August the 19 / 66

Cousins ever dear it has been some time since I received your very kind letter, we were pleased to hear from you & to hear that you had such a little babe. I would like very much to see him & all his nice clothes. I think he has a very pretty name, you know I could not help but like the name. I thought so much of coz when he was out here, but oh how sorry to hear of his poor health but hope he will get better. Write on, let me know all about him. The friends are all tolerable well. As far as I know mother is staying with Mag now, has been most of the time since her babe died. I suppose you have heard of the solemn fact it dies on the 4 day of June, about 12 o’clock, had the lung fever the doctor said.

Oh Cinda, such a scene I never witnessed before. Poor Mag took its death so hard. She could not stay in the room, the little groans was more than she could bear, but would come in & kiss him once & while. She came in just as he was gasping and kissed him & said ‘oh you dear little angel you will soon be at rest in god.’ It seems as though she can’t give it up yet, it makes no difference where she is nor what is going on. Her mind is on her babe, on that little mound away in yonders grave yard, not far from that dear father of mine. The tears behind my eyes while I try to write, but I for bear he was almost 9 mothers old, born the 10 of March. We are looking for Sheldon out this fall on a visit & then mother will go back home with them. I hope they will come, I have not seen Shell but once since you was here & have not seen Cinda for nearly 3 years now. I must tell you about the storm 9 weeks ago last Monday evening & all night until nine o’clock on Tuesday morning. I never saw so much lightning nor heard so much thunder in the same length of time in my life. Quite a great deal of damage done, our barn was struck & burned to the ground on the old homestead on the burned farm before they knew it it was burnt on Tuesday morning; supposed to be struck at 3 in the morning. 3 horses, one wagon, all the harness & saddle, 8 hundred bushels of grain & all the farming utensils & five or six ton of hay. No insurance on any of it, the barn belonged to two of George’s brothers, the grain to his brother in law, the horses to the man lives on the place.

I wish you would come out & see us, we would have some place to go to meeting besides an old log school house. The Lutherans are going to build a church at the south west corner of our field on the hill at the end of the lane, you know where that is. Commence this week I expect to board the hands or try it.

I must now tell you something about George’s youngest brother, Wm Burnet, he has gone to Metropolis City to get his wife. He went down there last winter & went to school, got acquainted, and fell in love with a Miss Neotiadavis; came home in March & farmed with George this summer & has now gone back to marry & bring her home. Expect them next Wednesday. Wish you could be here then George has gone to meeting today to hear a Mr. Snyder preach. He is a young preacher, has been going to school at Westerville, Ohio. So, no more of this at present, but remain your affectionate cousin death. Write, do write.

Maggie’s baby’s name was Clarince Alferado

Give my love to all & particularly give it to Parry

I have a nice new cupboard, cost 99 dollars. Cin you know I must tell it all