



Mr Saml. Stevens,

North Andover

Massachusetts.

Big Spring Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 1888.

My dear Amy:-

The children are in bed (but John seems restless) and John is reading one of his new books, so I shall try and write a little. I some times think I will have to give up letter writing, not because I don't like to write, but for the want of time. I don't know whether John has written to you since Xmas or not - so I will thank you for the many lovely remembrances for all. The box of books <sup>from Exp.</sup> just arrived a few days ago.

John is very much pleased with them and can hardly decide which to read first. I believe he is reading one of Holmes now. I got Amy a lolly brass bed, mattress and pillow. Did you make the rug?<sup>er</sup> They are very

new subject at  
with notebook this

pretty, and I don't expect it will be very of fun and will laugh as hearty as long till she and John can play home possible. He is awful sweet, just about with them. He grows so fast and is the size Amy was when Geo. saw larger than she was at the same her. and just as good as he can be. age he weighed 18½ lb. a couple of weeks Lillie and I took the children and ago. If I had a picture of him I would spent the day in the country the put his short clothes on, while Lillie other day and he never cried while was here we made arrangements to we were gone. I do wish you could go to Julesburg to get their pictures see them. I am afraid you will never and were all ready to go where we see them at sweeter age. Amy can get word that the Photographer had say almost every thing now. But can't closed for the winter. I shall try and some sentence, she says "hap" for yes. have John go with me to Ogallala "hap" for lap and calls the Baby. "John boy" sometime for I want one before I or "baby John". She is a great tease, some- take off long clothes, and want one of thing like her Papa. Amy too. She is just as cute as can I have another nephew. Frank and be! She loves the baby almost to death. Edith had a Xmas present of a 11 lb. boy. I never can take him on my lap Mother is still with them. for a minute but she has to hug Grant and Lillie came up and and kiss him. I tie him in the spent Xmas and New Year with large rocking chair and she will us. They went home yesterday, so it go in front of him and play and seem rather quiet and lonely they talk to him. He thinks it is lots hated to go as badly as we hated to

have them but Lillie wants to prove  
up on her claim in the Spring and  
didn't want to stay away long. I  
guess I have not written to you since  
I was down there. Walter took the  
children and myself down one Tuesday  
and came back Friday. It is quite  
a drive to take with two babies (2 children)

We were delighted to read one of Agnes  
letters, if it was not written to me. Give  
our love to her when you see her and  
tell her we are waiting anxiously  
for a letter from her.

Does Margaret have any boarders this  
winter? How I should love to see you  
all. I don't expect I would know Carrie  
and Hamlet or they know me. Last  
year this time Ezra was with us  
I expect he is happy to think he is  
in Mass.

We had a masquerade in the city  
Friday night before Xmas, in a vacant  
store across the street from us, we

went-awhile. It was the first masquerade I ever attended. It was quite amusing, they took so much more pains with their suits than I thought they would. While Lellie and Grant were here Walter came over about even evening and we four played euchre. John would stay at the store and write or read as he don't care for that game. Baby goes to sleep right after tea but Amy would sit and watch us play and be as interested <sup>as any body.</sup> Today she took the cards out of the drawer, showed them to me and said "pass".

I still have a girl, she is young but does very nicely for her age. (13 yrs) She went home yesterday, I looked for her today she she did not come. I hope she will get in tomorrow for it keeps me on the jump and have to neglect the children or work, but hate to do that. I could easily put-in every moment just with the children but I have to

do some sewing along with it and about the time I get started on anything one baby or the other will want me.

I guess I told you I put flannel on Amy this winter. I made a gray and brown dress for her, also a light blue flannel. I had the goods in the house so thought I better make it.

She has not worn it yet. I stitched it with red silk so it looks very pretty. I have to make her an apron or two and then I will have to fix the short-clothes for John. Amy wore the first short-dresses I made her till this fall so she wore some of them about out. It is only 9 o'clock, but I can hardly hold my eye open. I am good for nothing, however, when I have a baby to nurse and care for.

