

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



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Big Spring May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1888.

My dear Aunt

It seems a long time since I have written to you, but shall see what I can do tonight. I am so glad that you and John have agreed to write regularly for I get very little time to write to any one. I thought I would write while I was out on the homestead but the children kept me busy. John is getting along splendidly now and is using his legs more. Amy has been riding a few days and then ride home yesterday about used her up, she has a very high fever, we can't tell what the

trouble really is but if she is not  
a great deal better tomorrow, will have  
the doctor. We got home about two  
o'clock yesterday and I tell you I  
have had my hands full since.  
Any sick and the girl not here  
Walter said he sent out word to  
her Monday to come in as I would  
be home but have seen nothing of  
her. While I was gone, John had  
the dining room papered and  
painted also the kitchen painted  
walls and ceiling a light green  
woodwork a shade of brown, which  
looks very nice, and with a new cup-  
board the kitchen is a very pretty room.  
I hate to have a girl in it, for fear  
she will get it all dirty. I think  
Lillie will be ready to ~~come~~ come and  
stay with me in three or four weeks  
and I shall try the work myself  
with her help. I would rather have her  
to help me with the children than to  
have a girl.  
I went to sleep writing last night  
so will try again this evening while  
the children are asleep. Amy has felt  
pretty badly all day and I have come  
to the conclusion that it is worms  
and commenced giving her medicine  
for that. I think she seemed a little  
better at tea time, and hope she will  
feel a great deal better by morning for  
I have so much to do. The girl has  
not come and I have to do the work  
the best I can.  
I am sorry Amelia is to leave you  
hope you will be able to get another  
as good. Were glad to get a letter  
from you today, you must have  
had a very pleasant visit from Miss  
Fancham, Has she been sick?

I had a very pleasant time out on the  
homestead (and know it made the  
time seem shorter to Lillie. hope she  
will have no trouble proving up. for  
she is sick of staying on it. She and  
Lalla are alone now with the children  
Mother and Grant moved up within  
four miles of town. where they are  
going to live and Father has charge  
of a horse-ranch which is being started  
by Frank and five or six others. It  
will be more pleasant when they  
all come up and get settled so near.  
and the next time you come out you  
can see them all. I wish you could  
see Lalla's baby (Edward) and John together  
if any one saw them. that says, "all babies  
look alike". would change their mind  
for they are as different as black & white  
and only two days difference in age.  
I wish Agnes had been with us as  
we came home. It was a beautiful  
day and the prairie is just covered  
with small white flowers which look



and smell very much like Tuberoses. We have had some grand rains lately and every one seems encouraged. I still have John's long dresses on and want to go to Juleburg just as soon as Andy is fitter and get a picture. We look for Frank's wife and baby soon. I expect their boy will be as large as John, he looks so in his picture, and is only four months old. Do you begin to feel very old? I guess you have a birthday soon. Wish I had time to make you something, but just wait a little and if you have good luck you will be able perhaps to realize where my time goes. I guess I will have to make John two or three short dresses, thought Andy had left enough but they are about worn out. Did you ever get any dress goods to match the sample of my dress? I would like to get a new

dress. What is worn? I want one to wear on <sup>the</sup> street &c. so if I should go to Omaha in the fall I would have it to put <sup>right</sup> on. I had thought of getting a gray about as heavy as cashmere, all wool goods, and have a suit of it for such occasions.

I suppose John has acknowledged the photos. of Carrie & Harriet. I think they are splendid and very pretty pictures. I should like to see them.

When I rode up from down south Tuesday, I thought of May 1<sup>st</sup> 1874. I did not dream then that I would be in this particular spot. Just think it will be 5 yrs. since we were married the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month. It don't seem possible.

I received the Woman's Journal the other day, for which I am very much obliged, if you sent it.

Miss Johnson and Agnes seem to be having gay times. I shall write to Agnes soon, and as it is hard work to keep track of her will send it to you, to give to her. I am getting fastidiously sleepy again and will have to stop.  
 Lovingly yours.  
 Jessie. -



Go

JOHN H. ABBOT.

WALTER KIMBALL.

ABBOT &amp; KIMBALL,

DEALERS IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

ANSWERING YOURS OF

BIG SPRING, NEB.,

May 6<sup>th</sup> 1888

Munger, Printer, Omaha.

My dear Amy,

This is the wettest dry country that ever was. It has rained almost steadily for the last week such a soaking as we have had is something unheard of out here. But nothing could be better for us all than just this abundance of rain what has already fallen will ensure the small grain - wheat and oats - crops and has put the ground in better condition than ever before for the corn crop. The rain has had the effect of making lots of people of bright and hopeful faces. People in the East however do not realize how much depends on seasonable weather in a community where so much depends on the crops. I have seen about several thousand trees on one homestead and this weather will be much favorable to them doing well.

I went down south last Monday after noon and the children found them all rather homesick and glad to start back home. John had improved wonderfully during the two weeks but Amy was somewhat under the weather and the ride home upset her up but she is getting along nicely now.

