

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. Jan 6th 1889

My dear Amy

Your splendid long letter of last Sunday has been greatly enjoyed by us all. We were glad to hear that you have been having some nice weather for it doesn't seem as though we had a monopoly on good weather out here. We were interested in your doings of Christmas so it seems you must of had a merry time. Sorry to hear that Lida Chealey is in no better health perhaps it is on account of ^{being} too much indoors. Cousin E & A ought to take her on an extended vacation with Anna or stay at home and send her which would do as well.

I should think Abba would be

be wonderful with his hoak of toys
but he will soon be big & old enough
to make it lively for them

You certainly had a delightful
last of presents. You speak of
Chan Lumb. Agge & Geo gave me
3 Vol. of his writings and we enjoy
reading from them as they are books
that you can take up at any time
and read as little or much as
you like and it is always complete
What a time you have been having
with the bride so at least the K
Boys are provided for that must
at least be a most important
question in their family.

We were delighted to get Abbott's
photograph. I think it mighty good
and it looks great as I remember
him. You can't imagine how
tickled Amy is with the picture
"Say it is Abbott Steven" but she could

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb., 1883
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how doll "just Abbot" It is really wonderful how fast John is growing and developing he already seems almost as comfortable as Amy in everything except talking and is stronger and more robust.

This last has been a very busy week for us for on last Monday we had our Presbytery Council at the School house and on Thursday the County Convention at Chappell and as I have been to Ogallala, Friday, Sunday and Chappell and attended both of these meetings. It is kept me steadily on the go. The first Election for County Clerk and officers taking place on Tuesday Jan 15th our cause does not seem quite so bright

as it has done be we have not
by any means lost all hope and
shall work all the harder from now
on. It will undoubtedly take three
elections to decide the matter
and if we are not thrown out
on the first or second we
will move them likely win
but I am afraid that we will
be thrown out on the second
election. At the first election all
the places voted for except the
three places having the highest vote
are thrown out and can not be voted
for again at the second election the
place having the lowest vote is
thrown out then as you see will
only leave two places to be voted
for at the third election and the
one having the largest vote is elected
as you see it is a long struggle
which will probably last months

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March or April before the question
is settled. If we only had an
intelligent class of people to
work on we could get along
better but our timber is narrow
minded ignorant thick headed
grangers a class of people that whisky
and dollars are the strongest arguments
and the only ones that they can comprehend.
We still have high hopes of success
however as we were able to capture
the Republican Conventions at Chappell
and succeeded in nominating our men
all the way through. Rum will be more apt
to "catch on" to the politics. With love
to you all from us all from
your affectionate brother
John

Return to ABBOT & KIMBALL,
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Sam D Stevens Esq
North Platte
Nebraska

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

Big Springs, Neb. Jan 27th 1889

My dear Sam

For the last three weeks
have been trying to find time
(in the right mood) to answer your
very interesting letter of the 6th inst.
at the time you wrote you must have
been just recovering from an over
dose of moral philosophy but I
don't wonder at it if as you say
you were "getting into" Robt Clements
what a dose it is and how badly
the great majority of people need
it how you read Mr. Gladstone
criticisms of the book & the old man
tries hard to undo what he certainly
thinks Mr Wood has done. Mr W
and Bob Ingersoll are hardly a
"matched team" but are often the

other and from such dependent studies
points must have weakened the
"Grand old Man's" orthodoxy. If you
have not all ready seen the funny
worth American get it up for nothing
else than the criticism on Robt.

I think from the tone of your letter
that you must have been reading
Looking Backward. True you?

I would like to see that boy Abbot
and "sign him up" in comparison with
our "John T. X." In regard to our
recent polemical fight I suppose
the Journal has informed you of
the result before this time however
we are still in the ring for another
round. Such dirty polemical work
I never saw talk about the dignity
of the American farmer and the purity
of the ballot. There are in our precinct
about 170 legal voters we polled
245 voters in Chappell precinct

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,

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which was our principal complaint
 for there are not over 140 legal
 voters they polled 307 votes such
 a grand steal you never saw I saw
 men who had no more right to
 vote at Big Spring than you had vote
 6 or 8 times but as I know they were
 voting for us each and every time I
 said nothing but it does make a
^{one} man's honest vote look mighty
 small at all even the town that
 gave the County Clerk which even this
 you can make up your mind in
 the Bejerk theatre.

Now in regard to business, I own
 my concern about \$1300.00 dollars now
 what do you think of this proposition
 I will buy of A & K the two lots (I own
 the other one)

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,
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that our house stands on, and then
have a mortgage for James to Amy
made on the place how it recorded
and sent to you, and then I will
have George turn over the rent of
the Andover house \$600. for you to
Amy as it comes in and have it
credited on the note, or if you
prefer I can square up the whole
business now just as you say,
and until I hear from you I will
make no other arrangements. I have
written George about the place and
if you are here talk it over with
him. We have recently had some
pictures of our cows taken and I
and four of them to you by mail
today with the request that you

Office of ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in General Merchandise.