I shall have to stop and fix baby for night.

Monday: John got the fox from you today, also the little shoe for

Amy from Agnes. She has three or four and thinks they are lovely. We ask her who sent them, and she says "Aunt Agnes". When the girl came back this forenoon, Amy looked up at your pictures and said, "Uncle Sam, Aunt Amy".

We have been having some cold weather for a couple of weeks, which I don't like very well, but am not obliged to be out in it any, but it gets rather monotonous doing the same thing day after day, staying at home and not one coming in. I enjoy having Lillie with me, if it had not been for her claim she could have stayed most of the winter with us.

When she comes up again I want to try and have some company, there are very few young people here so will have to have unlearned folks. I often wish for a few nice families to visit with but they don't come

and never will, I guess. I am inclined to think that the city of Big Springs has its growth.

I had a few lines from Sadie Kashy today. She spent Xmas in Chicago, is still teaching school in Motlow. I am getting very anxious to see her. Hope she will come west next summer, but don't feel like urging any one to come to this dull place.

Thank Agnes for Amy, for the little shoes. Did she make them? I think it will be a good way to make shoes for John when I first put his short clothes on.

This seems like a poor excuse of a letter but will try and do better next time.

Remember us to all and with love to you from all. I am as ever  
Sister Jessie.

Return to ABBO:1 \_\_\_\_\_,  
BIG SPRING, Nebraska,  
If not delivered within 10 days.



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass



Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb. Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Amy,

Your telegram  
just received and answered  
Hope this will reach you before  
you start. You can not  
conceive how delighted we  
were at receiving your message  
We can think and talk of nothing  
else until you arrive.

Nothing could be so delightful  
as a visit from you and Agnes  
Write us from Omaha upon  
what train you will leave  
there on and I will try and  
meet you at Ogallala or North Platte  
We all wish and hope for a

pleasant and swift journey that  
we shall count the day hours and  
minutes until you arrive.

We shall now wait until we  
see you before we tell you how  
much we are enjoying the presents  
you sent us.

Yours in great love and with  
ever so much love we await  
anxiously until we can see.

Yours most affectionately  
John

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



Mr. S. D. Stevens,  
North Andover,  
Massachusetts.

Big Spring, Jan 23-1888.

My dear Aunt:-

John got a letter from you this morning, which you would have gotten if the train had <sup>arrived</sup> ~~gotten~~ here yesterday on time. Were you detained any between here and Anaha? It seemed awfully lousome last evening. We have just had dinner and Cora is washing. I spent the forenoon in digging out some of the corner.

We have heard nothing from Mother. I wrote her last night and told her not to come as long as she was needed and contented there. This is a beautiful day. hope it is as nice where you are. When Amy got up this

morning, she went into your bed-  
room. Looked at the bed and came  
back and said "Mum, Aggers, all gone."  
The baby is lying on the floor kick-  
ing and coaxing me to take him  
I thought I would put him on a  
comforter and try and have him  
learn to sit up.

I must close with love to all and  
hoping you are having a pleasant  
time and will visit Sam and Gus  
all right. Love to them from  
sister Jessie.

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Amy,

It hardly seems possible that only a week ago you were here with me and now I am writing to you at Andover.

We are anxious to hear how you got home whether or not you escaped the big storm that we hear has been raging in the East and also how you and Agnes enjoyed Wabash we hope you spent longer time there than you expected to when you left here for a day or two. It is much to short a time I should think to get any kind of an idea of Wabash we or

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

2

Big Spring, Neb., \_\_\_\_\_ 188

to all every the points of much  
interest. I wish you could  
have been here this week just  
to show you all what beautiful  
weather we can have out here  
every day for the past week has  
been bright and sunshiny with  
the mercury up to 50 to 70 in the  
shade and no wind Friday evening  
Amy played in the yard until  
7 o'clock with out any hood or  
wrap of any kind as warm as a  
summer evening. every particle  
of snow has disappeared. It is as  
pleasant today that we are going to  
take Amy & John to make a call  
upon the Matrottes



Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

- 3 -

Big Spring, Neb., \_\_\_\_\_ 188

Mr Summell ~~has~~ drove our south  
 yesterday afternoon expects to be  
 back Monday. We have heard from  
 Mrs G and the folks at Granite  
 are all well and there seem to be  
 no good reason why she should  
 not have come home in time to see  
 you and Agnes. Your postals from  
 Chicago and the Bluff were received.  
 What a delightful break your  
 visit made in the winter all  
 the better as it was unexpected.  
 Business has been unusually good  
 this week the pleasant weather has had  
 a cheering effect upon the farmers  
 and the hay more freely and  
 are already plowing for next

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

4 —

Big Spring, Neb., ..... 188

Season Closer. Walter you are  
every night now to his home at  
during this good weather.

I wonder if you will hear an  
an inspiring sermon this evening  
as you did last I wonder how  
our Mr Sillward would such our  
Andover Hill folks would he  
not be a revelation to them  
perhaps it might throw some  
new light (to them) upon them and  
he (Sillward) they would have to  
consider sound in the faith  
We all send love to you all

Your affectionate brother  
John



Mr. Saml D. Stevens,  
North Andover,  
Massachusetts.

Big Spring Feb. 17. 1888.

My dear Amy,

While the baby is resting a little, I will write a short letter. I am sorry to say that our dear little boy is and has been quite sick. He took down very suddenly. When I got out of bed Wednesday morning he appeared all right. At sat him up while I dressed Amy when he soon began to fret and cry. Frank (who was here for a few days) took him up and tried to amuse him but he seemed to be in distress or pain, had a slight chill and then a burning fever. We saw a doctor from Ogallala in town and called him in about noon. He could hardly tell what was the trouble but left some fever drops and thought

it a cold settled all ~~the~~ through time.  
He didn't improve any so we had Dr.  
Root (from out North) the next day (yesterday)  
he pronounced it lung fever. left medicine  
and we put ointment on him last night.  
I think he is better this evening for  
he is sleeping and resting better than  
he has since he took down. It is so  
pitiful to see the little fellows. He has  
always been so well. Any comes up  
to him and says "Hello" "Hello" but we can't  
get a smile from him. The doctor was  
in again today and thinks he will be  
allright in a few days. Frank started  
home the day he took sick and I told  
him to send Mother by the first train.  
I think and hope he will be much  
better tomorrow.

Father got a note from Grant today  
saying Lillie was sick and they didn't  
know what was the trouble. He will go  
down tomorrow to see her.

We are having just beautiful  
weather and have had ever since you  
were here.

Well I guess it was a surprise  
when we got George's telegram. John  
brought it in and handed it to me  
and when I first glanced at it sup-  
posed it was from you stating your  
safe arrival, but when I looked again  
and saw of his name there I was  
a little puzzled as to what it all meant  
but it didn't take long to find out-  
Isn't it splendid? Every one on both  
sides seem so happy over it and I  
am sure I think we all ought to.  
for it would be hard to find two  
better people than Geo. and Aggie. Isn't  
it seem funny? you know we were  
talking about Phil being alone in  
the world and Agnes winked and  
blinked as though it would not always  
be so. and to think how quickly over

our hopes were gratified.

We had beautiful letters from Mr. Radford and Nellie a few days ago, which I hope John will answer very soon. How we have longed to be with you all at this time and how we wanted to see Agnes when she first heard of it. Did you see her? Nellie Radford said that Agnes said "She knew it five years ago." We wait anxiously for letters telling us of new developments of the engagement and enjoy reading them. You remember when we were talking about Geo. John said "Well if God ever gets married I would have to go back sure." So we may see you in Mass. sometime.

There is another dance in town tonight. They never get tired of them.

Amy still talks of you and always  
says you have gone on the car.

She has had company for a couple  
of days a friend from Juleburg with  
a little girl three or four months  
younger than Amy, but a head  
taller. has been here and you ought  
to have seen Amy tease her. (she inher-  
its that from her father) She talks  
more every day and is getting along  
nicely. when I tell her John is sick  
she says "No. John tired". She comes  
up very quietly and kisses him.