I was very glad to get to house keeping again as Hotel life was getting tiresome. I drove out north yesterday after the first "domestic" load who went home while Jane was away. I was surprised at the news of the death of Mr Sewall shall be interested to know what become of the store



and his family. We were very glad to see  
the ~~two~~ Review of Mr Clifford which you  
kindly sends although I have not had time  
as yet to read them but expect to read at  
least one of them this evening. By the way I  
have not been to church since I went with you  
and Agnes to her old hillside. We are very  
thankful for the Register and Woman Journal  
more especially for the Register the fresh copy of  
which we just received this morning together  
with Unity. Every time I have driven out  
into the country lately I have thought of you  
and Agnes and wish you could see it  
as it now is which I think you give you  
a very different impression from what you  
would form for what was to be seen in the  
winter. The spring certainly is the time of all the  
years to visit this part of the West.

We had much rather not have the picture  
than to have had it come and been damaged  
as was much likely on the journey. How you  
had any recent word from Dr. Choate in regard  
to Corinne W. and Ann. I enclose herewith  
quite a bulky letter because it would be well  
for me to "let up" "choak mine off" so to speak.  
With love to you all for so all I am  
Yours affectionately Both John



ATM TO HENRY & KIMBALL,  
BIG SPRING, Nebraska,  
If not delivered within 10 days.



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

G

JOHN H. ABBOT.

WALTER KIMBALL.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
DEALERS IN  
GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

ANSWERING YOURS OF

BIG SPRING, NEB., May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1888

Manager, Printer, Engraver

My dear Sister.

Your letter of Tuesday telling us of Cousin Wm's sickness & death was received this morning. For my part I was not surprised for your last week's letter told us of his not being well and it has seemed to me that he could not be in any kind of condition to pull through the death bed of an illness. We were shocked of course and can hardly realize it. It is certainly a great consolation to know that he passed away so easily and without any distressing pangs.

How Cousin Ann always does surprise us in the way she meets the great changes and troubles that one would suppose would crush her. I never supposed that if Cousin Wm died first that Cousin Ann would ever get over the shock. How thankful we are that you all saw him as you did at the last and that he knew you. It will always be a source of pleasure to you. I felt when we left home for the first time we should never see the old people together again. and I am afraid they thought so too at the time. You speak of "his book" what book do you mean? We did not know of his intending to have one published or printed.

What a beautiful and saintly old lady Aunt Ann is. To even know or see her can't help but raise one's ideal, and make their feel our usual estimate of mankind is much too low.



I could not help thinking when reading what you said  
of his remark. of the remark Virginia Stone  
made when someone was ~~getting~~ telling how awful it  
was to have a friend die. "That there must certainly  
be something wrong with those religious to think that way."

How Agnes does allway come to the rescue. I seem  
as if she was always the one ~~and~~ the only one, to look  
to and rely on in time of trouble and loneliness  
and who can fill the place so well as she.

I am very glad that it was considered best to have  
Cecilia Ann stay right along in the old house for it  
would be a terrible ~~trouble~~ for her to have to go any  
where else. I do hope that we shall be able to  
see Cousin Ann again and in the old house as it  
was. The first time you see her give her our love  
and try to make her realize that we are not really  
so very far away. I think I shall write to her  
by and by. Any man a little under the weather the first  
of the week but is in his usual good health now. and as  
for John I never suppose a child could pick up so fast  
he is ~~fast~~ good natured, and strong, and using his legs  
more and more each day. Tomorrow <sup>Evening</sup> if possible we intend  
to drive to Julesburg with the children and have three  
pictures taken so if we are fortunate enough to get  
good ones we shall be able to send some one in a week  
or so. I am surprised at Agnes endurance to walk  
22 miles. But very glad to know that she is strong enough  
to stand it. She must be in much better health than she  
was when we were at Andover. I have written this letter in  
a great rush after 9.30 ~~at~~ P.M. for I expect to be away tomorrow  
and they would be not to write before time. Give my love in  
love to you all for your affectionate mother John



Go

JOHN H. ABBOT.

WALTER KIMBALL.

ABBOT &amp; KIMBALL,

DEALERS IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

ANSWERING YOURS OF

BIG SPRING, NEB., May 20<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

Manager, Printer, Omaha

We send today photographs of Mrs Emmett Amy & John. We think that John and Mr E are very good indeed but Amy is a very poor one and we could not get her to keep still or to take a portrait. That would suit the photographer so he had to catch her as he could. She was not in a happy mood by any means. We hope we shall be able to have a better one soon. You ask about Mr Emmett having the horse ranch in charge. Well it came to this Frank and three other young fellows at Rock Spring have organized a Stock Co of some 8000 capital. Frank being one of the directors. They own some 40 or 50 head of horses and have bought some land about 4 miles from town on the south side of the river on the bottom where they have a ranch house and Correll Frank and his father have charge of the ranch on a salary. It is a good thing for all concerned as it gives employment for Frank Mr E still has charge of the Lumber Yard but goes to the ranch every night. Ellen will prove up on her claim this week (or at least try to) then if she is successful they all will move up on to the ranch. Ellen will stay with us and the Jones will "house the domestic" which will be a relief for us all. Amy is entirely over her little sick spell and is en-

good and healthy as possible. You can  
see by John's picture that he is well.

