



Mr. Saml. Stevens,
North Andover,
Massachusetts.

or do you know a
better way to finish
the edge?
It is nearly time
to stop with much
love to all. I am
as ever, yours,
J. A. G. A.

Did you succeed
in getting rid of
the fleas?
Big Springs, Aug. 8, 1887

My dear Aubrey:-
Received two letters
from you lately, which we were
very much pleased to get. I don't
know whether John has written
lately or not - so I will see if
I can write a little while Aubrey
is out riding with a little girl
from the depot. I am glad to be
able to say that she is about
well as far as we know and
just as sweet and good as
she can be. I think she has
a better disposition since she
was sick than before, so you

see we managed to keep from spoiling her as a great many do when a child is sick.

I have a young girl that has been with me two weeks now and I hope to keep her for awhile. The one I had before left me just when Amy was the sickest, but I don't believe this one would be so mean. She likes Amy and Amy likes her, she takes her out riding nearly every evening and afternoon. She has been in this country only since last fall and the family she has been working for. I don't imagine were very particular about cooking but if she stays long enough I will try and teach her a few things. I received the two packages all right. the dresses and shirts are

just as sweet as they can be you couldn't have gotten anything that was needed more. Amy didn't wear out anything of course so it (I always go to say she) will be well provided for. I am going to ask you to send a dozen of the nickel plated diaper pins. of the large size like you sent the other time. I have lots of the small safety pins but none of the larger size. I hope to put drawn on Amy very soon. I have three pins made and if she hadn't been sick, think she could have them on now. she wanted to sit on the chair all the time till we saw it was not best and had to stop it all together.

Brother Frank is here for a

few days. His wife did not come but went to Salt Lake to visit a cousin while he is away. He and Grant started out to Father's a little while ago, will be back day after tomorrow and bring Mother with them.

I made ^{last week} over 46 glasses, two bowls ~~and~~ a 3 qt. jar of jelly and about eight of marmalade of ^{wild} green grapes and hope to make about as much more when they are ripe. you know it is the only thing we get to make jelly of. John thinks this jelly is better than out of ripe grapes. But I don't. Did John tell you that the Clark family had left our city and gone 20 miles south to a new town? I don't miss them.

don't you think any thing of making us a visit?
I am putting in my odd times braiding a pair of pillow shams, a large A in center and want to hem-stitch a ~~deep~~ deep hem all around do you think that will look nice?

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
BIG SPRING, Cheyenne County, Nebraska,
If not delivered within 10 days.



Mrs Saml D. Stearns
North Andover
Mass.

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., Aug. 14th 1887

My dear Sister:

Yesterday was an eventful day with us. About nine o'clock A.M. after a consultation with Mrs. L. & Jessie it was thought best to send for the Dr. so I drove out (12 miles North) and brought him back by a little afternoon. After seeing Jessie he laughed at us and told us that we would not probably need him for two weeks. But by two o'clock Jessie went to bed and by four the BOY had arrived safely everything going along very nicely. Mrs. L. said she never saw such an affair pass along so smoothly and without the least hitch or interruption. It seemed much easier.

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., 188

Jesus thank when Amy was born. Now
 as to the Boy in the place he is strong &
 healthy good size & shape. But awfully
 homely such a mouth. There is hardly
 room enough for it on his little face,
 we can hardly tell yet what color his
 eyes are. Hair what there is of it is much
 darker than Amy's. We had a lovely time
 of it last night as Amy did not propose
 to give up her right to a place in bed
 with her mother. We tried to have her
 sleep with her. But when she woke up in the
 night and discovered that she was not
 with Jesus what a time we had she
 has got a most decided mind of her
 own and after about two hours of the

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

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Big Spring, Neb., 188

hardest kind of a cry she came to me and seemed to give up at the same time she waked up she stayed awake a long while and jabbered away to me and with the sleep again with out any fear. She seems to like the baby and will point into parlor room and lead me in and point out the baby and seem as pleased as can be we do not expect to have any trouble with Amy after this as she now seem to realize the situation. Now Amy don't you think we are to be congratulated. We certainly have much to be thankful for. We now have a great responsibility thrown upon us. The bringing up of these two children as they ought to be, and who know whether we are capable of it or not. With love of love for your grateful brother John.

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BIG SPRING, Cheyenne County, Nebraska,
If not delivered within 10 days.



Mr Saml Stevens
North Andover
Mass.

Big Spring Aug 19.th 1882.