I have had a good deal of sleep the  
last two nights so will stop and  
go to bed. Hope to hear from you  
soon. With love from all to all  
Yours lovingly,  
Jessie.

My dear Sister  
Jessie handed me this  
to read and add something if I had  
time. John was a little ever yesterday  
afternoon and the fore part of last night  
But for about 2 o'clock last night  
until now he has not been quite  
all well. But he is no worse than  
he was the first day.

I shall shall write to Sam  
John Radford Miller & see just as  
soon as John gets a little better

We are having a regular New England  
rain storm a great novelty for  
this section. The thermometer has not  
been down to the freezing point  
for a week, and the farmers are  
busy getting in wheat & oats  
and plowing.

With much love to you all  
and remain your affectionate brother  
John



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Mr Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1885

My dear Sister,

John was much worse last night and we were very much worried. The Dr. has just left and says that the symptoms this P.M. are a little more favorable. - not quite so high a fever, and his eye are not so wild looking as they were last night. The poor little fellow looks badly to day as he appeared awfully last night. He is just now at the most critical state and to day or tomorrow there will probably be a change for the better.

Shall write tomorrow

Yours with love  
John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

John is still improving but is still far from being well and Jesse holds him constantly while he is awake. He rests better than he has ~~for~~ since he was taken sick. I did intend to write a long letter to you and Geo today but have been busy with things that have been neglected on acct of John's sickness and as yet we have not got John settled down again. Shall write to you all ~~soon~~ however very soon. Yours affectionately

John



Mr. Saml. Stevens.  
North Andover,  
Massachusetts.

Big Spring Feb. 23. 1888.

My dear Amy.

The baby is quiet and I will try and write a little to you. You don't know how sick the poor little fellow has been, we were very much worried about him. I never want to see him so sick again. Last Tuesday night was his worst, he had a very high fever, which we were afraid would go to his head, as he kept rolling his head back and forth and looked dreadfully cross eyed. It was just awful to see him. He laid on my lap and did so for almost an hour when we got him quieted down by

the use of hops on his head and corn  
meal meat and mustard on his  
feet. We think he is over the worst  
now, and will be all right in time if  
he takes no back set. I don't <sup>know</sup> <sup>what</sup>  
I would have done the night he was  
so bad if Mother had not been here.  
She came Monday after-noon. It will  
be two weeks W.S. since John took  
sick. He is waking up and fussing  
so I must take him, he is well  
enough today to be particular about  
who holds him, which is a good sign.  
The dear little fellow feels pretty sick yet.  
We received your nice long letter the  
other day which we enjoyed. We had  
one from George the day before telling  
of his visit to Cousin W.S. We would  
give any thing to see he and Aggie  
together. They certainly seem very  
happy, which I hope they will always

be. Amy is very well and talks more  
every day. she often speaks of you. Since  
John has been sick she and her Papa  
have slept together one night she woke  
up and wanted to come to me, had  
a little cry and when she got over  
it began telling John who had slept  
in that bed she said "Aunt-Amy,  
"Aggie", Uncle Frank, Little Girl, &c"

I shall keep John's long clothes on  
sometime yet until the weather is  
warmer, and shall try very hard to  
get a picture when he is well again.  
I am afraid he will not look as  
healthy and well as he did for awhile.

I am glad you are feeling well, &  
I expect it is hard for you to be so  
careful, but you may be thankful  
in the end.

Lillie came up last Monday and  
went home today, she nearly not

be up again till in May, when, if  
they have good luck, they will come  
up near town to live. I commenced  
drawing Amy's hand on here with a  
pencil but she would not hold still.  
I have had to stop writing three  
or four times since I commenced  
this letter so I will now stop and  
have John write some if he can.

Love from all to all.

Jessie.

Monday P. M.

John is still improving a little  
not as fast as we would like to see him  
but still a little. We are having beautiful  
weather and have had ever since  
you left. When the boy gets a little  
better and we can take him out I  
think he will improve much faster.