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see that John Kimball gets
two of them you or any might
like one and perhaps Geo or
Eg would like one.

The photograph of the plant
taken of Geo is splendid
I like it even so much but Jim
does not think it a good likeness.

I think I like it some better
than the plant one. Any
sent to without comment which
do you all think of it. Walter agrees
with me about it.

Jessie is trying to answer Amy's
letter to day and I hope will be able
to "get up" a more interesting letter than
this. Write soon to you all.

Most sincerely Yours John

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

G_o

JOHN H. ABBOT.

WALTER KIMBALL.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
DEALERS IN
GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

ANSWERING YOURS OF

BIG SPRING, NEB., Feb 17th 1889

Manager, Printer, Omaha.

My dear Sister,

The race is run, the long fight is over, we are victors, but we are still panting for breath and the excitement has not yet subsided every thing still at fever heat. The whole winter campaign naturally worked up to its highest pitch and culminated in the official census at Chappell on Saturday. For a week before election I was at work in the precinct north of North Platte River and as the country is rough and thinly settled I went about on horse back soon at Blue Creek an election day and worked at the poll from 7 A.M. until 6 P.M. Then ~~we~~ jumped on a horse and rode hard until 4 o'clock in the morning when I got into Ogallala and then took train for B.S. the precinct where I was at work gave Big Spy 60 vote out of 64. got home the next morning after election and found that they had had a regular row with the Froid people who had come in the night before in force about 60 men Big Spring men were strong enough to elect the election board but soon after the Froid men made a rush on the ~~polling~~ polling place and stuffed in about 80 vote in less than an hour then the Big Spring men made they rush and drove the Froid men all out of town and nothing more was seen of them. But one was

badly hurt. Of fine teeth about several black
eyes & was able. You good people in the East
can not comprehend this thing and it is useless
for me to try and explain it to you. In the first
place it is such an important matter that every
one in the County is deeply interested and in the next
place the election laws of this state are so
loose and imperfect that there is probably no
law about it. If we only had a registration
law all this trouble would be at an end.

I know very little as to how it was carried
out and do not care to know I was not in
town on election day such and every town
in the race was more or like in the mud
undoubtedly and the trouble is with the laws.

As for the part we have (mustard?) taken in the
matter we have done nothing we are ashamed of.
It has cost us some money but we look at
other points in the light of an investment.

Undoubtedly the paper will be full of our election
and will be generally commented on as it is
in many respects the most remarkable of any
of the County Seat election in this state.

To through arch politics (which by the way is
a very hard matter just now) your letter was rec'd
to day and as it is more particularly to George she will
answer it in detail. I have not written you
yet how pleased we all were with the

Go

JOHN H. ABBOT.

WALTER KIMBALL.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
DEALERS IN
GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

ANSWERING YOURS OF

BIG SPRING, NEB., 188

Manger, Printer, Omaha.

Picture of Agnes and Abbot I think it is great
I never saw a better photograph now I would
like to see our babies together it is not as
shown that we are not near to each other

I don't blame you can realize how much
older John is than Abbot and it only seems a
matter of weeks since he was born. Had a
beautiful letter from Agnes today which has won
us lots of good for coming home how she
is to be pitied if she could only interest herself
in something it would be a great relief to her

I have had really no time to read anything
since I got back from the East and the excitement
that has started and kept up since I finished
Robert Elton has driven much of it from my
mind which I wanted to more thoroughly digest
therefore I shall read it again or rather listen
to John read it as she has commenced talking

We enjoy "Life" even so much that it is mighty
tickled with it. How we would enjoy some
of your Andover lectures we are thankful
that you have them and that you enjoy them which
is for more. The hope now to push down and
settle into our old way again and try and get
our feet up.

With love to you all from us all I am
an ever your affectionate brother

John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens
North Andover
Mass

[5 March, 1889]