My dear Amy:-

Received your letter and the lovely little blanket yesterday. I am still in bed, but feel as though I ought to be up. I didn't look half the strength as before and have gotten along so far splendidly. I commenced feeling a little miserable Sat. morning. John went for the doctor, got back about noon I was about the same and sitting in the rocking chair working in my pillow shams. I noticed the Dr. smiled when he came in & after asking a few questions said he guessed I would be sick in about two weeks. but after dinner he gave me a little medicine and said he could tell in 20. minutes

so in about that time he came to John. We have not settled
in again and I was still working on a name but you can
and feeling about the same and imagine what it is likely to be.
he went out again but soon after Anny's nose was a little out of
he left I began to be worse but I joint but now she seems to like
finished the braiding on my sham the baby. The first day I was in
and concluded to go to bed or I bed she wouldn't have anything
might not be there in time (about to do with me, but now she
4 o'clock) and by 5:30 it was all over comes and loves me and some-
and we had a 9½ lb. boy. We were times gets on the bed by me and
all surprised at it being over so goes to sleep. It was hard for
soon but I was glad. The young her to give up to go and sleep
man is kicking I guess he wants with John I had intended to have
a little nourishment so will him take her awhile before hand
have to stop. We just received so she would be used to it but
word from Lella that they had a when she was sick she wouldn't
14 lb. boy two days ahead of us, but let any one do for her but me.
I don't claim that they have any I shall have to do some correcting
more than we have because it when I get up, as she is let
weighs more for I don't admire do too much her own way now
these immense babies I prefer a The girl is very fond of her and
medium size. I can't tell who does too much to please her.
our boy looks like but hope it will I expect you were a little sur-

prised when you got the telegram
I hardly looked for it, for a week
or so but was in hopes it would
be soon, as it has been so hot. I
don't think I have felt the heat
any more in bed than out.

The little blanket is a beauty
and will be very handy,
I had to stop to amuse Amy a
while, as she brought a lot of
books & I had to show her the
pictures. The little flannel wrap
you speak of would be very acceptable.
I had thought of making one but
had not seen any so did not know
how to go to work. Did I ask you
in my last to send some nichel
diaper pins, or did I forget it?

John and I had a discussion
the other day about whether you
liked and ate strawberries and he
said to ask you in the first letter
so don't forget to answer me.

yes I have plenty of socks. Amy
didn't wear many of her out.

It almost seems impossible
for me to realize that we have
such a family. but expect I shall
soon enough, when I am up and
have the full care of them, I hope
it won't be long till you can
see them both. I suppose Agnes
thought we were rushing mat-
ters and would like to see John
and trace him a little. Tell her
as long as he had decided to have
ten the thought no time could
be lost.

I guess I have written enough
for one time so will stop.

Hope to hear from you very
soon.

With much love to you all
I am as ever-

your sister Jessie.

Mr. S. D. Stovus,

North Andover,

Massachusetts.

Big Spring Aug 30th 1887.

My dear Amy:-

Received your welcome letter a few days ago, and although it is late to commence an answer tonight. I will do what I can while both children are asleep. Amy had no sleep all day so got rather cross this afternoon and the baby was more restless than he has been any day so far. he has a little cold in his head and don't feel very good but he has been so good ever since he was born that I can make no complaints. John comes in this afternoon when he was fussy and I told him I was tired of his boy and he could have him. He kept him just 5 minutes and brought him

back to me and said his hour have to keep the kind of help I
was up and that was as long as can get.
he could take care of him. You I got the fine and lovely little
see how quick a man can get socks all right. also the sample
tired of a funny baby. He is sleeping of light blue flannel. I know of
good snow and hope he will keep nothing that I would want any
it up all night. Mother went of it for. I will want some more
home Sat. and Lillie came up trimming for the long cloak after-
Monday to stay awhile. I still have while the pink linings in both
my girl and guess she will stay capers are all right but the silk
as long as I want her. She don't trimming on the short one is
suit me in a great many ways some dirty and faded. so I will
but will have to put up with it have to take it off. You are very
as girls are hard to get here. They kind to make so many lovely and
don't like to stay in such a dull useful things. Its a good thing
small town. This one is very good for the babies that they have
of children and says she couldn't such a thoughtful Aunt. I do
stay if it wasn't for Amy. She hope Sam will be able to have
is real good to her and am afraid time to make us a visit some-
she will spoil her some. but it time this fall so you can see
would be impossible to get along the two little Abots. I won't say
with two children and housework much about the boys looks yet,
and do any of it right, so will only that I think him very honestly

but hope age will improve him of course we can't expect much of a two weeks old baby. We can't tell what his eyes will be, they seem a ^{dark} muddly blue now and Mother rather thought they would be dark but I am afraid they will fade to blue or gray.

