

Tue  
Salem, Mass. 1835

Dear children I now set down to write for the first since you  
left to let you know we are well. Hoping this will find you the  
same I have nothing new to write. My Stebens has written to you  
and she had been here the day father came home from York State  
you know your grandmother is dead we have not heard from Aunt Ann  
since she went home I have been waiting to hear from her before I wrote  
so I could let you know she gets along and what she is going to do this  
summer I have written to her this week's father got Emily's table  
and stand and we went and carried them home the same week if I had  
was home <sup>two</sup> ~~ago~~ <sup>weeks</sup> to day we have not John nor Almira since they go  
left Elybert was home last Sunday he says they are helping house  
William has gone to day to work for the man that works the park  
he has been working by the day till now he gets 15 dollars a month  
John has not been home since he went to work he has wrote to us once  
Hannah works for Mr Edward Smith she has been gone three weeks  
we have not heard from her how she likes or how long she will stay  
to you the our family is quite small how would you like to stop in  
and find father me and George eating dinner the rest goes to school  
the girls makes our mixed girl they have to begin to work for  
minutes Hannah went to Providence with father and got her a new  
dress Lydia was here when they came home she and Mrs Stebens & Lyd made  
her dress for nothing He has cut wood made one horse & I mend her clothes  
makes her aprons washes dishes and goes to school tell mother gale  
Sarah has another boy and so has George Poncher's wife she lives to  
Hammer town he has gone west and we talk of going to Wisconsin  
in the fall so if you had waited till them and Harriet home  
and made something for us to wear we could went with you



Father is hatching ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> usual if you will come you shall have some  
I am going to write to aunt Rebecca soon we and word from her  
since you left father saw uncle Tim and uncle was to aunt caty they  
are all well cornelius is better father got there at bright grandmother  
<sup>sent</sup> in the morning at ten o'clock then he came away she knew them but  
could not talk but let the my friends do and go to the grove one  
after another and I am not permitted <sup>not</sup> to stand by the dying bed of now  
I want you to write soon and tell me all about every thing how  
you get along if you like it as well as you thought you would  
whether it is healthy and if the folks are clever if they are every day  
christians Sunday or rainy whether in prosperity or adversity if they are  
up and doing before the sight of death whether you think their  
example would benefit me if I should come to live with them  
write what you find to do how the boys get along with the big trees  
if you have cows to milk own to brew soap and go to church and  
milk with; we have sold the cow we milked this winter we have  
two left they have both got calves father has all the learning he can  
do beside his own work it has been a very cold back spring cold drifting  
snow storms like winter and heavy rains I have not cleaned house you  
are done so you better come and help me Jane Wright's health is  
getting quite good she never had the reported complaint it was inward  
she takes medicine yet she can walk about the street but not  
as far as the store I thought when I began I could write three sheets but  
I can't think of much more we think if we move west we will  
take all our family along Mr and Mrs Stetson we number with the rest  
for the sake father shall so we will visit them for we are lone some now you are gone



Saturday June 1850

Dear children I did not expect to write to you just now  
but I thought as John had written a half sheet you would  
have to pay 10 cents for that so you might as well have a  
sheet round and round the leaf for the same price we are  
well wishing you the same I have written to you and presume  
you have got it before now your church letter was in it  
John has given you a sketch of his rambles but says nothing  
of the uneasiness he caused at home we knew he left Yonkers  
and knew no more for a month then he writes he was in  
Birmingham 15 miles from Boston I won't tell how father felt  
you have seen him worry I had a letter from Aunt Anna  
last week she was just going to start for Long Island so when  
you write you can write to both your aunts in one letter  
she says she was fixing for a long stay Aunt Rebecca has been  
up on business the great conveyance in New York she is authorized  
to settle it except Vanderbelt's went down with her to  
see the will examined and assist her in settling they say  
there was 11 hundred dollars for your grandmother they  
will write to us soon and I did not think I would  
write to you till we knew all about it but when  
you come for your part you shall know about it  
but don't set your hearts on this world's goods for riches take  
to themselves wings and fly away now I will tell you about  
grandmother's funeral she died Thursday it was buried Saturday 13  
it was very stormy and but few there the women did not go to the  
grave Mr. Vanhook preached from Jeremiah 41 and I cut me out of  
the time of old age forsake me not when my strength faileth and I am  
wrote all I know about it Abraham Paterson is dead there came a letter for J.P.  
to the center mailed in Alabama father had it received and sent to  
Birmingham before it got there come home we think it was from Charles  
or Caudle I want to write a great deal in a little time and space  
so I mix it all up so read all you can and grieve at the next Mrs. Reid was  
to church to lay for the first since she was sick Hannah was there she got  
three waiting for Almira to bring her shall home so she got a new  
one and paid 16 shillings for it and Almira has not been home since you have

I wish I had time to fill both sides you will take the will  
for the deed father has all the learning he can do and do his own  
work and he is so pleased since John has got home he seems quite  
like himself and talks much about moving west if you will  
come home he will give you a pig for independence David has been  
here he says he hopes you have got a good man for he thinks  
you deserve one Elizabeth Frencher is very sick the doctor thinks  
she has got the consumption there was a man killed <sup>town</sup> to hammer  
The other day <sup>with</sup> the gravel stone he was married but had no children  
I believe his name was Winthrop Jared wig is married to Mary  
Jane Wood I am not done clearing house yet I hope to get done  
this week George begins to talk some words and is as much trouble  
as ever J and Em was here last week they come often he has  
got the western fever had tell mother gale I found her  
handkerchief she was gone and sheles mittens and will fetch  
them when I come I must stop my love to you all <sup>the</sup> children  
all want to send some word so I will rap up a bundle of love  
you all in their name no more from your loving mother H. Thayer



the old Lady has wrote the  
dreadfullest letter that I ever heard on  
but than you know about what kind of a  
bitter she is and you must make allowance  
accordingly she wrote that our things were  
low our prandre list was over \$200  
the probability is we shall have to work a  
farm we live 90 miles from Mr Sutton  
I talk of going to see him before long  
but I guess I shant go I calculate  
to take it all out in talking  
I wrote four letters one day this week  
and one to day but I think I am most  
done writing letters I have a new  
rifle that cost \$14 if I had the money  
that it I woud go back down east  
I should like to write a little to Mother  
Lide but I dont know what to write  
with out I write oald times when we was  
children and went to school together  
we had funny times I spose you  
know the time when the miss  
Widens was at your house I recon they had  
a bear that night ever how you know  
that you sold when you have half  
a letter I guess you will not say every  
thing this time your Brother & friend  
John Benjamin Shaw

Southport, Oct 27 1850  
Dear children I embrace this as the first opportunity I have had  
since we arrived here to let you know we are all well hoping  
you are the same I expect you want to know a great deal more than  
I can tell you first of all you want to know how it looks  
how we like it for that you must wait till we know our  
selves but I will give you a sketched of our travel we started Monday  
the 30 of September from Sheffield got in Albany at dusk father had  
the goods on board the canal & boat and we went on and that  
night we traveled one week then we was 50 miles from Buffalo  
when a broke in the canal caused us to lay still 6 days and  
board ourselves we got in Buffalo Monday the 14 we went on land the  
propeller De Taylor the same day and started the next night  
boarded and <sup>made</sup> ourselves we opened one box of goods got out 1 bed  
and four quilts and out the best we could we had 35 passengers  
in our little cabin 13 of them was children under 12 so you know we  
some music at every stopping place the men would get both of  
rum then there would be drinking and swearing and smoking  
children crying what a comfortable place to be sick we was  
sick but father and George I lay a bed 3 days the children was all  
sick with the jaundice the first week on the boat so you know  
I dont know what it is to be a lady yet but I took some pleasure  
and found some good folks among the rough ones I brint a fine steed  
on the way we landed here Tuesday morning 9 o'clock all safe after all stops  
at the Franklin House got breakfast the first clean meal in a week  
father went out met Eds rail in a few minutes he said that Clapp  
had a house for us Elsha and John got Mts team and moved us 3 miles  
from the land in a well finished & stony brick house I dont know how