I can't imagine how the report became current  
that we had sold out our store, as we have  
not thought about such a thing lately although  
we would sell if we had a good chance.  
Business has been better this spring than  
we expected it would be, and if we have  
a good crop this fall it will be just rate.

We are glad to hear such good reports  
of the old house and glad that we have had  
it finished. I am glad for both Cousin Ann  
and Agnes that it is arranged that Agnes  
is to stay with Cousin Ann but I am a little  
doubtful as to how Agnes and the girls  
and David will get along but there is not  
such a very important matter any way.  
How I would like to see Aggie and

Geo together what a treat it would  
be to live in Andover for now until  
after the wedding but after all I leave that  
there would be more solid satisfaction in  
making you all a visit say in a year  
for now when you would all be settled  
down to the normal state. With love  
to you all for us all I remain  
Your affectionate brother John



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



May 27<sup>th</sup> 88

My dear Sister

This is not in  
answer to your last letter  
which was addressed more  
particularly to James. But  
just to let you know that  
James is in the answer it is full  
soon and I hardly wanted  
a Sunday to go by without  
writing something. I think we have  
a joke on you this time in  
regard to John Russell.  
For as yet he has not made  
his appearance here I have  
managed to get Mattie over  
to the train every day lately  
on some pretence but  
no John so far. We had  
a great rate letter for

Agnes yesterday in which she said that  
she supposed that John Kimball was  
with us and had told us all the news.  
news. Sorry to hear of the probable death  
of Moore's husband. Agnes tells us that  
James has also been very sick lately  
how it must grieve Agnes to be so tied  
up at Ipswich. Mary's prospects  
'take the cake'. It makes us laugh to  
think of it. Hope the report will prove  
to be a successful fact. I have got  
to go over the River to the Ranch  
this afternoon as we expect an increase  
in live stock and as it is storming very  
attention many prove very acceptable  
to cold. We are having quantities of rain  
almost too much water every where now  
crops are looking beautifully and the  
prospects very bright for the season.

Frank with his wife & baby are making  
us a shunk vicar and there are lively times  
at our house comparing babies. But ours  
still holds them over in spite of all competition.  
John is as strong as any baby of his age now with

no trace left of his  
recent sickness Any  
is also very well indeed

Jessie is very busy with  
her company or she would  
also have written today  
but only sends love and  
a promise to write soon  
by this. With love to you  
all I remain your affectionate  
father John



Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
BIG SPRING, Nebraska,  
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Mrs Sam Dale Sterner  
North Andover  
Mass.

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., June 18<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

Have been alone in the store this week Walter & John have been running around Wednesday they went up to Cheyenne and will be back here tomorrow. John coming was a surprise to Walter for he had not the slightest idea he was coming and seem very much pleased about having him with him. John said to like it out here and talks of staying some and perhaps winter.

He has taken right hold in the store and is a great help as the books.

He had lots of Andover news but not much that was interesting to me.

The Box and two barrels came last Monday everything in the box was in

perfect order nothing broken or damaged  
in any way as yet. we have only un-  
packed one of the Bbls but its contents  
were all right. The things were splendidly  
packed. We are very much pleased  
with pictures and frame also with the old  
books and in fact the entire contents  
of the. We have been spending our evenings  
and part of the day to day in looking  
over the Harpiss Frank Cady & Parker  
that you packed in with the other goods.  
They are all new to us and we enjoy  
them very much. Now Amy I want  
you to send me a bill or the amt of  
money you have spent on our ack for the  
pictures, frame &c. I have put you all  
to lots of trouble and bother so shall  
then things together and send them to me  
and we are under great obligations.

I did expect to write to Agnes this  
week but have not but shall try hard  
not to neglect it much longer.

John and Amy are perfectly well. Amy  
out doors all the time. and John out when there  
is any body to take him. Lillian is with me.  
John K. sleeps at the house and takes his meals  
at the Hotel with Walter. Mr G. goes over



Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in General Merchandise.  
Big Springs, Neb., 188

the the ranch every night so now  
and finally is quite small again  
John and Lill have been clearing  
house the week and then got together  
with the unpacking and packing, places  
for the contents of the Box and  
has kept the pretty busy.

All of the crops are still looking  
fresh and with very prospect  
of a rich harvest this last in the  
first week for a long time that it  
has not rained one or more days.

We shall probably commence haying  
about the 10<sup>th</sup> of July and then we will be  
very busy for two months as we shall  
probably cut two or three hundred acres  
With love to you all from us all  
I remain your affectionate brother John

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
BIG SPRING, Nebraska,  
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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass.