You must have misunderstood me about the doctor. He was on bands and couldn't have gotten along very well without him.

Almy likes the baby and takes great spells of kissing him at times and always has to kiss right on his mouth. I feel sorry for her a good many times, when she wants to come to me and I have the baby and she will motion for me to put him on the bed. She is just a nice size to love and take care of now while the baby is very uninteresting. It don't seem

as though Amy was ever so small.

We have not fully settled on a name for him. I leave it for John to decide.

I expect you are thinking of moving soon. Are you not? We would like very much to see samples of your carpets. for I am afraid it will be some time before I will see them on the floor. It seems as though it would be almost impossible to go any where with two children. I wouldn't care so much about going, if we lived where we could have a few agreeable friends. I do hope & pray to get away from here before many years go by. The town is very dull now more so than ever. The new town 22 miles south of here on the new rail-road is taking away a good deal of the trade and some of the Big Spr. people are

going down there. The Clash family week we had nothing but cloudy
went a few weeks ago. you can rainy weather, the sun was out
imagine what a loss that would a part of one day only.
be to the town. The baby has been asleep a little

Sept. 1st - Thought this letter would write but I think I have
be finished before this but baby has so will have to stop. Love to all
kept me about busy. He don't seem from all.

my well don't sleep very good. I was up four or five times with him
last night, so have the head-ache of the family.

with a cold in my head and don't feel the best myself this morning.
I think he will feel better when I get over my cold and he is better.

Amy keeps Lillie busy, make her play with her most of the time.
She was looking at the photo album last evening and when she came to Agnes picture she said

"Ma", meaning Grandma. She tries to say new words every day and could say more, if she would.

she wants it and after playing with it a short time, will notice

for us to put it back. I guess you have heard enough about babies so will let you rest.

Jessie.

This is another cloudy day. Last



Ms Sam B. Stevens,
North Andover,
Massachusetts.

I will have
to stop for this
time. Love to
all. I remain
the same
sister Jessie

Big Spring, Sept. 15. 1887

My dear Amy:-

I expect one of the children
will want me before I write many
words, I have put them both to bed.
The Baby has been quite cross for a
couple of weeks, but was remarkably
good today, hope it will continue, for
I was beginning to think he was
bound to be an awful cross toy.

I fully intended to write to you
last Sunday but had such a bad
head-ache all day, was glad to lie down
when not compelled to care for baby.

This is the first stop I have had
to make to take the infant, (but it
won't be the last) It is about my
bed time now, but as John and
Lillie are out for the evening I
shall stay up awhile longer. We

were all invited across the river to Mr. Loyds, but our horses are all on the "farm" or I should have gone John & Lillie walked. I expect she will be sorry she went for I don't believe the road is very good for walking and you know she is not much for walking of a walker.

Received your letter several days ago. also the little wrapper and saccue they are both lovely and they both fit and look nice ~~in~~ ^{on} them I put the wrapper on Baby and took time over to see Mr. Kiermeier, the first and only time he has been out. He is growing fast and I am glad of it for it takes a little age to make them interesting but it won't seem as long till he is large enough as it did any for we have her to look to for amusement. She has some new freak almost every day, she was asleep when John came in at

noon and he said it seemed as though a half dozen of the household had stepped out. The fleas enjoy biting her and she is kept busy scratching. John cut her hair the other day, she looks cute but not as sweet and pretty (I don't think.) I didn't want or intend it should be cut, but it came out and was very thin after her sick spell and John finally persuaded me to let him cut it thinking it would be a benefit to her hair. I will try and think and put a lock of it in this letter. I had not noticed that the two fronts of the wrapper were not the same length till your letter came but it don't make any difference as long as it don't fasten all the way down. I am getting along nicely, have had a good deal of head-ach but think it is from my teeth as I have several that are quite bad and

we have had such cool damp weather,
it has given me a little neuralgia
in my head.

John is thinking of naming the
boy "Welcome". How do you like it?

