

July the 9th 1850

Dear sister I am at to day and pretty well at present
and I hope this will find you the same Emily
and James, ^{and} Egbert is home the rest of the folks
~~had~~ an invitation but Almira and John could not
come John B got home about 3 weeks ago Mother said
that you had an invitation as well as the others I
wish you and Almira was here and these our number
would be completed we have been a fishing to day
Father Egbert and James Silverman has been fishing this
afternoon. Mother said that I must tell you the reason
why she had not ^{wrote} was because had no news to tell
and it costs you so much for postage that she thought
she would not write until she heard from that dowsy.
Father thinks he will buy that \$1,000 farm out there
next fall ~~some~~ Lem Parlow has been here and
he thinks he and his friends will help him to
get it. Now I will begin I made a cheese this morning
before I came away from Mr Smiths and then he
fetches me as far as the pond our folks was fishing
and I waved my handkerchief and they ^{came} ashore
for me. When Father and I went to carry Aunt
Ann home I got me a new dress I got another
to Joies I have got me a new bonnet that cost 3,04
and a ^{mull} dress 20^{cts} per yd a ~~skull~~ shall for 2,25 I
will send you a piece of my ^{mull} dress I have got ^{new} a pair of shoes and
stockings a new apron and a pair of gloves I shall not write any
thing more not until I begin to fix to come to Michigan
Sunday morning July the 7th Independence is over and I have got
back to Mr Smiths I came ~~back~~ Friday morning. I received your
letter June the 24 I was glad to hear from you glad to hear that you
was all well I did not know as you was ever going to write to me
I suppose you had so many letters to ^{write} that you could ~~not~~ ^{not} get
time but I heard from you often you cannot think how much I
miss you when I go home I dont see how you get along for you
cant see one of us but you must live on hopes for I am a

coming next September if I can raise money enough to carry
me. tell George that I have not got a bear but I expect one every
day I dont know as I shall get there early enough to go a buying ~~and~~
I got one Dollar per week I have been here 11 weeks I like the folks first
rate Mr Smul's was married last December he has got 2 boys
and one little girl tell Caroline that I have got the pretti-
est little kitten that she ever saw it is yellow with a white
face and feet I am going to fetch it to crisk with me. John and Emma
was up 4 weeks ago they brought my shawl and stoped for me and
I went home with them the next day we went to Emely's and
sayed there a little while and took Tea from there we came to
Mrs Winterses it was Sunday night they calculate to go to
Norfolk but it raine so John fetched me to Mr Smiths
he went back there and stayed all night. Caroline Mrs Ebrog
is very sick with the ^{typhus} fever Lydia and I watched with her
last Sunday night. I have got a novel to read it is The wiles of
Giberia I cant think of any thing more to write now I will
stop a little while for I dont believe you can read what I have
wrote my pen is not good Tuesday night I have thought of somethng
more to write, ^{old} Mr Wells died last Friday night he cant
his uncle about a week before he died but I suppose his
troubles was the cause of his death he and Silass signed
a note for Moses and Miles Wells they failed and ruined the old man
and Silass the first that he ~~had~~ heard any thing about it he
was going to Mill his horses and wagon was attached and taken
away from him he had to go home on foot he said he could pay
his own debts in an hour ~~then~~ ^{his} things were all sold at an
auction only what the law would allow him Mr Hall owned
Emely's things that she carryed there so they could not sell
them Mr Wells said he did not care so much in his own account
but he felt sorry for his wife he said when he married her
he thought he was worth \$10000 I dont feel sorry for her
at all for she would not married him if he had been a
poor man she married him for his money and not for his
love I show you see what money will do good tonight

Now it is Sunday morning again 14 of July
I have had a large hole on the back of my hand so I could
not finish this letter I forgot to tell you how I got my
dresses made I have to write just as I can think of it
the one I got to Poughkeepsie Lydia made she made it
plain waist and put a fold on it the other cakes one I made
and it sets like a pin my new one I had made. When you
write I want you to tell me all you know and a little more
I want you to tell me what you had to eat and drink
and wear out there so that I may know what I
have got to come to Mother and John and Stephen
went to Norfolk 2 weeks ago yesterday and stayed all
night with Almira came back on Sunday they said
they was getting along first rate Egbert was
there he and John eat $\frac{1}{2}$ of a bushel of Strawburys
Egbert give Mother the privilage of picking her
wash tub full in their meadow but she thought it
was a great way ~~from~~ home to carry a wash tub
full of Strawburys. When our folks heard you had
been killing a porcupine Father said you had been
working at your trade this letter is so full of
nonsense that I will pay the postage I cant write
any more for I dont know what to write tell
George that the next time he writes I want him
to write a little more you must write often
and write ^{every} thing you can think of like I
have this is write just as I should talk if I
should see you it is all mixed up together no more
at presant but remain your affectionate
Sister Hannah Shaw

this is a family letter

give my love to Mother and the children

and tell them I have not forgot them

Betsy Thork ~~has been to Ben Dols~~
and Pile Snyder the little gentleman has run
away in consequence John Shaw and John Lyon
knows where he is John had a letter from
Troy I suppose it was from him

