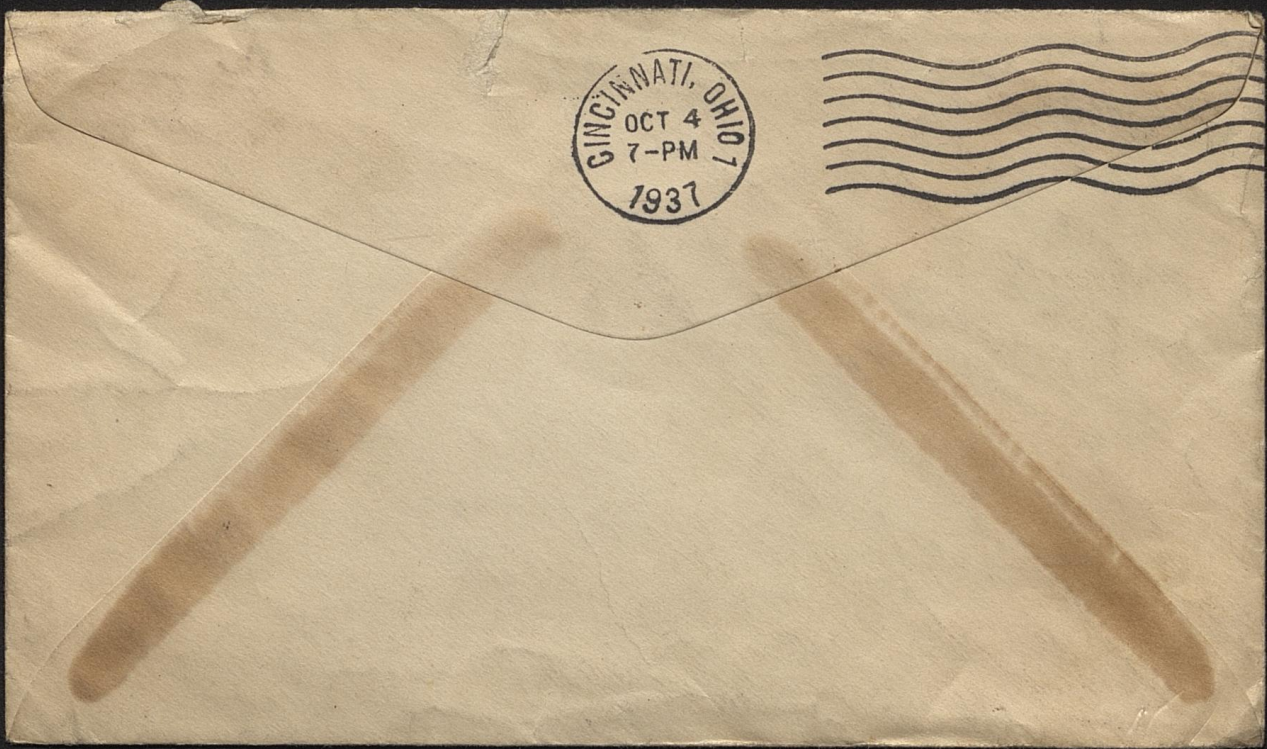
be a long time before
 you are able to
 work again, Lester
 has not been writing
 what ^{mom} wanted
 him to, they ^{mom and the} both want
 you to come home
 and stay this winter
 or as long as you
 want to if it is all
 the time, we all sure
 do hope you are getting
^{off} fine.

Let us hear from
 you as soon as
 possible, if you can't
 write home some one
 else to write,
 from ^{mom} and Emma

Mrs. M. E. Cook,
Sturgeon, Ky.



Mr. Robert N. Cook, ~~Next Home~~
90 ~~Christ Hospital,~~ ~~Rail St~~
~~Arbush Ave~~
Cincinnati, Y. M. C. A.
Ohio



CINCINNATI, OHIO
OCT 4
7-PM
1937



Sturgeon Ky.
Nov. 30, 1937

Dear Robert:

How are you? we are well as common.

We have been and are gathering corn since the tobacco is finished and ready for marketing.

We have had some very nipping frosts and freezes here and one light snow so far. I look for us to have a bad winter. Now you had it very cold up with you?

Well, Bob, I am getting my song, 'There's something about you that makes you

Seem Like Keenan," published at Chicago, Ill. It is with Ted Browne Music Co. Inc. Fifth floor Woods Theatre Bldg. now. They are working on it and getting it ready to publish around Xmas no later than New Years.

