

Three Letters from Martha Vanderkloot to Marie Marie Denker

Background

As follows are three letters from Martha Vanderkloot to her daughter, Marie. Marie was born October 8, 1899 and married John Denker on January 19, 1917. They had four children: Nancy, John Allan, and Richard Tanis and Betsy. The letters focus around the Sept. 13th, 1920 birth of John Allan Denker. Parts of the letters mention Martha's other daughters, Alette, born October 8, 1891, and Grace born August 7, 1894. Alette married Henry Schodrof. Alette's children were Don, born in 1914 and Harry born May 26, 1920. Grace married James Filipek on April 15, 1920 and at the time of the letters they did not yet have their two children, Marge and Jeanne (my mom).

One letter is dated September 20, 1920 and the other Sept 30, 1920. One letter is undated. The undated letter appears to be first in the sequence, and is labeled Saturday morning. Since it is after John was born on September 13th, it is probably Saturday September 18. In the last letter Martha says she is not feeling well but attributes it to the flu. Unfortunately, on October 25, 1920 she would die of uremia and nephritis. It is possible certain pages of the letters should be with other letters as the copies may have gotten shuffled along the way. I did the best I could to get them in order.

Dave Jordan

Following is a companion note from Betsy Denker Strand. Betsy was the 2nd daughter of Marie and was not born at the time of these letters.

Martha Tanis VanderKloot, age, 63, died October 25, 1920 of uremia poisons. She was sick for three weeks before her death. Marie Vanderkloot Denker was 21 years old on Oct 8th 1920. Al was born Sept 13th 1920. Nancy was 2 years old on June 12th 1920.

Betsy Denker Strand Dec. 1993

As follows are transcriptions of the three letters. However, a companion document contains both the transcriptions and scans of the original letters in pdf form. See [Associated Documents - Letters Historical](#).

Martha Vanderkloot's Letter to Marie Denker - Sept 18, 1920

Chicago Saturday Morning

10 O Clock

Dear Marie

I just recd your second letter, and I am so glad you are well. It don't matter, now little the boy is, he is here and will grow, he has lots of place and time. Just before your letter came, I talked with Alett. Grace was here yesterday, she bougt real doll?, honey cake, and spise Cheese. I sent you one also a piece of cheese, if you keep it in the icebox, have lots of paper around it, for it allways smells, and before you eat it (cut all the edge of. I go downtown now.

I done all my work yesterday and the house is nice and clean. Alette said to buy you little boy a nice sweeter (good you told me in your letter, sise No.1 , so I was going to sent the 2 yr. old sise. Well Marie you give the Baby a pretty name, but I dont care much for Jack, but suit yourself. I am glad you have such nice peopel around you, if you wish I could sent you some nice speculaties Ps let me know. Pa wants to know if John is not glad with his boy, because he don't write but me know he is terrible busy, if only the Office don't close You don't write if the Baby looks like Nancy.

I will write again Monday. I know you will take care of yourself. Now nice of the Dr. wife to take care of Nancy.

This will be all so I have to go now. With all our love and kisses for Nancy dear. Where do you lay the Baby boy? Did you epect a boy?

Write soon. You must give the Dr. wife a piece of you tulband put lots of butter and the Honey cake as it so dry also on the tulband keep booth in the breadbox.

Do you nurse the baby? and does he take it good, tell me all about it and don't forget.

Notes

1. An attempt has been made to transcribe Martha's letters exactly as written using the original spelling and grammar to provide a sense of how she spelled, wrote and said things. It may be harder to read, but it provides a better sense of her. Occasionally various words could not be made out and guesses were made.
2. An attempt has been made to transcribe these letters exactly as possible using the original spelling and grammar to provide a sense of how the author spelled, wrote and said things. It may be harder to read, but it provides a better sense of her. Occasionally various words could not be made out and guesses were made.
3. Speculaties is speculaasjes, a Dutch spice cookie sliced thinly and made with almonds. The recipe is in another section.

Chicago Saturday morning
10.0. Clock

Dear Marie

I just recel your second letter, and I am so glad, you are so well. It dont matter, how little the boy is, he is here, and will grow, he has lots of place and time.

Just before your letter came

I talked with Alett, Grace was here yesterday, she bought real Holl. & honey cake, and wise Cheese, I sent you one, also a piece of Cheese, if you keep it in the ice box, have lots of paper around it, for it allways melts, and before you eat it (cut all the edges of. I go downtown now

I done all my work yesterday
and the house is nice and clean.

