

This is a story of the parents of J. Lee Skoroko, a long time resident of the Town of Dickinson, Leo and Jean. It is a story of two ordinary people who did something extraordinary. Coming from non-military families, Leo enlisted in the Army and Jean stayed home in Binghamton. They each recognized that this was a great sacrifice but were faithful to the call of their country and each other.

They wrote each other each day – sometimes twice a day. Their day-to-day lives were shared with no intention of anyone ever reading their letters save for each other. But they tell of a story at home, of what it was like to watch husbands, sons, brothers and other family members proudly get called to service and having to keep up the work of the day to day living. They also tell a story of being an MP in the Army and what shepherding Italian and German POWs from the East Coast out West was like. The reflections of being a soldier, experience the death of FDR while at camp, visiting the USO outposts and even trying to assist AWOL soldiers of color.

These powerful primary source documents reflect the values of the times and even more importantly, the love and devotion this couple felt as they faithfully kept their marriage, in wartime, a priority.