

Big Spring Tex. May 27th 43

My dear George

Your letter of the 23rd received
I intended the Thompson CK to apply on the Anderson
tapes which I suppose were due May 1st that is if paid
at this time there would be no interest charged, or
possibly a discount. However that may be if you
may take \$60.⁰⁰ to pay the interest until Aug 16th
and hold the balance to apply on tapes and when
you find out what they are let me know and I
will try and send the balance. The August rent
money I use to pay my life insurance premium
that is 113.⁰⁰ of it. In regard to Thomas proposed
arrangement for building an addition to the house,
and I did not refer to it for the reason that as I
did not know what if any arrangement he had made
with you. As you say there does not seem to be any
other way ~~that~~ than that you suggest I can form
no idea for what the cost would be of the
improvement he wants made probably not
over \$1000. do you think?

If that amount or less, provided it was put into
actual improvements to the house, could be
arranged by making a new lease in place
of the present one, running for 5 years and
making it \$4000 per year instead of 6000 but
would not the plan be really worth more in
rent with then added improvements? At all events
I will be interfered with any arrangement you
may make. In regard to the lot he bought
Robert Dr. Walter has it from John that he intend
to build a house there for a man, and also that
he (Thomas) has made a lot of money the last
year or two in the boom given his line of goods
by the fashion of big dresses & crinoline skirts

Still it has not yet ruined and a more
disorganized and debilitated community of our time
hard of. The future seem to be against us here in
Western Nebraska. We now know that it will be impossible
for us to raise a bushel of wheat ripe or out and
also as far as corn & potatoes are concerned except
on the bottom where they can irrigate. At least 3/4
of the farmers will leave here within a month or
so, for they must go somewhere to get work

We have concluded to make an arrangement of
everything to John Kimball who will serve

Walter Jones of attorney to ask for him and keep things
 together. Then we will try and get some kind of a
 satisfactory an honest settlement with Joe Young who is
 our only creditor in the west. Johnnie has taken up our
 note at the Andover Bank so Amy Jones & Johnnie are the
 only creditors except Young. We do this so that he can not
 come in and close everything out now when they would bring
 next to nothing. I think I will make a deed of my
 Homestead to ~~either~~ either you or Amy so as to be sure
 that you both will be protected. Walter is now acting
 Post Master here although I have charge for him and he
 will undoubtedly be appointed regular P.M. with a week
 or so this will pay about \$25. to \$30. per mo. we now have
 the office in our store. And the plan now is to get fixed
 up with Young and then get rid of the house and Walter
 move over to town and run the office (and store if we
 keep it) and I look up a situation somewhere. Jessie & the
 children staying here where we can live cheaper of course in our
 house than any where else. Possibly we can arrange
 with Young to take the stock of goods out into Wyoming
 near Rock Spring where he lives and work it off in
 some small prosperous town out there, at all events
 something much be done. and done right a way. I would
 like very much to know what you think of this plan
 and let me know at once. It will probably be a week or
 two before we do anything definite

It is really surprising how much can and is being done by the farmers on the bottom lands with pump and trough irrigation and how much land they can irrigate. There are several pumps run by hand wells that have a cylinder 12" in diameter and lift about 100 galls per minute in a good well when the wells are not more than 12 ft deep.

Walter has a splendid garden and all the trees and vines look beautifully when he is getting the water. He only has two very small pumps at work now and a small reservoir. Twenty miles north of us on the North Platte River bottom there are plenty of good ditches and they all have ample water and the crops are doing nicely. The time is coming when the bottom will be irrigated and settled in small tracts from 40 to 80 acres and possibly smaller 10 or 40 acre tracts and more thorough farming done and the balance of the land which is arid will be given up to "open range" for stock. If I can get a situation Jessie and the children may possibly spend the summer and Fall at Occochee with her parents they now have a good school there.