long we will stay father and John has been so happy to say  
we are going to put the money your things fetched in this  
letter they sold like oars for nothing our things sold very low  
with the horses fetched 15 dollars one cow 18 dollars Eglert caught  
bluejay for 22 dollars and let John Lyons the use of her this fall  
it cost us 140 dollars to get here we had 27 hundred pounds  
of goods and we would fetched more if we had money to do it  
we wanted to move the big wagon and new harness I got 80 dollars  
from New York we went to York state the week before we left  
wasnt Anne Rebecca was there and fetched me the money there is  
some more for me but I dont know how much it is not settled yet  
we ~~had~~ divided grandmothers things out Ann and Rebecca had her money  
Annt city had 10 dollars to pay herself and doctor I had 1 dollar  
for a pocket piece the clothes we divided Annt city had her bed  
I did not take as many as they had for I could not move them  
I moved a great many things but no chairs or bedsteads I see folks move  
chairs bedsteads tables tied in quilts with no more fans than we did  
to move a mile I wish I had moved my chairs I got my rocking chair and  
a little chair Emily has my chairs Lydia has williams and stebbens the  
big rocker I left your little bench with Emily she will fetch it  
and your peace work basket and when you can have them  
we have 6 new wooden bedsteads chairs for four dollars father  
is going to get bedsteads and stove tomorrow that is all we want  
of furniture what no cow no hog no dog no chickens that is very poor  
I moved all my dishes and clock glasses and all come safe but 3 odd  
cups and saucers we call that good luck our bottles all got damp  
being so long on the water but nothing hurt we moved all our  
milk things ~~and~~ churn butter bowl four stone pots 1 with butter in  
tea sugar coffe muslin calico John got the gun Eglert had made in pokepsie

the one elroy made me a dress I got too that and a piece of dried beef  
the one elroy gave and all the neighbors send their love to you with  
himen sends this card to you she sent some word I forgot what it was  
Lydia sewed two weeks for me before we moved and helped put up all  
my things Eli and Elsie came to our house Saturday before we moved  
and stayed till Sunday Sarah Elizabeth and Elizabeth was there <sup>campfire</sup>  
I cant begin to write all I want to if I write a week  
I want you to answer this as soon as you get it for we  
want to here from you very much let us know how you  
are getting along and how you fared in sickness and what  
your prospects are I forgot tell you that has got a  
boy Mr Squire and Mary Ann deavis all were at an age  
Sarah Jane was very sick with dysentery Annt Ann was taking  
care of her she was boarding to uncle times and taking work from  
the shops she was taken sick Annt city went and stayed with  
her two weeks then Annt Ann came home from the island she  
look her place in says she is growing old fast she goes by  
the name of grandmother on the island she looks good as ever  
Sarah Jane Maria Jane John and Phoebe Rogers all joined the  
methodist church in pokepsie fast winter I will close it is near  
night father and the boys are going to bush some for an claps this morn  
this new business for them I forgot to tell you I got 25 yards of the  
prettiest rag carpeting you ever see and 6 new teaspoons cost 6  
dollars new britania tea pot and hand for them myself I  
moved over 40 yards of carpet I remain your affectionate Mother I shall  
direct your letters to Brentha PO Wisconsin  
give my love to mother tell her I will move to her next  
time tell Alfred I moved his basket Rebecca I is writing Robert  
John left cove with Lydia he is going after her on the Spruce



I want to tell you something to write he can't think of any thing  
he wants to have from you and he you do he can't think of any thing to write do  
most of all myself. I guess if you was here he would find so much to say  
I could not get my car in operation and we would all be so glad you would  
think we was all very happy. The winter has been very hard. See you  
did you know I often think how we would want to see you out now. He thinks  
of you and talks of you more than all other with the people. Many things now  
but the young man who you thought impossible one now he has got one  
for it against god names and he can work but soon we have got for the  
now he has got a cow a dog and a couple and don't you think he is not  
to get married if he ever will and I shall look to it soon for I am going with  
Sharon father is looking for a wife to put on the land and since he  
has got his hand in raising if you like his choice on later days  
if you get any letters from any of your friends or sisters or any friends  
let me know what they write for it seems like no one ever will have  
more than it would not be so the whole for me to get some work for  
all things about winter. I am going to see you don't think  
I will get married I think we can live as well here as any where and  
better when we can see our own land. We give you 5 cents for paper  
for what <sup>father</sup> got a quarter of a pt. of oil. I will look for you and have any  
for your groceries are a little higher than we have used it but we are going  
to see to say there was a great deal of what raised this year but the  
long rainy weather in harvest damaged it very much but it is much better than  
I hope you think if we get what I can do write to us soon. I want you  
to write how much wheat you have and how much corn and if you  
not what they will use a bushel if you could only write what and every  
thing you can then it is of and comes and see us next summer when we get  
on a farm again and if we look like ourselves my that is fall and  
I will close for this time. Remember me to all with you. This from your  
mother

December 1 1850

Dear children it is a long time since we have heard from  
you and want to hear from you very much and see you soon.  
The leaves are all withered and you the same we have been in our  
new house and see weeds and have not heard from any of our  
friends except a letter from Lydia she has written to me she  
was staying with Almira & Adesime now know she has a little  
boy Lydia says father must name it so he sent the names  
christopher columbus and John Wright Almira was going to suggest  
as soon as she was 12 months enough and I hope that will be soon for we  
are tired of waiting for a letter from somebody we got here the 22  
of October and I wrote to you the same week and sent the money  
for your things in the letter they costed five dollars and you  
have not answered the letter so we fear you have not got it  
I hope you will not fail to write as soon as you get the 10 if you  
are sick and can't write get some one to write for you so we can  
have how you are getting a boy I gave you a description of our travels  
and how we found when we got here in the other letter and I  
trust you got that so I will not write any thing about it. I  
John wrote to Emily and John Lyons on the way here and to Ann  
and John as soon as we got here I have writ to John Lyons and expect  
can't write and will write and James and Emily now about you think  
I received a line from some of you soon I am waiting to write to you  
Rebecca tell I have from you but I can't wait much longer we have  
written to all our children but now and my sisters I am going to  
write to them next and remember Lydia and answer her good letter  
for I will forget those that don't forget me she was very kind to do so  
much for us before we started she helped me here weeks before we left  
the rest I will tell you when you come







Salsbury August 25 1850

Dear children it is a long time since I have written to you but you are not long out of my mind this leaves us all well and in good spirits we received a letter from Harry Gale this week he says Mr Warner has seen you and we are very sorry to hear you are all sick this completely discouraged us of ever coming where you are John sent a letter and a dollar in money to Margaret and I sent Mother gales handkerchief Mrs race gave her done upon a letter from aunt Ann with some seeds in when you write tell me if you got them all I have been to the races and the Bulls this week it is the first visit I have made since we lived here they send their best wishes to you in this letter and so does Mrs Mc Elroy and Jane Jane lives on the mountain with Mr writes folks this summer she is home to day Caroline has been ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ever since the first of June she begins to set up some new old Mr wells is dead he and his son Silas was security for his son and he failed and they both lost their all and the old man could not bear it so he son left this world of trouble Calvin <sup>thinks</sup> little Lizz 27 years old was playing with the cart load the other day it fell on him and killed him in a minute he was their only son Abraham went the man that come with Abigail to our house dead last week Mrs Stebbins went to see her sister this week she did not expect to find a live I have not heard since P. J. has been and stayed a week with Emily she had the ague in her face and was quite unwell I have not heard from her since Henry has been home and stay a week you know Peter Strider has gone out and left Betty she has got a girl



two weeks old you know he owed John Lyons he sined over his  
rye and potatoes to him and someone pulled up <sup>the</sup> potatoes and he  
had trouble to keep the rye John & I went there in the night  
to let him know it was drawn in another mans barn but he  
folded it out quick & I cant write half what I want to tell  
you I have wrote to Longland and to Henry Gale this week and  
to your uncle Israel to day and I am in great stew for we  
expect to start for Wisconsin in about four weeks father got  
home from Pokepsie last wensday that was the first we  
knowed we was going we expected to come to you but now  
you must come to us he expects to go to Pokepsie the last  
of this week I & Tail is going to help us he says he  
will help us to money to get there and to help ourselves  
after we get there and when <sup>we</sup> find a place that suits us he  
will buy it for us and he says we can pay for it in a  
short time the rail says it is richly when you are and he  
thinks we can do better in Wisconsin Clapp Barlow and his  
wife are out father is going to see Pitts and he is to  
have a place ready for us when we come he will have  
the clapps out there are all rich and he will have  
them see we dont for any thing write us soon as you get this  
if you are able you better direct to James Silvernail and  
if we are not gone we can see it I will write us soon as we  
get there if we live to get there wife I will write where  
you will direct your letters then write quick Lydia has been  
sawing for us some she is coming again next week if we had no  
Lydia I never could never get ready to go she tends to me and  
P.D. tends to her Hannah is coming home this week I dont know  
whether a man is going with us he has not been home since we have