Mannah

Write soon and fill the
sheet full

Pleasant Prairie Dec 29th 1850

Dear sister

We received your letter yesterday we was very glad to hear from you father had been to the Post Office every day In hope of getting a letter from you we have not ~~had~~ had a letter from any of ~~our~~ folks but Emily and Lydia but we are expecting one very soon from John Lysons I suppose you have heard that they had a nice little red headed boy Emily says they are very proud of it and she would be if she had as pretty a one. our folk are all well and as fat as hogs. Beek is so fat that she cant hardly carry her self to school but we all go and Stephen learns fast I and Beek went out last night and John thinks it a terrible thing because we had a bear to come home with us father has mad great reckoning of having you come out here next summer if you cant live there you had better come here to the land where milk and honey flows Wisconsin you can sell ~~the~~ ^{off} your things and pack up and all come for 20 or 30 dollars and you had better and leave the fever and ague ~~the~~ ^{and} Mr Parkers ^{house} logs to take care of it self father wished you here the other morning to eat break fast with us not doubting but that you had something as good as we had but he thought you would

relish it better to eat with him once more
we live in a brick house and live ^{about} like old times

had beef steak for breakfast this mornung
mother will tell you all about our farming
next year Beck says she has not got any thing to
send to you I would like to send you and all the
rest something to remember me by but I hope you
wont forget me if I dont send you any thing but
I must finde something to send I never herde
wether you got my letter last summer or not
I made a wooden boy 2 weeks ago now Stephen has
got it playing school with he plays school all the
time when he is home and when he is to school he
tends to his books all the time. Mother is writing
father has just got up from his nap and
Beck is combing her hair. I have been a look for
something to send you but I could not finde any
thing that I could send in a letter with a piece of
my new dress the light gingham is mine the
other two are ^{like} Emilys she has been to hudson
since we came away from there and I got
enough like the calico for a dress and two aprons
for 4 cts per yd it was evnt every yard the reason
it come so cheap I gave 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per yd for ipine I got
it to Canian I must close by sending you all my
love when you write again the girls must write something
to me in your letter Stephen sends you this book
Uncle Symons sarah gave it to me and I gave it to him to
send to you give my love to George your sister H H Shaw

Friday Morning Somack from your unprofitable

Mother H. Shallu

~~Dear Mother~~ Sunday afternoon we all enjoy good health and have
enough to do the girls think they have written all but I can think of more
than I have room for father has been out to look at the wheat he finds
it some, blighted as well as our neighbors he has enough sowed for two
hundred, looks as if it come in good and he is up to his eyes in work
now George if you and Margaret will come and help us get our
harvest we will be very glad and make a good ^{visit} in the time you
can visit rainy weather and make hay when the sun shines and
I will give Margaret a new scissors for her good company you then
if the children comes here this fall they should come and see you on
this way it will cost them more that comes than by the lake
and beside they must stay with their things and keep them safe
we dont think John and Elvira will come at all Egbert has
written to them he is coming back and if he goes back they wont
come we have not heard from Emily since she was first sick
I will write to her the first chance it with my friends would also
write often for I cant get time so dont wait but write soon and
often I had a letter from E. M. Hicks a few weeks ago he wanted me
to let him know where he should direct letters to you and he would
write to you you may write to him yourself direct to Baton Rouge Louisiana
I have written to Mr Suttons folks last winter but have not heard a word from
them I will send you a piece of my dress I got with in Salisbury with ray
and am saving it for you to come and make it and I want you to come
soon I will send it in a newspaper we have not got your paper yet but
I will put a piece of my gingham by it made me in this letter I will ever
remember her kindness and pray she may have a good reward my sheet is
full and it have just begun look always on the bright side for we will meet
again pray that I may have grace to keep above the world and not make it my idol

Somers July 20 1851

Dear Sister and Brother

It is Sunday morning and
Father and Mother has gone to meeting William Egbert
and John has gone to look at our other garden and the
other three boys are at home I and Rebecca and
the two boys are going to Sunday school and meeting
to the school house this afternoon I will now
tell you about things at home we are all well
side dinner we have been building a new oven
and pantry mother white wash it yesterday
the Carpenters are going to make the shelves and
put them ~~in~~ tomorrow we milk 9 cows
and churn every day now I must stop to get
dinner and get ready to go to meeting. I suppose
you see the name of this Town is changed from Pike
to Somers. Now it is Monday afternoon 3 O'clock
we have got done washing. I want to tell you a little
about our house the old pantry was in the kitchen
and ~~Mr~~ Mr Nail had it tore out and a
new one built out west of the ^{kitchen} house the wall
in the kitchen was broke so we did not
whitewash it last spring we shall get all cleaned
this week we have got one stove in the shanty and
do our work there our kitchen is carpeted we have
got a table that 12 persons can eat on we have

There was a beautiful piece of poetry in our paper on the Death of Mr Tompkins we will send it to you if you wish it

from 11 to 15 ^{in family} folks ~~father~~ father give
John 10 dollars for 2 months our grain looks very
fine the barley will do to cut the last of this week
the wheat is up to a mans shoulder, but the
corn is rather backward I suppose you know that
cousin Seymour Offices and Mary Jane Tompkins
Plat and Symon Vaid is dead and Aunt Sney
monfort is dead and Julia Jane Ostrom is
married to Sam God (old straw breeches)
Mr J M Bail has been here to stay a couple of
weeks with us Susan Leonard Vaid is married
to a minister I suppose you have heard from
Emily since she had a daughter and lost it
mother has a letter from Lydia 2 weeks she
she said Emily was smart and had rode out
old Mrs Furb was sick and Mrs Rael had a
daughter I am going to learn a trade I have
applied to a miliner and dress maker in
town and shal know this week we have
got a couple of young carpenters to work
on the new barn and I am just getting
around one of them. Now it is Sunday morning
again I went to town Thursday and got your
letter it is not because we have been sick that we
have not wrote but we have had sommuch to do
mother is going to write H Shaw