My dear Sister

As usual lately I
am behind with my letters.
Have been in riding most of
the time since I wrote you last.
Left there Friday night and
got home at about 11 P.M. and
Saturday morning I started to drive
to Grant a town about 40
miles south East of here had
a beautiful day warm pleasant
no wind got there in time for
supper. Stopped for the night
Monday and got home here last
evening. Shall probably stay at
home for two or three days then
I shall go to riding again
for a day or two. We are having
the most beautiful weather

you even heard of John & Amy have been out
in the yard every day for over a week and most
of the time without any extra clothing on not
even hats the ice has all gone out of the river
and as we have had no snow shall it is now
just like May weather. Jesse and Lillian
are very busy getting ready to go to Omaha
and Moline they do not intend to stop however
if blown until May but still they have coming
to rush. If I had to commence to get ready
to go any where two or three months before hand
I hardly think I should ever have home
while at Sidney I had some spare time and
I devoted it to John Ward although I have
not finished to get done yet like John &
Helena. I think that Dean and the Rector
& Mrs Dale are very realistic how many we
have much just like them I can't make
much out of Lois & Eff yet but suppose
I shall later on Poor Mr Denver he makes
me think of Mary Nazor I wish we could see
more of Mr Dale. On the whole I should think that
John Ward & Robt Eamon would do lots of good
in Andover if they are generally read and I
presume they must be. By the way that makes
me think of an old chup which I met in

Siding and his committee over
Robt. his name is McCarty.
Farther McCarty the episcopalian
minister at Siding. weighs about
250^{lbs} red blotched face long
gray beard, old man stem front
and as good as a looking old chap
as one often sees. As I was sitting
in the Hotel reading John he came
up and asked what I was reading
and when I showed him he granted
so I asked him if he had read Robt
and he said he was "demolishing it"
"a very ignorant book" and it was
only liked by people that had been
foolish brought up, and there was no
true thought in it. I felt like kicking
the old Methodist rector, how any
body could go to hear such a
man preach in more than I can
understand. I have a good story
to write you about my future in regard
to the Rev. Eiland who you & Agnes work
to him. With love to all from all
your affectionate brother John

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

Big Spring Tex March 18th 1899

Dear Emma.

I excuse this kind of paper am not going to write a legal instrument but it is the only kind which is at hand. Have had a very quick and pleasant week of it. been at home all the time have not been out of town, and as there has not happened before since I got home from the East it seems to be worthy of mentioning. You look as well as ever on this Thursday. Our County Seat affair is progressing slowly but we think favorably in the hands of the lawyers and by the end of this week we shall be likely to know more definitely how we stand. As for the state of my health it certainly has not done me any harm physically for I weigh 160^{lbs} in my shirt alone. Mentally I think it has left me about as it found me. Morally it has been to say the least pretty trying. As for eating we do enough and the quantity is abundant. Flour Potatoes Eggs & Hay and the quality as you see is somewhat questionable. Sleep we have plenty of and as a good matter as the best

The more glad to hear that you and
Sam and Abbot were again O.K.

Tell Sam that I can feel for him
if he is in politics and if he wants any
votes he had better come out here
to Deuel County and take a few lessons
in the operation of the "Force" ballot.

You may not be interested in the political
news in the B.S. Journal but perhaps Sam
will "cut it an". I have had the proper
paper made out in regard to the loan
and have sent them to be recorded and
when they return will write to Sam
and send them on.

We shall be anxious to receive
the photographs of Abbot. Hope they will
be good and glad to hear of his recent
accomplishments but are not surprised
for we expected nothing else. By the way
I wish you could have seen John and
Edward (dew) yesterday. Mrs. D. and Edward
was spending the day with me and I got
a pair of clippers and cut their hair
and it made regular little braids of the
John seemed to like it but E was not pleased
and as they were both a little cross they
had lots of regular pitch butter which
were very funny. John however even
of victors in all but one encounter
they are going to be aggressive and fight
till the plains whoever else they may

pe and weather of the are cowards

The Children have been out bloom every day this week and are now beginning to have more color

Friday evening we had a "lovely ball" at the School house quite a swell affair three or four couples came up from Ogulalla and as it was my turn I went with Jennie and Walter stayed at home with Mrs Drew and took care of the babies. For Walter took Jennie to the bank and I took care of the children for you see the firm has only one wife and one good overcoat (Walter) which I wear on state occasions

Sorry to hear of Margy's report of the Murdock baby had hoped it was otherwise but I am glad she feeds it well.

Glad that you succeeded in getting Emma Ann to subscribe for Unity but I should hardly expect her to be in sympathy with it. But I believe it is doing more good in the West than any other paper of the kind for there is a good field out here for just such things as that put forth and it can do more good by not being strictly Unitarian for there scarce lots of people out here.