Office of ABBOT &amp; KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb. June 18<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Amy.

By a misunderstanding  
neither Amy ~~and~~ I wrote yesterday  
I thought she wrote and she thought  
I wrote. But I shall write a letter  
to day so as not to have the  
week go by without a word  
from us. It has been hot dry  
and very windy. These past weeks  
We are very much pleased with  
John Kimball how very different  
he is from Walter in some things  
much more agreeable and with  
finer feelings. He seems to like  
being out here and we find his  
quite a help as well as entertaining.  
I have had a good deal of  
driving about since they got



Back from Cheyenne and John  
has been going with me. Walter  
never likes to go. and when he  
does he is ~~off~~ funny. Business  
has been pretty good lately but  
as we have about 1000. to pay  
on our Cheyenne Lot the first  
of July it is keeping us rustling  
to get that much together by that  
time. Yesterday Lill, Jesse, the Children  
and I drove over to the B.B. Ranch  
(Mr Gummell) for dinner had a  
good dinner and pleasant drive  
and a good time generally. I wish  
you could see Amy and John  
now with the dear children Amy  
talks as fast as any of them and  
John has got so that he can creep  
all about the room and can almost  
walk it is certainly surprising  
to see how strong he is in his legs  
now stronger in fact than the

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in General Merchandise.

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Dear baby who is two days older  
and has never been sick.

Jean and Lillian are getting along  
nicely now without a girl had  
a big washing to day and were very  
proud to get it out before any  
body else in town. John has  
foisted me up pretty well on  
the Andover news. he seems  
able and can put up with an enemy  
any and all question about any  
thing or body.

I really have not had time  
yet to answer Agnes letter both  
shall soon

With love to you all from  
your affectionate brother  
John

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



Mr Sam. Dale Stearns  
North Andover  
Mass



Office of ABBOT &amp; KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., July 5<sup>th</sup> 1885

My dear Amy =

We have been  
out riding all day this forenoon  
John & I went out north  
to see Mr. Greive (the old Scotch  
man that you and Agnes met)  
and buy some cattle of him  
took dinner then got home  
about 3 P M and found Mother  
Stork Carlson and baby had  
arrived in our abode.

After feeding the horses John & I  
took Mother Lilla leave and the three  
children for a ride went over to  
our horse shed to see how the  
crops were looking and found  
them thriving wonderfully well  
then drove over to the General

Ranche got back home after  
sex and home just got through  
with my chases which is a long  
job as there are two cows to milk  
two calves to feed horses to care for  
and I fig to look after. Yesterday afternoon  
now it began to rain and kept  
it up about all night and until  
about noon today. This luck  
rain was a splendid thing  
for us just at this time as  
the small grain crop needed  
it and it will help corn  
potatoes & hay wonderfully  
we have been haying and  
fence building all the week  
with last Tuesday we had  
a cow killed by the car  
the first one we have lost.

John expects to start home  
in about 10 days & as Denver  
will not probably reach

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., ..... 188

Andrew before the first of  
August he has a wonderful  
capacity for taking in everything  
and digesting it so he will be  
able to answer any and all  
questions in regard to us and  
the fur of the week I wish he  
could stay with us longer  
I like him very much indeed  
and I really don't believe you  
folks at home have any idea  
what a fine fellow he is.

He has all of Walter's good points  
(which are very many) and besides  
he is much more agreeable and  
has a pleasanter manner.

Walter has the greater admiration  
for him and thinks there is no



one like him. We are not  
surprised at what you write  
of Emma Adams Condit  
but we do fully agree but then  
Agnes knows Emma & so well  
that it will not be quite so hard  
for her as it would be for a  
stranger. I am glad that Emma  
pitched into Egmont about sitting  
down. James says she will  
surely write this week  
with lots of love I am  
Your affectionate brother  
John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Office of ABBOT &amp; KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

Yesterday we were  
on the go all day so there was  
no time left to write.

Walter got back from Denver  
Saturday night or afternoon. John  
started home from D on Friday.

I have been alone in the  
store this week and had my  
hands full. This is the first  
week of the small grain (Wheat  
& Oats) harvest and crops are  
generally very good indeed  
of course it is too early yet to  
tell what corn and potatoes  
will do but we are assured  
of a good crop of the small  
grain. Agnes Burham



1  
Jessie's cousin is making me  
a visit she has her little  
girl with a stock carrier age  
she and Amy have joined this  
together. Yesterday we drove  
over to the Gunnell ranch  
to dinner and in the afternoon  
Frank and I went over to  
our ranch found the stock  
all doing well. I have been  
over the river this morning to  
see about buying Walter's  
wheat cut and this afternoon  
shall go about 12 miles  
north on a collecting trip.