we ware going now either John is delighted with going  
he is join to take his dog with him & dont know when  
going he says when he was here last he could not go this fall  
he has bought his fathers <sup>place</sup> and cant get rid of it this fall  
to advantage John Lyons says he will wait for us to get a place  
for him: camp meeting begins two weeks from tomorrow on the  
old ground I expect to go to York State the middle of next  
month I have wrote aunt Anna Rebecca to met me to your  
aunt cats we are going to divide grandmothers clothes I have  
not heard from our downy in a long time if I dont get  
it before we go I expect to get the money of ~~me~~ the rail  
and give him power to collect it your aunt cats is going to see  
her farm at waco in october I dont know any particulars now  
Tuesday John Lyons is here to day he says he dont think you will  
ever see him in Michigan but he will come to Wisconsin and he  
thinks you will soon come there and so we think if it was not  
for hope the heart would break you must look on the  
bright <sup>side</sup> of the picture for I do I never turn the dark  
side and it kept my spirits up this summer Hannah come  
home last night George is going with us William is coming  
this fall or next spring George says gale carried his margin  
off in a balloo he knows your likeness and asked to  
see it often and I always show it and take a look myself  
I have got my carpet wore it is not home yet they  
say it is pretty I must close for want of time I would like  
to write more if I could I cant write again before we move  
then you can come and see us in a cabin excuse this  
short letter give my love to mother and the children  
this from your mother Hannah Shall farewell



father says if you think you will come he wants you to write as soon as you get this  
and you shall a horse on one of the farms and will find work for you nearby all  
the time there is 2 hundred and eighty acres of land in the two farms and he  
will count a great deal of beef there is eighty acres plowed ready to sow  
and as much more to be plowed and he intends to drive ahead to get rich  
but you won't be afraid to work with him if he is smart come and try  
him if you dare the schools are free here so we send all the children  
and you ought to be here to see them rig off in the morning I am glad when  
they are gone then george and I am alone all day and if you could be here when  
they are gone we could take some comfort if you are not well enough  
to write much just write and let us know whether you will come or  
he can know whether to keep the house for you if you come you can cut  
your hay this winter and burnel your pork and pitch it with you  
and be sure to move all your things for you can move chairs tables  
bedsteads and all such things without having if you are with them  
yourself I will now close wishing you good health and better luck than  
you have had remember me when you are far away this from your  
mother and friends the same as ever  
Stephen sends you a little love and is going to write her name  
to let you see how good he can write

J J to pg Stephen Wail Shaw

Stephen gin out so Harriah had to write his name

Dear & Prave Dec 29 1850

Dear children I take the first opportunity to answer your letter we  
received it yesterday and was very sorry to hear you was no better we  
was very glad to hear from you for it has been a long time since we  
heard from you and we hope you had got well this leaves us well  
we got a letter from Emily last week she says she has not heard from you  
since we led to Aunt I will write to her soon and let her know  
we got a letter from Aunt & Mrs. Smith's family and they were all well  
one two weeks ago they were well Aunt & Mrs. Smith has sold her farm in  
the town of Harriah she has sold all her stock and furniture she and her  
stepson lives alone this winter they talk of going to the Spring  
that has gone with a new shoe they had gone home Aunt Alice is to  
take Timothy she will stay there as long as she can this winter  
Aunt Mary's health is better than it was last summer she says you must  
write to her soon says her mother has got a nice new shell they had  
a letter from Aunt Debecca the week they wrote they are well and I  
been toquire Lindines sewing machine came there and stayed all night  
they talked about our coming out here and getting little george with us  
it gave her the heart-ache she had to go to bed she had been there  
before and wanted to get home but they would have been she had been to  
fillbill boarding and had to leave her trunk for pay some times she has two  
and three men she calls her name Mary Jane Livingston but enough of this  
you wanted to know how we liked it and how we thought we could do here  
we think we will like it well and we can do well it is better here  
there are a few poorer places in the low places where the rivers  
run slow and have dead water but they don't have any cases near  
us it is all very healthy here there are several of our old catches friends  
there they have never had the ague and we don't think we will tell mother  
one of Jackson's wings says to her he is a money lender he is very rich



I have written two letters to you before this and ~~think~~ you have got them but  
now you did not say anything about the money we sent you in the letter  
maybe you think we did not get as much for them as we might but if you  
had seen our things sold you would think they were well I wrote in my last  
what we expected to do then we expected to work our ~~clashes~~ farms but since  
then Cliska rail has traded away his store of goods for two farms and we expect  
to take them in ~~clashes~~ works his himself ~~cliska~~ is going home in the spring  
and wants us to have his places for he dont want to let a stranger have  
them when there are so few of there is two good houses barns and out buildings  
my rail gives every thing and we have half we raise and we think that  
is better than we have been used to they raise great crops here they say the  
crops has failed the last years they raised as much wheat as usual but  
they had long rains about harvest that hurt the wheat and it sells  
very low but there is a great deal of it the potatoes not very much  
now I will tell what father wants me to write he thinks you had  
better sell of your own cow and ~~hogs~~ and get the money and come  
here early as you can <sup>in the spring</sup> ~~the later~~ for it is no more likely you  
will be able to work next year than this and you can get work  
for yourself and the boys any winter year you can get as many farms  
to work as you want to and what good will your land do you then  
if you dont have health to work if you will come write as soon as you  
get this and let us know and you shall have a good house and will  
do the best we can for you now come to us and we will do you good  
before we left ~~salisbury~~ the neighbors all come to see us and some of your  
best friends there wanted we should use all our influence to get you away they  
say by the time you get over the ice your constitutions will be used up if you  
will accept this invitation and come but if you dont think best take this  
but say nothing about it to make bad feelings

George wanted we should write about the land and timber I dont see any rocks  
nor mountains there is wood enough for to burn but our land to clear in  
this neighborhood the wood is oak and walnut chiefly we expect to move  
the first of march about one mile then we will a little over 2 miles  
of the nosha but we will have horses and wagons and can go to church I am  
going to write to salisbury for a letter from the church here and  
take to the first congregational church in the nosha and if you come  
you better get a certificate and get it with you now I think you will  
come I want to write to Mr Sutton's good soon and have go to a great  
many letters the wife I wrote to Mr and Mrs Talbot last week to this make it  
over I have writ since we been here and am going to write to you soon  
as I get the done Emily says she would not give up the hope of coming next fall  
for all the farms between here and where she lives so you may think she has  
got her ideas up finely and father can try to get it about for him we think we  
will come in the spring and if you come I expect to see all of you together  
once more if we live and we will have a joyful time but if we cant  
see each other let us pray for each other there is so much noise here I am almost  
crazy and dont know what I write it cant go away from the store it is to cold  
it has been a fine fall and winter some cold days but not like like we have here <sup>the</sup> ~~in~~ ~~come~~  
I dont tell you all about backenack Mrs Patterson is dead she boarded with her sister  
Mrs Redie Stephen Connell has bought her farm Mrs Cope boards with Susan Vandone  
we seen Jerry Smith when we went to York State he is married and got a baby  
I have been very well ever since you left and am now as fat as a pig and can work  
like a horse of ~~an~~ ~~mind~~ ~~to~~ ~~write~~ ~~washed~~ ~~and~~ ~~for~~ ~~some~~ ~~time~~ ~~and~~ ~~last~~ ~~year~~ ~~he~~ ~~is~~ ~~in~~  
Kenosha this winter and I expect to do what want me to while they stay ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~place~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~place~~  
the week make father a shirt and some ~~the~~ ~~work~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~shirt~~ ~~is~~ ~~all~~ ~~done~~ ~~to~~  
school now wont you give me a credit mark John says if you cant find a name for the baby  
George Groat's best is mischievous but not as much trouble as he used to be you can be furnished with one



Wick April 20 1837.