They will be due to be broadcasting it around Xmas time. It will likely be broadcasted from several of the biggest stations in the country. When it is you and your friends can help me a lot by sending in requests to W.S.W. and other stations for the number

to be played and sung
 you might even have
 your favorite radio star
 to sing it. "Red" Foley
 broadcasts from "W.S.W."
 and I attended school
 Berea City High with
 him. Do you know
 "Red"? He would be
 very glad to broadcast this
 song if you would see
 him and talk to him
 about it and me.

I now have my Royalty
 Contract from Ted Bane
 Music Co. Inc. I'm to get
 6¢ per copy for all sheet
 music sold, 50% mechan-
 ical rights (Phonograph
 records, Player Pianos, rolls etc)

4

50%, all other foreign rights.
This is for the First Edition.

This is a big Royalty I am
getting on the First Edition
because I am paying the
expenses of the 1st Edition.

It cost \$100.00 to get this
song published. Two
Northern lady friends
financed the number.

I am to repay them, plus
\$100.00 if the song makes
a hit, if it fails they
get nothing in return.

The Company pays me
3¢ per copy on all sheet
music of any subsequent
editions after the first
edition, 50% mechanical
rights and 50% Foreign rights.

Recently (yesterday 29th)
I sent a song poem to
Columbia Music Publishers
Ltd; Toronto, Canada
for their consideration
for publication.

I gather from their
letter that they (when
publishing a number) don't
charge the author any
fee like Ted Browne
Music Co. does.

Mama is canning
some apples this A.M.
Pa is hauling some corn
I am, pronto, going to the
P.O. Shall gather corn
this P.M.

Well, here's luck to
you and a very happy

6

month of December.

I hope you are completely well by now. We think of you quite often and as we sit by the fireside at night we discuss you and the other members of the family.

Ed & Dan and Eddie were up not so long ago. Ed gave Pa \$10.00 to buy his winter's coal.

Dan talks about moving back up here but we don't know for sure.

Emma & Conley have them a radio. They have had it some time. They get some good

7

programs over it from
Cincinnati, Chicago,
Nashville^{NY} and other
places.

Conley is then grading
tobacco. He is helping
Aster McWhorter now.
Conley plans to kill a
hog tomorrow and
I guess we will help
him.

Well, I'll close

Love to you

Your brother

Lester G. Cook

for Ma & Pa too,

P.S. Pa & Ma went visiting Sam
& Tom's last week-end.

Tom's are coming to Conley's next
Sunday. Yours, L.G.C.

Mrs. M. G. Cook,
Sturgeon,
Crawley Co., Ky.

STURGEON,
NOV
30
P.M.
1937
KY.



Mr. Robert N. Cook,
Elm & Central Parkway,
90 Y.M.C.A.,
Cincinnati,
Ohio

Boye Sturgeon, Ky.
April 25, 1938

Dear Robert,

Ed & Family were up here on a visit
16-19. we went fishing, Dan,
Ed, Eddie, and myself. I guess
Delbert's will be up here visiting
next month. When will you
be home, visiting? Try to not
marry Ethel Lynch as Sherman
should be enough example,
she came back here last sum-
mer sporting around with a
new "T" model man. I don't
blame you to sport some but not
to marry her.

I plan to have 5 song set to mus-
ic and copyrighted next month
it will cost me \$20.00 total for all.
5 dollars for copyrighting and 15.00
for musical settings, Professional.

what become of Alice?
did you swallow her? I
haven't heard of her name
for some time.

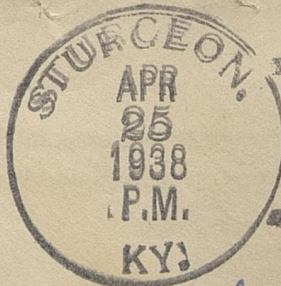
Hope you're feeling swell,
I went over to Conley's over
week end but brought back
his 3 young (yearling) mules
to put on pasture at Lucy
Wilson's this summer.

we're all well as usual and
very busy, planting corn, etc.
write us when you can.
Good cheer!

Darin

Your Gro.
Lester Book

Mrs. Mary E. Cook
Box C., Sturgeon, Ky.



