



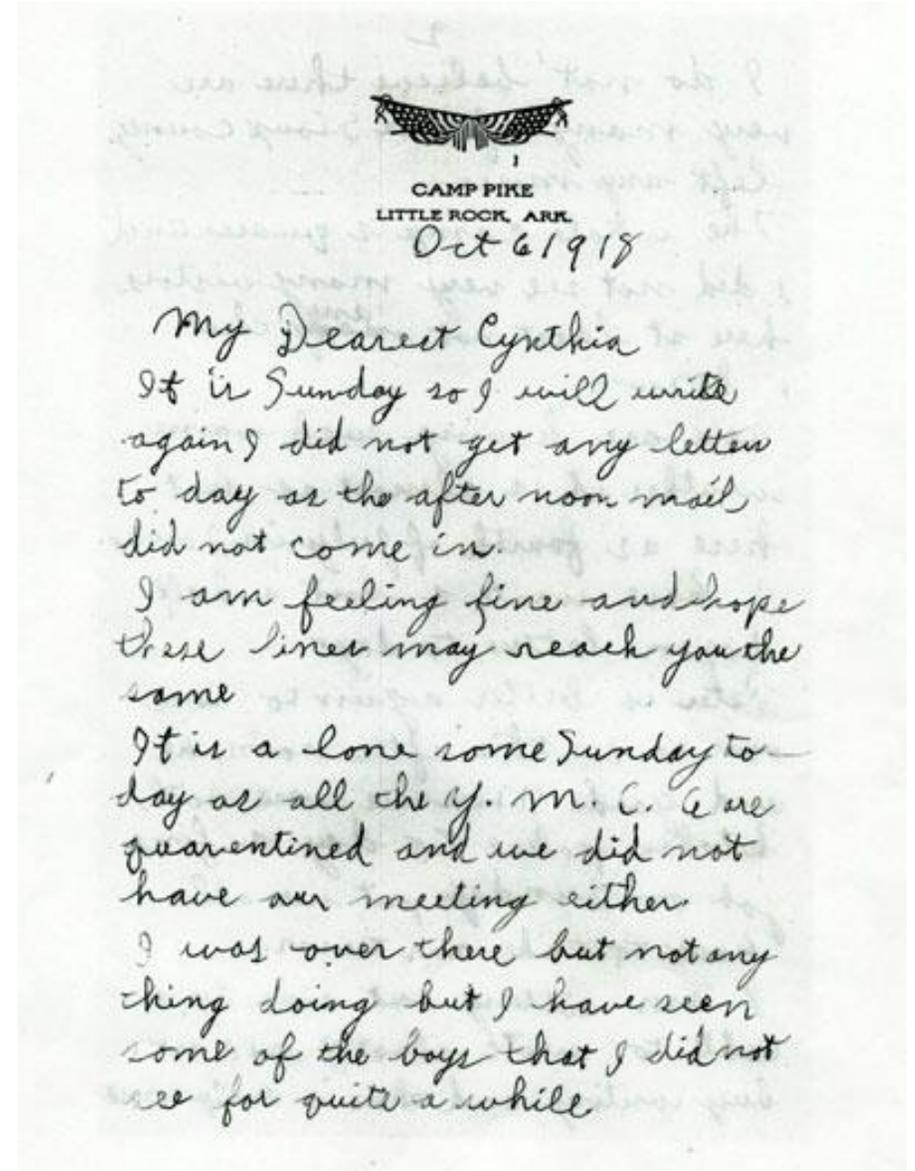
Cynthia Meerdink, age 16 - Hull, Iowa, 1913
This photograph is mentioned in the Oct. 6th, 1918 letter.



In this 1918 photo, Cynthia (far left) is shown with other members of the Girls Society sewing service stars onto a wall hanging that hung in the First Reformed Church in Hull, Iowa. Each star represented a serviceman from the congregation who was in the Great War. At the time of the photo, Cynthia's brother, Henry Meerdink, was already fighting in France.

During the war, Cynthia and Jerry (Jurian) Dykstra corresponded. He wrote this Oct. 6th letter just 36 days before the Armistice was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month - November 11, 1918.

Jerry and Cynthia married in 1920.



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I do not believe there are very many of our Sioux County left any more.

The whole camp is quarantined I did not see very many visitors here at least not ~~many~~ ^{any} that I knew.

We are having such warm weather it is almost as hot here as fourth of July in Iowa I have wrote a bout a half dozen letters to day.

Peter is better again to I was over to see this after noon, he and Garde Mackie were both kitchen police to day a fine job on Sunday put me all have to take our turn.

I am sitting out side by a table to write about 8 or 10 at busy writing and there is urly some



CAMP PIKE
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

one shaking the table.

We got our pay this morning I got \$26.75 with insurance taken of already. quite some wages for a months hard labor if I would be home I could earn that in a few days and then in a more happier way.

It feels kind of funny to get pay on Sunday but we have to take it the way it comes in the army.

I heard that Austria Hungary made peace with the allies I hope it may be true that will be worth more to me than my whole months pay.

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I surely believe it will have to
come this way and then Germany
will have to take our terms.
If it is true that they made peace
we will be home soon and I do
not believe I will ever have
to cross well I am not a bit
anxious either to see the finish
of it.

It is past 7 now so I suppose you
will soon be going to the endeavor
I wish I could attend that meet-
ing again to but we will have
to be patient for a while yet

But I surely believe we will be
home by Christmas if I do not
have to go across and even if I
do have to cross I will never see
no firing line any how if
they keep at them this way
It is getting to dark outside
so will have to finish my letter



CAMP PIKE
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

in side so I am writing with my
tablet on my knee for table.

One of the boys has a couple of
I-swa corn ears they surely are fine
now, I wish I could pick some
of that, but I don't believe there
will be much chance unless
we would get peace soon.

Then we might be able to get a fur
laugh for a few days and I would
surely take it to if I can

That is surely a handy picture
you send me as it is very handy
to carry around this way

We were treated with lemon
ade and cake last night that
surely tasted good for a change

We are getting^g such good meals for the last couple of days they are just fine and we get plenty to.

But I do not believe they will ever taste as good as the home meals.

I heard that John was pretty sick to day it is quite some sickness that Influenza

The measles broke out in one of the companies of this B. N I noticed they were quarantined this evening I do not hope we will get it here as it is no fun to be tied to the barracks so I know I like to go about camp once in a while.

I did not see Will Van Der garde I wish I would see him then I would find out if they got



CAMP PIKE
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Married yet.

Well you can not believe how I would wish I could be over there it feels so lone some since I left home.

I have not been to a single show while I was in camp and do not care for them a bit either. Well my Dear I have no more news hoping it will be true that we will be back before Christmas then we can spend those lovely evenings in a more happier way. I remain as ever your Dearest

Jerry
3 Co 1 3rd Regt tri-B. N.