Shall try and keep you posted on  
what John is getting along for day to day  
Yours affectionately John



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



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

We thought yesterday that John was a little better and last night he rested better than he has done for some days. To day he is not near so well the Dr. will not be in until tomorrow unless we send for him. Mrs. Summell seems very anxious about him this afternoon he has not rested at all today. Jesse or Mrs. G. holds him constantly and it is hurting him to hear him moan and rot with pain. We give him as much opium as we dare to but it does not seem to help him much for the last few days he seem to get even

two or three nights and I hope he will  
thru evening. We are now in the  
middle of the biggest snow storm  
so far this winter. Which will be  
bad if we have to send for the Dr.  
for he lives some miles away in the  
country north. If the four little fellows  
ever hold out a few days longer  
without getting worse than he now is  
the Dr. feels sure by that time will  
well surely show some signs of  
recovery. He is beginning to look  
hazy and and pain racked but  
has not as yet lost very much  
flesh. Hope to have a more favorable  
report to write you tomorrow

You don't know how nobly Jeanie  
is holding out and what a great comfort  
it is to have Mrs G with us. Any in  
just as well as she can be and good and  
thoughtful about John. Express word  
to mother for your love brother  
John

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



Mr Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., March 4<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

John is no worse today  
so far, than yesterday. We can hardly  
say that he is much better but  
we are thankful he is no worse.  
He rested pretty well last night,  
and his eye look a little brighter  
and he has no fever, of course his  
back when the blisters were in very  
sore and painful which perhaps  
accounts for his uneasiness.  
Altogether his symptoms today seem a  
little more favorable

Yours affectionately  
John

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



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Abbott & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb. March 5<sup>th</sup> 1885

My dear Sister,

John is not quite so well to day as yesterday. Last evening he began to grow worse again and he does not seem to grow any better today. One bad feature is that his stomach is out of order. We had hoped that this would not happen as his good appetite and usually good digestion seem to keep him strong and in good flesh. Last night he rested pretty well, but today he has been very restless and seemingly in great pain. Jessie just came in and said he had just worried himself to sleep. We have kept



Mr. Saml. Stevens,  
North Andover,  
Massachusetts.



Big Spring March 12. 1888.

Dear Sam,

It is useless to say that I was very much pleased with your kind letter and thank you for the congratulations on the birth of our little John, who is 7 months old to-morrow. I expect this sickness will put him back several months, for he seems like a little bit of a baby again. It will be four weeks old since he took sick and he has had a very hard time. A week ago today he had his last bad spell and has been improving very slowly since. The doctor says it will be some time

before we can say he is well, but if he gets entirely over it, we will be willing to take good care of him any length of time. I am afraid it may leave his spine weak, but hope not. He has always been so healthy that I never dreamt of him having such a sick spell as this. Amy is very well and says almost every thing and just as full of mischief as she can stick. I had heard her call her Papa, "John" once or twice, but John had not and thought perhaps I was mistaken but the other day Walter was over to dinner, and we were asking her who ick one was, I pointed to John and asked her "who that was, and she looked up into his face and says "John Abbot" John was very much surprised. She is trying

to read your letter to me now. She often talks about Uncle Sam and Aunt Amy, and points to your pictures. If the baby had not been sick, I think I could have gotten a picture of him by this time. It is almost impossible for Amy to keep away from him, she will slip up to him and say "careful" and then kiss him on the head and say "Poor boy, sick." She talks to him to make him laugh but he has laughed only once for four weeks. You have no idea how delighted we were to see Amy and Agnes but were sorry it was so cold and their stay so short, but I guess the bluffs and prairie did not look as dreary to Agnes as I thought they would. I wish she could be here in June sometime

when the cactus is in bloom.  
I should like to see George and  
Aggie together, it must be very  
amusing, if they are as silly  
as some other people have been  
before them. Yes I think she  
has drawn a prize as well as  
he. They certainly must be very  
happy & I am so glad that this hap-  
piness has come to George for I  
was afraid he was going to live  
alone in this world. I can think  
of no other person that could have  
excited him as well as Aggie for  
she is too lovely. We are anxious  
to hear their plans for the future.  
Received a short letter from Amy  
Sunday which I will have John  
answer, for I get very little time  
to write while John is sick. I

am glad she is well and hope  
she will keep so. I often think  
of her, and wish I could be near  
enough to see you all once in a  
while.

