

we had had a letter from James and Emily last Tuesday and answered it the same day  
heard John D talks of going to California they would know the same week  
they write to us that was the 8 of Feb if they dont go James and Emma are coming  
here but I dont know what little Johnny will do their letter says Mr Stebbins  
is quite unwell I thought it would not write till I knew whether they were coming  
Father has engaged a farm for them till we get word from them and  
there are so many going to the land of gold that half the farms are to  
put out and dont you think Father gets the fever sometimes he says he  
will go next spring if he is well then he says if he can make one hundred  
dollars clear the coming year he wont go at all but he cant make me  
believe he will ever for you know he thinks nobody can make his land  
as good as it can and now George I want to know what you think of the  
digings do you think you will go if you make up your mind to go  
want you to fetch or send Margaret to stay with me and as I have once  
had the care of her I think you will not be afraid to trust her in  
my care again it is some time since you wanted them rail answer  
some questions but he can scarcely answer any as to the axe and hammer  
they are about the same and we live on the prairie where woods not very  
plenty he thinks we can do without the log sweetmeats and as folks  
look about as they did east he will be like other men he says you  
know it was raining and windy so long last spring every thing stuck fast  
so he dont know what it might do if it got a good start if any  
of his things should get started he will let you know he goes to  
school and learns fast James said we had 2 hundred sheep put <sup>up</sup> to  
it then you will have it write and I think he is mistaken about say  
I could write much more but shall have to cut short I am going to write  
to John I and mine next they have not write to us since last spring they  
would put a fine in sight as long as he stayed home but I write to them  
as often as their turn comes Gilbert Mails his letters at Lansing Iowa  
he has write once to us since he went away this calls is like georgys does

Dear sister Margaret we received your letter on the 18 of this  
month and was glad to hear from you we are enjoying good health  
we have had fine weather all this month till yesterday and to day we  
have some snow to lay I go to school every day I sipher in  
compound multiplication but can sipher in fractions a consid-  
derable I went to school with Mr Bennetts boys yesterday and  
liked it very much it is a new school house and is a nice one to  
well now I will tel you about things in general we had a calf  
but killed it yester day if he had lived till tomorrow he would  
have been one week old we have a shepherd dog 6 months  
old and can send him after anything as far as he can see and  
he would be glad to see you if he had heard of you he is always  
glad to see my baby he knows everything we say to him if you wish  
to him as if you speak loud I would like to be with you in  
winter to shoot some of the deer for you I guess if I should  
come there with the old Shortong iron you would not see  
one deer left in the course of one winter George says I must tel you  
that he has a sore to and he is one of the worst boys out of jail  
and I guess he is a match for him he knows his a b and c and  
in his words of three ~~letters~~ letters he talks a great deal about  
his uncle fell that is Williams brother in law he has a married  
sister he lives out west 20 miles and has a good farm and comes  
in here to market or else to racine after dinner we had a letter  
from Aunt Ann she has been sick this winter but is better now  
and another from Jim and Emily and they are coming out here  
this if he does not go to California but she is going to if he does

unt back has her quilt peast and is ~~just~~ joining it and would like  
to have you come and help her quilt it we have a lamb about three weeks old  
unt back slipped up and sprain her ankle bad she had last monday and  
don't get well yet ~~not~~ now I guess I have writen enough for  
this time so I will close by sending you my best respects and  
will write soon.

*How long ago was my first year*

*How long ago was my first year*

Margret Agale  
but remain your brother  
James I Shaw  
where the boys will go  
and the girls do as they can  
and we will settle on the banks of the pleasant river  
ever grand

Now I will write a ~~lot~~ little to george you want to now  
about raising grain we can plough from two to four  
acres a day and when it comes on harvest two men  
and four horses can reap from twelve to eight teen  
acres a day and we dont have to peek away an old stump  
sand stones ether wheat is fetching fifty cents in rasine  
oats nine teen cents in rasine things fetch a enough more  
there than in kenosha to pay for taking them these  
hogs fetch five dollars a ~~hundred~~ hundred there if they weigh  
three hundred but if they dont weigh quite so much  
they dont fetch so much beef is worth four dollars  
a and quarter they are barreling meat in rasine and are ~~sending~~  
going to send it off when the boats starts I want you to  
write next time how much grain is worth among you  
and much pork and beef is worth and what land is worth  
and how many hogs you got how many cattel and  
how much hay is worth and what grain is worth

now I will tell you about things here hay is not worth  
much for ~~the~~ there is a great deal it can be bought for one  
dollar a ton we have fourteen heads of cattel six hogs  
and four horses and one colt one year old next spring  
and about two hundred sheep now I have wrote al I  
believe and nother wants to write some so I will  
by sending you my love  
but remain your brother James I Shaw  
dearest to James I Shaw to his brother