Have furnished John Ward and I much say are disappointed with it for it does not seem to have settled anything whatever in the minds of the people as I am

and I am at a loss to procure what she
is driving at unless it is to show that
there are some truly severe enemies
high minded ministers who do ~~not~~ ^{not} please
as Jonathan Edwode had here and did up
to it. But I had a good deal rather believe
that there was not. I surely think her character
of Peter Howe is a true type of the
majority (I am sorry to say) of the Unitarian
Ministry. Don't you think so? Griff is all
together too idiot for a young lawyer just
out of College. Why did she not let us
see more of Mrs Dale. Deborah & Ruth
made me think of Cousin Anne. I am

going to read Robt Emma once again
so as to more thoroughly digest it for ~~the~~ me
it is the greatest book I ever read
Jerina and Mrs Kinsman drove
to Fellsbury yesterday to do some
shopping & in my busy getting ready for
the summer vacation I expect to have
high times while she is away and if we
succeed in holding the county seat we expect
to have a very busy spring and summer
business has been dull this winter but our
live stock have done remarkably well
and we have made some money out of our
grain business which will make up for
the dullness in the store

Giving or some of you sent me a nice
lot of Boston paper with a very full acc-
ount of the doings at Washington on the 4th

What do your sedition folks in the East
think of the part taken in the exposure
of our illustrious Cow boy neighbor
"Buffalo Bill" and his gang of western
"Cow punchers" I hope that Harriman
will be as independent and stiff backed
as Cleveland was but it looks as
if Jim Blair was really going to be
the next President after all!

I expect Walter will go east this
spring to John's wedding but he has
not as yet spoken of it for he
eventually does not care to talk
much about it. I suppose the failure
of Dove and Joe Smith will be a
great misfortune for Andrews and
a draw back to his enterprise

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

John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens
North Andover
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. ~~March~~ 17 1889.

My dear Amy
Your letter received
last night on my return from
Siding where I had been only
one day. with the exception I
have been quietly at home
during the week. I shall probably
go to Broken Bow (a town in the
central part of the state) with the
Kuryers next week where the
Cattle Deal Case is to be tried
before the District Judge which
we hope will settle the matter
for the present. I shall probably
be there at least a week.

You ask for the story about our
minister. but he is no fool of a
man. if he is a fool of a minister.

Since we have got better acquainted
with him we like him better for
he has some good qualities
although pretty is not one

of the by any means neither
has he in the slightest degree
the least bit of real religion
in his make up. but as to the
story In the first place you
must bear in mind that he
is and has been a staunch
Big Spring man. And at the ~~admission~~
concern he was one of our candidates
as a delegate to the County Convention
and as our side was just a little
in the minority the feeling ran
pretty high and when the old man
was about to vote. someone on
the other side challenged his vote
whereupon the Rev Gentlemen ask upon
what grounds his vote was questioned
he was told that "he had said he
was not a republican" The fellow who
had done the challenging was a big burly
Chap and something of a "bulldozer" Nevertheless
the Rev found very deliberately
and carefully took off his gloves
folded them up put them in a case and
then in his pocket and then proceeded

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

- General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Feb. 1889.

to remove his coat and roll up his sleeves and stepping up to his accuser shook his fist in under his nose and said in the most emphatic manner "You are a liar" and I stand here to back up what I say with my muscle. The ~~old~~ man is sixty three years old but there is ^{not} ~~relegue~~ enough in me to stand and insult from a scoundrel like you" all of which had the effect of cowing the bully, and the old shape put in a vote in peace.

And then again on election day "which by the way" happened to come right in the middle of revival week the Rev Gentlemen stood all day by the polls and peddled Big Spring tickets and voted at least a dozen times each time under a different name

and they do say that he
voted every man ~~at~~ whose
funeral he has conducted
for years. But when it came
to the next election he came to,
one of the Big Spring men and said
that as some of his flock were
knocking about the way he voted at
the last election and as the revival
was at its height he was very sorry
to say that could not take a very
active part and would probably
only vote once, but that if they
needed a good trusty man for
any special work at the folks
they could rely on his son.

As much as to say that it would
~~not~~ do for him to commit a
political crime and go to Hell
for it. But he would advise
his son ~~to~~ as a son was
not a member of the Church
Since then the old chap has
done some pretty ~~stuck~~

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

detection work. Now there
man has some very good
trout in his chum-ton rock -
with a tunnel what I have told
you. He is bright, energetic
honest (in a way), loves fair play
is a great horse jockey, like and
is kind to his horse & other stock
very hospitable and cordial
in quite a way. He told me
the other day that the Devil was
always getting the best of him
but that he liked to fight
the "old boy" and you would
think that the Devil was an
old chum of his. He spoke so
familiarly of him.

I thought that you had read
John Morrel, but if you have
not do not expect too much
of it or think of it in any
way to be compared to Roth.

We were amused at what you
rote in regard to the Unitarian
Church at Melrose. but it is
characteristic of them as a church
for general I think they are
exclusive and conventional
in such matters but are just as
apt to be at the other extreme
and I predict that before
the year is out there will be
a reaction and Geo & Agnes
will be taken in out of the
cold and patronized to the
same degree that they are
now neglected. You are

We got the Carter journals but
though they were from Agnes
and I guess they were perhaps
Margaret or Egon gave them to Agnes
and she was to send them to me

We are provoked to hear about
Margaret's way of bringing up the
children but I must say that
I am not surprised

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

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General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

glad to hear of Bart's progress
was very much pleased with
what I saw of him last fall

You fill me with curiosity
and anxiety by the way you
close your letter. What an earth
is the nature of the accident
you have met with?