We are having beautiful weather  
just now, but expect to have more  
storms this month.

I should like to have seen Agnes  
when she heard the news of Geo.  
and Aggie, but of course she knows  
it would happen, so was not sur-  
prised as we were.

I will have to stop and put baby  
to bed. Father has been holding him  
all evening. He has been rather  
fretful today. I held him all after-  
noon. With love to all

I am your loving sister  
Jessie L. Abbot.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
SPRING, Nebraska,  
if not delivered within 10 days.



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., March 9<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

John had a good night  
of it and seem much better today

By talking to him just now I  
succeeded in getting him to smile  
faintly to be sure but still a very  
noticeable smile. The first one that  
has lit up his little face.

We think that without doubt now that  
he is on the high road towards recovery  
we feel greatly relieved by the new  
turn for the better in his case.

We are a very happy household  
today. We had feared today that we  
did not expect to see John recover  
and were afraid to let us see

how doubtful she was of his  
recovery. The habit strong constitution  
was what pulled him through no doubt.

Any one as pleased as any of  
us at John's improvement and however  
around him kissing him now and  
then on the sly.

Any conversationally talk of you  
and "Agie". You would be surprised  
to see how she has improved in  
talking since you were here.

Write + me to join me in love  
to you all

Yours affectionately

John

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



Mrs Sum Dale Sterling  
North Andover  
Mass.



Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., March 19<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Sister, —

John is ever so much better today and is improving rapidly and unlike most children when getting over a sickness is very good natured. To day Amy succeeded in getting him to laugh and crow to her and is delighted to have John talk to her as she calls it. He has sat up in the baby carriage all the fore noon and played with his toys. His appetite is good and stomach strong his eye here straightened out and with the exception of being quite thin and worn looking seems well although ~~this~~ he is still sore and it hurts him when he is moved

The doctor says there is no doubt  
~~about~~ even but what the trouble has  
been severe spinal meningitis. We  
consider that the Dr. did remarkably  
well. Mrs G said that after the  
third week she lost all hope of her  
recovery. But you would not have  
thought so for her appearance Good  
nursing and a strong constitution  
was what brought her through

Just a week out Saturday for the first  
time since he was sick. She has  
a remarkable constitution for with all  
she has been through in the last  
six weeks. She does not show it in  
the least. Such a make up is certainly  
a very great and unusual blessing

We all send love all knowing that  
you will all rejoice with us in John  
improving

Your affectionate brother  
John

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



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., March 25<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Amy,

Your nice long letter received yesterday. Have only time now for a few words. John is still improving remarkably & fast still a little sore in the two hips and the lower part of his spine. Other wise you would hardly know he had been sick. Lillian has taken the place of Mrs G with us, the old lady going south to look after the Homesteaders.

We were delighted to hear that Agnes & Geo have at last concluded upon October for the next happy event.

We are greatly pleased to know  
that you are getting along rapidly  
We feel very sure that it will  
all go well and you will be amply  
blessed this summer. Then you  
will realize how much we  
enjoy our children. You will  
certainly be well cured for with  
Mrs. Stebbins, Agnes and a professional  
I hope you will get along as nicely  
as Jenn has, and I feel very  
sure you will. I wonder if  
Rini will be as proud as I  
am. What does Geo say about  
it? I shall write to him in a  
day or so. Sorry to hear of Frank  
Lincoln's misfortune. Do let's write  
every Sunday I will or at least will  
promise to. Your affectionate brother  
We all send love to you all. John

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



Mr Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass.