James has wrote so much I dont know where nor how to begin but when I get  
going I guess I will find enough to write in the first place father has a large  
pile on his arm and it makes him most sick the rest are well Rebecca &  
anole is so she can walk on her feet it was bad first and its swollen yet  
we dont know what we are going to do for help next summer William  
will stay with us if the gold price dont get high enough to carry him  
to california we want to get a man to live in our house if we can and  
work for father thinks he could get along with one good hand and then  
till harvest he is going to sow and plant a good deal and James will  
do as much as any dutchman he can see for you see we consider him one  
of the b boys I expect the girls will stay home next summer if Hannah  
dont go to a trade she says she will if she can get a place she says if she  
gets a trade and can earn money enough she is coming to Michigan  
do you will have to wait with patience for her if she dont see she  
will stay home and make ches Rebecca wants to go to school see  
months then she thinks she can teach she will have to improve in  
writing if she does she can read good and can do all she wants I think if  
she could have a chance for grammar and writing she could teach a <sup>school</sup> common  
then you wonder what I will do for help if they pay me I will be ~~don't~~

I have written to you in my last letter  
 from the north of the river in my  
 letter to you from the north of the river  
 in my last letter to you from the north of the river

The same time Mitchell had possession of the telegraph and road  
 road east to Richmond and got the dispatch and sent it on  
 to Jeff and told him to hurry with and send the reinforcements  
 and all the artillery especially heavy siege guns as quick as  
 possible and Jeff was just good enough to send him 1000 men  
 and 100 pieces of heavy artillery and lots of other supplies so  
 much that it took 20 engines to haul them and as fast as  
 they came Mitchell took them and they are now in the  
 Union service all but the men and they are prisoners made  
 is not that a good joke on some body they will say  
 that is a regular gopher trick. The weather is very warm but  
 rains a great deal more than is pleasant the trees are quite green  
 now as much as in a month later than this it  
 is a backward spring here for this part of the country. We and  
 Willie are both well. We is better than he has been since he  
 has been in the service and seems to like it better he don't seem to  
 mind to worry him as he did when his family was a long I was  
 very glad when I heard that they had got home safe. We have  
 not been paid since we left Georgetown and I don't care if  
 we are not paid until we are discharged and then we will  
 have enough to do some good and a fellow as will spend it  
 if it is for it with him and as it is best to wait until  
 we can get some things that will do us some good with  
 it. I believe that there is nothing more to write now  
 and I am going to write to Jim & Co. in a few days. no more  
 news but remain your brother  
 John S. Shaw

I am sorry to hear that you are  
 that part of the country for me to  
 to more when I can see R. J. How to  
 you & Co.

Camp near Pittsburg Ten Apr  
 D. 61

Dear Prather and Sister

as I was going to write a few lines to Abner I thought I would  
 write a little to you and send it at the same  
 time if I had written last. We got a letter  
 from Abner yesterday and I got one from Maria  
 at the same time and heard by her that you  
 were all well when she heard from you last  
 all which news I was very glad to hear. I wrote to  
 Joe & Mary at a few days ago and gave them all  
 the news of importance that I knew of and I  
 expect that you will all see it. I have no doubt  
 but what you feel anxious when you hear of a  
 little in this part of the country until you  
 hear from me but there is no prospect of my  
 more here I don't think for the enemy is leaving  
 his position and going farther south and the farther  
 he goes the worse he is off for his men are now  
 starving down at Corinth and that is the reason  
 he is leaving. deserters come in every day I came  
 in yesterday and the day before a Col came in and  
 gave himself up and said their work was hopeless  
 that they had not 3 days full rations in the  
 army unless Bonners had a lot that the men would

and small creek. The best of my feeling is that we  
think about home and that we are  
disappointed and were down yesterday and gone home but  
they made a bold strike on the 6th but it did not  
win they had seen us that night that they wanted  
for only eight days and told them if they wished us in  
this is fight that the independence of the Confederacy  
would be acknowledged at once and they agreed to pay  
them \$50 for the eight days at that it was a great  
temptation and it threw lots of men but they have  
left them now and they have only 40,000 men out  
at Corinth now when they had 100,000 before the fight  
when the fight began we had only 60,000 men here and  
now we have 150,000 on the ground ready to try  
them another lick but they will get a little farther  
toward the Gulf before they make another stand and  
by that time we will have another army at M.C.  
and another at Mobile and Gen. Mitchell is to the east  
of there and Pope is coming down the Mississippi  
with his men and I think that they are nearly  
caged and can't fight on 4 different sides at once if  
they are frustrated. The general belief is that we will  
not have another fight in this department at all and  
not annoying when I hope it will be so far  
I never want to see another such a day as the  
6th of this month was here and it was the same  
then two days all over the seat of war it seemed