He seems to be quite dark, I know
his skin is darker than Amy's was
and we think his eyes will be dark.
What hair he has is dark brown. John
thought his mouth very large at first
but he was mistaken or it has shrunk.
Amy thinks he is splendid, and
kisses and loves him quite often. I
put the hammock up today and
put him in it, and she stood and
rocked him and sung "by, by." She
looked like nothing but a babe herself.
She has gained what she lost while
sick and weighs 25 lbs. again.

You ask if I have sat up any. I
guess I have. I was out of bed the
9th day for the first and have been
out ever since. I have a pretty

good girl. (might be better) She is very fond of children and will do anything for them. Mother went home when the boy was two weeks old and Lillie had been here ever since but will go home soon.

Lalla has four children now her last, a boy was born two days before our son. Howard and Grace are still with Mother, Lalla and the two little ones will be out this fall to spend the winter.

I can't say what the prospects are for a move, the sooner the better, to please me, but to me, it looks as though it would take some time to get things in shape to leave here.

John expects to go up to Cheyenne soon, I believe, hope he will think as much of the city as Walter did.

Who is the girl who eloped with a man from Denver. John or I could ^{not} make out.

How old is Mr. Clara Locke Tompson's son? Does Clara look motherly?

You must have had quite a fright I should like to have seen you standing in the hall with the pistol. John said he would liked to have said "boo" at you.

John received a nice letter from George a few days ago. I believe it was written from Halifax.

I expect you will hate to leave the little house, but the other place is so nice, you will, no doubt. like it better. I was in hopes at one time to see you in "The Lodge", but ~~not~~ now if I ever see you in the other place will do well. I feel as though it would be sometime before I could think of going any where with two children.

I am sorry Mary S. is not going or coming from Cal. this way should like to see her very much.

It is getting late, and John and Lillie have not come, but think I better go to bed and try and find time to finish this tomorrow.

John and Lillie got home about twelve o'clock last night, and had a pleasant time. Baby is asleep in the hammock and Amy is standing on the^d chair by the table pulling paper out of the sack. She stops and looks at all the pictures and enjoys finding girls in them. I have a pile of "Illustrator" which she will amuse herself with for a long time. about every time she sees any of us sit down she will come and say "book" or "peas" for please.

We are having nice fall weather now and I often wish I had such a horse as old Jane to drive around with. We have ponies but I get no good of them. I get tired of staying in the house but as winter is coming

on it will be sometime before the baby will be large enough to be out and I don't like to go and leave him many minutes at a time.

I don't mind it so much when Mother or Lillie are here, but when no one is here, and it is very seldom that I am troubled with calls.

I turned the pink flannel lining in the long cape to the cloak, last week it look very nice. What had I better get to trim the upper cape with, I guess I better ~~pe~~ measure it and have you get something, and if the silk, like it is lined with, is not very expensive you may get a new lining. This will look faded and soiled with new trimming, then you can get them to match in shade. It will take about $4\frac{1}{2}$ yds. around cape and collar. Send me the bill. Wmmy has just crawled up on my lap and says book.



Mr. Saml. Stevens,
North Andover,
Massachusetts.

Big Spring Oct. 30 /87.

Dear Amy:-

The children are in bed so will try and write a short letter if I can keep my eyes open for I feel fearfully sleepy. I get so tired by the time tea is over and the babies asleep that I can hardly keep awake.

Lillie has been up a couple of weeks, John took her and Grace home yesterday and has not come back yet. Lalla, Abby and baby are with me, ^{my girl left} three weeks ago and I have not succeeded in getting another. I get discouraged sometimes for I am kept so busy with the house work that I have no time at all for the children.

I never have time to take up any for me to get a girl is because John or the baby for pleasure, it is always, and Walter are disliked by the just when I have to and drop them people around here to such an extent as quickly as possible to wash dishes tent that I can't get any one to or something. The baby is getting work for me. John won't inquire bright and interesting news and for girls and I never get any more love to be talked to. outside the door five minutes.

I have not done a stitch of sewing this fall, commenced a plain gray flannel dress for Amy a week or more ago but it is not half done so far. I have managed to get a woman to wash and iron and clean floors each week, but she is going away now, she told me of a young girl she thought might suit me, so I am going to try her. if she can only wash dishes it will be a little help. John won't ~~not~~ try to find a girl, but to tell the truth, the matter, the reason it is so hard to live on her claims then she I went with Mrs. Kinsman to make a call the other day and left the babies with Lillie, the first time I have been farther than the depot since early in the spring. Mother has not been up since baby was two weeks old. I guess she will go out to Green River, Wyoming Ter. to make Frank a visit. Lalla is going stay with her claims this winter. she has had a sad addition put to her shanty and they will all live on her claims then she

can prove up in the spring. If it
wasn't for that I would have
her stay with me. to help care
for the little ones. Amy loves the
baby dearly, and she has a bitter
now, it is hard to tell which she
thinks the most of. She is learn-
ing to talk very fast, can say
Aunt Amy. with the rest.

