

Big Spring, Neb. April 15th 1897

Dear George,

Walter started for home rather suddenly last Monday. The Kimballs have decided to sell the old place at Anclona and Walter is to bring his mother back here with his trunk with him. They feel that they have so much invested out here that it is at present unproductive that it is best for them to sell the old place and Mrs Kimball not to try and keep house alone. I understand that the (old lady) wants to make this move and Walter and Johnnie seem to favor it. I am rather at a loss to know what I better do as it looks as if it would be several years before the locality will become prosperous enough again to support the two families out of the store business not taking into account the chance of getting me out of debt. The town has run down so in the last two or three years that it is becoming unattractive to Jesse and unsuitable for the bringing up of the children. Jesse of course wants to go east. But I realize that it would be next to impossible for me to get a situation in the east that would warrant me in trying to leave them of course if I could I would be glad to on account of Jesse and the children. Everything is so depressed

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Here in Nebraska it seems next to impossible to
crowd into a situation. In thinking over the possibility
of me getting into anything in the east that would make
me a living with the possibility of eventually getting me out
of debt. I confess that I can think of nothing promising
possibly you can. Have a talk with Walter he can explain
the situation out here although he is more optimistic
in regard to the future of this section than I am. I feel
sure we have you and Amy safely secured by the land
that is in your name and now that it is under
debt and is in condition now to be productive it is
only a question of a year or two that you will be able
to get out without any loss. Had I been successful
in the last election I had every reason to believe that
I could have secured a good appointment upon the
State Troop at a good salary after the adjournment of
the legislature but we could money means were turned
down completely. Omaha is very dull indeed all the wholesale
houses are doing business with less help than ever. If
business in general was not so dull all over the state I might
through Joe Chelberg get into the U.S. Coal Dept

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Big Spring, Neb.

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Joe who is now at the head of Sales Dept will do all he can for me but as they have been cutting off some of the old men on account of lack of business there is not much chance for a new man. Personally I hate to give up here at Big Spring for here I have put in the best part of my life and feel that sometime (the Lord possibly know when) this will develop into a prosperous community. It is now easy to see how we might have succeeded even here. Or had the conditions continued which prevailed here from '84 to '92 continued we would have been well off. To see the children growing up here and find so dissatisfied is enough to make me want to get some where where they can have a brighter future at least before them. Our ditch has proved all we had expected of it and even more. This spring the conditions seem more favorable for a dry land crop than for several years but there will be comparatively little put in as there is scarcely any seed left among the farmers and no money to buy much of any. Those much ditches are better fixed and will put a larger crop than ever with every prospect for success. Walter promised to go and see you either at Melrose or call at the office. He will also go and see

Amy & Sam

If he ~~has~~ has enough household goods to
bring out or nearly enough he will probably get a car
and if he does. Jean thought there might be some old
carpets or something of that sort in the corn barn that might
be useful but think now that it would hardly pay to
send anything of that sort out here so better not do anything
about it. The are all quite well except that Amy complains
a little about her eyes but I guess it is caused by too
much sitting in the evening by lamp light. Suppose
Amy is about ready to move back to the Andover or will
as soon as school is out. What do you think the prospects
are for renting the Andover House for the summer.

The nurse had a very interesting and dramatic letter
from Agnes giving me lots of news. The photograph of your
boy has been admired by us all. Frank & Rachel and a particularly
fine looking lad. The little chap is ~~rather~~ young yet to tell how
he is going to look but is a fine looking baby now. Our George
seems to be improving slowly the general health is splendid
and he will probably entirely get over his weakness in still
climber about walking or running but is out every day and gets
about all over town is pretty common when the girls are at
school. Walter has maps & plans of our stretch and some
R R advantages which enclose ours among many others on
the U P System which he will take pleasure in explaining to you
if you are interested. Jean and the children join in love
to you all

Sincerely

John

After 10 days, return to

J. H. C.

BIGSPRING, Deuel Co., NEBR.



Walter Kimball

Amelover

Ma

Local Irrigation Association,

BIG SPRINGS, NEBR.