We are still anxiously
looking for Abbot's photograph
suppose the young man is still
developing rapidly.

Jesus and the children
join me in love to you all

Yours loving brother

John

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Mrs Sam Dale Stevens
North Andover
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. ~~March 24~~th 1889.

My dear Amy

I have only time
for a few lines today, for
Sunday is one of our busy days
as I have all sorts of odd jobs to
do and am going to take Mrs
Summell over home and have
a drive to make into the Country.
As you see I did not go to
Brookton Bore as I expected but
I would when I write next week
but shall probably have to go
next Sunday or of course in week
for a "hearing" before Judge Sumner
on April 1st. The Photographs of
yourself and Abbot were received
last Tuesday and have been very
much admired by everyone who has
seen them altho I think the
picture that shows more
is a better likeness of Abbot
than those of Summell.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

Put me like the continued
picture even so much as
it is mighty good of you.

I know you will excuse
the parental pride in me if I tell
you what Walter Comstock of
Abbots picture was. He said
"Hump I don't see that he is a
damn bit better looking baby
than John." How we think that in
a compliment for both babies
What do you think. You would have
laughed to have seen John & Amy
last evening playing with the calf
which had a rope 3 or 4 yards long
led to it. The children would get
hold of the rope and try to hold
the calf. John would hang on and
let the calf drag him about on the
ground before he would let go
Amy had hardly as much courage
John will go up to him and catch
him by the tail or ear and Kian

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

him. They are out doors and in the dark all day and are as strong and rugged as you could wish for. John says lots of little things and can talk quite a lot but not very plain. He seems to be better natured than Amy not so easily teased for he will enter into the spirit of it and enjoy it.

When Amy is a little touching and will resent any liberty taken, although John has already assented his ~~possess~~ for he must always come out a free victor. But they do very little your evening except when they both happen to be under the weather at the same time.

Mrs Burnham & Grace come on from Omaha and are to make us a short visit on the way to Salt Lake. They are both in very poor health and look like death but we expect they will improve rapidly and

Mr. Jones says she will
answer your letter in a day
or two. She is very busy just
now and our girl is still
nursing the remainder of her
four fingers. You will probably
stand back for six weeks yet.

With love to you all
we all are ever

John

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Mrs Sam Dale Steven
North Andover
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,
GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. April 7th 1889.

My dear Amy

The home just made the discovery that you have not been writing the diary the last week. As each of us supposed the other had written and we disclaimed it by your remark in the week letter that you expected our letter the next day after you wrote.

As I ^{learned} asked what day she mailed your letter, she said she had not written but supposed I had so by the unenvoluted you have escaped the bore of having to decipher one of our missives. What a disturbance.

Our father & blundering our mother in a household that is one of the surest of overlegging which we luckily or unluckily escape our home

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

much to the relief of our nerves
and pocket books and to our
discomfort in the preparation of
our toilet. A wash tub, bucket
of water bar of soap and the
deduction of the farm is good
enough for us and somewhat
less expensive. We were
glad to hear that you were
feeling better and that your
accident was not as serious
as it might have been and
that Sam's recommendation as to
Mrs Farnsworth and the buying
order are good ones.

Jennie expects to start
on her trip to her Mission (Moline)
in about four weeks and we
are now having under advisement
the plan of leaving John home
with his Grandmother and Jane
and Amy going alone. It seems
that Luther Owen will come

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 3 -

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

to go to the Moline and with but
her it would be too big an
undertaking for Jesse to go alone
with both of the children.

Jesse hardly knows what to do
does not like the idea of being
away from home, and the age
Mrs. L. thinks that it would be
somewhat unsafe for him the change
in climate and food at that
season of the year when children
are most liable to disease.

I think I rather favor the plan
of leaving him. What do you
think about it? Jesse will
probably be away about two
months. I shall not try and keep
home but will board at the hotel
and sleep at home. Mrs. Adams
has volunteered to come over
two or three times a week and
straighten up the rooms.

Mother expects to go to

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

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Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

Sulk Lake this week with
Frank Sumrell, to look over
the prospects of a boom there
and possibility to invest in
a little "dirt." Cheyenne is
having quite a little boom which
is making real estate look up
a triple which makes me feel
good. Our stone business has been
very dull this spring but is picking
up a little now. We are having a
delightful rain which is doing
a immense amount of good.

Amey is over to the Ranch today
week over. Yesterday with Jennie and
wanted to stay over Sunday with Grandma
and the children, both she and John
are very well and developing wonderfully
fast. With love to you all
from us all for you affectionately
Dorothy John

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



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens
North Andover
Mass.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. April 14th 1889.