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., April 8<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Sister:

I feel a little guilty  
last Thursday on receipt of your  
Sunday before letter. We were  
in getting pleased with the Children  
photographs. Carry has changed  
in looks my letter indeed we  
both think. of course Hattie is  
a stranger to me in looks as  
you know she was only a baby  
when we last saw her.

John is getting along nicely  
with the exception that his legs  
seem to be partly paralyzed  
for as yet he does not move  
them. Before he was sick

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb.

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He was very strong on his legs  
and could almost stand  
alone now he can not bear  
any weight at all upon them  
and will only move them below  
the knee. We have been expecting  
a letter from Geo for a long time  
but excuse him under the  
circumstances. Amy is getting  
to be an awful talker, tongue  
a wagging all the time she is awake  
and moans everything in her way  
I have had the children  
ask every day for the last week  
or two as we have been having  
beautiful weather



To day we had a nice rain  
 which will make the farmer  
 feel happy. The prospects as  
 far as are very favorable for  
 a good crop this season  
 which means good business for  
 us if it proves to be. The green  
 grass has started up and  
 the hills are green and  
 fresh and green much brighter  
 than when you were here  
 Your experience with Mr. Walton  
 must have been very strange and  
 pleasant. How is Enos getting  
 along? and what is he doing?

By way of improvement in our town  
 we are to have a Bank which will  
 open for business this week or  
 time. Hope it will make money

— 4 —

more plenty among our  
customers. Are there any new  
developments in the Ser-Aggu  
case. We hear through

Johnnie K that Walter Bush is  
soon to be married. How soon?

I intended to write to Sam  
telling him that we bought a part  
of the School Section that wrote to me  
about 120 acres in all 80 acre  
joining town for \$15. per acre  
and 40 south of the river joining  
Walter's farm for \$7.00 per acre  
We have fenced both pieces  
and expect it to be self-sustaining  
with the hay and fruiting, until  
it will be valuable for lots

Yours truly  
Johnnie & John  
to you all for you affectionately  
Bother John

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



Mrs Sam Dale Stone  
North Andover  
Mass.

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., April 15<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

I have only a few minutes before train time so today letter will necessarily be a short one. Your letter to Janie came promptly on Thursday. glad to know that you still really mean to write each week and I hope that I shall not be the first to skip a week. Just received Walter Burke Corde, Janie went out south to the summer yesterday taking the children of course with her. They no longer started with Grub driving them they had a run a way

which resulted in no damage  
except to break part of the  
burning frame jumped out  
with John & put this on the ground  
and then got Amy out before  
the Pony got up as one of the  
fell when the Neck yoke broke  
a narrow escape. We patched  
up the burning and started  
them off again shall be anxious  
to know tomorrow how they got  
there. Joan is to stay down  
there for two weeks while I have  
soon plenty and papering  
down at the house I shall take  
my meals at the Hotel until she  
gets back. John is getting along  
nicely seems to me his feet  
legs a little more and we

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb.

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are in hope that he will  
re cover the use of the entirely  
and the doctor encourages me  
in thinking so. Now that it is warm  
weather James intends to put him  
into short clothes at once  
Still we have had no chance  
to have his picture taken.

You ask about our coming  
on to Geo wedding. I hardly  
know what to think about it  
and have about concluded  
to leave the question open  
until summer. Before we  
try to decide what we can  
do about it. It would be a

big job to make the journey  
with two children as young  
as ours would be, and the  
the expense is a big bear  
we have so many uses for money  
out here, and it would take  
several hundred dollars to make  
the trip, and then again it seems  
as though we ought to economize  
in every way so as to be in shape  
to give Amy & John a good  
Eastern education when they  
become old enough which will  
not be very long. But never theless  
the temptation may be too strong  
for us to resist. We are quite  
busy just now both in the store and  
with our stock and farming  
New Calk and culpe paths in the  
appearance very few days and  
we are in the midst of planting

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb.

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I have to go over the river  
about every day. Every thing looks  
bright and prosperous for the  
coming season. The soil is in  
splendid condition and the farmers  
are all busy and full encouraged  
by the reasonable rain. I wish  
you and Aggie could see our  
country for now on until July  
every thing so bright fresh and green  
Any in our doors all day and just  
and just about of the time.