OFFICERS:

R. J. Vinton, President.
 Louis Deseaur, Vice President.
 O. M. Gannell, Treasurer.
 B. G. Hoover, Secretary.
 John Abbot, Cor. Sec'y.

April 25th 1897

1897

Found Water

No rain yet getting pretty dry on the table and the rain belts are beginning to kick. Ditch is still full of water was over helping Elmer plumb potatoes this morning and had dinner the work done when Ed Harmon was irrigator he has muck of his land work up and we found that Mike was irrigator his his so we shut off all but what we thought Ed could use Old Webster has got all of his muck so we made no more down then we turned it on the pasture at the South work even now it was running then all the first half of land work and got all muck half way across Home got now a bar of corn seed and about 20 bar of milled but no alfalfa yet have about 10 acre plowed on harrowed nicely on the west side of ray plumb that is all ready for alfalfa when we get it which we expect to of Frank Barber then work, the trees are leaving and that in the Box alder think my trees are all alive. The hovers are picking up wonderful with the new feed and new

new hunter Ed Wood. Very warm today
and ~~strongly~~ lots of duck blowing and a few
north of north river every creek started
fish creek of Levee

John

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May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1897

My dear Army

The boxes and chair arrived with Walter things last Thursday and came through all right

And have given us all a great deal of pleasure Jean and the children are even so much pleased with the dress goods and well as with the good thing to eat. You don't know how much we enjoyed a lobster (canned) salad we had for supper that evening with the dressing you sent and it all topped off with the currant jelly which brought me back to New England for the time being

It is very thoughtful and kind in you and it is a real letter day for our children. I want to thank you especially for the suit of clothes and say that I must tell you it was in the other suit he sent that I made the unsuccessful campaign for the legislature last Fall and had it been a 16 to 1 shot I would have won

We are all very much delighted to hear from Walter that you really intend to make us a visit this summer and we hope that nothing will turn up to prevent your coming. The children are all expecting you and are wondering if you will bring all the children. Jean is worrying for you



you wait will be so shocked that we shall hardly  
realize that you have been here so do try and  
arrange not to make it as shock as when you  
were here before. Mr Kuntall seems to enjoy it  
here so far and in many respects her comments  
upon the country and people here are very much like  
yours. We have seen very little of her as yet Jean  
has been on several times but "Dine" that is Mr K  
does not see fit to bring her over to our house. Walter  
either don't care or is not allowed to handle the reins  
in that family and it all goes just as Dine says.

The Old Lady seems happy and contented and no doubt will  
continue so if Mr K for takes kindly to her and cares  
for her happiness. But God pity an old lady with two  
such daughters in law as she has. It is to be hoped Walter  
will take a stand on his mother's account and that he will  
if it become necessary. For six weeks prior to yesterday we  
had no rain and the grass and crops were beginning to suffer. But  
yesterday we had a splendid rain which is very encouraging for just  
prospects the Po Platte river has been dry for about two weeks but  
as we had water so long that we did not need any in the ditch  
the river is now running plenty of water again and our ditch is  
full but we do not need the water just then now for the crops  
and are pulling it on the pasture and hay land and filling up  
the little ponds and reservoirs Walter has only been over to town  
once or twice since he got back and then only for a few minutes  
at a time and I have been sitting pretty close to the stove but there  
is very little business to do. I have a fair prospect of getting  
a situation in the U.P. Coal Dept but my doing so depends on  
how the reorganization of the Company turns out when the Recovers  
are released from control of Chelberg is still

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returned as head of the Sales Dept of the Coal Dept I will  
 get in through him. He (Chubb) thinks the recognizing will be  
 completed before Fall and advise me to wait until then before  
 going into anything else. But I must find something to do before  
 next winter, for I realize that a man will soon run out sitting  
 around here and barely making a living. We are getting quite  
 anxious over the condition of Amy's eyes which are again  
 giving her trouble as much as they we have kept her out of  
 school for the last three weeks.

We are anxiously looking for a letter from you telling us  
 about when we can expect you. I wish to thank you for  
 all the nice and useful and acceptable things you send us.