My dear Sister

To day make a whole week of almost steady rain which means thousands of dollars to the farmers and bright prospects for us. The soil now is thoroughly drenched which Oak & Pine have been soaked and now are coming up beautifully the grass is turning green and all nature would look bright and fresh if the sun was shining.

We expected that Walter would go to Salt Lake this week but he has given it up for the present. Mrs Burnham has not been so well for the past week the rainy weather has affected her. I really think she is a very sick woman regular Consumption make me think of Grove Hall. She did intend to go to Grand River

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

2

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

tomorrow but her given the up
Grace seem to be improving
a little but here is a very different
case, but she looks badly.

Amey has been sick for a week
with a gathering in her ear which
has been very painful and has
pulled her down greatly but
she is feeling and looking better
now. John is well as usual

that is the picture of perfect health
and spirits I wish you could see
him as he is now. Jean expects to
start back in about three weeks
sick as yet has not much up
her mind whether or not to take
John with her. If little decides to
go with her she will take John
but if not I hardly think she
will. I think Mattie expects to
go on the Johnnie wedding but
he frequently says that he has a
good mind not to for as he

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

Says he hates all such affairs
but still I believe he will go.

Glad to hear the news from
Minnie and that they were all well
also of Louis' engagements
although it can hardly be considered
as news, when do they expect to
be married. I expect to be
a North Platte or Kearney for a
few days coming during the
week but don't know for sure
Jimmie says she will probably
write to you today.

With love to you all and
even your affectionate brother

John

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



Mrs Sam Dale Stevens
North Andover
Mass

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. May 11th 1889.

My dear Sister

The may flowers were received Thursday and they told as quite a story as the letter was just worked Winchester and your splendid long letter describing your trip came this morning. It was a delight to me to read your act of the trip almost equal to going over the ground its self. Jessie and Amy have just taken the team and will stop over tonight at Eotenburg and remain there a day with Mrs. Carlson (Mollie Stock) and then on to Omaha where they will spend a week then on to Moline.

Jessie I think wrote you last week of their starting and going as far as Popton and returning on account of Amy's sickness. I think it was well they did as now they start off Amy feeling even so much better. She has had trouble with a genthing in her ear and also with worm bair

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

— 2 —

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

Both troubles are nicely over now
and she is looking and feeling much better
John is in his usual good health
and I think will get along very well
with Lill & his Grandmother for as a
matter of fact he is good with anyone
Lill & John will go out to the Ranch
and stay with the "old folks" I shall
sleep at the house and take my meals
at the Hotel with Walter. I would like
to see Amy when she first sees large
trees and the sights of a City for she
notices such things and is full of questions
it will be like a new world to her and
I suppose a two months absence just now
among new surroundings will change her
wonderfully and will be a mighty good
thing for her. Now I wish you could see
John now we had some photographs taken
of him at Ogallala which we hope will
be good for we want his Aunt and
Uncle at least to see what a promising
young chap he is

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,
GRAIN AND COAL.

-3-

Big Springs, Neb. _____ 1889.

And if he only turns out as good and
bright as he now looks and acts we
shall be every reason to feel very
proud of him.

Walter does not expect to go East until
in the summer I think July or August.

Lillian & Mrs. Venton are as attentive
and uninterested as ever and apparently
no nearer an understanding. Lillian expects
to go to Green River in about six weeks
to stay all winter with her brother
Frank at least that is the plan, but
I do not think she will go when
the time comes. Had a note from Geo.
last Wednesday with only a few words about like
one of Ed's letters. We shall look to you
to keep us posted on affairs at Nebraska.

Suppose my letter for now or until Jan-
and any get back will be even earlier than
usual. With love to all from the Johnie

Affectionately, big John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. ~~May~~ ^{Feb.} 20th 1889.

My dear Amy

Your letter of the 16th (our anniversary day) came this morning and as I am just writing to Jessie and want to send you my interesting letter to her I shall try and partly answer your letter now although it will not probably go forward until next Sunday. Just think of it we have been married six years and each year has been more happy and satisfactory than the last. Why in the world is not this experience of our more general don't you think it is the absence of the "two Bears" as Mr. Hale says, in so many families. I think I answered all your questions in regard to Jim and Amy in yesterday's letter. What a high time you had on your trip to Dorchester

and around about. Poor Cousin
Ann she is to be pitied even more
than Agnes for Agnes certainly
can put a stop to much of this
sort of abuse. I was amused
at your description of you call
ask the Nagoo's. The old gentleman
Nagoo as I understand it was a
bookkeeper for Enoch Brown when
business was somewhat the thing
of Peabody & Co (Fred Lincoln's
firm) Enoch Brown was an Uncle
of Geo Francis and at the
time G. F. graduated at Harvard
he went into his Uncle's store
to learn the business. Ezra could
give you a much fuller ask