Absent but not forgotten

Dear children you may think we have forgotten you but we think  
and talk of you a great deal and want to see you very much it is a long  
time since we have heard from you we are all well and hope you will  
write soon and be able to say you are enjoying good health you must write  
a long letter and let us know all your affairs and all your prospects and  
plans and what your prospects are for this year and now I will give  
a sketch of our affairs we moved on the hills farm the first of march and  
began farming again and we got along last month this month has been  
unpleasant stormy and cold we had a snow storm the 5 and 6 of the month  
there fell more snow than we had all the winter it blowed all in heaps  
but it is all gone now but it is quite cold for the time of year but we have  
got a great deal of green wood and are going to burn more we found our  
house very dirty but the weather was pleasant so we went to cleaning we  
whitewashed the parlor and pantry before we put any thing in them we  
have a south bedroom up stairs like we we had the parlors and much  
over we stand that for the boys we have two beds two chests two  
trunks and a lounge in it and a cloth room in each end and carpet on the floor  
the girls has a nice bed room and one for the little boys and I have one joining  
the kitchen in short we have every nice and handy and enough to do and  
enough to do it with and good health some have no reason to complain  
William and Gilbert is here they got here a week ago to day they was  
five days coming they did not bring much news William had the  
<sup>measles</sup> before they left and was quite sick but he is well now George did not  
know them when they first got George grows very fast and is full of  
mischief he wears the blue frock and blue uppers you <sup>made him</sup> get he has looked  
on my calico and got some pieces of your <sup>made him</sup> and that them in his  
trunk he says they <sup>are</sup> <sup>not</sup> cant margrets and he will keep them till  
she comes he talks a great deal about you but I dont think he would  
<sup>know</sup>  
you Emily and Almira's folks are well and Almira has got the nicest boy  
in the world so you cant begin where she left off ward straight is  
dead he died sudden liquor the cause Jonathan we real he lost his little girl  
their children has all been <sup>sick</sup> this winter with lung fever measles and <sup>cough</sup>  
there has been a great deal of sickness in Salisbury this winter Mr Stebbins  
has moved to wetting on Seavil's place he owns our old grey horse I am going  
to write to them soon I have written to them once since we've been here  
Dr Perry has left London and is playing gentleman in Marlborough Mr Bull has



has built a new house where David Funk used to live with Ann Ham is going to live  
in it and David is going to stay where we lived and keep the borders he  
done well last year he paid for a cow and money beside when his time  
was out Mr calender takes scovilles borders this year Mr Mc Elroy has  
sold his place and is going west his family stays in part of the  
house and he is going to travel and get a place he believes seeing before  
eyes we had a letter from Mr Reid last month with our church letter  
he writes his health is poor he had not been able to preach in four  
weeks William says he dont think he is any better for uncle Jonathan  
preaches in his place Mr Reid says he was threatened with consump-  
tion he said in his letter they had been made acquainted with  
your family sick and hard lucke last year and the church  
had resolved to make up something and send you and I hope  
they will for they are abundantly able I cant think of much  
more to write about Salisbury Elen Emeric is married Jane  
Married doty has moved back in Salisbury William see the young  
general the day before he started there is nothing strikingly new  
about him as he could see the boys says Shishegan looks to  
muddy for them we sent you a paper the other day with your cousin John  
Jones death in for I did not know then how soon I would write I knew  
the boys was coming and <sup>I did</sup> not want to write till they got here  
so I could let you all the news they fetched I am looking for a letter  
every day from pokepovic and Longland Aunt Prelecca has not since we  
here Egbert had a letter before he come she told him she would  
write to me soon we got a letter from Aunt ana and Sarah I  
the last of february this was all well then Aunt <sup>was</sup> stayed to pokepovic  
this winter but was going to stay with Aunt Katy last month but  
redy to move Aunt Katy is going to live in pokepovic this year in garden  
street she pays forty or forty five dollars rent I dont know why  
she does this month she cant have her house till next month Aunt  
anna wanted her to go to Long Island and visit with her she was going  
to get her money I dont know what your Aunt Katy will do now  
her main prosp she had left is now gone surely in the midst of life we are  
we in death I wrote to Uncle Timothy since we been moved Aunt Mary and the  
boys has wrote to us we have had a letter from Lieu & Co. Hicks he is in  
Louisiana we have had one from cousin Stephen I have them expect to  
come here next fall we are going to let the house stand empty

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we wanted you take for James and John in the fall for they  
are coming then and I want you to come soon we have five cows on the place  
three gives milk the rail is coming next month and maybe he will  
get more butter is eleven cents per pound eggs seven cents a dozen our folks all  
to some word or write a little and when I offer them the paper they  
think I can fill it myself and I mean to show my good will father says  
he has nothing particular to say but he often hurries me to write  
he wants to hear from you often Hannah is about the same old  
chip if she can get a novel to read she cant think of any thing else  
till it is thrown she has laid aside her nice old maidish tricks she has  
got a brood of chickens to see to and she feeds them eve other minute  
Rebecca has been so fat this winter she could hardly <sup>get</sup> and she eat  
all that came in her way but we all took cold when we moved  
and it seemd to take fair hold on her she is quite howe now but is much  
better and begins <sup>to</sup> eat and looks better she was in peacing calico for  
use she has finished my stand I had worked at so long and now  
she is at the quilt like I give you double blocks she has twenty  
six blocks done when she gets done she is going to piece up your  
grandmothers dresses in quilts I think will amove good so than any  
other way she had a new quilt peaced I have that and am  
going to join it with one of her dresses and when you come  
I know you will <sup>help</sup> me quilt them all but dont want to  
long for I am growing old and my teeth are falling out one of  
my front teeth come out this week and father is afraid I will  
be old and snappy so dont want till you and know your mother  
Stephen has went to school all winter and leard very fast  
he got three beautiful cards for being head in his class and he says  
if he could give one to anybody he would send one to you but he  
thinks he cant spare one but he will keep them till you come  
and show them to you he wonders if caroline has her cup yet  
it is milking time I must stop and finish another time  
Thursday morning now George this is a beautiful morning every thing  
seems happy and cheerfull it has been cold but now it is fine weather  
and we are all very busy the men with their plowing and sowing we are  
nearly done sowing wheat we sow about one hundred baskel we expect to  
sow and plant about two hundred acres in all father and John has  
hunted some they got two coons a great many squirrels four by prairie  
hens John shot one goose and one duck and the other brought a mink  
made us a visit he killed eleven hens father shot him under the barn



and caught two in the trap Elybert fetched two guns James has  
hunting with one of them to day now I hope you will write soon and  
the boys must write to tell them I am going to keep the girls till  
they come and they better hurry or they I may be to late for  
to tell you Elybert fetched two fiddles with him so we have music  
Mrs Margaret I will tell you what the girls are doing this pleasant  
day they are sweeping the yard and cleaning the flower beds and  
siding the sides of the walls and when they get them all done you  
may come and see if they look nice he fetched so many seeds with us  
but no plants I want yet a hedgehedge if I can find one I would  
write more but it takes me so long and James is waiting to go  
to the office you must kiss the little girls for me and the  
little boys tell Caroline I am saving her mittens for her and she must  
come and get them when you write give mother gale room to write  
a little for she never us writes one word to me since she left  
saturday till her sister and Mrs Stedmans was to emilies the night  
before the boys left and they as clever as ever and our boys  
one as noisy as ever and wish she would come and see  
us and see if we are clever emily wrote to aunt Ann  
you was getting smart and aunt Ann wanted me to write what  
you was getting smart about so you may write that  
yourself for you know best now I will stop be good  
children and do all the good you can and lay up  
treasure in heaven for where your treasure is your heart  
will be with it  
This from your mother Hannah  
Shall