Somers July 20th 1851

Dear sister and Brother

I reckon you think I
have forgotten you but I have not, I have not
had time to write before for else I am too
lazy, last winter I went to school, but it
is so far I cannot go this summer, I have to
work very hard now for we have carpenters here,
we have got a new cistern that holds ²² ~~27~~ ¹¹ ~~16~~ ²¹ ~~26~~ ¹¹ ~~16~~
and a new oven that holds 12 tins and a large
pan try they are now making a barn, I went
to Benosha last Friday and got me a
bonnet and dress, gloves and shoes, Hannah got a
glove and shoes I'll put a piece of my dress
this blue one is mine, grey ham is one that
Lydia made for another there I have got two
shannah one and another one, James and stephen
goes to Sunday school, George says I must tell
annet Margaret that he is a naughty boy but
it is no such a thing I think he is very good.
now I will tell you about my flowers I have
a great many violets, pink, sweet williams,
poppies, ^{large} red roses, musk roses, & widows tears
and rockets grow wild here it is about time for me to
fix the boys for meeting, ~~for meeting~~ I expect
to get a fella to come home with me
Beche

At Johns falls read this if you have a chance for do you believe in
and how did you like it we want to know any thing

1851 July 11
Nebraska Territory Saturday
Mother and I tell you of how good the land is and how
good the water is the good looking man at the office
and to see how long it will take to get to the
land to see how long it will take to get to the
land to see how long it will take to get to the

Dear Brother and Sister

Here we are at last (after a long and
tiresome journey) living in the tent half of the roof and both ends
of it was over it makes us quite a house we are not going
to build until we get our plant all done You will
see by my diary when we got here and all about it dont
know how we shall like it here yet Father has got ten or twelve
acres of good timber on his claim they have all got some
Mr Shaw has the most on his of any it is very dry dont
know whether it is always so or not there is a blacksmith
living 2 1/2 miles from here come here in April the
boys say he has as nice corn and potatoes as they ever
saw for the time of year so they think the land is pro-
ductive we have a spring of very cold water as cold as russia in this
and a clear running stream near the tent but a steep bank to
fetch it up the men are all plowing digging and planting
Mother has grown very poor she weighed 140 before we began to get
to more when we got to Iowa City 128 St Louis 124 Ark City
120 she could not have traveled much further we all feel real weak

you see how the land is good
how the water is good
how the timber is good
how the boys are good
how the men are good
how the mother is good
how the father is good
how the land is good
how the water is good
how the timber is good
how the boys are good
how the men are good
how the mother is good
how the father is good

lots of letters and I have not had time to write you
I have been very quiet till the week before last as I have
not had much to write I have not had time to write you
I have been very quiet till the week before last as I have
not had much to write I have not had time to write you

as soon as we begin to work I can't write half what I want to say letters will
be so large we are so far from Post office and so uncertain about sending that we
cant write as often as we would like one teams come out first rate most of them
look better than when we started tell John Lyons not to move until
he comes and looks first it was not right not to have Egbert come
I knew it all the time we want him here now the worst way to help
about erecting our dwellings we have two beds put up in the tent and a box
for a cupboard two chairs with a board a top for a table it is not much trouble
to get victuals things are so handy it seems like making playhouses
if Mary was here how she could help me I have got to be quite handy
about cooking and baking by a fire I have been washing calico clothes
this morning and when my breakfast gets light I am going to Emma to
take it she lives quarter of a mile from here I knit mine
crochet collars coming out here and sold 7 of them for
four dollars and a half would have sold the other two if I had them
done when I was at the city you must write as soon as you get
this you dont know how we want to hear Eddie must write too you
know he can make some letters I dont know but all by this time
we want to know about Charley's health I cant write half what I
want to say love to Phoebe and all the rest Peck is going to write to Dora

and the other from Robert I will not write any thing more
now Mother will print in a little
Your Affectionate

Father walks with a cane and has ever since we started
only when he is at work he has worked very hard this
summer. Dear children if I don't write a little you
will think I have forgotten you but if you knew how many things
I have to hinder me you would not expect me to write much and now having
as written all there is to write I have had a hard summer not so much to
do but no place to live and nothing to do with only think it is almost 5 months
since I have slept in a house this can't last night in our new house it is not
done yet the dogs are here and we think it will be pretty nice when it is done
I don't know it is 12 by 16 feet there is a lot of Indians camped near us they
are out on a mount we saw some of them pass here on their horses yesterday
they had horses and mules they rode on Elk about 2 miles from here this
week as large as an ox I have seen one the other day near her place but we saw
not shot any yet but have found a number of their horns George says
he saw a letter for us in the office did he have it removed we think it is
from John Duce or Charles Lee we would like to have you see if there comes
any more here for us and have them removed and sent to us I have not
seen James and if they don't get the letter before they start you may get it
give my love to all and kiss all the babies for me as you go to church
and how do you all like the new house my love to the boys and family
but are well
to write to her and she must answer it it is sitting and and I am tired and I will
stop for now but know as you can read this with love from your mother Hannah Place

Sept the 2nd 1857

We are in at City John Stephen Duce and myself
Bill is sick and is going home with us I will send you
a piece of my new dress that I have just bought - an ill thing
I have not seen a woman except our own since the
2nd of June. Love