Mr. Robert N. Cook,
C/o Y. M. C. A., Elm & Central Parkway Branch,
Elm & Central Parkway,
Cincinnati,
Ohio

↓ 1938

Sturgeon

April 20th

Dear Robert how are you
it seems like you dont
never seem to come home
any more I am afraid
dont doing much
good looks like you cant
come some time we
dont winter one so
well still we work
what we can will
pensions has been cut
down to five dollars
per month that help
some I still quil
I have weard lot
over not being able
to help you some
but it takes all
we can do to live

Sara has her home
school this year
we will be looking
for Debert and
possibly soon try
and come while
they are here or be
fore I sure do wish
of you. Your family
are all well Gertie's
still here he helps out
some part the farm
work will had some
load turned I think
he get out all they
can tend I hope
come soon as you
ever love and best
wishes for you
Mary G. Cook

Box C, Sturgeon, Ky.
June 20, 1938

Dear Robert:

We had your cards a few days ago, were glad to hear from you.

We are fairly well, and have our corn in prime shape, over 1st time, started second and $\frac{1}{3}$ done with that. We've been cutting wheat, not done yet because of rain so much lately.

I set me out a little tobacco, maybe enough to buy a radio next winter.

Delbert's left here last week to go back to Karlan. He has accepted Principalship of Wallins Public School; 20 workers and teachers under him; 2 workers out of the 20. He will move from Lovellen soon,

The Wallins' job is longer and
pays some better for Delbert.

Dan's, Sara's, Emma's are all
well; they visit us occasionally.

We are still looking for you
August if not before. Mama
said to tell you she would have
priers to cook by then, nearly
big enough now. She has about
75 young chicks and coming
friers.

The Maple Lick Pike ("P.W.H."
Road) is graded nearly to Carter
Mahaffey from Lewis Ky. They
are bringing that ^{Jackson County} road from
Tyner to meet this road
at Rockspring's Churchhouse.
It will be about graded by
Sept. 1st. it seems. They are rock-
ing it, too. On our end they have
it rocked as far as John Chad-
wells store, nearly; Have a fine

stone, steel and concrete bridge
over the branch in front of
Chadwell's store.

My song will probably
be released next month for
broadcasting and marketing.
You may hear it from Chi-
cago then. "Red" Foley may
receive a professional copy
of that song about then.
If he does, tell him to broad-
cast it for me several times.
Tell "Red" I'd sure like to see
him. Ask him if he remem-
bers our school days in 1929
at "Fruit for" Hi. Recently
I had 10 songs out of 15 to
pass a commercial grading;
9 were good, 1 fair, 1 not com-
mercial, ~~1~~ not modern, 3 poor.

4

I am ~~not~~^{now} having one of my best lyrics arranged to piano and melody by a professional arranger at a cost of \$3.00. Its title is: "How about Tomorrow for Love?" This is a trio order at request of my Chicago publisher. If this arrangement is good, I shall have the same arranger to do more in the future. I expect it in this week. Then I shall send it to my publisher to see what they think of the arrangement and get their opinion on the music; they have given a grade of Good on the lyric already. See? Tell Denver Strong, hello for me when you see him or call him up.

My Holly bushes are doing nicely and cedars. a new

addition since you were here,
I have some flowers planted,
also. The Hollyhocks and Flossies ^{beautiful}

How are business conditions
now in the City? Good or bad
or moderate?

Are you having any fun
with the weaker sex?

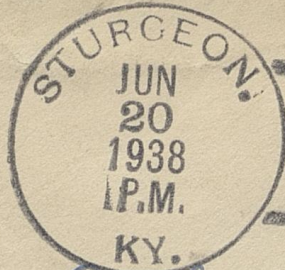
We have no peaches this year,
and very few apples.

Everybody's marrying or
wanting to but me, and I
am just taking it easy.