Will have to stop and take baby.
John received your letter some
time ago. I suppose you feel settled
in your new quarters now. I
should like to stop in and see
you all. I hate to think of Geo.
leaving the old house, and every
thing being changed but of course
it is the best thing to be done.
John spoke of having some things
sent out. When the dishes are
packed, John and I had picked out
the best ones of a set out in the

come bare, which we would like to
 have put in if they are still there
 and any others you think we
 might use for I have only a few
 common dishes here you know and
 most any thing would come in
 handy. John also spoke of bedding.
 We have rather a slim supply of
 that. so any any thing in that line
 sheets comforters, quilts &c. will come
 in handy and a pair of pillows if
 there are any to be disposed of
 I guess it won't pay to have furni-
 ture sent - or I would like the
 dining room table, & the little willow
 rocker. Agnes gave me & some others.
 If you would like, you better take
 the chair. I always liked it so
 much. John thought after you
 and Geo. took the books you wanted
 he would have the rest sent to
 him. I don't remember of any

thing else he wanted me to speak
of. He ~~spoke~~ spoke of some pictures at
one time but don't know what it
was. If I have omitted any he will
have to write. In tearing up ~~things~~
you may come across things that
you think would be well to send.
I am too sleepy and tired to
write more tonight.

Tuesday - It is very near train
time. John has not put in an
appearance.

I guess you need not bother to
get trimmings and lining for
the baby cloak, for if things con-
tinue the same, he will not
need them. I have had him
out once only. I wish you could
see them both. We are having
lovely weather. I should like to
be out of doors all day long, but
it is impossible to get out five
minutes. If the weather is nice
I would like to go down to Mother's
once this fall after they get
settled on Lillian Clark.
John was up to Chesebrough a
short time ago. I guess he
liked it pretty well, but don't know
much about it for he never tells
me ^{as} much of his business as I
should like to know, but perhaps
he has good reasons for telling us
one but Walter.

I wish I could have time to
write as letter as I should like to.
It is time to stop and mail
this before the baby wakes up.
Remember me to all and
love to Sam and yourself from
the Abbot family.

Sister Jessie.

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
BIG SPRING, Nebraska,
If not delivered within 10 days.



Mr Saml Stevens
North Andover
Mass

To

JOHN H. ABBOT.

WALTER KIMBALL.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

DEALERS IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

ANSWERING YOURS OF

My dear Sister

BIG SPRING, NEB.,

Dec 11th 1887

Only just a business note this time. With the enclosure please procure a Christmas remembrance for Geo. Egan & Margaret Rogers & 4 children. It will not go far but will convey our good wishes and remembrance for Christmas and the New Year. I wish there was something out here to send to ease you the trouble of the Commission.

We are all very well indeed. Jessie and the children with Walter drove out to the Sannell 30 miles last Tuesday and back Friday. Had beautiful weather and Amy and John seem to enjoy the ride. A pretty good trip for a four month baby in the winter considering it the first in was his first ride of any distance. By the way Walter and Lilla are quite devoted to each other hardly that they will develop into anything more serious. I hope not at least. Perhaps their father better not be talked about at Andover. Lilla by the way has developed into a beautiful girl in character as well as features. She is now living out her time (six months) on her homestead. She has a snug little rod house warm and cozy inside. Mrs. Adair and children are making her a visit and Lilla is also with her. Mrs. G. is visiting at Grand River Wyo with Frank who is County Clerk there and getting rich fast. They Frank & wife expect a little one soon. Mrs. G. boards with me and still has charge of the lumber business. Amy took and dog "gog" as she calls it" came a day or two ago. A woman very much taken with the book

and strange to say very much afraid of the dog
and is hardly reconciled to it as yet. You would be
surprised to see how much she is interested with her
books. She calls every picture by name and will
recognize similar pictures in any other book. When
ever I come in she will bring one of her books to
me and say "take pictures". She is also very careful
of them. We have hopes that she may turn out to be
quite literary or artistic. I wish Agnes could see
our children and pass judgment upon them.

With love to you all from me all I remain your
affectionate brother John