Monday evening. I told the letter tell
today this I would have from you
John & Amy are now at Moline
Amy feeling first rate and both enjoying
themselves mightily John is getting along
nicely with his Grammar Bookwork to
see him yesterday and spent the day.
His latest accomplishment is to ride
on a pony all alone the pony

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 2 -

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

However being led by some one
then ~~she~~ enjoying hugely and with
hand on thigh and hollow "gasp"
and clack to the floor like a regular
three man. talks a good deal now
and is getting as "brown as a berry"
big appetite. and sleep soundly.
Lillian expects to go to Green River
with Frank in about a week for
a year or week hope she will
stay that long and then it will
break up her love affair (if it
is such) which I doubt. Hear
from Jean and Amy every few days.

Hope you are still feeling
well and have had no further
trouble shall look anxiously
for a letter from Andrew

With love to all from both
big and little
John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. June 2nd 1889.

My dear Sister

I write tonight (Saturday)
as I expect to be too busy tomorrow
or at least not in town. Your letter
came on time Thursday Friday rather
and in the first place I want to say
that I have not missed writing
you each week for over a month
and sure that I ^{have written} ~~wrote~~ regularly
for the last three weeks. From the
length of Sam's letter I should think
he had been taking leave from you.
Jessie is having a delightful time
at Molina and Amy is very good and
enjoys it also. Jessie writes that
she is very much admired! Her only
draw back seems to be bashfulness
which does not worry me much as
I had much rather she would be so
that too forward and obtrusive.
Frank's wife who has also been
visiting in Molina has just returned.

and is to remain here a few days
Frank wish for at Omaha they will
stay here until Monday or Tuesday
and start home, the Green River
taking Lillie with them for a visit
for a year which it is hoped (by
me all) will have the effect of
obscuring her love affair (if it
can properly be so called) I have
been out to the Ranch twice this week
to see John and it is really surprising
to see how much more rugged he is
getting to be. He has always been healthy
and so bush but wanting in color.
But now he is nicely tanned has
a big appetite and is as happy as
can be calls his Grandmother "Mama"
Grandfather Pa or "Paw" And when I go out
to see him always remember me and calls
me Pa pa. He does not seem to miss his
Mother and I suppose the children over
take Amy's place. Amy seems to miss
him much more than ^{she} ~~he~~ I shall go
over there to dinner tomorrow and as
I expect to go to Omaha Monday to
be gone a week or more want to
make the most of the day with John.
Jesse and Amy are having such a nice
time and all hands so well that I

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 2 -

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

If you ever form any idea of what a child is to develop into when a man by his inclination as a child John will certainly be a Roth Bonner, Bud Noble, Sam Bean or George Leonard. as he is all horse dream horse, talks horse, thinks horse, rides a horse, drives a horse, plays horse and craves for a horse when he is not near them. His Grandma has rigged up an old saddle on some blocks in the yard and John will sit on it with reins tied to a post and whip in hand will play by the hour and every go to sleep sitting in it. Susan has had some pretty good pictures of Amy taken at Mr. Lin and some very poor ones of her self which I presume she will send you if she has not done so already. Lillian has gone to Rock Grand River with Frank to be

a year hope she will stay
that long, as it will probably
break up her lone affairs
which would be a great satis-
faction to us all. The crop prospects
are very bright at present as we
have had plenty of rain so far.

Jessie will not probably get
home before the middle or last
of July as she has still lots of
"visiting" to do. I am glad they are
having such nice weather and such
a good time and that Amy & John
keep so well. We shall be interested
to hear your acc. of Cousin Ann
'outing' what a mixture Agnes
Cousin Ann Oliver & Ezra but
I really think it will be a splendid
thing for Cousin Ann and it must
surely be just what Agnes needs
and will enjoy. John I know
will join me in love to you
all from your affectionate brother

John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. June 16th 1889.

My dear Sister =

Some letter came yesterday morning telling me of your sickness and the cause. Hope that by this time you are feeling quite comfortable again. Do be careful in the future. Children are a joy and comfort but you must bear in mind what a tax they owe on your vital force. I certainly hope that you will ^{not} be troubled in a like manner again and also hope that it will be several years yet before you have another child. Take good care of yourself don't try to do so much your nerve is too much for your constitution. Try and take things easy as they come both mentally and physically. I was very good of Sam to write as he did and tell us just how

you were and are getting along
shall be very anxious soon to
know how you are prospering
modern the core of Mrs F glad
to hear that Abbot is doing so
nicely this summer for if he
get through the summer without
any or many of the usual complaints
of baby food it will be a wonder
indeed. Jean and Amy are home
a splendid time at Milton I
hear from the very few days.