Sept the 20th 1857

Dear Sister and Brother
I received your letter the 27 of Aug
and I will assure you it was joyfully received and read one from
them also we feasted over them it seemed such a long long
time to wait but you stole my thing just as I wanted you
to I want to see you all so much but I don't care about take
ing the journey over again we have answered John Lyons
letter but don't know as they will get it before they start
would have sent one sooner if we had got a chance I have just
got a letter from Caroline she has father has sold his property in this
I have intent to christen baby but have got no answer We have
written a great many letters since we have been here Father
has been quite sick and is not well yet but is much better
he got caught out in a hard shower two weeks ago last Friday
and he had been at work very hard and was seventy when
he got wet we think hard work and exposure brought on
his sickness James had a boil on his hand at the time
and could not work and Father was trying so hard to get
up his house don't you think that we are out stores get but
enough to move in our house the last of this week John
is helping James with it's Father is so that he can get
around and see to it now he has not been to bed today
now I will tell you about the rest of the kids perhaps you
by a letter that I wrote to Mary that Walter has been very
badly burned by falling backwards into a kettle of boiling

why (for Sarah has been making chuse) and a very serious affair it was for they were so frightened that they did nothing for him only pull of his clothes until they sent down here and get Mother she went there twice a day for two weeks to dress his sores that was 6 weeks ago and since that time he has suffered a great deal altho' he has done as well as we could expect he just begins to walk around he has gained very much about walking for the last few days but he is quite weak he does not complain of his ~~sores~~ ^{sores} now they are nearly well he can soon wear pants again. About three weeks ago Sarah was taken sick and Mother or I had to be there almost all of the time so that had there been a woman here it is much easier for us she is not sick a bed but not able to do her work we have all that we can do you must know we do, it is so unhandy living in a tent and taking care of sick folks. Wednesday the 23rd

Mom has got home he has been at work 7 miles this side of the City he is going to move his family out there he is helping the boys finish the house so that they can move him John is going and in too. I have got 6 buckles collars to sell and want to buy me a new pair of shoes and a new dress we think now that we shall go Saturday Bill Silverman is at work in the City. Em is living in her new house as nice and snug as you please George you wanted to know about the Elk I suppose there is some here but they are pretty scarce now. Ann saw one dip by her house one week ago but Sunday as big as an Indian pony there are Deer and Antelope for we have had some ~~water~~

green beans and plenty of radishes and are going to have turnips but dont think much of garden trash will get ripe the grass hoppers destroyed almost all that we planted we have got 30 chickens Father has been picking some plums today to dry we have had ripe plums four weeks and the largest and best ones that I ever saw how I wish that you had some of them Father says it beats all water how thick they ~~will~~ be. Walter is talking and asking so many questions that I can't think what to write he says his mother calls him a checker box O dear I have got so much to write and so little time to write it

Friday Evening Sep 25th Tonight To-night we are going to sleep in our new house for the first time we have been at work very hard to day to get our things moved in and I feel so very happy to think that we have got a roof over our heads again I hope that I may always go to be as happy but not always so tired as I am to-night. Father is quite smart he has been at work some to-day we are going to the City tomorrow our folks are going to work in hay now Father has had considerable hay stored he built a long stack and it wet in we hope that the best won't bring any open expecting to sell they are very cheap Father has got some that he would like to sell it was Father that lost the ox coming out here and not Bill as you wrote to Alf. We got two letters for Alf the last time that we sent to the office he wont get them until he gets home again one of them we think is from you

Oley Co Aug the 17th 1858.

My Dear George

I hope you will not think you are forgotten all this long time for I assure you you are not I have reciev'd two letters from you since I have written one the 19th of Feb and the other the 7 of march And as I did not get them until about the first of April I thought it would be useless for me to write as you would probably start for Ark before they reached you Since then I have heard by my sisters letter that you are not coming this spring

We are very anxious to hear from you to know the reason and when you are coming Our folks have been swing a claim for you and are going to try to keep it until you come but dont

know as they can

When you write we want to know how Mrs. Wetters is getting along and if they stay on the farm another year. Margaret writes that your health has not been very good this spring which was sad news to us take good care of your health. I think the lake winds there must be very bad for you. But keep up good courage and remember there is one who sympathizes with you every affliction. One who hopes to be worthy the love you bear her.

Do not dear George delay writing as I have done. You may direct to New City N. Y. as our boys are going out there plowing and we shall have chances to send them oftener than we shall to Tecumseh. I have received six letters from you and James has two. I have no news to write. We are all enjoying

good health. Our men folks have been very busy breaking land and planting grain. We have had a very early and pleasant spring. I have been out to my brother Williams six weeks got home last Thursday.

I will now close my letter by wishing to be remembered to Mrs. Wetters folks and my love to all friends. Excuse this short letter. You know I am no letter writer overlook all mistakes for the sake of you.

Faithfull and Loving Son

Hope the sweet birds while that the air can fit
Let earth be ice the soul hath summer still

James says that you must come as soon as possible if you want a good claim near here he would write if he had time. Ever yours

Hannah Shaw

Dear Margaret I sit down to write a few lines to you you must not expect to hear much this time for it is I believe at night and we have got to get up early tomorrow morning we are going to wash bake and churn and have Sheep Shears tomorrow so you see we shall not have time to snooze in the morning I want to write a great deal oftener than I do but I don't get time Do you know that John Lyons has gone East and that we expect that he will bring Aunt Ann home with him well it so very word of it and I hope we have a good time I how I wish that you could be here I expect you have looked for my likeness before this well I have got 13 shillings to have it taken with you will see it before long I should hope Eddie will remember me until it gets there did he love his gran ma Bale and does he he miss her I had hoped to see that good old woman once more uncle Tom has been very sick so that he was not expected to live but we have had a letter from Aunt Mary about 2 weeks ago then he was