Very sincerely  
 John

After 10 days, return to

*J. A.*

BIGSPRING, Deuel Co., NEBR.



Mr Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Digspring Neb.  
October 8<sup>th</sup> 1897

Dear Aunt Amy:-

Papa is writing to Uncle Sam and I thought I would write a few lines. When you wrote and said you were not going to bring the children I was very much disappointed, for I have been planning the good times we would have riding my black pony. I hope you will change your mind: I want to see them so much. Harriet and George thought it would be awful if you didn't bring them. Mamma said that if you didn't want to take the boys out of school she didn't see why you couldn't bring Caroline anyway.

With love from  
Amy.

Dear Sam

Your offer of the 4<sup>th</sup> received today  
The 5<sup>th</sup> was just in time as my  
premium of Insurance policy was due  
Oct 21<sup>st</sup> having had it extended 60  
days from Aug 21<sup>st</sup> This amount due  
was 113<sup>10</sup> and ask for 60 days  
my other policy is due in May 48<sup>00</sup>  
and your 5<sup>th</sup> for 150<sup>00</sup> just  
received will take care of both

We are delighted to hear that you  
are coming out for sure and  
within a month. The children will  
be disappointed if you do not  
bring one or all of our children

We are likely to have good weather  
now for 5 or 6 weeks yet. Let us know  
all long as possible before hand  
just when to expect you for we  
want to plan to get as much out of  
you visit as possible and not  
know any thing else to bother while

you are here As we hope soon  
to see you will leave the discussion  
of business matters until then

Don't you think you can  
prevail upon Savage to come  
and work with you.

Love to all

Sincerely  
John

Big Spring W. Va.  
10/5/97

After 10 days, return to

*MA*

BIGSPRING, Deuel Co., NEBR.



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens

North Andover

Mass.

Please  
return

Big Spring Wb 6/17/28

My dear Army  
Your letter received  
yesterday and in a week now getting  
things in shape to leave expect to go to  
Omaha Sunday take Army with me shall  
be there until Thursday or Friday shall  
take in the Exposition with Army and  
confer with Joe and Mr. Clark of the  
Coal Co stop off at Big Spring one day on  
way way to Hanna where I expect to  
arrive by the 27<sup>th</sup> and have three days  
to learn the ropes and go on duty July  
1<sup>st</sup> Hanna is only a little coal mine  
camp belonging to the U. P. Co several  
hundred miners of all nationalities  
except German are there (The Co.) and  
some half dozen saloons or so look  
that was the condition three years  
ago when I was there. I know nothing  
what ever in regard to the Utah  
camp or get back judge it is  
even dear of a place than Hanna



but really the place or the character  
make very little difference to me  
so long as the Province will  
I am of course will stay here until I  
get settled down some where. Walter  
expects now to run the store and office  
and as he is going to make dinner his club  
in the office he will very soon leave  
the office and the trade will not amount  
to anything with him in the store and  
the sooner its wound up the better  
for all concerned. It will be hard  
for Jack staying here but will try and  
have her make her mother a visit  
the summer. This will let Amy go down  
the Occochee for Ann she and stay the  
until Jan and the children go down later  
We were pleased and surprised to have  
so many of the Photos were a success and  
hope they will arrive before I go away  
George is hurt to be because I am going  
away and declares he is going with me  
We have had two more good rains and  
everything looks beautifully here and  
very promising for a crop

Our ditch is still full of water  
and we have irrigated the whole  
alfalfa and corn crops are now  
"hog fat" water seems overwhelmed  
at my going but say he don't blame  
me and I thank he "wishes to God he  
had as good a chance to get away  
four feller I pity him but the  
affair will come to a climax before  
many months hope it will not be  
tragic. We have a fine garden  
in the back yard now soon for  
tomorrow and will write you for  
Hanna or soon as I get a little  
settled and tell you of my first  
impression of the place and what  
I think of the people. We are  
very anxious to hear more favorable  
reports of Aggie's condition Jean  
say she wishes she to give her some of  
her surplus health the family all  
join me in love to you all

Respectfully John