Tuesday P.M. forgot to mail  
this yesterday and have only  
time now to close and  
mail it before train time  
expect more next week

Yours lovingly

John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Arthur

I left it to Jessie  
to write last Sunday as I hurriedly  
made up my mind, ~~I go to Omaha~~  
Saturday evening to go to Omaha  
Sunday and as there was so many  
little things to do before hand  
that I hardly could find time to  
sit down to write. I left here  
Sunday afternoon stopped over one  
day at Plum Creek got into Q  
Tuesday morning. My business down  
there was principally to see about  
and buying grain at the point  
and the matter of R.R. rates  
&c could be better arranged  
in person than by letter  
While at Q. I met many of my old



friends Dr. Combeling was  
quite well (for him) and both he  
and Mrs C were very cordial  
spoke our evening with them and  
one day at dinner the Dr. has  
been very fortunate in his real  
estate dealing in the last few  
years and they told me at the Bank  
that he is undoubtedly worth \$200,000.  
all of it made since I left Omaha  
You probably remember your Smith  
of Council Bluffs, and Coldwell of  
Omaha. We buy our dry goods of  
Smiths farther and I met him in the  
store he has just got home for a trip  
East and he had met Mamma and  
young Mamma down at the beach and  
the last time that he had seen you was  
at the Halcyon party when he was one  
of the ushers I was invited to take  
lunch with him and his father  
at the Omaha Club when I met  
young Coldwell who is now Cashier  
of the U.S. Nat. Bk. taking his fourth place

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in General Merchandise.

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also a Mr Baldwin of Boate  
a son of Wm H Baldwin of the  
Y M C U young Mr B is an excellent  
football player for the N P R R. a  
very fine player and I was  
fortunate in meeting him as he  
was just the opposite of what I  
had come to see in regard  
to game rules. I found Joe Chubb  
and Hutter very cozy and pleasantly  
established in house keeping with  
very flattering prospects of having  
them ~~longer~~ released by  
an other member to the household  
both very happy over the coming  
event which I was pleased to see  
I left Omaha for the Thursday  
evening and arrived here Friday

noon and everything all right  
and a letter from Mary to Cassie  
which I will leave for her to  
answer in detail. In regard  
to the Canton Bk will say that I  
will write to them and the matter  
fixed up and \$2 of the bank put  
to each of the children. As to the  
Canton Bk. We are glad to hear that  
you are getting along so nicely and  
our best wishes for the future now  
so near at hand we shall wait  
anxiously now for word from  
you. do not try and do too much  
like everything else go do not think  
it your duty to even write a  
a letter but just ask them  
to send word each week and  
keep us posted. It has not rained  
for two weeks until today and now  
there is a beautiful rain just  
pouring down which will insure  
us a good corn crop as far as  
rain is concerned. We all send love

and the best of wishes as well as our sympathy during the trial  
and pains of the week you make. Lovingly yours John



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



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> 1888

My dear Amy.

We were greatly  
relieved when we received Sam  
letter and found that you were  
getting along so nicely. You would  
laugh to see ~~Amy~~ how interested  
Amy is in Aunt Amy's little baby  
boy. She will whisper to every body  
she meets and tell them that Aunt  
Amy has got a "little baby boy" and  
rock her head and guggle. She  
came to me last night and said  
she wanted to kiss Aunt Amy's  
boy. We shall be so patient for  
you to get strong enough to  
write us. but don't try to over do  
as we can wait. Sam says  
young Abbot is handsome

now we will take it for granted  
that he is as Sam says perfectly  
healthy well formed and ~~educated~~  
intellectual looking but when  
she says that a baby of of a few  
day old is handsome we think  
her ~~own~~ opinion is somewhat  
biased. I'll say she would  
like to see that Yankee baby  
for she thinks she is a very good  
judge of babies but her experience  
has been mostly with Mexican and  
half breed varieties therefore  
she would to see a through breed  
Yankee baby. Last Thursday Amy  
spent her first day away from  
home and showed nicely in the  
morning. I'll took her over to her  
Grandmother and then went on from  
there to Julesburg, a left Amy with  
Mrs G and the Dean children came  
home about supper time good



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natural tired and very  
dirty so we presume she  
had a good time she enjoys  
going to Grandmere much as  
she has such a good time with  
Grace and Abby. We have been  
very busy this week as the Wheat  
has been coming in very fast  
we have bought about 1500 bushels  
this week shall ship two or  
three cars this week and it  
looks now as if we were  
going to make a very good  
profit out of it. We all send  
you so much love and good  
wishes to little Abba and will  
ask to his parents and remain on  
ever yours affectionately both  
John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Office of ABBOT &amp; KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

To commence at Washington where I last wrote you two weeks ago which time I can't realize has passed so quickly. I left N. via B & O Ry at 10 A.M. Monday had a beautiful trip through Maryland and West Virginia and arrived in Chicago Tuesday morning at about 11 A.M. left C at 1 P.M. and arrived at Galena Ill Tuesday evening where I much enjoyed and as you may suppose put in a long and exciting evening as there in where I got the first election news and as about every body in that town were a red hot republican I had little sympathy and was



of course very much surprised  
at the result of the Election.  
Left S Wednesday Evening and got  
into Q Thursday morning left Q  
Friday Evening and went as far  
as Schuyler where I had some  
grain business to look after.  
The Sat morning I went as far as  
Grand Island and in the P.M. took  
train for Elba where Jim Bacon  
lives spent Sunday with Jim  
and got to Big Spring Monday Evening  
at 10 o'clock found the household  
all up and expecting me. The Sat  
up till after 12 o'clock before all  
the more important questions were  
asked and answered. The children  
were both asleep both the next  
morning they both knew me and  
it hardly seemed as though they  
realized that I had been away.  
Amy was tickling the death towel and