as if they were set apart for fighting  
all over the country this was the largest and hardest  
fight that was ever in this country you can't imagine  
anything about a battle but just imagine a line 5 miles  
long and artillery infantry & cavalry fighting the whole length  
for 10 hours as hard as men ever fought and you can then  
get some things of the war and hear that we here  
on the 7th it was the hardest one that day the enemy got  
the best of our men on Sunday until nearly dark and  
then our men began to get it back until it was too dark  
to fight we got on the field after dark and took our  
position and our whole line was up and pitched into  
them at 5 in the morning and drove them all day  
until nearly night and then they ran and threw away  
everything and took care of themselves the best they could it  
is all times here so our cavalry could not follow as  
well as they would at his side but they got a good  
many as ever a lot of men did they want force it down  
either but they think it that will all be over at the  
head they could lick all the Yankees in this part of the  
country in a short time they begin to think that there  
is a considerable chivalry in the Yankees after all. I wrote  
to Gen. Gale about a good joke on Beauregard but had not heard the  
best of it then so I will tell it you well after we lick it  
him he sent a dispatch to Jeff Davis that he had been  
whipped and must have reinforcements at once and at

it was my carelessness and I  
did not think of it until  
I looked at the hearing of this  
and then I thought not a fool  
I had been. So if you hear any  
body say any thing about it  
you will know how it is. it is  
a good joke on somebody. I am  
real glad that you have all  
got ~~so~~ much losses for you  
will be so sweet. I hope that George  
will be awake next time you  
write so he can put in a line  
or two. I have a book to send to  
Stephen but will keep it till Clint  
goes and send it with him.  
This is not much of a letter  
but will do for this time. for  
you know yours was a short  
one. So by sending you much  
love I will close. From your  
brother James  
To: George and Helen

Trouton Mo.  
Nov. ~~1st~~ 60  
My Dear Sister Helen.

I would  
say Brother George to if he was not  
asleep on the floor. I received  
a letter which you said was from  
you so I suppose it was but if you  
had not said so it would have  
puzzled me to find out who it  
was from. So I am glad you told  
me so I won't write to the wrong  
person when I answer it. I got a  
letter from Beck yesterday to  
so I have all the latest news from  
all my friends. and have lots of  
letters to write to day and I have  
already written one but I guess I won't  
tell you what it is to. Now just as I  
have got started to writing dinner is ready and  
we have sweet potatoes to do I have got to

quite long enough to eat some of them. After Dinner. Now I feel good. and will try and finish my letter. you see we have had a short march since I wrote last for we marched down here from Sulphur Springs to guard a train of wagons. We and Willis got there the day before we started away in time to come along. We got a letter from Anna yesterday and I suppose I shall have to answer it for him before long. I am real glad that you done well while you were at the city. I suppose you are at home before this time (and I wish I was.) you need have no fears of our getting in a fight in this part of the country for I dont believe there is a rebel within 1 hundred miles of here if there is they dare not

do as a few weeks ago there was some talk of having a fight in this part of the country but there is no hopes of it now. it is about 13 months since we left here last year (or at least we left Pilot Knob. 2 miles from here) and now we find our selves back at the same old place again but I dont know if we shall stay long or not. I should like to be stationed here this winter and there is some talk that we shall stay. you will be by looking at the date of this that I made a mistake in the month and that is not the worst of it for I think I made the same mistake in another this morning and did not rectify it but sent it off in the mail. I guess the person that gets it will think I am a fool to think I dont know the month. but I did know it but

Please don't make fun of my  
awful scribbling. for some of the boys  
and the Aunt have been telling stories  
and having fun. but so that my  
mind has not been ~~at~~ my work.  
Aunty James

Julesburg, C. T.  
Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 66

My Dear Nellie

Your kind and  
welcome letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> was received this  
morning; I was glad to hear from you  
again, and to hear that you was well.

I think that you are lucky to have  
a good chance to go to school and I hope  
you will go all the time and learn all  
you can.