Sonoma Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1854

Monday night I thought I would put up my letter last night and not fill my sheet  
 that did not get ready so I will write more I forgot tell you Jesse Clapp  
 was spending the winter in this place he was here in the spring went in  
 the summer and has now returned so we have heard from the old neighbor  
 you know Mary Townsend was married and is now dead I sent you the paper  
 with her death in San Francisco her sister wife is dead she died with brain fever  
 Sarah Wash-born had a son aged 13 run over with a roller and killed he was a  
 church member Gilbert Townsend health is poor they think he wont  
 live long Eliza Eliza Mitchel died with dysentery in September she had  
 her son to the last called her friend to her bed and gave them her dying  
 advice and left comforting satisfaction I cant think of more now  
 father says I must tell you about the stock we have 2 hundred and 50 sheep  
 14 horned cattle 4 horses and 74 hogs we have till a pig to day we have  
 4 hogs to kill and 7 to winter I thought the girls was coming this winter  
 and I would take pleasure in visiting them but fall came and disap-  
 pointed with it I am scolded often for not visiting my neighbors but society has little  
 charms for me except with those I love these strange faces twist my mind for  
 any I feel best home I have made I visit since I have been here now you think  
 homesick I dont think I be but I know you can sympathize with me you know  
 how I feel we are but pilgrims and strangers here we will soon go home to  
 rest and will no more have to bore the heat and burden of the day  
 it is getting late and I must stop if the clock did not tell me it was time  
 to go to bed I dont know but I would write all night for I almost think  
 I am talking with you think of me when it is well with you  
 except all our best wishes and write soon and often this from your  
 Mother Hannah Shaw  
 George says you are coming to see us next summer now dont forget it  
 for I shant fulfill the promise if you can

Dear children I have long been trying to get a chance  
 to write to you to hope we are all well you will think I  
 will have a great deal of news to write but I have not much  
 but will try to tell all I think will be interesting to you  
 you know has gone back east he went in September I had a letter  
 from him this week he wrote about all the old friends in Salinas  
 and I must tell you some of the particulars perhaps you have not heard  
 it all Lydia you know is married and is from Mrs. Stobiers has  
 had a daughter and lost it Jane Morrison now Mrs. Doty has a fine  
 boy six months old like Emma was married three weeks before  
 gets <sup>them</sup> he says she is an old maid yet and he dont say how long she  
 will be he says he has had the pleasure of waiting on her to a circus  
 they have <sup>Methodist</sup> preaching in Chaparral Mrs. David has gone to Scotland  
 for his health he is improving and is coming back soon Mrs. Elie  
 Neal has been very sick but is getting better Mrs. M. Wright has  
 been elected to the legislature and so has Mr. Charles Spurr our friends there  
 are all well I am the more particular to write what I hear from  
 the land of steady habits I think you will all be pleased to hear from  
 your native land James Silverman's business work kept him so late  
 he could not come this fall but says he is coming in the spring  
 John I dont say any thing about it so we dont think he will  
 come at all now I believe I have told you all on that subject  
 well now I will tell you about Gbort he started 2 week ago yesterday for San  
 with one of our neighbors a young man about his age they expect to  
 take up public land and put them up a house to live in this  
 winter and keep back about shall hunt and make a bundle he says  
 he would write in about four weeks and let us know how he  
 liked it cant you tell his prospects and he has gone 2 hundred and 50 miles



By this time you will want to know how things go on at home well we have no one but father and William to work now poor and little John is gone and father has been sick but has got well and we have had a very unpleasant fall work has been backward but they have got it nearly done now we have thrashed over six hundred bushels of wheat and have more to thrash it is worth 30 cents per bushel we have thrashed and sold our barley at 43 cents per bushel our oats is very good we have sold about 2 hundred bushel for 16 cents our corn is middling our potatoes voted early in the season but not all what we have keeps good we will have enough for use and sell I have no particular family news Hannah has been to the claps for some weeks while her girl went home visiting she has got home now she tried to get a place to learn a trade this but could not make it out she has made some cheer this fall they are very good you must come before they are gone and by them Rebecca is about the same old ship she has got a nice new shawl she is all the one of the family that has had any thing new since we have been here the rest has all learned to be saving I would like to write about William but don't know what to say he is about as he used to be but don't use quite as many big words but talks about girls and getting married as much as ever but there is no prospect of that we have sent you some calico Hannah & I and myself write in one paper father and Stephen in another I will put James in this if I can get in if not he and George will send in a paper soon and I want to know if you get all the James in the day he and Stephen is going to school this winter now George Stephen says I may tell you he did not find things as he expected and here is <sup>his</sup> reasons he did not think there was so much mud here he says if any thing once gets in this black mud it will never grow any more he used to get homesick but is now contented

the little George he has grown very much you would not know him he has never been so fat as he is now what do you think he is doing he is crying for a turpentine I have got behindhand with my writing so if I make this short I hope you will not scold me have had three letters this week one from John one from cousin Stephen that he expected to come here this fall but was disappointed he says he will come next fall we have a letter from Mrs. Phil and Eliza so you see it takes me a long time to answer all and get around and reply for a new story so I hope you won't wait for me but write often and I will answer as I can Lien Charles Hicks <sup>writes</sup> to me often I have two letters in a few weeks in the first he was about starting to come here to spend the winter in his net he was in New Orleans and is going to stay there this winter and coming in the spring he thinks he will send me the balance of himself and lady love so you see he thinks much of me we have had a letter from your aunt Anna and Rebecca and Ange line in September they were all to Long Island but have not heard from them since your aunt Mary and Sarah I write together long since I have not written but once to Joseph since spring and I am ashamed when I think of it but I have had so much to do this summer I could not find time to write you must let Mother get read with you give my love to her and the children tell her to write to me I meant to write to her and put up with this but fall short of time and I hope she will take the will take the will for the dead tell Alfred to keep the little basket he give me among my choice things in memory of him when I think of you all and how far we are apart and how much I want to see you and look at the waves of the lake between us I say to myself if I had wings I would fly and see you once more



It is now Monday night and father is going to town in the morning  
so I must close for this time you must write often for we are  
always glad to here from you Hannah is invited to go to  
Waukegan Independence she has got a new hat and this  
is a piece of her new dress this from your Mother

My love to all a kiss for the baby Hannah Shawe

James Wilson June 26 1855

Dear children it is a long time since I have written to you so it will  
be a treat to have a little of my scribbling I will begin by saying we  
are all well James it is lame with a bubble on his foot he has not done  
any thing in four days it has broke now and is better to day the rest is  
quite well my health is very good I have not been sick a day this summer  
and here the promise is good so your day is your strength shall be for we  
have a great deal of work to do and I have to work hard some weeks  
I don't sit down only to eat now we are making cheese and that makes Hannah  
work hard she has been three weeks making her a dress and it is not near  
done she has worked on it about one hour this week we shan't milk many sheep  
for I think it is more worth than to make butter we have ten cows Father  
says he won't keep so many another year he thinks sheep is as much profit and  
not so much work and I hope he will do so for I don't feel able to take  
care of so large a dairy I don't milk any the girls help milk and we do  
all the churning the men have not helped once this summer we have sheared  
the sheep and sold the wool for fifty cents per pound it come to four  
hundred and ninety nine dollars last year we sent it east and got forty cents  
we have a hundred and thirty yearling lambs and over a hundred this year they  
are half sure to you so we have quite a flock of sheep for you know we have  
half the stock we raise then we have 3 yearling yearling calves & two year  
old heifer that gives milk & two year old & the springs so if we go away  
another year we can stock a small farm ourselves we are not less than ten in  
family any this summer the week we have been having corn and have 90  
and if we did not have to have Dutchmen I would be glad but so it is  
we have sowed and planted a hundred and thirty acres of land this spring  
don't you think it will take a lot of Dutchmen to gather it and a pocket full  
of money to pay for it would believe I have told you all about the farm I know