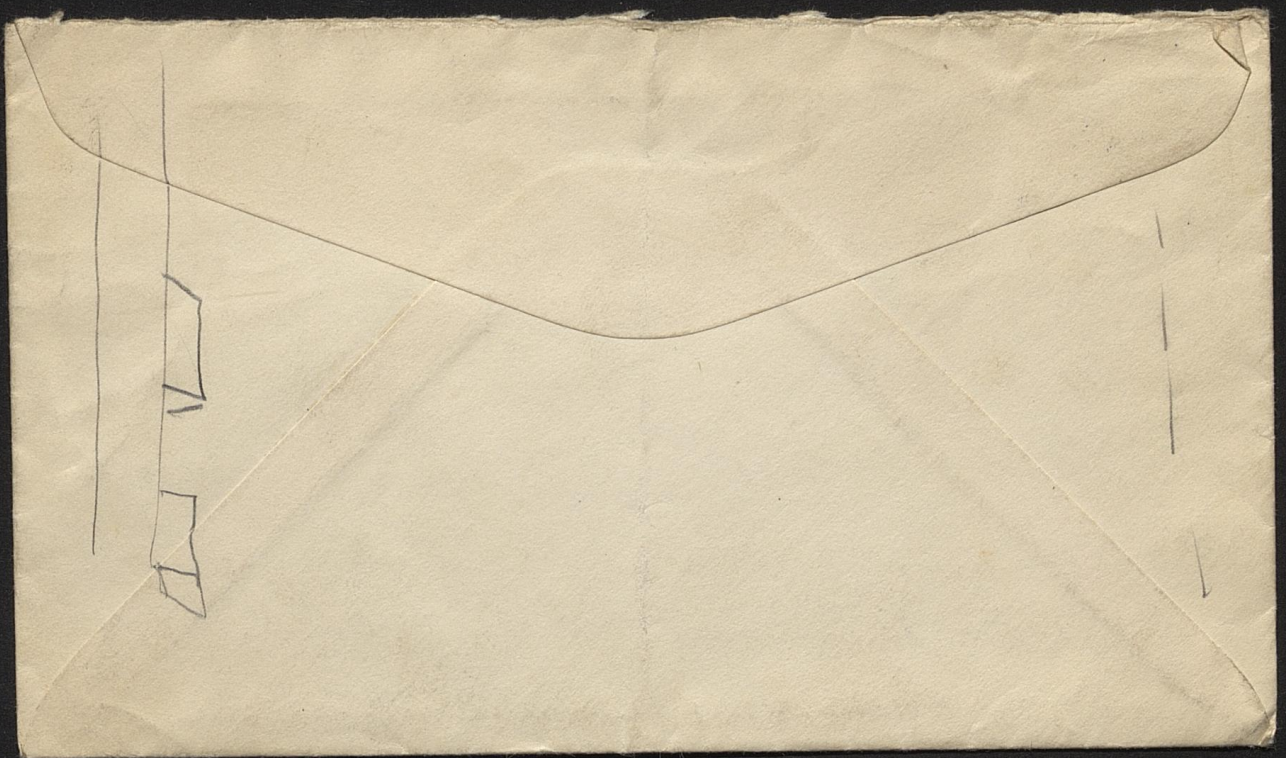
Write us when you
can. We are ever proud to
have a message from you.

Sherman was up not long
ago. Write. This is from all.
Love & best wishes,
Dora, Lester & Cook

Mr. & Mrs. W. N. Cook,
Box C,
Sturgeon, Ky.



Mr. Robert N. Cook,
c/o Y. M. C. A.,
Colum and Central Parkway Branch,
Colum & Central Parkway,
Cincinnati, Ohio.



Sturgeon, Ky.

May 17, 1939

Dear Bob:

Hope these few lines finds you all O.K. We are all well at the present time.

I am now working on the W.P.A. and have been for the past three weeks. I have been helping survey the new road from Sturgeon to Island City and on to the Clay County line. I hope to get to work for sometime but can't tell just how long the W.P.A. will last on this project.

I have out about 7 acres of corn and a fine garden so when you can get off come up and see us and we will

try to have plenty of vegetables
to fatten you on. ha!

Send Paul & Family Hello
for us all.

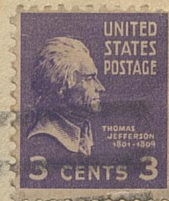
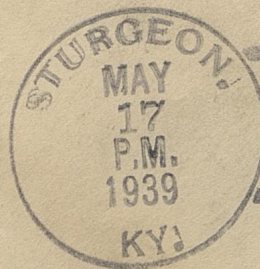
Write us when you can.

Your Bros.

H. W. Cook

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. N. Cook
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA
3RD FLOOR, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING
CINCINNATI, OHIO

Mr. Robert N. Cook
1317 Race St.,
Cincinnati, Ohio



Sturgeon, Ky.
Nov. 6, 1940

Dear brother, Robert:

All of mama's papers
have been filled out legally
by Ed, D.B. Graydon, Sara,
Sherman, myself, (Lester)
Dan and Emma Golda,
and so you are holding up
mamma getting her old
Age pension. So why not
go before a Notary Public
get him to fill out your
form, ~~and~~ you place his
seal on it and return it
to your mother at once.