Somers May 11th

I have been invited to a picnic out by John Phillips own
 family shall go now
 whether we shall go now
 I have been invited to a picnic out by John Phillips own
 family shall go now
 whether we shall go now

Dark days are coming the weather is but I
 please to leave off the work much this is
 I wish he could sleep on my arm to night
 how happy we would be I say we because I
 think he loves me yet it will be a dark
 day when he forgets to love his annett
 I have

I shall time I will write to him
 won't be glad
 I have got ready to get to bed but I forgot
 to tell you that Charles Browns wife has
 got a boy I wonder if she had one of those
 convenient satchels like you bought then
 you know what I mean then

I had time it is the picture bought with back
 which thought that Eddie is like the every one
 I had sent this piece of the

take good care of Eddie and don't let
 him fall and hurt him (as God says)
 I wish he could sleep on my arm to night
 how happy we would be I say we because I
 think he loves me yet it will be a dark
 day when he forgets to love his annett
 I have

my best is pinned with green thread when I get
some from the publisher and send you a piece
here
my best tell your father
my best tell your mother

better Caroline was very sick when she
wrote so that he had not sat up long enough
to have his bed made for 10 days he had
a fever he has fits yet she writes as though
she did not expect him to live long how
much trouble that good woman has she
sent her love to you and wants you to
write to you Joseph Shaw and his son
Perry has been here they come to buy land
but Joe did not find any that exactly
suited him and so they went back he
gave Mother a new calico dress I have
got me a new pair of every day shoes a new
hat and 2 new dresses when I get
them cut out I will send some
pieces I will send you a piece (on this)
of Mary's new dress if I don't forget it
Caroline is coming here this week
to make James a new suit of clothes
Alfred is rather disappointed at not hearing
from you I told him to tell you that
I was going to write last Sunday but I
was so tired when I got home that I could
not I hope it will take you a great while
to read this to make you think it a long
letter I ^{mean} want to write oftener than I do
Good Night Dear ~~dearly~~ Night I thought
that I would write a few words more and what
shall they be we are all well but very tired

has Alfred ever got a letter from James
he don't see some time ago James

I cannot close ~~my~~ ^{my} letter without saying something
about Darling Eddie you don't know how pleased
I was with your likeness and Eddie looks
so sweet and so natural the little cherub
I could not help crying when I looked at
it I almost worship it as near as I do any thing
I suppose you would like to know where
I got my money (that I told you I had
in the first of this) well I sold ~~2~~ 2 of my
pet lambs for 10 shillings and a hen
for 1 shilling and the rest father gave me
I am going to write again before long for I
can't get it half in here I forgot to tell you
that I got George's letter long ago and
wish I could get another I must write
some to ~~thee~~ ^{thee} now from your loving Harriet

in five or six weeks I want you to write something about the children
every time I hope they will not forget me does Eddie know his letters
I am glad to hear that Mary is such a good girl Charly always was
good his Uncle Bill talks about him a great deal he thinks
there never was as good a boy you never see men think so much
of a baby as Bill and Len does of Eons Stephen talks more about
Mary than any boy in his I wish she could come and make
us another such a visit as she did last spring I would like to
see Eddie with his new overcoat on does he like new things any
better than he used to Stephen has got to be a good performer
on the violin and James can raise a pretty fair crop of whiskeys and
so can Alf I will leave the rest for Mother to write accept this with the

Love of your sister Shan

Dear Margaret I hardly know where to begin for Hannah says she has written every thing
did you get a letter from me and says you write when they get here did you know the
the lives the Delaware City is miles this side of Delaware City they kept the Delaware River
they have four or five borders and entertain travelers our clothes all put up there when
they get to town father and John Lyons started for the city last week they got as far as
Alfreds it was cold father got cold to go with James and he came back it was the
first winter weather we have had more than one day at a time it is cold now it froze in
the house last night the first this winter September was such a month as we used to have
in this since then the boys could work out in their shirt sleeves except two or three
days we have a good many rails split for fencing father works now all the time his
lungs has never troubled him any since we have been here I have been very well and eat
so much it keeps me poor I wish I was a little fatter I don't know did I tell you I lent Mr
5 dollars when we come here to buy flour he paid me this winter and gave me a new dress
for interest I will send you a piece I wore it every day Hannah has made her long night dresses
they are nice and embroidered now she is making five under garments to embroidered and is to working
a skirt of the muslin she got of you she will sell that if she can she has done a great deal
of work since we have been here tell George I work at my old trade patch and darn
stockings Alf says he will wash his clothes in the brook and get a long way till next fall then
you will be here to take care of his things he talks a great deal about your coming I don't stop for want
your mother Shan

City Co. Ct. D. February the 9th 1855

Dear Brother and Sister

With pleasure I once more take my pen
to write you I received one letter from you last Saturday
and one about six weeks ago. We are enjoying good
health at present we have had some sickness but my
health has never been better than since we have been
in N.H. and I am very happy indeed. Father's folks got
here time enough to hold Phant's gibing with us and
we had a very nice time and I know you did with
Mr and Mrs Stablin's how I would like to be with you a
little while if no longer John Lyons has not got his
house done yet but thinks he will get in it before
a great while they will live a little more than two
miles from us. Wm Silberman has got his done
and they are keeping house he was very sick in the
fall we thought one spell that he never would get
well but his as well as ever now and they are enjoying
themselves well. Len lives with them. Alfred is here
now he brought a compass with him and our folks
are surveying their claim Eons baby walks and he
is a pretty boy and Fred wears pants and is proud
enough Lucy is here today and she is holding old
Punt now little John is troubled with the tooth-
ache a good deal. We have had a very warm
and pleasant winter. Our house is very comfort-
able all but the roof that leaks snow and wind pretty bad