The market I don't know much about butter is 14 cents eggs 9 grain I can't tell  
I make out a mixed up letter but I will try to tell you all I can James &  
works here all the time by the day he has a small piece of corn planted  
on shares Emily comes home as often as 3 or 4 times a week she makes most  
all our clothes for I don't have time to sew any John and Almira live  
in town or in the city I should say they are building a new harbor there  
John is to work on it Tommy is a fine boy they call the baby Lucy  
Amelia she is as fat as butter and as good as <sup>fat</sup> you don't be jealous  
for could I help loving them I have seen I know you will say they are not  
as nice and good as little Edward Mother Gale says he is one of the  
finest I grant it we often talk of seeing him dressed up in his best  
dandy suit and going with you to meeting well I am glad you think  
babies can go to church Mr Gridley our preacher and his wife have  
gone south for their health they expect to be gone a year he is horse  
in winter sometimes so he can't preach his wife is weakly the doctors  
think it will be good for them to go south so they have been gone a month  
but we have preaching every sabbath no girls want to see Edward very  
much they want to know which of your worsted dresses you made him a do  
of and what hat he wears and all about him you know Abraham Sutton  
and Hannah corresponds he says he is coming here this fall I have had  
several letters from Sarah Perkins she says Mr Sutton and his boy have <sup>received</sup> hope  
religion and they have a great revival there George Sutton died last week  
we have not heard from Cybert since we wrote to you last it is some time  
since we heard from John I am looking for a letter every day it is a long  
time since we had a letter from the east I presume you have heard from  
them since we have that is from our friends Annis Clapp is out here  
to her brothers I have been there to see her she is coming here before she goes  
home you may believe I had a great many questions to ask her the folks  
there are all well she did not tell any news Mary Townsend's husband is married

now you think we did not want to see your friend Mrs Saylor  
or I would have written before I have been trying ever since you wrote  
to find out and could not so this week I went to town and found out  
when she gets to New Buffalo or Chicago she must get ~~with~~ a lake  
ticket to Milwaukee and when she gets to Menasha she must  
show her ticket but <sup>not</sup> give it up then she can stop and stay as long  
as she chooses when she gets ready to go on she must show her ticket  
but she must be sure not to give it up till she gets Milwaukee  
and it won't cost any more than if she don't stop then she will  
have to hire a conveyance to come here if we know when she is  
coming we will meet her in town we will carry her to the best  
when she wants to go when she gets in town she had better come to  
Saylor's tavern that is half mile from us and they will tell her  
where we live Emily lives by the tavern we all want her to  
come very much it will cost about 1 dollar to come from Menasha  
here we think it will seem almost like seeing you to see somebody  
that sees you of ten I want her to be ready to answer a great many  
questions now why can't you come with her that would be best  
of all give my best wishes to Mother Gale and all the children  
be kind to her in sickness and health tell her I will write to her  
son Phoebe wants to know about the little basket Alfred gave me  
tell her I have picked it full of pretty little pebbles on the  
lake shore and kept it sitting on the table in the front  
room up stairs to look and she comes she may have them to play  
with your little son I am saving for Edward but the covered basket  
you wanted I left with Emily to fetch when she comes and it  
was with her things she lost she has never got any thing for them  
and I fear she never will I can't think of any thing more to write  
now maybe I will before I have a chance to write it



Monday morn it is a busy time and I don't get a chance to send my letter to the  
office so I will keep on writing till I do we have got our barley all in  
and tomorrow we will our wheat we are 12 in family and it keeps  
us busy 2 dutchmen & dutch boys to watch sheep and a girl to work  
that has to be told ten times before she knows one thing the men  
cant talk a word it is 10 days since they have been ~~in~~ in the  
land now if you have never had your patience tried take my  
place one week if that don't try you nothing went enough of  
I promised to write something about John he says he is burning coal  
and has no time to himself but sundays and nites and but little  
of that he has slept in a cabin all summer we think he is a lot  
the homesick he wrote to Emily to send him a bowl of soap in her  
next letter Mrs Clapp says she thinks he wants to eat some of his  
mother's victuals and you know he thinks his mother can make good <sup>ter</sup> but  
and when he is home he can sleep alone and have a clean towel  
every day if he wants it he says Mel has married "hard swif"  
daughter of Pema Jane tripp has got a baby married or not married <sup>nite</sup> good  
William is going to town so I stop and send this give my love to Mother  
Gale  
and all the rest

27th of July 1833  
Mrs. M. J. Clapp  
Lynn Mass

1833  
Somers Wisconsin July 31

Dear children we received your letter some days ago I was then writing to your  
aunt Caty or I would answered before I would not be in such a hurry to answer  
as it is but a short time since I have written to you where it not we want to  
know your reasons for the many questions you ask I shall be happy to answer  
them as far as is in my power but before I begin I will say we are well  
this is fathers birth day and it is a rainy day we could not go to  
church so I will have a good chance to write and as I will have to go  
to Father for answers for you I will begin with that first I shall not  
answer them in rotation as you ask them but you will not be particular  
first then you ask do we suffer from drought I say no and I will give you  
one proof last year was very dry so the potatoes were not wet in the hill  
after they were planted till they had their growth and we never had finer  
they got a good start before the dry wether we planted some seeds late in the garden  
there did not come rain enough after they were planted to wet them so they did  
not come up till the fall rains but every thing that got an early start  
come to maturity now the grain we sowed and planted forty nine bushels of wheat  
thirty of barley eighty one of oats a little over thirty acres of corn one acre of  
potatoes the prospect for crops this year are good for all but as an average  
in general wheat <sup>is the best</sup> we have never seed winter wheat it don't do as well  
on the prairie so near the lake as spring wheat father lays his crops 25  
bushels to the acre he says he don't lay it as high as other folks do perhaps it  
would be well for you to have the opinion of someone else they would give  
you a higher estimation the price of land varies from two dollars and half to three  
five the cost of breaking land is two dollars the acre and about seventy cents the  
rod to fence it we work three hundred and ninety seven acres of land we cant  
any price for produce this time of year for there is but little produce goes in market  
now we have eastern speculators when the time comes for grain to go in that will



not <sup>in</sup> two months by that time I will write again then I will give you  
the price the rail roads and canals are doing much for us in wisconsin it takes  
produce to New York so cheap and quick it makes produce high butter is worth  
11 cents eggs 8 we pack our butter and send it east we don't have much snow  
here the winters are about as long as they were east that is we fadder about  
as long we sometimes have frost late in the spring so as to hurt the fruit but not this  
year but none in the summer now the stock we have over four hundred sheep we  
raised last year and this two hundred and seventy half of them are ours last year we  
sent the wool east and got 40 cents per pound this year we sold it here for 50 cents  
we had one thousand pounds we have nine cows now we sold one last week & yearling  
2 springs 1 yoke of oxen 4 horses 1 two year old colt 2 springs colt they are the  
beauties of prairies 7 old hogs 12 pigs and more coming chickens turkeys and  
ducks without number now I will tell you how we work Mr Tail finds all  
we do all and have half but that is not the others do the <sup>work</sup> find all the  
team and two thirds of the seed and have two thirds. we will mow over 1 hundred  
acres of grass our grass is not heavy we have about 70 acres yet to mow ~~now~~  
father says if he could see you he could tell you all the whys and where  
fores but when he tells it and I write it it makes a difference so on the  
whole I think you had better come and see yourself and I presume you would say it does  
<sup>not</sup> answer the description but I for once have done my best so if you should ever find it  
otherwise you will pardon the writer I presume you know Egbert has got home  
he has been back a month and Almira told me she was writing to you the  
first week he come home he did not make much in Iowa but he says he  
would have done well if he had not been sick he was six months so he could  
not work and <sup>no</sup> home and but little money no wonder he come home poor but  
he likes the country well he says it is better back from the river but he  
had to stay where he could get the most to do and get his pay when he could  
work he says it is increasing in population very fast he says Lansing <sup>was</sup> nothing  
when he went there now it is a great place of business he did not <sup>think</sup> any place

could improve so much in so short a time he thinks he will go back but  
can't tell when he stays with John Lyons they work out together wages is good  
here now some has a dollar and some 50 shillings a day Rebecca Lane lives with  
Almira she did not get her school she passed examination well and got  
a certifiact and had a school engaged but somehow they thought they  
would do without a school so they did not come after her and schoolhouse  
was shut the last I heard she expects to go to school this fall in town to the free  
school so she will teach next winter if she don't slip up again we keep a girl  
this summer she is awful dutch but is pretty smart at every thing she knows how  
it is more trouble for me to have help than to do my work myself if I could  
do it all but what can't be cured must be endured. we have a fine growing  
summer not to wet nor dry not hot nor cold we had 2 weeks very hot in June  
since then the wether has been just rite for every thing we have got our barley  
all gathered the wheat will soon do to begin don't you wish you was here to  
help us I do for I hate duted help we have none now but a by to watch sheep  
and a girl but will have to have more soon James Silvernail works for us  
all the time by the day then we have another man by the day Emily get  
a letter from John B yesterday I don't know what he wrote but will before I  
finish if there is any news I will tell you you will think by the prices  
of eggs and butter this not the place for you but there is some thing to be considered  
eggs don't hardly pay for shipping and all the good butter makes pack them and  
ship in the fall we have been offered a shilling for all we make but we want  
at that do you see the butter that goes in market thro the summer is made  
by the dutch and Irish and that accounts for much I can't think of any more now  
Monday nite Grace Clapp has been here this afternoon and Almira's wife <sup>Ann</sup>  
has been here 2 months she is going home next week she says the folks in York  
well and all old fashion Phoe Tail is married 4 weeks ago to Charles Elmore  
Mr Tail's sister Levi Vincent's wife died 2 weeks before Phoe was married so  
they did not have any wedding if I don't this to the office tomorrow I will write more