It is nonsense for you to
try get out of the draft thru
your mother's dependency.
She has a living husband,
^{who's} able to work a little and here

I am spending² some of my pension here each month.

Of course I shall not have to go to the army because of my disabilities. You won't likely have to go because of your weak eyes - nearsightedness. Then to you had an operation for hernia. You should have enough mother-wit to explain your weakness in disease to your examining doctor when he calls you up before the draft board.

If Ed, Delbert, and others of the family can't keep mamma up I know you can't do so. That's what Ben says and I agree on that.

Now that President Roosevelt got re-elected

I guess there be few jobs to get, especially good jobs.

Remember that you will be asked on the form

whether you have supported your mother here before.

And you must say you have not, or swear a lie. Your

mother can't swear a lie

nor any of us to keep you out of the Army.

Remember, if you must go to the Army, you can get in at Fort Thomas, Ky or Fort Knox, Ky, south of Louisville about 31 miles toward Nashville, Tenn.

4

When you get in (That is if they don't turn you down on disabilities) you can get a job a stenographer in a company or outfit working in an office after you get 3 months recruit drill.

We hope you have good luck and don't have to go to the army. We don't want you to go, but we can't keep you out. Only your disabilities can do that, Bob, under the circumstances.

Arch Bell is rushing for the paper you have. So please send it by this week end so he can get that pension for your mother. The road from Elta Hughes to Arch Bell's is in

proved, Bell had the road
machine on it. So come
see us when you can.
There are no gravel on
the road, mentioned,
or scooped up and levelled.

We stayed up till after 12
midnight to see who won
the election for president.
Sorry Roosevelt won this
time. Wanted Willkie,

Tell Mary Catherine
we enjoyed the Candy,
immensely, and to write
us when she likes. Tell
that "sis" of hers, Georgia,
to come with you and Mary
Catherine next time to
see us. With love,
Love, Lester

7 ps tell
Mary Cathern (Sturgeon Bay
hells Nov. 6. 1940

Mr. Robert A. Cook

Dear Sam I am so sorry about
Willkie getting beat we all
voted for him thinking he
wite keep us all out of the
war. make Mr. Roosevelt
will do all he can for us I
sure hope so. Robert what
do you think about filling
out my blank all the
children how done sent
this I am writing as you
have you any plans of
job I believe the best
way for you to keep out
of the army is on that
operation and your eyes
as you hadnt bin
helping us any before you

registered I no I want
do any thing could to
help you you tell the D²²
that you had that ruptor
ever since you was bout
2. years old and that
since you was operated
on you was out very
strong and had out done
no hard work and that
your eyes had bin weak
for years if you want
to put on my bank
that you want to help
to as much as \$5.00
dollars per month
and think that will
help you do so
do best best you can for
both of us love and
best wishes for you
Mammie intended tell me

When you are coming
show

Mary E. Cook
Sturgeon, Ky.

H27



Mr. Robert N. Cook,
c/o The Y. M. C. A.
Elm at Central Parkway,
Cincinnati,
Ohio

Sturgeon, Ky,
Dec. 10, 1940

Dear Bob:

Hope these few lines finds
you all O.K. We are all
just recovering from some
terrible bad Colds

I wish you could be
here and spend the holidays
with us at home.

Wishing you a merry, merry
Xmas & a prosperous new
years.

Write us.

D.W. Cook & Family
J

STURGEON
DEC
11
A.M.
1940
KY.



Mr. Robert N. Cook
Y.M.C.A.
Elm + Central Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio

Jurgen Ky.
Dec. 17, 1940

Dear Robert:

Today's my birthday
and I'm 36 years young.

I get examined for
the Army tomorrow
but due to my various
ailments I seriously
doubt if I am inducted
into military service.

If I were you I'd see
a good attorney or some
authority on law, find out
anything that'd be of bene-
fit to aid you in keeping
out of military service.
Not that it isn't honorable
but we may get into war,
thus your life might be en-
dangered. And so if I were

You 2'd be careful in
having papers fixed
up as regard your
induction into mili-
tary service.

We're fairly well.
Hope you are. Next
time don't write a
card (open mail), telling
me what splendid health
you in. Only Doctors know
my condition and myself.