^{and I wish to see you}
the boys have shovels enough to put on it and
we are going to have a new roof in the spring and are
going to put an addition of bedroom and butry also

We have got a new stove with an elevated oven hold
three square tins abreast an old heater an old ^{smasher} ~~stove~~
~~stove~~ you had better believe we felt the need of it before
we got it. We have butchered three of our oxen sold
some eat some and got some. We have got no floor in
our house I would not have believed that we could live
so before we come here. I know more than I used to
I tell you that I have gained a lot of knowledge and have
gained it the right way. I can not say that I am sorry
that I come though I should have been better off in pocket
if I had stayed. George if it had not been for Brother you
would not have had to ask me but once. I don't think that
I am bragging when I say that I don't know what she would
have done without me (on the road at least)

Forget never mind if George does laugh at about your journal
that you are keeping for me it suites me first rate it almost
seems that I am with you and I thank you very much
for spending so much time for me. I hope your tooth
ache is better. Glad to hear that your health is so much
better this winter. I think your new dress is very pretty
I always admire such calico. That new apron you sent me
was very acceptable. I am not too proud to wear it so you
need not make any reckoning of it. Now I must stop writing
for the men and ^{boys} have all come in the house and they
are talking about section stones and section lines and

we have got a new bridge a cross the brook close to the house
very thing so that I can't think. Wednesday the 10th

Today is Mother's birthday and we are going to have plum
dumplings for dinner. Last night was a cold night it
froze in our house for the first time it is pretty cold today.
Mother and Myra wrote to you as soon as they got here. I suppose
that you have heard of Cornelius's death. Stephen says he
would write to you but is afraid you could not read it. He wants me
to send each of the children a card but I fear it will make the
letter too heavy so I will send but one. How I will stop this random
writing and speak of a subject near my heart.

My Dear Sister and Brother. Before I left wis. I became entangl'd
in a love affair (I will not tell you how it happened for I cannot
account for the ways of the little blind God) and the morning
of our departure I promised my hand in marriage to
Geo. Noyon. Now does this meet with your approval I know you
will think I was hasty. I wish for your sanction and good
wishes and ask for him a brother's place in your
hearts. I got a letter from him last Saturday stating
that he should come early in the spring. He got
disappointed about coming this fall. I hope he will visit
you before he comes. I know you will love him for my sake.
I would like to have you write me some advice (and lecture me
too if you wish). I have given Aunt Ann a hint of it so you can
write to her as much as you please on the subject. I don't know as
she got my letter for I sent it to Long Island.

You may direct your next letter to me to Mr. City the first
chance I can get. I am going out to Williams to stay a spell
and I will get your letter sooner from there than I can from
Fennemseh. We can't hear from the office often than once

Delaware Otto Co N B March the 25th 1858.

Dear Sister Margaret

I received your letter (that you wrote so long ago) the day before yesterday. I suppose you see that I am at Williams. We came from home last Monday. Father, Egbert, Jim, Bill and myself are out in the city yesterday. Jim and Bill have gone home today but our folks have gone up on the Weeping water about ten miles from here (after seed corn and Potatoes tomorrow they are going home) but I am going to stay a few weeks.

I have no particular news to write for it is yet long since I wrote to you. I wrote to Geo. Dixon at the same time and have got an answer from it. I am expecting one from you very day. William is doing pretty well here but would do a great deal better if it was not for that one great evil. They have had a wedding here this winter. The bride was Mary ^{Benton} she came here and worked for her board for a while. She is a queer kind of a thing. Some think she came here on purpose to get married. She heard there was a lot of rich men boarding here. She had been here nearly two months when they were married. His name is Judge Sam Bachelor (ain't that an odd name). He kept store in part of this house. They boarded here until about a week ago then they went to keeping house in where he had the store. I must tell you what a misfortune he met with. He is in the habit of tipping the bottle when they had been married about two weeks he went to town on a spree and was gone two days. She was almost crazy and my Pa went to town after him. He promised her that he would drink no more. He stuck to his promise two weeks then he with the rest of the men here went to tend

a law suit when he forgot his promise and every thing but his
love for strong drink. When they got part of the way home
he wanted to stop but the boys would not let him for it
was a very cold night and they knew he would freeze he did not
want his wife to see him drunk they kept hold of him and
helped him along untill they got within a few rods of the
house then they let go of him thinking he had got partly
sobered it was blowing and the snow was flying so that they
could not tell one from another when they got in the house
and found he was not along they all started out and
looked for him untill twelve o'clock but in vain he came
in about five in the morning with his hands and feet
frozen he has had to have his fingers all cut off but one on
each hand and his feet cut off about two inches back
of his toes he has not set a pain yet but is gaining. Anne
has had a hard time with them since he was frozen.

Delaware March the 2^d 1858

I told you that I had nothing to write Anne
sends her love and two kisses to you. We got
six papers at the office Saturday for Stephen but
I was disapointed at not getting a letter from you
say have you received mine of the 10 of Feb. John Lyons
moved two weeks ago they have got a large house and
are well suited. The frost is all out of the ground the
prairie is looking quite green I expect that our folks
are all breaking firm commenced before we came to
town. We stoped to Mr's when we came he says I
am the first Lady that has called on him.