Somers, Wis. Nov. 12 1854

Dear children I now seem to be under the necessity of writing again which note last I thought your father would see with you by this time but he has not been able to do so and now he has a hard cold and don't think he will be able to come if he does he will start a week from tomorrow he wants you to get ready and come without him you must write us soon as you get this and tell us what you intend to do about it if you have not money enough to get here with if you come and to come say when you will start and he will meet you in Chicago you say what house you will meet him or at the depo he will have a house for you to live in this winter and if you want to work land he will get a farm for you or if you want to hire out he will give you one hundred and fifty dollars for a year and you live where John does John and Elyert has taken a farm together on the lake shore 4 miles below Kenosha this works Elyas Peeres farm John Bryons works the Helbrook farm alone so you see we shant no one home but James and Stephen and we would like to have you very much if you want to work out and then I want one of the girls to work for me your aunt Ann and me are alone Hannah has gone to sea with Caroline Bennett you dont know how much comfort we take even has been to Emils and stayed two weeks it is an unpleasant day and snow and rains Wisconsin fashion but we have had a beautiful fall we would like to have you to hold Thanksgiving with us for the children all talk of coming home and we will have to get something for them to eat I have no news to write for I note lately we are all well except colds aunt Ann is fatiguing she has got a double sin and she thinks it is very nice to play with she can work and walk like a horse and we dont mean to let her go back to Long Island very soon she has pulled her last tooth since she has been here and looks all the better for it she looks younger and better than when we lived to Comiectent John talks of naming his boy Walter P. he thinks it is a pretty name and he thinks



his old friend worthy of a namesake. Georgie likes his new home very  
much but says he would like to come back here so he could live with  
Stephen Anne is a smart woman and seems to make a good mother  
for the little boy. Mories family are well I think she gets along better  
than when she had a larger family and more help. Tell Alfred  
we have not got that letter from him yet and I wish he would  
hurry up or we shall get out of patience and if the next don't  
come we will look for him in the spring we think you will all  
come so don't disappoint us you will write us soon as you get this  
and tell us how soon you will be here won't you. Father says  
he can't consent for you to stay there for he thinks you can  
do so much better here besides it is more healthy we have no new  
inducements for you know all I can't think of any more to write  
but will stop for this time my love to all your family Mother  
Hannah Shall



Seneca Wisconsin Feb 10 1854

Thursday Night

Margret has condescended to read a few lines of your letter to me and I find you want me to write as soon as I get my stockings darned I won't wait for John has broke my darning needle mending harness so you see I have no excuse and now to begin I like your plans about coming here much but she has writen to you last week and I fear she has hinted about going back for she wont tell any thing now let us read her letters we are all well pleased with your plan of moving your whole family Luther says he thinks it will be the you can do and he will do all he can for you and I think if your friends come with you it will soon seem like home to you here now you know it wont be like <sup>me</sup> to say you dont like Michigan for I know you do and that is right then you must say I love my children and how can I give up the loved one and dear little Eddie never to see them again then come and let us live and die together for how long have I to live that I should think of seeing you all again if we part this spring this day says I am fit by three and soon I must go the way of all the earth now dont think I wonder you want to stay with good folks for I know you do but cant you do good here then come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty come and do us good you know I dont have much time to write and I want to rite a little to your mother and Edward wont be short you cant think how Edward has grown and how smart he is his cheeks is very red and then he is so cursing has grandpa says if his mother goes off she cant take him with her

Margret could not wait for me to finish my letter so I will send this in her next now dont forget we want you here and you know all about us so you cant be deceived so good night the Lord bless you and yours

Flannan Shalle



To my ever dear friend Mrs Gale it is not because I have not thought of  
you that I have written to you but I knew Margaret could move  
than I could and she wrote often so you hear from us often and I  
have little time write but for once I will put a few lines  
in her letter to tell you how much we want her to stay  
and how much we want you to come with George in the  
Spring we think George would be well pleased with wisdom  
if had not formed to good an opinion of it before he saw  
it and I know he can't but like it if he could spend one  
summer here we have a cold winter with considerable snow  
and very little snowing and no rain I don't think it has rained  
since George left I hope by the time you get this you will make  
up your minds to come here for we can't think of giving up  
Margret and little Edward for he is a lovely little bird  
so if you will all come here we can all be together and can get enough  
to eat and wear and what can we ask more for we brought nothing nothing  
with us and we can take nothing with us so having food and raiment  
let us there with us content you live with good folks and have good  
meetings you can't think of leaving them maybe you will find some good  
folks here and I want you to come and try them I hope I will try to  
write to you again without waiting so long times I want to know where  
to direct letters to Presert now I want to write a little to Edward and  
I must improve my paper for I am writing with Margaret and want it to  
pat to much in one letter I hope you will write soon and say you are  
coming but remember whenever you my best wishes will ever attend you  
~~Yours~~  
Love Alfred I don't know as you will think it looks well for old  
Ladies to write to young boys beside you are a grammarian I hardly dare  
attempt it but excuse all these things in an old friend now don't think  
there is no girls in Wisconsin that John we nt east to get him a wife  
neither do I wish to be understood there is none in Michigan that I ask you  
to come here for I presume there better ones there than here that you may judge  
when you come and see for yourself for we expect you <sup>very soon</sup> this Spring and the  
girls are all setting their caps for you my sheet is full and I must stop your friend



Amherst this Thursday night Oct 24 1839

We received your long expected letter last night was very glad  
to hear from you & w. I must answer directly for you will want to  
know what to depend upon and I will tell you before I finish I have  
not talked the matter over with Mr. Reed & told the letter to him he  
must think and while he is thinking I will write you if we  
will then to begin we are well very well and are cleaning house  
we will finish it tomorrow want Mrs. Reed gone to Emily's country  
they was here yesterday she went home with them it is the first  
she has been there she has had all the work she has wanted since  
she has been here she has been making a suit for Egbert he  
is fixing himself very smart he got a fine black coat when they  
was married since then he has got 2 pair of pants one fine the other  
common I fine shirts iron boots he said when they married he would  
show in two weeks he keeps it 2 weeks yet the time just as far  
off but he has got back up his girl yet Hannah wife Sarah  
has got a boy she is smart Mr. Stebbins is going to work his <sup>own</sup> <sup>silver</sup>  
farm they move next week it is in Plainfield 4 miles from James  
to she and Emily can visit Mr and Mrs Reed has been east Mr  
and Mrs Stebbins kept house for them they was gone five  
weeks her mother did it well before they got there with discomfy  
she did not know it till she got there they bought a farm there and  
will move back some time or other Amanda called here to write  
they are well Mrs Gile sends her love to you she wants to see  
Chloe Amans wife has got a baby Peter Clapp and wife has been here  
Mrs Hall sends her compliments to you she says it is to bad  
you did not stay here till Alfred I am very sorry I forgot to  
ask him to write and ask him now to write often you can't think  
how much we miss him he was such a good boy or man



you ask how we like the babies name we think you would not believe  
it we like it much now dont ask me to love her as well as I do  
like for I dont want to tell Sarah the same for I never want to see  
another as well as I love him and I am so sorry he is not well take  
your care of him and of him both teach him with his prayers how  
much his Grand Mother loves him O if I had him here now how I would  
love and kiss him but we shall meet again give my love to the girls  
all them I hope you and say all will more here yet and  
talk all summer of visiting to you but could not get time now  
she has got a bad one shurely cant it as a new way and I promise  
I will like it but it out like John and Lucy Green and are fine  
children Williams & boys are here visiting near George want to come  
often and it is hard for them to start for home when his card is out  
he likes his new home much but his old more in town than has some will  
I will stop and finish in tomorrow good night. To day morning  
Mr George I will tell you what father says but it is privacy so cant tell me  
if he could write what is my advantage he says you may look for him out  
there in two weeks if nothing happens to hinder and he wants you to be ready  
to move back with him he will have a place to put some of your family  
for the winter and he will buy you 40 acres of land with  
upon there is plenty of wood if you want it there the particulars  
he will tell you when he comes he thinks you can do better than  
where you are he says tell George John Lyons Egbert and James  
have made money this year James has paid for his wagon and even  
and has something left to live on this winter he thinks if they can  
make money you can for you can work as well and live as cheap  
now you dont want me to tell you I am pleased with his plans if  
he can only make them work well now dont disappoint me for I will  
in certainties but dare not tell of it further dont mean to tell of it till  
he starts nor tell his horse till he gets back now if you should  
happen to call some evening you would find me drinking Hamish shall I  
Pookings as usual kiss the babies for me yours truly