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,  
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the Aunt Amy's baby which I brought  
with me seemed to fill the bill  
perfectly and the little doll buggy  
I got in Omaha seemed to leave nothing  
more for her to wish for she has  
been as good as I could ever be  
even since I got back and she has  
grown so fast that it is very noticeable  
John had changed the month in  
much older in all his little ways  
The dress and clock which we got Amy  
are just the job and much admired  
by all Jane's dress was also  
a success only as little more  
to make it complete. You have  
no idea how much fun the children  
get out of their magnificence toys  
the only trouble in that way

Evening the center of the room in  
turned into a dark and pitch  
black and both children are with  
in the skin by bed time.

Since I got back I have been on  
a regular Eastern rush there are  
hundreds of little things to do, and  
now we are in the midst of a County  
seat war I staked out our corner  
of the county (our new county of DeWitt)  
and tomorrow and shall probably  
be gone much of the week there will  
be two of us and we are to make  
the county vote at the school house  
and where ever we can get heard  
and talk to them and try and convince  
them that life and the future condition  
of their souls depend on the Whisk  
By Spring in the County seat we had a  
meeting last Wednesday evening and raised  
2,000. inches of 15 minutes for the  
purpose of building a Court house



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to offer to the county free provide  
 the job the county ask. I wish I  
 had time to take with me then wish  
 as as the time cover his elegances  
 upon this. I suppose that I will make  
 at least a dozen speeches within  
 the ten days. We are raising a Com.  
 fund fund for political purpose  
 and every means both fair and  
 foul will be used but we  
 must have it at any cost

Last week Brewster told of  
 Burns defeat but I suppose Burn  
 down with care much but I feel  
 sure he made a good showing  
 How did the general results of Election  
 with Sum & Geo Cropper Egan  
 is creek fullness to be on the

looming ride for two presidential  
years. I suppose Abby has grown  
a good deal in the last two  
years how I wish we lived  
near enough to see each other  
and our children often.

Hope we shall see you  
either Agnes or Geo. direct  
be fore long. Are you having any  
better weather yet. The weather here  
has been delightful ever since  
I got back and has been all the  
fall. I have about finished Ruth  
Elaine you much read it and  
let us know what you think of  
it. I want to know what your com-  
ments are on some of the principal  
characters. Jessie and the  
children join me in love to you  
and yours. Excuse the absence  
of last weeks letter as I was in a strange  
place and no time of my own. Your affectionate  
brother John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stearns  
North Andover  
Mass



Office of ABBOT &amp; KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Sister

I have just read  
 your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan.  
 It arrived while I was out  
 in the country. Ever since I  
 got back here I have been so  
 busy and so excited over the  
 County Bank war that I have hardly  
 a time to so much as think over my  
 trip East but all the pleasure  
 and experience are laid up  
 to be carefully digested and  
 thoroughly enjoyed over again  
 when this present over whelming  
 squating (to me) is settled.

You say that Abbot hardly  
 cries at all. I am glad of that for  
 your sake but his crying was  
 an honor to him and then he

his crying was not the vicious  
kind which is deplorable but the  
argumentative ~~topple~~ which is  
a very promising indication of  
character I think. Who wants  
a passive child (or manner  
woman for that matter) And  
glad too that there is no question  
but that he has all he wanted to  
ask. We all have great hope  
for Abbot's future and with the  
Stevens methodical push and energy  
together with the Abbot's Whys &  
Howes and his mother's stern regard  
for principle it seems to me he  
is started well and the rest  
will be greatly influenced by his  
involvement and association  
and where can he find better than  
in Eastern Massachusetts.

I have driven over about 100 miles  
in a buggy this last week sleeping  
in 2nd house and eating hog  
and potatoes with better elixir

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taking in four out the two  
county seat meeting a day  
and having a hot battle of  
words at each such an  
amount of cheap wind you  
never heard of each of the  
three towns are trying to catch  
one another through. in the  
mean time the town is having  
a little boom a new Bank building  
to be built just opposite our  
store prospect of a new depot  
and a Court House to cost 2000  
if we get the County seat a new  
weekly newspaper to be  
started this week. If we get  
what we are fighting for it will  
be a good thing for us if not



We will be no wiser of them  
at present. As I am so full  
of the matter which of course  
has no special interest with  
you my letter will of  
course be even duller than  
usual.

Net is delighted with the  
result of the late election  
and as for my part I much  
any think I don't feel at all  
badly about it.