Bring Mary Catherine
come see us. Also
bring Georgia her sister
Duff
Rough are bad here now.
Love & write,
Lester

Sturgeon, Ky.
Dec. 21, 1940.

Dear Brother Robert,
we have at length been
able to procure a birth
Certificate for you and
have had Magistrate
Arch Bell to execute
it properly and witnessed
to by Henry Spence. We
hope it'll be o.k. I hope
you and the Wapsichone
a very merry Christmas
and New Year! I hope you
can get your job, mentioned
previously by you. You
should try to get that job
soon as possible, as it will
all the more assure you of

staying out of ²the Army (as
that seems to be your desire)

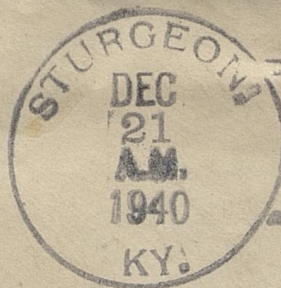
I have been examined ⁱⁿ for
the Army by our Local
Board and turned down
placed from 1st Class into
4th class (deferred class). I
think I'll never have to go
to the Army, being disabled
in several ways, and my
disability discharge keeps
me out also. Always
be very careful what
you write on postal cards
in open mail, the Post
masters at Thurston, Ky are
our friends to us, they've
proved this in several ways,
they would knock me out
of my pension if they had
a chance, so don't discuss
my health or such on cards.
I am glad we are getting

You lined up for a govern-
ment job. You'd be more
benefit to the govern-
ment in a producing
factory for National de-
fense than as a soldier.

None of us are well, but
able to stir and do what
little's to be done, such
as chores. Momma quilts
some but really isn't able
to do so. When ^{will} you be
home for a visit?

Chloe and the kids are
here, having stayed for the
night, going home soon.
They're well except colds.
I have a ^{bad} cold and Bronchitis
is taking a grip on me.
I'm very ^{much} ^{and} love
from all here. Write and come,
Lester for all.

Mrs. Mary E. Cook,
Sturgeon, Ky.



Mr. Robert H. Cook,
Y. M. C. A.
Elm at Central Parkway,
Cincinnati,
Ohio

P.S. Ed come up and helped
look after ^{momma}, Dan got the
medicine at Booyeville, Ky. for her
two times.

Wegloss, Ky.
Lester Feb. 12, 1941

Dear Robert:

We have your nice recent
letter inquiring about
mamma; Mamma is much
improved, sat up all
day the 11th. I must say
that every indication is
she's on the mend.

Don't worry if she gets
bad enough (which I don't
think probable now) we,
or I, will let you know
soon as possible.

We are fairly well, the rest
of us, outside of usual ail-
ments.

Alfred Brewer died
Sunday 10:30 a.m. - Buried 11th.
D.B. and Ed and Sara

So listen for it, and when it comes out the President, of said co., Ted Browne, will furnish you professional copies to distribute to band leaders in such places of amusement in "Cincy" where you would desire ^{such} music is played. You might help popularize the song some by handing out some copies that way, and any boosting of the sale of the sheet music to music lovers (players) would be fine.

Come & write,
Love, Lester

2

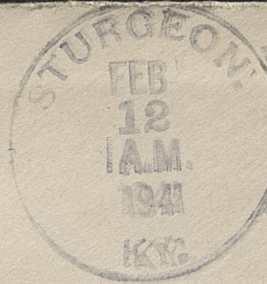
wrote us 11th. asking
about Mama. We are
answering them to day.
Dor's and Conley's are
well.

Don sends his regards
for himself and the
family.

"My Song;" There's
Something About you
(That makes you seem like
Keener)" Published by
Modern Standard Music
Co. 54 West Randolph St.,
Chicago, Ill. is promised
to be on the air, by
bass band and singer
soon. I judge this will
be as soon as B.M.S. and
A.S.C.A.P. settle their fuss.

From: Wm. N. Cook
Sturgeon, Kentucky

427



Mr. Robert W. Cook
1105 Elm St. Y. M. C. A.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sturgeon, Ky.
May 21, 1941

Dear Robert:

We have yours of recent date, stating you, Mary Katherine, and her parents are coming to visit us Sunday, May 23rd. We shall look for you to be with us for luncheon.