Aunt said to buy you little
boy a nice sweater, (good you
told me in your letter, nice now
1, as I was going to rent the
2 yr. old one, Well I wish
you give the baby a pretty
name, but I dont care much
for Jack, but suit yourself.
I am glad you have such nice
peeps around you, if you
wish I could rent you some
nice speculates, - (let
me know) Pa wants to know
if John is not glad with
his boy, because he dont write
but we know he is terrible
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the baby looks like Nancy.

I will write again Monday
I know you will take care
of yourself.

Now vice of the Dr.'s wife
to take care of Nancy.

This will be all as I have
to go now. With all our
love, and kisses

for Nancy dear, Where do
you lay the Baby boy?

Did you expected a boy?

Write soon

You must give the Dr. wife a
piece of your talband put
lots of butter and the honey
cake as it is dry also an for
the talband. & keep both in the bread

NOTE: Martha Tanis Vanderbloot, age 63,
died October 25th 1920; of

uremic poisoning. She was sick
for three weeks before her death.

Marie Vanderbloot Neiker was
21 years old on Oct. 8th 1920.

Al was born Sept 13th 1920.

Nancy was 2 years old on Jan 12th 1920.

Betsy Neiker Grand

Dec. 1993

do you nurse the baby?

and does he take it good,

tell me all about it

and dont forget.

Martha Vanderkloot's Letter to Marie Denker - Sept 20, 1920

Return Address:	Addressed to:	Postal Stamp:
Vanderkloot 811 W. 27 th Str Chicago, Ill	Mrs. M. V. Denker 219 State Str. Alma, Michigan	Chicago Sep 20 4 PM 1920 ILL

Chicago Sep 20, 1920

Dear Marie, John and Babys

As always, in a hurry. Just recd, the little pink Announcement. Did you really expect a girl? Six pounds, is plenty, he will grow. I hope you are well, your husband must be dry by this time. The Honey cake is dry already, but keep it in a damp place, and put on lots of butter when you eat it, that's what we do. I sent you a little Baby dress and hope you like it. I also bought a little sweater and sent it to Aletta House size 1, but it is very little and it will fit him just now. Anna just called me xxx?. What you need for the Baby. I said maybe a pair of warm leggings and a cap, but Anna said it is up to you. She was thinking of giving you a buggy robe like she gave to Aletta, so let us know, she is waiting for another? Name. Marie I hope you are all well. Write me a letter and tell me if you have a plentiful nurse for your Baby and if he takes it good.

I am looking for a letter all the time. Grace was here yesterday with Jim for Supper. We were talking of a certain Baby Boy, 2 yrs old, she said he was so terrible big and weighed 30 pounds. Well I said Nancy was 28 when she was her, write on a little slip if this is correct or am I mistaken Has she got her cy? and stomach theel?

Mom

Notes

1. An attempt has been made to transcribe Martha's letters exactly as written using the original spelling and grammar to provide a sense of how she spelled, wrote and said things. It may be harder to read, but it provides a better sense of her. Occasionally various words could not be made out and guesses were made.
2. The date of the letter, September 20, 1920, was a Monday.
3. The "six pound he" referred to is John Allan, Nancy his older sister is two years old.
4. The Anna she referred to is probably the wife of Martha's second son, Arthur.
5. It is unknown who the "certain Baby Boy, 2 yrs old" she is talking about.

Vanderkloot 811. W. 2nd Str.
Chicago Ill



Mrs. M. V. Denker
219 State Str.
Alma. Michigan.

Dear Harry -

Thought you might enjoy reading
these "letters from the past."

Love,
Betsy

Chicago Sep. 20, 1920

Dear Marie John & Baby.

As allways, in a hurry. Just read, the little pink announcement. Did you really expect a girl,? Six pounds, is plenty, she will grow. I hope you are well, your husband must be dry by this time, the honey cake is dry already, but keep it in a damp place, and put on lots of butter when you eat it, that's what we do, I sent you a little baby dress, and hope you like it, I also bought a little sweater and sent it to Ailtha's house, size 1, but it is very little, and it will fit her just now, Anna just called me up, what you

need for the Baby, I said
 maybe a pair of warm leggins
 and a Cap. but Anna said
 it is up to you, she was thinking
 of giving you a buggy robe
 like she give to Alotta, so
 let us know, she is waiting for
 an answer. Now Marie I hope
 you are all well, write me
 a letter and tell me, if you
 have plentie nurse for your Baby
 and if he takes it good,
 I am looking for a letter all
 the time, Grace was here yester
 day with Jim for supper,
 We were talking of a certain
 Baby boy, 2 yrs old, she said
 he was so terrible big and weighs
 30 pounds, well I said this is
 what Nancy ~~meant~~ ^{she} ~~meant~~ ^{was} 28. when she
 was here, write on a little slip
 if this is correct, if or am I mistaken
 Was she got her ~~big~~ and stomach the
 now