How I wish you could  
see Amy & John it is really wonderful  
how fast they ~~but~~ grow babyhood  
they have both been out doors  
all day play very together and are  
now a great deal of company  
for each other and growing more  
so each day.

With love to all from me all  
I am your affectionate brother  
John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Office of ABBOT &amp; KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1885

My dear Sister

This is the first day we have had so far this season that has seemed the least bit like winter. Have been having the much beautiful weather ever since I got back but today it is cold, windy & cloudy as looks as though it might develop into a blizzard. We have been taking advantage of the good weather by go about all over the County in the interest of our town in the County Bank fight. But a spell of Bad weather will put a stop to it and I for one would welcome a regular severe blizzard to last a week or two for I have got mighty sick of this speaking business. But the worst part of



it is the long drive by night  
for three nights the past week  
I have driven from 15 to 25 miles  
after dark.

John will answer your letter  
better in detail in regard to  
the silver knife fork & spoon set  
which you ask about the find than  
the old knife & fork are still extant  
and as you gave me a spoon  
two years ago the set is now  
complete. I have sent the  
Plummer till to Geo.

Have you read Roth Elmira  
yet, if not do so as soon as  
possible and write what you  
think of it I am anxious to  
know how it strikes you I  
think I know what Aggie thinks  
of it. To me it is the most  
absorbing book I ever read  
and I think it will do more  
good in the world than any

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ank of Breuckling. Have you  
read Looking Backward yet  
We have a tremendous pile of  
ready stacked up for the winter  
but I am afraid I shall not get  
caught up with it. 3 North American  
3 Popular Science and 2 Century  
behind hand and some 5 or 6  
books and the Register & Unity for  
two months untouched as yet  
And then again we are busy  
in the store and behind in our  
work and above all the County  
Clerk fights on our hands

To day I have been reading  
the Army which she enjoys mightily  
and seems to take an interest in  
the stories and will ask for

question - John is full of mischief  
and is just beginning to try and talk  
but as yet with such much success  
but he will make long speeches  
just as Amy did when you were  
out here. Amy's big doll which she  
calls "Abbot" has entirely taken the  
place in her mind of the original  
Abbot and we can't now make her  
understand you still have Abbot  
with you. How I wish we could  
be more of each other and our  
children how much we miss  
and how much our children will  
miss. It really seems too bad

Thanksgiving this year did not  
amount to much with us had Walter  
over to dinner and as it is not  
generally accepted as a holiday here  
we were busy in the store and it was  
much the same as any other day.  
With love to you all from all  
your loving brother John



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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass

Office of ABBOT &amp; KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 1888

My dear Amy

If your letter was not written on Sunday it got here all right before the week was out as it came yesterday and in time for us to answer it to day. We realize how busy you are and I do more than ever after being with you and see what a rush you are constantly in and for this reason we feel that we are more favored by you than we could expect.

But if you could only know what a source of pleasure your letters are it would help to repay you for the time you have to devote to us.

This week has been a quite

one with us as we have the  
country quite quiet in such  
shape for the present that we  
feel that we can rest on our  
oars for a while and take  
note of the turn affairs are  
taking. We think our free people  
are as bright as ever and that  
we are gaining in strength  
daily and are saving our  
powder (or wind) for the final  
struggle. There are now  
five towns which have entered  
for the race. Our paper got  
out its first issue this week  
Friday and we have sent one  
to you and you will get it  
regularly from now on. Not much  
of a paper to be sure but as  
good as any in the locality  
if not better. I go to Sterling  
Colorado to night as a witness.



Office of ABBOT &amp; KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

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in a murder trial to take place there next week shall probably be gone several days possibly a week or more.

Perhaps I told you of a murder which took place at Julesburg this spring when a white man shot a darky into a guard over the relative merits of the Hostile which they each were working for at the time I happen to be at Julesburg and saw a quarrel they had a day or two before the shooting which accounts for my being called upon for the timing. Got a pleasant prospect for me this week to come, but about as agreeably

as to be driving about the country  
arguing and fighting over County  
seats in good school houses

I certainly can imagine how  
Abbot has changed in the last  
few weeks he will be out of  
his baby hood before you know  
it. We also are anxiously waiting  
for news from Mary and also  
for news of a like nature from  
Quaker. Poor Agnes it must have  
been a gloomy day on Thursday  
for her at Dorchester

We have not heard from Geo and  
Aggie direct except a business  
postcard from Geo. and I hope that  
but suppose they are still very  
busy. We have written twice to  
Geo. I have finished Robt.  
and am anxious that you get  
through as as to compare our  
views of the book

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Have you read Looking Backward yet and what do you think of it. Our Amy has at last seen Aunt Amy baby so she says Jennie took him in to Mrs Kinsman the other day and Mrs K had a reaction ~~she~~ had a little baby and as soon as Amy saw it she said it was Aunt Amy's baby and was all carried away with it and now tells every body that she saw Aunt Amy's baby down at the "De-pak" says "of course it is a nice baby, got hands like John's and Amy do love him" Both of the children are well as possible and ask every day for there has not been thru days since I got back that the children could not be out about half day. With love to you all from me all I remain your affectionate brother John





Mrs Saml Dale Stevens  
North Andover  
Mass.