You may bring a cake and some loaf bread if you like; we think we can have ~~the~~ rest; by bringing the cake, it'll save making one, and then, too, we have no butter to go in a cake. They seldom bring loaf bread in these stores here. Momma is not so well. Pa is better. We'll expect you.
Love, Sister

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE TABLE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL PARKWAY BRANCH

Elm and Central Parkway
CINCINNATI, OHIO

Sturgeon Ky
June 18, 1941

Dear Son Robert,

I received your gift of \$5.00
for Father's Day, and I
appreciate your remem-
bering me at this occa-
sion.

I am glad I have meant
so much to you as a father
and I hope I can continue
for many more years,
meaning more to you as
a father.

I realize my drawback
as a father to you, due
to my lack of fingers
or hands, it takes all I
can scrape together to
keep food, clothing, and
shelter for your mother
and myself. I took the
five dollars you sent
bought groceries for our
selves and feed for the

two hogs. I spend ² my five
dollars, & all age assist-
tance each month for
food (groceries). Lester
spends nearly all he
draws off \$7.50 for the
same thing each month
and still we have very
little to eat it seems.
Mory Ellen (your mother)
has not gotten her old
age assistance as yet.
Doris are very hard
up, starving. We fur-
nish them some milk
but not enough for
them. We don't have
enough milk ourselves.
Dan sold Lester the
last gun (shot gun)
he had for a small
sum or order to buy
groceries for his star-
ving family. This is
a hard time for them
as vegetables are not in
as yet. If you have
anything to give for

3

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE TABLE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL PARKWAY BRANCH
Elm and Central Parkway
CINCINNATI, OHIO

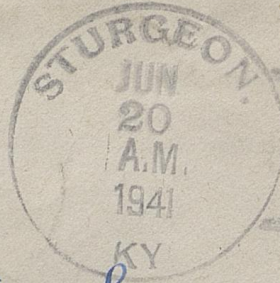
a month or so, send it
to Dan. He can use
it to buy food. Even
tho Dan's are starving
they won't beg. So I thought
that you might help them
by sending any clothing
and money you can
spare.

I am too busy to write
and so I am asked later
to write for me.
Come see us in July
when you are put
on vacation.

None of us are very
well, but we are trying
to work what we can
toward our crop making
subject is at Ky. University
~~Leffing~~, Ky. Lexington Ky.
Come and write.
Love, your father
William Nelson Look-Peterson

William N. Cook,
Sturgeon, Ky.

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Mr. Robert N. Cook
90 Y.M.C.A.
Elm at Central Parkway,
Cincinnati,
Ohio

Sturgeon, Ky.
May 11, 1942

My dear son Robert:

I received the five dollar bill for Mother's Day, and I am using it to buy me some spectacles (glasses), well thanks a lot! I surely appreciate it.

Doris have a fine boy at their house. Chloe and the baby are doing well.

I hope to give you and Mary Catherine something some day.

None of us are well, but we are trying to work some. all the rest are well enough so far as we know here.

Do you think you'll have to go to the Army? If you do try come see us before you have to go.

As none of us feel much like writing now, please pardon short letter; But I hope it will suffice this time.

Love & best wishes to you and
M.C. I am your mother,
Mary E. Cook

Robert I thank you
and Mary Catherine
for the five dollars,
Hope to give you
something sometime.

M.E.C.

I'll write when my reserves
are better. M.E.C. Per J.C.

Mrs. Mary E. Cook,
Sturgeon, Ky.



Mr. Robert N. Cook,
90 Y. M. C. A.,
Elm & Central Parkway,
Cincinnati,
Ohio

Sturgeon Sky
May 4, 1958.

Dear Mary K. your
good letter come yesterday
It found me feeling some
better I took the tablets
that I was showing
you all and they
helped my cold I
have got so I can
hear better I think I
be all rite except my
arm and I believe its
better I hope Robert is
all rite by this time
I want to thank you
for the pretty dress
you brout me I was
feeling so bad Sunday
I dont think I ever
thanked you no I dont
think you all coming

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made me worse. I had
him feeling very bad for
several days I am all
ways pleased to see
my children we got
a letter from Maurice.
yesterday he was bout
the same he is expecting
to be sent to the veterans
hospital soon I am so
sorry for him I sure do
hope he gets well. tell
Georgie and your father
hello for us. I often
think of them and the
nice visit we had with
you all. I hope I can visit
you all again some time
love to all. of you
Mrs. Mary E. Cook.

Mary E. Cook.
S. Michigan Hwy.



Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Cook.
24 Greenbrier ave. E. Ft.
Mitchell, Covington, Mich.