We are glad to hear that you are still  
getting along nicely. There seems to be no  
reason to concern you and we  
rejoice with you on your progress



prospect. I must close now  
as the train is in sight. With  
love to all I remain your affectionate

brother John

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



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Abbot & Kimball,

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise.

Big Spring, Neb., April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

Jessie is still down south and I am trying to put up with Hotel life down here it is very disagreeable. But while Jess is away I am faintly considering & preparing the house in case we have had the sink that used to be in the dining room moved into the kitchen also the jump that we have put a sock of cutboard hole through the wall from the dining room into the kitchen to pass the food through this is your idea have had the kitchen painted all over ceiling, walls, wood work, sink & floor. Have a light yellowish

paper on the dinner room and the  
wood work joint about the same time.

Had a letter from Jennie the other day  
saying that John was getting along  
nicely and seemed to use his legs  
more. Amy also says to home sick  
and each evening cries for Papa  
and Pa as she calls her Grandfather  
I sent your letter down to Jennie  
yesterday so I can not answer  
you in detail as yet.  
I remember in regard to the delivery  
of the Bk deposit. As Amy asks  
much longer than John I think that  
the full amt better be placed  
to his credit don't you?

I was much pleased to hear what  
how nicely Walter Bush wedding  
was celebrated. Had a splendid  
letter from Geo the other day which I  
must answer today and I shall love to  
put you off with this with love to you all  
I remain your affectionate brother John

Big Spring April 30<sup>th</sup> 78

My dear Sister,

Excuse pencil  
to attend with them in to  
fire in the store and  
it is too cold to work  
over them, with out one to  
day and I cant find  
Jesai pen there at the  
house. We have had two  
and a half days of steady  
rain and to day it has  
cleared off cold, the rain  
is a great blessing to us  
as it will probably ensure  
a crop of wheat & Oats  
Jesai is still down at

Lillian on the homestead I have got  
the house all ready and shall drive  
down south tomorrow if pleasant and  
bring Jason and the children back Tuesday  
or Wednesday I guess they have got enough  
of homesteading by this time as Mrs Summell  
said when she has come up for them last  
Monday that she thought them would be ready  
to come up just as soon as the frost was dry  
I am sure I am very tired of the Hotel and  
what is for more every anxious to see the children  
You doubt know how beautiful the hill and farm  
look after the rain. I shall have a delightful  
drive south tomorrow if it is not too muddy

I have had no word from you since last  
Monday so am getting quite anxious but I presume  
they are getting along nicely or I would have had

I was amused at what you wrote about Miss  
Johnson party I would like to know how they  
saw to him of Cousin W - sister-in-law hope  
it is nothing serious, Jessie said in her  
last letter to me that she "had letters in  
preparation for both you and Georgi" perhaps  
you have received yours by this time  
Nan convinces me about my health which  
is quite unnecessary for I never was

so well in all my life  
as at present. I am out  
door a great deal which  
I enjoy and I have to agree  
with me much better than  
being in the stone. In regard  
to our going East in Oct we  
look upon it as a bright possibility  
and nothing more at present.  
We shall welcome the boxes as  
we do every thing from home.  
Hope you will be successful  
in your "quail hunt" which you  
were about starting out upon  
when you last wrote. Now that  
you have been getting along so  
nicely do not go too far  
or tax yourself too heavily  
to be sure there is not quite  
so much danger to your  
condition now as there was  
some weeks ago but do  
be careful and let

every thing else go before  
running the slightest risk  
of our father's. What  
great events are to happen  
in our family in the next  
few months so fraught  
with possibilities of the bright-  
est kind. We are deeply  
interested in candidates for weeks  
to week hoping that you  
would have no trouble and  
as the term goes on we feel  
safe each week. If John  
continues to improve as he has  
we shall go to Julesburg with  
the children within a week or so  
and have them put in  
With love to you all I  
remain your affectionate  
brother John