I have been to Omaha Lincoln
&c and have been away from
home almost two weeks which
will explain why I did not
write last week. John was
mightily pleased to see me
when I got back. He is getting along
splendidly with his Grand man
and I really think it will be
a treat to him to come home
as there is so much ~~for~~ more
going on the interest at the Rock
than there will be here in town.

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 2 -

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

do not expect that they will come home until July or August providing they keep well. My trip to Omaha will make a pleasant break in my hotel life for the summer.

I wish you and Agnes could see the country at this season of the year it is so much different than in the winter everything is so lush all the crops are in a flourishing condition all that the farmers could wish for. have had plenty of rain all the season so far and the ground is as moist as it even is in the Eastern States at this season. Have had not hot weather so far and no wind or thunder storm.

We are mighty glad to hear that you are well and that Abbot is doing so nicely. I wish our children liked the water as Abbot does but I guess they are going to be Gamrills in that respect. What travel have they done

girls are. They will be distributed all
over the face of the Earth. America
Italy, Germany & No. Andover I would
like to take round with Agnes to the meeting
(at least some of them) during anniversary
week. Your enquiry, "Where is the County Seat?"
is all together too hard for me to answer.
Politically, at Big Spring by virtue of her
overwhelming majority at the polls. Legally
in the Courts at the disposal of the lawyer.
Morally, God knows perhaps, but I
am almost by certainties no one else does.

I suppose you have or will have before
them reaches you a letter from Jesse for
she said in her last letter that she
should write to you very soon. But as
she is no the go. the go most of the time
and is very good about writing to me
almost every day she will hardly have
time for much other writing.

With love to all from your
affectionate brother John

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

Big Springs, Neb. June 23rd 1889.

My dear Sister

It was very kind and thoughtful of you to write when I really think it much has been imprudent for you to do so. This idea of yours which sets your standard of duty so high that I am afraid that it is too much for your constitution. It is certainly inspiring to us for your energy is a constant example to us. For I am afraid we get altogether too lax or lazy out here in the way we regard duty in a social or ethical light.

I wish I could express to you how much we enjoy and the good your letters do us. It really in our (almost only) bond to modern civilization in a personal sense. The great majority of the people out here which we see so much of are such an uninteresting set.

for steady work I suppose that
while Jessi and Amy are away
that perhaps I am more easily tired
and that your letters are even
more to me than when they are at
home. But what is perhaps more
likely I am in better humor
when I am not alone. and your
letters as well as Jessi help me
along wonderfully.

Hope this will find you out
of bed and strong and that in the
future you will be contented me
with not undertaking to do so
much as Sam says you are
indeed like Mother in many
respects mentally & physically
and you know she was continually
over doing herself. which you
ought and must guard against

Had a letter from Jessi yesterday
saying she had written to you and sent
some photograph of Amy and herself
How do you like them shall be anxious
to hear I like Amy very well both
those of Jessi are not good do
ask her further in future

ABBOT & KIMBALL,
Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

—2—

Big Springs, Neb. 1889.

or expression Have had some
taken of John but have only
succeeded in an one program
for which was I think good when
we get the picture if we ever do
well send them on that you can
see what a fine boy John has
developed into. I can hardly
blow my own eye when I look
upon our two beautiful children
and think that they are really ours
why should we be so blessed it
seems too wonderfully good and
when and where did they come
from. Here they are children - happy,
thick, laughing, human beams.
It seems only yesterday that we
were dreaming of having a baby
but where are the babies gone
like a flock and here are children
another flock and they will be men
and women. Take a good look

at "baby" Abba for tomorrow
he will be youth and the next
day a man. I have spent the day
out to the Ranch with John
have not seen him for a week
and such strides he has taken
he never looked so well and
robust brown, solid, hungry
and full of life and energy

Jessie I am afraid will hardly
be able to carry out her full
plans for the summer as she is
already getting impatient to see
John and is talking of coming
home in July instead of staying
through August. She has been having
a splendid time good weather
Amey well with him and John well
and happy with him. Grandmother

We have about got over feeling anxious
about Lillie's love affairs or we think
it has died a natural death of an
unnatural infatuation

If it was not for you we
would not know that George & Aggie
still lived on the planet

ABBOT & KIMBALL,

Dealers in

General Merchandise,

GRAIN AND COAL.

- 3 -

Big Springs, Neb.

1889.

but it is our own fault for
we keep putting off writing and
still hoping they will write us
how selfish in us you will say
yes I know it, but this getting inter-
rupted. But we will not, will
we? We surely can not afford
to lose your weekly letters.

Hope the circumstances will
so shape themselves that you
and Sam will make the trip
across the Atlantic. It would
do you lots of good and
make a sailor of Abbot.

Send our love to Agnes
as Cousin Ann when you
write. With love to you all
from your affectionate brother

Edw