I have written this in a hurry and the children
have bothered me so that I dont believe you can read it
Spinieris says I must tell Mary that she would like to
see her she wants to send her some beads that the Indians
gave her but I am going to send you a collar and have
not room. Wm is going to town to day perhaps he will
get a letter from you I have wrote so little in this I am
ashamed to send it. This with my love I am

I am going to send a line to you to get your share that I shall not have a share in with the other share

Clay Co N. T. Aug the 1st / 53

Dear Brother and Sister

Do you have any trouble making any letters

Your letter of June 27 reached us last Wednesday We are all in tolerable good health at present altho we have had some sickness Father Egbert and Little John have had a slight attack of fever which lasted about a week we think it owing to the rainy time that we have had for the past two weeks the rains have done considerable damage in carrying off bridges it did not carry off ours but we expected it would The corn crop in this country is first rate all that is planted on old ground I cannot brag of ours it is poor John Lyons says I must tell you that he had green corn big enough to eat the 17th of July and that Alfred was over here four weeks ago and picked some ripe peas off of his vines and carried home and planted Alfred says they are now six inches high the birds eat all of our peas we shall not save any for seed we never had but two messes off from them I have not much to write for Brother wrote to you about the 4 of July and Myra has written since Mothers lame foot has proved a good deal more serious than we thought at first it is gaining slowly now she can hobble around a little on crutches John L. cow that the Indians shot

mother says bring some wild clasp (is that spelled right) or you with seed in

is well Spacy has been quite sick for a few days she had a high fever for a half day and night and was crazy all the time she had complained of the head ache the day before when she was first taken she had a hard fit that lasted 3/4 of an hour she is much better and will probably be well in a few days we have not heard from Becca in a good while we want to know how you are

awfully I begin to count the weeks till you get here I give you five weeks to be on the road you must be sure to tell us when you start now I will write a few words to Abigail in particular I don't know as I have any thing to send for if I had plenty of money I would I can't get almost any thing here but it takes lots of money as to that bonnet I want one of ~~course~~ ^{course} and I think that is cheap and if it is not out of fashion or soiled much you may get it you can tell whether it will suit me or not you know I want something neat but not costly

you know I wear quite a small bonnet what does Phely think about it is don't she know folks are very dumpy in N. City but I expect any thing of the kind will cost right I want her if this letter gets there too late you need not put yourself to any inconvenience what do you think about your getting the boarder for it do just as you think best about it but if you do get something nice there is no time set you need not be afraid that you will not have company I don't think we can do all of our talking in a while can we I can't hardly wait to see you

no hurry Father says if we make any butter fit to eat you may have some we make very poor now we have no convenience for making butter perhaps when it gets cool we shall as to the soap we do not make grease enough only for our selves if we had plenty of grease there would be nothing to hinder us from making for you if I see Abigail I will speak to her and perhaps she can do something for you Mother says you had better bring your 4 chairs if you can give my love to Tibbenses folks

don't you think I have never written to them since we have been here Remember me to all do you think the children have forgotten us I do hope not I think Eddie must remember us at least How

Write about
 the children
 did I write yet
 my letter give
 my love to
 his and all
 friends I hope
 to hear from
 you soon
 to write to
 Mary
 Anne
 Jane
 Maria
 & family
 are well
 I see
 them
 every
 day
 I will
 send a
 piece of
 the story
 of Paul's

Dec 4th 5th 1804

My dear sister Margaret
 I was overjoyed a few days ago by the receipt of your very long & interesting letter. I will now attempt to answer it.

We are all well & at work. George is still in the Great market. Stephen is at work on what they call the "night shift". Your honorable servant is working to get seven loaders that I have now besides my own family and it keeps me busy nearly all the time. I do my own shopping. It costs no more to hire a cow butter is worth 16.5 per pound hard 8.5 cents tea 3, 7.5 dried peaches 5.5 coffee 5.0 and other things in proportion. The buy our beef now by the quarter the last was a fine quarter at 19 cts a pound. I charge 10 a week now for board & I think I shall raise the price soon as it does not pay very well.

Stephen or George will go to the river in the spring for a boat. do you think Mother would come back with them. I wish she would it would be such a good piece for her she would not have to sweat here & it is not near so bad as you imagine the plains as one would think. I just mention this subject to her would you let her come & if she will I will go back with her.

in the fall I wrote a letter to Father folks and
sent money in for Lizzie a new dress did they get it
I wrote a letter to Mother C. not long since We hear
from a person quite often Saturday night I rec. a letter
from Maria I suppose Mother has got home with you
by this time we have not had but one letter from her
since we have been here I wish she would write
to us often but I suppose she keeps busy as
usual do tell us if Edward looks as he used to
I did he got lazy while he was gone as most soldiers
do. We have rec. a letter from Bess lately also one
from Em & Jim with Cass & Eliza pictures &c
Dec the 8th

Now I will write a few words more and close Stephen
has been writing to Mother today ~~and~~
~~there~~ there is so much trouble on the road that
I am afraid to send any ^{money} I hope it will
get through safe I have been washing
today and am very tired Geo. & Stephen
are both at work tonight I have got me
a new de laune dress 75 cts a yard I will send you
a piece when I get it made, perhaps in this
if there is room & I don't forget it as Stephen
did the money in his he sealed his letter and
started to the office with it I happened to think
he had forgot the most important thing I opened
the letter and put it in afterwards this is all I
can think of this time good night Ann Noyon

Nevada Col. To June the 13th 1865

Dear Sister

Your long expected letter came to hand two weeks ago and now I will try to write a short one in reply. We have moved since you have heard from us we now live up at the head of the gulch at the upper end of town we moved here to give our cattle a chance for grass. George is drawing wood with them at five dollars a cord he draws two cord in a day work oxen are high here now if Geo. has been offered \$2,25⁰ for his they came up from the valley one week ago are in first rate order we have been offered 170 apiece for the cows for beef.