You want to know what to write  
but I am sure I cannot tell you what  
to write. but you must write just what  
you think will be interesting to me or whom  
you may be writing to. but you must  
not jump from one subject to another so  
much, when you commence writing about  
one thing you must say all you have  
~~to~~ to say before you commence about  
another thing. but you will soon learn

all that without my ~~writing~~ telling it to you,  
I think that you will soon learn to write as  
good a letter as my badge. I did not know as  
much trouble reading your letter as you thought  
I would. and I could read Charles nearly as  
good as print. in fact I can read nearly all  
kinds of scribbles and so you must not think  
that I am bragging on your writing for it does  
not prove that writing is fine because I can  
read it.

I was sorry to hear that your Father had  
a lame back again, for I know that he suffers  
much with it, I hope he is better before this.

I don't understand what you mean  
about that Aunt Maggie you write about,  
if you have one in St Louis I will go  
for her if you wish me to. I hope you  
will get such an Aunt if you think it  
would be so nice. and I will surely  
do all I can for you. You had ought  
to have got your Uncle Alfred to Mary a  
girl by that name if you want an Aunt  
by that name so bad. I don't know how  
you can walk it to get one now.

You can tell your Mama that  
I will answer the part of the letter in  
a short time and I will write to  
Charles to. I write to you first as you  
wrote the longest letter of any.

I expect to be down there in  
the Spring but you need not look  
for me until I come and then  
you will not be disappointed.

I don't know as you can read this  
letter for I have not taken as much pains  
with it as I might. but if you cannot  
read it you can get your Mama to read  
it for you. if I had taken more pains  
in my writing you will soon be joining  
me fits about my saying so much about  
yours. probably you may think that I  
cannot do better.

I shall have to leave for I must  
to take a ~~snack~~ do under such pressing  
~~circumstances~~ circumstances you must please excuse  
me. Give my love to your Papa, Mama and the  
children, and keep a heap yourself.

Remain your affectionate Uncle, James



Pull Creek D. T.  
April 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

My Dear Rose

I received your kind  
and welcome letter several days ago, but as  
I answered yours just the time before I thought  
I would write to your Mama and Charlie just  
this time. This is April 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday  
at that I suppose you are all at Meeting by  
this time but I have to excuse you from  
meeting as sleeping Sunday for we have no  
Meetings in this country. I have not been  
to Meeting since I was in Arkansas two  
years ago, but I am going to go some day  
when I get out of the Army again.

I am glad you are going to School all  
the time and I hope you will learn fast  
and I think you will for all Good Kids learn  
fast and I know you are good. I want  
you to be a School Master when you get to  
be a man like your Aunt Carrie.

I suppose you want to know what we  
do in the place to pass away our time well  
we talk Hunt and Sleep, there are plenty of  
Fish here you kill all you want, and there is  
plenty of Antelope but we are all to lay to Hunt

them as they are very wild. We all sleep  
as much as possible that is the best way  
we can find of passing away the time. We got  
our Mail twice a week and have plenty to  
do then writing letters for a while. The last  
Mail I got 6 letters & papers and one Book  
so you see I have had plenty to do since  
that reading and writing. The Mail will  
come again to day and then I suppose I  
shall have some letters again at least I  
hope so for I have consumed all that I got  
the last time.

I expect to be down home in a  
little over a month as we shall surely  
get out next month, I think; But you  
need not be looking for me until  
I come as it is uncertain when I shall  
be there. I suppose your great Beech will  
be gone before I get there but I can go &  
I'll be sure to see her this summer.

You must excuse me for this short letter  
for I have nothing at all to write about. but  
maybe I will write a longer letter the next time.

Hoping this will find you well I need not  
I shall hear from you again soon. I remain  
Yours Affectionately  
Uncle

James

Pole Creek, I. T.  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1866

Dear Mother

I suppose that you are looking for me down there by this time instead of a letter from me, but you need not look for me until I come. I did think that I should be at home before this time and save me the trouble of writing so many letters, but now I have made up my mind that there is no use putting about it at all, and shall try and make myself comfortable until Uncle Sam gets down with me and sends me home. We expect to be returned in a very few days and start down to the River, but I don't know how it will be. There are plenty of Regulars up this way now, there is about Two Thousand at Julesburg, we expect to be relieved by a goodly number. All of our Regt is waiting at Kearney for Companies C and H. to come down to start for Omaha. So that I suppose as soon as we can get off from up here we shall go up to the River. We have been having lots of Indians

have for the last two weeks. the whole  
subject of Indians are in at present  
now to make a Treaty. The Commissioners  
passed up this week. I think that every  
thing will be paid up satisfactory to all  
parties: ~~Oh~~ The Indians appear to be very  
friendly at least all that has been heard  
I think they all are. They are all very poor  
now as they have not had any  
chance to hunt or trap much for  
the last two years. I don't know  
as I shall hardly be able to get down  
by the 4th of July but I may and will  
if I can. I don't want to spend another  
winter in this part of the country but may  
have to. I am writing Margaret a letter  
tell her I will write it down. but will  
wait a few days as it is not worthwhile  
to write to all of you at once.  
Has Belle your name she has not  
written to me but twice since she came  
to N.Y. and I hope she will soon go home  
so that she can find time to write.  
Give my love to all and tell  
them all to write soon as it will be too  
late. Hoping this will find you well  
I remain your ever  
James I. Shaw