Big Spring Neb Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 78

My dear Sister

Last Sunday week  
by without my writing but  
as I had written only ~~one~~  
day or so before I hoped  
it would answer for the  
regular weekly letter.

I got out of the murder trial  
business very luckily as I did  
not have the testimony in the case  
or remain in the trial  
a week ago  
Last Friday morning Mr Enslow  
and myself started out on a  
County Book Tour and we  
did not get home until  
Thursday being away almost a  
week. We did not attend many  
meetings upon this trip but put  
in our work by going from house

to have conversing (or trying to) the other into  
the belief that one town was the proper one  
for the Capital of the County. What a rush  
you must have been in for the last few  
weeks and we really feel very guilty in im-  
posing an extra task upon you such  
at the ~~most~~ busiest time of the whole year.

You people in New England don't know what  
really good weather is. We have constantly  
of storm with you and with us it has been  
September & October weather ever since I got  
home not a snow storm or rain storm  
not a day or night that the thermometer has  
been below 20° above zero then clear  
and hardly a day without convective rain  
which but today it is cloudy and it looks  
as though we might at last get some  
snow. When I went away I expected to get  
back in time to write so that you would  
get the letter before Christmas. How we  
all would enjoy being with you next  
Tuesday. We are to have the Ginnell  
all over for dinner and Walter will  
be in to dinner as usual. The box you  
sent us has arrived in safety but it  
will remain unopened until Christmas.



Morning. I am so thankful  
to know that I am to have  
the Popular Science for  
another year I enjoy this  
monthly far more than any  
other as the articles are  
generally just what you  
want to know and are  
not so long or tedious  
that it is a burden to read  
them. We are still anxiously  
looking for word for May  
hope nothing unusual will happen

Have you seen the Christian  
number of Unity we were  
much interested in it

We have had quite a  
this morning cutting John Fair  
Jesse held him while I did  
the barber act. and I strayed

to say when the job was  
 finished it turned out  
 to be very well done  
 and we all voted it a  
 great improvement in  
 John looks although it  
 made him look at least  
 six months older. It  
 is amusing to see how  
 hard John tries to talk  
 and we think it will not  
 be long before he will  
 be talking at a good rate  
 Any one been teaching him  
 to dance and it has resulted  
 in several black and blue  
 spots on his face and head  
 but they get along very well

together and are lots of Company for  
each other. We are anxiously look for  
Abbot's photograph I remember exactly  
how he looked as we drove out of the yard  
at North Andam when you drove me to  
the depot as ~~Richard~~ held him up to the  
window. The next time he got in your  
house late and Walter has just brought in  
your postal card also a letter from Agnes.  
The announcement of Miss Murdock is  
certainly a relief to all of the young  
ladies relatives and friends.

Wishing you all a very merry  
Xmas and happy New Year we remain  
lovingly yours  
John



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Mr Sam Dale Lorenson  
North Andover  
Mass

Big Spring Neb. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 88

My dear Sister

I wish you could have seen the children Christmas morning when they first saw these presents we had told Amy about hanging up her stocking and John seemed to take almost as much interest in it as Amy although he could not understand why. You can have no idea how proud Amy is of the Cup she says "Abba did send it to me and Santa Claus did put it in mine stocking" We think it is a beauty. I think I must have told you while at Andover how much we enjoyed the "Popular Devotional Monthly" and it is a very great pleasure to know that we are to have it to sing for another year. In regard to the things you got for us as presents to Geo

& You folks we are under great obligation to you for taking  
so much pains we are delighted with your selection  
but feel guilty for imposing upon you as so busy a season  
What a time if you much of had running about getting  
so many presents. Tell Sam that I am saving those five Cents  
to celebrate his Spring Vacation or to console myself with in  
case of his departure. I am in writing to you today  
and will undoubtedly tell you how much the children  
enjoy the presents. The home has been beautifully remodeled  
by all our relatives and friends. I am in much better  
at describing our speech as I will leave it to  
me to do. Had a letter today from Sam enclosing  
new lessons for Dennis Thurman. Had a telegram  
from D. K. Johnson yesterday saying that he had that  
day sold the Philadelphia Property and that letter too  
followed word of pleasure.

Ang & John both have severe colds which make  
the crone and rattle at night but seem to  
be on the mend today. Lillian is all broke up  
with a sore throat and cold. We are still having  
beautiful weather it looks as though we were going  
to have a storm a few days ago but it resulted  
in only a little flurry of snow and then cleared off  
again a fine as ever. I never saw even in the  
West such a beautiful winter it has been just  
like October weather all along so far.

With the best possible wishes for a happy  
New Year to you all from me all and with love  
I remain your affectionate brother  
John