They have no calves yet and I am very sorry for I could have such lots of milk and butter if they would only do this share grass is more plenty here than it was last year work is very scarce I dont think Geo. would have any if he had not a team.

Two of the neighbors women have called on me

I like it here better than any where we have lived since we have been here there is a stream of snow water running within two rods of the doors

The grasshoppers have destroyed all the crop in
the valley so I suppose we shall have to take our
money in our market baskets and bring our vegetables home
in our pockets again this summer I am getting
hungry for something green George has bought a new
wagon it has only been run from Wis. here got a neck
yoke and whiffle-trees and a bean row cover that cost \$25
in Wis. he gave \$60 for it and is just as proud of
it as though it did not cost much

I hope to hear from some of you soon for I have written
quite often of late tell all the news especially about
the children I cant make out a long letter this
time but you shall hear from us soon again

I have been ironing and baking to day and feel pretty tired
Geo has good health and is so ambitious that he
cant sleep nights perhaps you will see that new
wagon coming down in the fall
Yours in love
Horn Dixon

Kivada City Aug. 6th 1865

Dear Sister

I rec. your letter a few days ago and you may well believe I was glad it found me flat on my back in bed where I am still but able to sit up a little I have been up in my chair today and sat for near an hour it makes me feel as though I was going to get well again I suppose you have heard that we have a baby a little boy he is twelve days old if very good and growing finely has brown hair and blue eyes and looks like George who is the picklediest man on earth

I am a very happy Mother I think this is the greatest joy of my life this is the first day that I have felt any thing like getting well I have been subjected to nearly all the ills attending a woman in any condition but the worst that now remains is sore breasts and weakness which latter I think is caused by having to take so much medicine for fever our baby is tall and ~~poor~~ weighed seven pounds but I think he has gained two pounds already and I want him to get fat so as to fill up his

clothes I cant write much this time only about
the baby Geo is doing his own cooking and taking care
of me he is getting quite anxious about going to work
again you must excuse this short letter if I feel
able I will write a little more before I send it I
will send some pieces of the babys clothes George has
warned him Vincent Let us hear from you
we will write again soon yours with much love
Hannah

Nevada City March 12th 1865

Dear Sister

We were rejoiced to rec. a letter from you a few days ago. & one from brother James by the same mail. Stating that Stephen had arrived safe at Keb. City we were waiting to hear from him before we wrote. I want to hear from him real bad I have so much to tell I was so lonesome after he left. I have quit keeping boarders and have moved down in the Pat. Casey house again and we are living so cozy and nice. Boarders are such a bother. Ward is still with us we could not live entirely alone. Mattie & I are near neighbors again her children have just got over the measles they had it very light. George had had two of those "spells" like he had last spring they came on in the night and were quite severe otherwise his health is better than ever before he has been at work this past week for \$4 per day. Did the children get a letter from me I wrote to them and directed the letter to Gray. I wrote to them that I had a pig but poor Tuggy he is dead and now I have nothing again I suppose

that Stephen told you that I lost
Carlo coming out I felt so bad about it
that I could not write

We have had some very cold weather the past
week the 8th of this month was the coldest
of the season. Maybe you think the wind don't
blow anywhere but in N. E. but you had just
ought to be here in the month of March
I rec. that letter from you so long ago I
did not know but what I had acknowledged
it. But why don't Nattie Curtis write I wrote
to her so long ago but never have had a word
from her. March the 17th / 65

We rec. another letter from you last night
saying that Stephen had arrived safe the first
we have heard from him since he left only
by Farmers. I did not feel very uneasy
about him but still not satisfied until
I heard. That was such a good letter that
I got last night it gave me such delight
and one from Mary also I must reply to it soon
Stephens letter from mother that you spoke
about has not come yet will he let us open
it. I will write to some of you soon again
I have plenty of time to think of home now
how I wish Mother would come out here
if Stephen comes you must let me know
Yours with much love
Pam. Hoyle

I will
close by
sending
my love to
all our ones
myself better
health
I want
Stephan
to come
out to
whisk
Charley
Ireland
Yours in
love

Nevada City - April 28th / 65

Dear Margaret

I have been very
anxious to hear from you for a long
time and last Saturday night
Mrs Stafford received a letter from
you containing good news. Now I
want you to write how she looks and
all about the little Maggie you are
I know her name if you would not
write it I sent a letter to you a few
days after Mallie did and I think
you have it before this & I am
looking for a letter from you every day
and when it comes I will write
again I should have written before
this but have been making something
for your baby & have just finished it
how does it fit you can cut it open
and hem it if you like it that way ^{best}

by the same mail that takes this
Miller sends a large letter to you
Ward has started for the valley
this morning he is going to
see our cattle and perhaps sell
them we have never heard from
them since we sent them
away I do want to know if Stephen
is coming out and what time
he is going to start I am going to
write to Mary soon and I know
she will tell me all about her new
sister I think she must be proud
of her it is so nice to have a little
baby in the house I am real soft
on little babies you know

I have been making me a new quilt
have it ready to quilt am going to put
it on next week it is real pretty and
stark I never wanted to get letters or had in
my life as I have for the last month I
have not had a letter from home since
Feb. I rec. a long one from James two
days ago we see all the National news
by telegraph as soon as comes through