we think that you had to go again till spring father is not  
smart he cant <sup>write</sup> but a little while before he tried out the rest and will invent  
but since she is sick she cant talk and she dont have skills and then  
now they are so gins he is trying to get them a house I dont know <sup>whether</sup>  
will come this winter he was sick in winter and cant work some more  
sheer work I dont think she will stay very long with us if she  
look as bad as she did last fall I dont see so come it if she likes to  
for in has not had time to go and look at her claim yet it is now monday  
night my has moved to day in with little john they had more room for them than  
we had it has been a stormy day rain and snow so they wont go to the city  
till fair weather they is coming here to finish her letter if she gets time if  
she dont I will Hannah has gone to bed with tooth ache Gilbert is making  
candles to sell James has a hole on the inside of his eye lid it has broke today and  
is betterd and so glad Gilbert did not sell his table we eat on a board laid on  
chairs till john come here then we used his table till they want any more we  
have samsons so we are provided for we lookd some for george upon with our  
picks we heard he was coming out here to take up land all that mean to  
come the sooner the better for timber is scarce and getting not coming in to take  
what there is if you ever come and come in the fall start as soon as the 20  
of september so you get a a stopping place before it gets so cold for they get  
I have so much to say that I cant write I wish I could come and see you but you  
know that cant be and when I think of my friends east that I shall not see  
in this world it is more than I can bare to think of but so it must be and I  
must submit give my best wishes to our friends in Wisconsin tell Mrs. Ann and Betty  
how I want to see them I want to write to them and meet to before now  
we would wonder if you wote if you could see what chance I have I will  
stop and finish to morrow it is now wensday night I oblect tomorrow we  
are going to the city it dont storm again to hinder it is clear now  
the ground is covered with snow Gilbert has been bying a lot of corn  
today it stands on the hill in the lot now they will have to draw it  
home stalks and all and husk it it is late so I must cut my letter  
short my has not come to finish her part the snow hindered her  
so you will excuse her

Nebraska Dec 4 - 1857

Dear sister and Brother

I now sit down to let you know that we have  
got to our journey end we got to Wino the 17 of  
November he lives 8 miles from the city we stayed  
till saturday we got hear the next monday we are going  
to live with John B this winter we are going to live  
on the big creek the next live on the branches Eagle  
and ours is on about 2 miles from fathers the last  
week that we traveled we had aw full weather cant  
tell you any news for we have not bin here long  
enough to know how it looks up the rapier John and  
I has bin over to John B I want like it here  
much John likes it here first rate we went in  
the woods and picked all the grapes we could eat  
there is lots of wild sprout if I cannot write much  
this time when I write again I am going to send  
you a diary of our journey I want you to  
compare it with Hannah and see what a diferant  
roast we took from the rest My  
we have not any fireplace in our house father being sick put us out  
of gear John put up his store here till we get one I expect to have  
one when they get home from town now I must stop dont forget  
to kiss the babes twice round for me tell them not to forget their  
Grang mother and father my best wishes to all tell them to be a good  
girl  
from your Mother Hannah thanx for the presents



I expect that we have got a letter in the office from you but dont know when we shall get it I have got some particular news to tell you next time that I write  
Your Loving  
Hans

Dear children I thought it would be better to write a letter for all the rest now and said the cause of any thing to write it is a very small piece of paper but a chance to see it in the office we think there must be letters for us we run a little house for colored people wanted we should take his letters out of the office and keep them for him till he can come for them to and Leonard we say we have not heard from you since they went away but look for them soon I think your friends would not be here first if they had a house to live in this winter by and by the weather is pleasant now and John is going to work at his house this week if the winter keeps mild they will soon get a house but if it gets cold they may not in at all spring John has got half of the silverware for part of his stock the price one year of his own so he had more than he wanted the ground is now bare so the stock gets their living nearly we had snow so we had to go last month some our boys went to Alaska city when we thought they would meet the boys but did not guess right they got home Sunday night and John got to the city Tuesday they stayed to the shore 4 days they had snow and unpleasant weather the 2 last weeks they traveled we did not know whether they had starved we could not hear any thing about them but you may be where I did not sleep very sound when it was very windy & stormy we could not talk about any thing but when we wanted all have to tell over day when they were father thought when the weather got bad it John had started he would stop in June and winter and go back in the spring the show come with them it was ten o'clock we was all to bed it did not take us long to get up John's folks was all here yet their house was not done the boys went at it and got his house so they went in last week you was here over 3 months so you all thank and I have had our hands full father and John expect to start for the city Saturday it takes most a week to go and now the days short and some but I guess to cross



he thinks George and Margaret will come and live on it he says  
there is land enough for them both on his claim and George may  
have half if he will come for he don't like to live as he has done  
this summer now you see by my writing we are all in good health  
now I wonder if you think we wish we were back in Missouri again  
well we don't father says it makes him feel independent if he can  
a stick of wood to go and cut it not have to ask if the way and when  
he says he will not take less than a thousand dollars for it now  
coming if you could have seen us Independence you would pity us we  
were all so homesick they made us believe if we would go to the blue  
river we would be well suited that is 20 miles south west from where we  
are now well when we got there we found it very dry the wagons  
cracked up and father was not well enough to look around the boys did not  
like it so they did not look round much our teams beat out we  
didn't set down and stayed for a dinner after dinner well stayed their  
one day then came back here John B and Ann He was not willing to go  
any farther than here when we went out but the rest thought best  
to go so we did and I am glad for think they are better satisfied I  
have not seen father so happy in a great while as he is now he works  
very hard and all things goes nice and smooth I thought I would  
write a very short letter when I began I have not written to Margaret  
yet I don't this time but as you wanted to know some thing I let her write  
longer I don't forget father want you to get ready as soon as you can he then  
if you can get ready before your note is due and can sell it and not make  
sacrifice if had letter for the cover you will come the better it will be for  
you he has made a claim and good one for you it is thought there will be  
a rush here this fall so he may not hold it he has marked it and laid a fence  
from Hannock and James I have claims with formations on them I can't say  
more now I don't father wants you to try to get a few barrels of wild turkeys  
if you get this time enough if it will but a few some moccasins and some fine  
cat tobacco my Sarah want to be let that little coffee mill John says  
don't forget his soap dish for wall ball whenever I will write to her next time  
from your parents I don't know what chance

Nebraska Territory August 1857  
Dear Children we have just received your letter  
of Aug 9. also one from Margaret one from George one from George's  
and glad we was to hear from you all and you request I will answer  
the you may not get this before you start I hardly know what to  
write for we have just written a long letter to you our post office  
is so far of we can't send very often but don't miss a chance we are  
very sorry to hear you have had sickness in your family how would  
you feel if you lived like we do out doors or like poor Sarah with  
her little turned boy she has a bed under a bush house when it is hot  
and when it is cool in the waggon John has been very down hearted  
sometimes he got a long to sleep it was hot and dry in July and the  
grass was drying up so the men there it was best to get their horses  
let their houses go till haying was done well we got poor enough  
then it began to be rainy and snowing so we had some hay spoiled  
but now the grass is growing finely and we have concluded to put up  
our houses and then finish haying James Silverman has got his new  
drive of any he has his legs most laid up we have not got all our legs  
dressed out yet father takes a great deal of pains with the more  
than the rest they think they will have frame rails by and by we  
will make ours as good as we can for we don't expect to pull down the  
scanty barns and build some large and new only think of living  
in a little log cabin but if you had been in the territory as  
long as I have and not seen a house in 2 months a log house would  
look like a palace to you I have not slept in a house but 3 nights  
since we started from home 2 of terror was on the floor now don't  
wonder we live as hunters and write for we set up stakes in our tent  
and live comfortable when it is good weather and when it rains we  
put up and keep us and if we can and if it rains in the night why we