Martha Vanderkloot's Letter to Marie Denker - Sept 30, 1920

	Addressed to: Mrs. M. V. Denker 219 State Str. Alma, Michigan	Postal Stamp: Chicago Sep 30 4 PM 1920 ILL
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Chicago Sept 30 1920

Dear Marie, John and Babys

I hope you will get this letter before Saturday. It is 8 o'clock, and I will mad it ugtharmay?, before 9. We were glad with your letter Monday, but I really had no time to nite any sooner. Alett went home Monday nigt in a yellow cab and I went along. Alett felt bad, for she had a her terrible cold, also the Baby. It is real cold now, but the heat we had lately was allmost onberable. I hope they give you heat for you need it.

I sent the doll, and sweeter out yesterday, also a can full of cookes, that little blanket I put in, I sent for dear little Nancy, lay it under her bedsheet, and no rubber sheeting, it is to cold, and this will keep her warm all nighth, and as long as she is kept warm she will not wet the bed. Be sure Marie, and sent the tulband pan back, (not the pieplate) and the box Pa made, because I am trying to get arms for the other doll and then I will try and sent it in the same box. I hope we get a letter this morning, Tuesday, and yesterday I was sick with a headach and a severe cold, Pa had his last week also Adrian, but today I feel better. We have a nice fire in the kitchen. Well Marie I will try to write you again Monday, I am allways so busy tomorrow Mrs Doletsek will be here, I have to do some Ironing today

I am glad you have had a good nurse. How much do you pay her? Tell Nancy I put her little tea pot in the box. I hope you like the cookies, give some to the lady, who is so good for Nancy. I supose John is very busy now, tell us something about little Jack, is he good? also if Mrs Pennel has a other boy and how about the Lady with her 3 girls, has she a boy now?

This is all, a big hug from Mom

Lovingly Mother

[On my Xerox copy the following note was placed off to the right, perhaps it was and extra note in the same letter.]

let me know now, What the little boy need. Anna said: You can figure on 3 1/2 it is just the same to her, what you want. We have not heard of Marguerite yet she went home a week ago. I hope you write soon.

We are glad with our little grandson and hope he will grow up nice and strong

Goodbye all
Lovingly
Mother

Notes

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2. The date of the letter, September 30, 1920, was a Thursday.
3. The baby referred to in the sentence about Alette and her cold is most likely Alette's son Harry Schodrof.
4. The Adrian referred to was most likely Martha's third son born June 22, 1889 and about 21 at the time of the letter.



Mrs. M. V. Denker
219 State Str.
Alma, Michigan

Chicago Sept 30 — 1920

Dear Marie, John and
Baby's.

I hope you will get this letter
before Saturday, It is 8
O'Clock, and I will mail
it right away, (before 9,
we were glad with your
letter Monday, but I really
had no time to write any
sooner, Alett went home Mon-
day night, on a yellow cab
and I went along, Alett
felt bad, for he had a ter-
rible cold, also the baby.
It is real cold now, but
the heat we had lately
was almost unbearable.
I hope they give you heat
for you need it.

I sent the doll, and sweater
out yesterday, also a can
full of cookies, that little
blanket I put in, I sent for
dear little Nancy, lay it
under her bedsheet, and
no rubber sheeting, it is too
cold, and this will keep her
warm all night, and as
long as she is kept warm
she will not wet the bed.
Be sure Marie, and sent the
tubband pan back, (not the
péplate) and the box Pa
made, because I am trying
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doll and then I will

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same box. I hope we get
a letter this morning. Tues
day, and yesterday I was
sick with a headache and
a severe cold, Pa had his
last week also Adrian, but
today I feel better, we have
a nice fire in the kitchen
well Marie I will try
to write you again Mon
day, I am always so busy
tomorrow Mrs Doletsek will
be here, I have to do some
ironing today

IV

I am glad you have had
 a good nurse, How much
 more you pay her? Tell
 Nancy I put her little tea
 pot in the box, I hope you
 like the cookies, gives some
 to the lady, who is so
 good for Nancy, I suppose
 John is very busy now, tell
 us something about little
 Jack, is he good? also if
 Mrs Pennel has a other boy
 and how about the Lady with
 her 3 girls, has she a boy now?
 This is all,
 a big hug for you
 your mother

Loveingly

1
Let me know
now, what the
little boy need,
Anna said: You
can figure on $3\frac{1}{2}$
it is just the same to
her, what you want.
We have not heard
of Marguerite yet
the most homa
week ago. I hope
you write soon

(2)

We are glad with
our little grand^{son}
and hope ^{he} will
~~grow~~ grow up
nice and strong.

Goodbye all
Lovingly

Mother