Onaka Wis

July 11<sup>th</sup> 1869

Dear Brother & Sister

I dont know but you think we are dead or have forgotten you entirely as it has been so long since we wrote to you but it is not the case only laziness thats all. And ever now I have no news to write nothing but hard times everything is awfully dull in Onaka this summer and money scarce.

I suppose you folks all getting ready to gather a bountifull harvest this

year and it is about  
time to begin. I don't  
suppose I shall do any  
harvesting this year but I  
wish I had some of  
my own to gather but if  
nothing happens we expect to  
be on the Mts. next  
harvest anyway even if we  
don't have more of our own  
to gather. I don't like this  
living in town it don't  
suit me at all and it  
is a poor place to get a  
start now as times are  
so dull this season.

We have not heard from  
any of the folks in our  
a month but I suppose  
it is because I have been  
so negligent about writing  
as ~~Q~~ we owe Maria Hoss  
and Becca each a letter

but yours was the  
oldest debt - and so I  
thought I would corner  
at you and go round.  
I hope you will write  
as soon as you get this  
as we want to hear from  
you awfully bad; let us  
know all the news  
all about what is going  
on in the neighborhood.  
We may possibly come down  
this fall if we don't we  
shall in the spring, will see  
how things prosper with  
us here.

Give our love to all  
the folks.

Hoping this find you all  
well we remain your  
affectionate Brothers & Sisters

James & Jennie

but their insinuation  
any of them the fellows  
that want them are trying  
to win the good graces of the  
Col by writing lies about  
the regts he issued an order  
yesterday against any officer  
mischiving with Noncommissioned  
officers or private, and for the  
rest to play cards or drink  
with them he said it was  
a disgrace for them to do it  
now don't you think that  
is piling on the style pretty  
thick? I think it is especially  
in the Volunteer Service and  
especially where nearly every  
company that is now in the  
regt has had a Noncommissioned  
officer himself within a year

but that is his style and  
I don't think it will  
last long and if the men  
mean half they say and  
I believe they do he will  
stand a good chance to  
die for his country if  
we should be so lucky  
as to get into another fight  
You must excuse this poor  
letter for I don't feel a bit  
like writing today. Tell  
John that I got his letter  
yesterday and will answer  
it in a day or two I have  
to write to Dick before we can  
leave for I have been lazy about  
writing lately. I will write  
you as soon as I have a chance  
and make up for this  
poor letter. Be sure to

write every opportunity.  
Give our love to all  
and especially to Father and  
Mother and send a  
large portion for your relief  
don't forget to write as often  
as possible to James



Leona March 27-76

W. C. Brown Esq.  
Beatrix K. C.

Dr. Sir - yours of 23 inst. is recd. and contents noted; you seem to be surprised that I wrote a short note of encouragement to the Publishers of the "Courier", in their fight for Greenbacks. Now I think there is no occasion for surprise in that. But you say that I set you down as favoring the Resumption act. Now it is my turn to be surprised. If you read my note you must see that I did not intimate to you any line of policy whatever I merely said that I knew which side of the question you would take if any.

~~But~~ I did know best of all which side you would take ~~best~~ ~~fact~~ when you sneered at the Ohio "pig baby", and since that whenever you have had a chance you get any thing into your paper in favor of hard money you have done so.

I had some talk with you the last time I was in town on this subject but could not get you to say that you were in favor of a greenback currency although I should

Much have liked to have been assured  
of your advocacy of that policy.

Since that time I do not recollect  
that you have written <sup>or published</sup> any thing that could  
be construed into such assurance.

I think you have placed yourself  
in a fuller position on this subject but I  
have not placed you there and no one  
would be more pleased than myself to see  
you take a stand on this question on the  
side of the producing class and against  
the money lenders and monopolists.

So far as the west is concerned  
the financial question will be the leading  
question in our national campaign this  
year and if our party leaders do not  
recognize that fact and ~~make~~ act in  
conformity to wishes of the people the people  
will reject them. And although I should  
be sorry to work for any cause outside of  
the Republican party I should much  
rather work with some other organization  
than than to be robbed and reduced to  
beggary by my friends &