Hope to hear from you right away with love to all

Respectfully
Your John



Hespering, Nebr., July 25th 1895

My dear Army

Am not going to let

the day go by without writing. no matter
how badly I hate to. We owe so much
to you for your kindness in the enclosed
letter you have sent us and the
innumerable other substantial tokens

We are still all a sea as to the future
have not been able yet to get a settlement
with Mr Young but he will probably
call on us before long. In one of
yours letters you ask about him as
to what kind of a man he is. What we
knew of him we have found him to be
honorable straight forward large
hearted man English or scotch born
in the west a good while and has
been very successful

- 2 -

We had a letter from his Excellency
in which he seemed to be very firm
wants to renew our notes and take
a mortgage on our land but what
we want to do is to get required up
in some way. When I wrote George
beak I think it was in May and the
very thing he had looked very blue indeed but
on the 30th of May we had a splendid rain
and it has been raining freely since
ever since which has done wonders for
Nebraska as a State and the crops East of
here in the State will be wonderfully good
but here however there were very little
but in except little patches under
irrigation, but the rains have made
lots of feed (grass) and what little there
was planted is good there is going to
any quantity of hay. Walter is living on
our place over the river and has
the finest garden I think I ever
saw any where. Our horses are all
fat but there is no sale for them
at any price. There has been lots
of water in the Platte river all summer
and was kept several days which

- 2 -

Hespering, Nebr., 189

is encouraging to irrigation schemes
We built a little ditch the spring
about 2 miles long and have had
lots of water for part of our big land
The store business is of course very
dull as no one has any money to
buy with. Walter has been appointed
Post master and I have charge of the
office in the store with together with
what little business there is keep me
busy and pay a the farm about 25⁰⁰
for month. If I can find some
work of a situation this Fall Walter
will move into town and run the store
which will set me off. I have no
idea what I can find to do but hope
for something that will enable me to
live comfortable in a town where

The children can have better school
and social advantages and Jesus
will be more contented. Of course
for the present we will probably live
here as we can live cheaper here than
any where else as there would be no
shame to sell the home ~~and~~ rent it

Still I firmly believe there is a
future for this country and locality
and town in particular but it will all
depend on the development of irrigation
of the bottom lands and the speed with
which to be done in the near future

We were surprised to learn of Nell
Stevens marriage especially in France

How I do wish we could see
more of each other and the children could
know each other I can hardly realize
that you have two big boys as they were
nothing but babies when I saw them and

Curiously we only knew for Photographs
And our "John L. Sullivan" you have never seen
such a sturdy symmetrical fellow you seldom
see he is really a wonder of his age he and
Harry are gentle giants, and are never happy
out of each other's sight for get each other battle
always together and very much alike and unlike
Amy. They all are in perfect health which is
a very great blessing

- 3 -

Highspring, Nebr.,

189

James has something to add to
the letter as it is well she has
for more security in future enough

A recent decision of the U.S. Court
declares the Wright District Irrigation
Law to be unconstitutional and would
this coming on just as we only had
have succeeded in getting our State to
enact a district law that would
help us out, and we had just got
our local district organized and
was congratulating our selves on
a prospect of getting a district that
decision blows it all in the head
again. But now the law must
have a ditch any way.

Love to all
Respectfully
John



Hespering, Nebr., Dec 8th 1895

My dear Amy

This is not a letter but
just a word in a hurry, to tell you
the thing you so kindly ask me has
arrived safely and the contents
greatly enjoyed. The suit of clothes
I shall find very usefull and comfortable
shilly about in the same but other a good
fit and very much appreciated. Juan
and the girls see lots of finery to come
out of the dress and Harriet says
lots of style. "She is the stylish one" Amy
more matter of fact. Juan says it is
like head other don't care enough for
broke. The goodness we all enjoy ever
so much. Juan Lillian & I can
revel in salad dressing for a month
I have been away a good deal

2

Big Spring, Nebr., 189

just got back from a second
trip to Cascola when I came
pretty near trading for Rehoulers old
drug store, but as we have so
many iron in the fire, and Mattie
would be so handicapped here
without me I did not do it
At all I may do so in the early
spring if we can see some way
to get settled up here. I know what
time to work with all I would like to
to my best, so will not try to write of
the business matter now. We have
been very much interested in your letter
and description of the wedding and all
your doings back there, and hope
I shall continue to write weekly from
now on so as to discuss weekly letters
in return

3

We all join in thanking you for the
Thanksgiving remembrance and are
glad to know you are all well

Tell Sam we Republicans know the
Pops and Demo Pops on the run
and hear. Cleveland and Rectory
Morton are all right but Western
Democrats and Pops are about a
like. all for Redoubt and anti Cleveland
Nebraska is suffering from only a partial
crop and unusual low prices for
her staples corn, hay & cattle
but our turn will come some time

If we can only manage to keep
out of the poor house until that
time comes.

Sincerely
John