

A Letter to Ellen Cox  
Dated March 19,1900

Ellen was the daughter of Cornelius Nicholas "Nick" Cox and Mary Jane "Mollie" Johnson Cox. They lived near the Fleming community, now known as Pettit, southwest of Highway 36 and Gustine, Texas. Her full name was Mary Ellen Cox.

Note: This letter was written by Elmer Weidner to Ellen Cox. Elmer lived in the Edna Hill and Wilson Community in Erath County, Texas. Erath County joins Comanche County on the east/northeast.

This letter was written on what was probably expensive paper. It has an embossed design, and in the early days, a blue ribbon tied in a bow on the first page. Now, the ribbon has turned to a creamy tan. It is written in pencil in a very good hand. I have copied it as written. If the word was misspelled, I left it as written. He spelled Ellen's name as Elen, but the family spelled it Ellen. I have the original letter, with the postmarks of Wilson and Fleming, Texas and the old stamp.

My parents, William Cornelius Cox and Minnie Steward Cox talked a lot about Aunt Ellen and Uncle Elmer. My daddy had two sisters, Mary Ellen and Renier. He was close to his sisters and all of his brothers.

Mama said when Elmer and Ellen were courting, that he would ride his horse or come in the buggy on Sunday to spend the day with Ellen. He probably didn't get to come very often, which may be one reason that he was writing as he did, saying the things that he couldn't say in front of her family.

Ellen and Elmer married December 2, 1900. They lived in the Edna Hill/Wilson community. Mama said when Ellen was pregnant in 1906, Elmer had contacted the doctor in Dublin and he agreed he would come to their home to deliver the baby. Ellen wanted to come to see her parents one time before the baby came, and they came in the buggy for the day. Going home, she went into labor. The Doctor came out from Dublin, but there was nothing he could do to help her. Grandma Cox thought if she could just get there, she could help her.

Mama said the boys nearly killed a good horse hitched to the buggy to get Grandma Cox over there, but she couldn't do anything. Both Ellen and the baby were dead. This was February 16, 1906. She would have been 22 years old. She and the baby are buried in a single grave in Union Cemetery, just west of Gustine, Texas.

Uncle Elmer was such a good man, and was always considered a member of the Cox family. When my parents married in 1912, he is in the group photograph made that day. Later, he married a woman named Etta, and I apologize that I do not remember her last name. I remember going to Edna Hill to see them, and we called him Uncle Elmer and her Aunt Ett. I remember their yard, it was so pretty. It was a swept yard, and she had

flower beds outlined with rocks. I remember that there was a large long front porch that faced the south or southeast. I was probably six or seven years old.

Marvalene "Missy" Cox Jones  
Daughter of William Cornelius Cox and Minnie Steward Cox  
August 1912

Wilson Tex  
March 19 1900

My Dear Sweetheart

It is once more in life that I take my pencil in hand to write to the goodest and the prettiest girl on earth and to the one I love best Elen you looked gooder yesterday than ever I saw you and you could talk gooder than ever I heard you and never never will I forget them pretty eyes of yours

Well Elen we got home all rite I hated to leave my good little Elen but if I hadent you would have run me off before now I told you to think of me when dark comes tonight to think that I am writing to you and I am writing It may be fooling my time away writing to you but I hope it is not that way because I love you gooder than any bodie on earth and that is the truth Elen You may fool me I dont know if you do I can say the best girl on earth fooled me and the prettiest one to

Elen you may think I will fool you but if their is any fooling done Elen will have it to do I told you I would not fool you and I spoke the truth when I said it Elen I told you I was going to beleave ever word you told me and I am going to till you fool me You can fool me if you want to

Oh how I wish I could see you to night I would like to talk to you You can talk so good and look gooder than any bodie and love you better than any bodie on this earth and that is the truth if ever I told it

Elen you said their may be some bodie over here that was a head of you you can beat any bodie on earth with me their is no bodie over here I love and never was

Elen you can say you are mine if you want to for their no bodie a head of you and never no never will be You have got to fool me if their is any fooling. I hope there will never be any fooling done I can not keep from thinking how good you looked Sunday you look ed gooder than ever I saw you

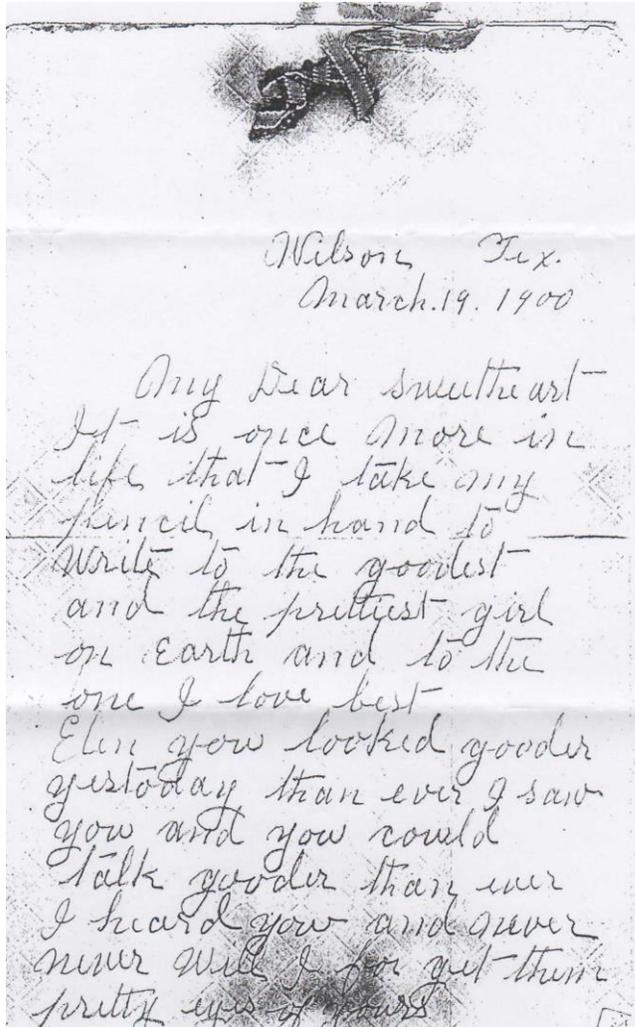
Elen this old sory paper I can not hardly write on it maby you can make out some of it Elen you are the goodest and the prettiest girl on earth and I can not tell you how good I love you words can not express my love for you that is pretty scary talk but it is the truth if ever I told in my life though it may never do me any good

I told you I was going to beleave ever word you said and I am to You can tell me a story and I will beleave it but I hope you will never tell me a story for I am not going to tell you any

Well' Elen I guess you are getting tired of reading such a letter so I will close I wish I could write a good letter this is so sorry writing I dont know whether you can read it or not

Excuse bad writing and spelling and short letter This is from one that truly loves you and to the one I hope loves me

So By By  
from your lover  
Elmer  
to Elen



Wilson, Tex.  
March. 19. 1900

My Dear sweetheart  
It is once more in  
life that I take my  
pencil in hand to  
write to the goodest  
and the prettiest girl  
on earth and to the  
one I love best  
Elen you looked gooder  
yesterday than ever I saw  
you and you could  
talk gooder than ever  
I heard you and never  
never will I forget them  
pretty eyes of yours